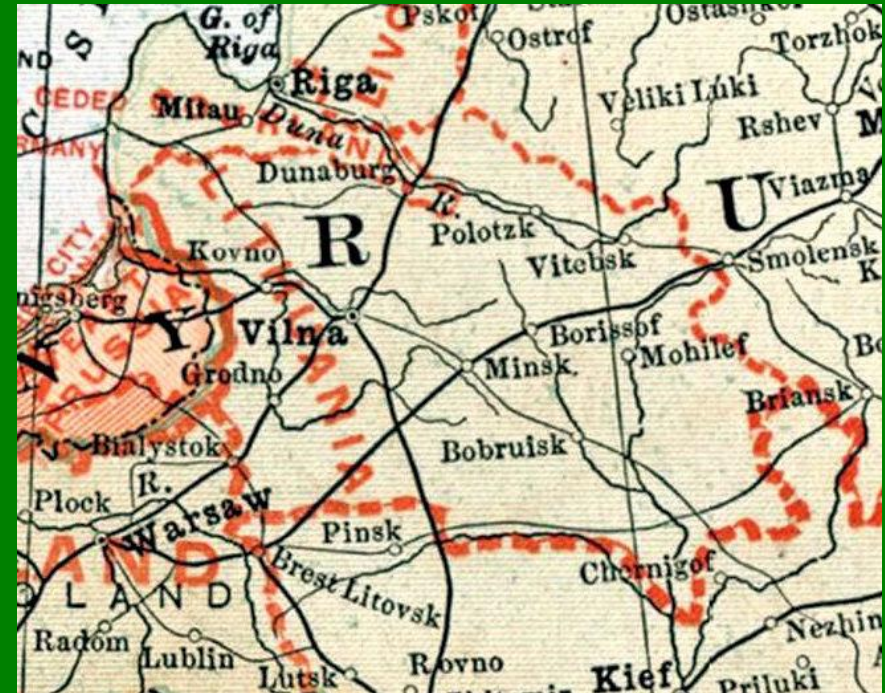




1919 C.S. Hammond: “...New States”
www.leventhalmap.org (1918 German Ober-Ost?)



1920 C.S. Hammond's “Modern Atlas” “...After Versailles” Roy Winkelman via Univ. S. Florida (Grand Duchy?)

Mapmakers Struggle to Depict Post-WWI Lithuanian-Polish Borders after Versailles

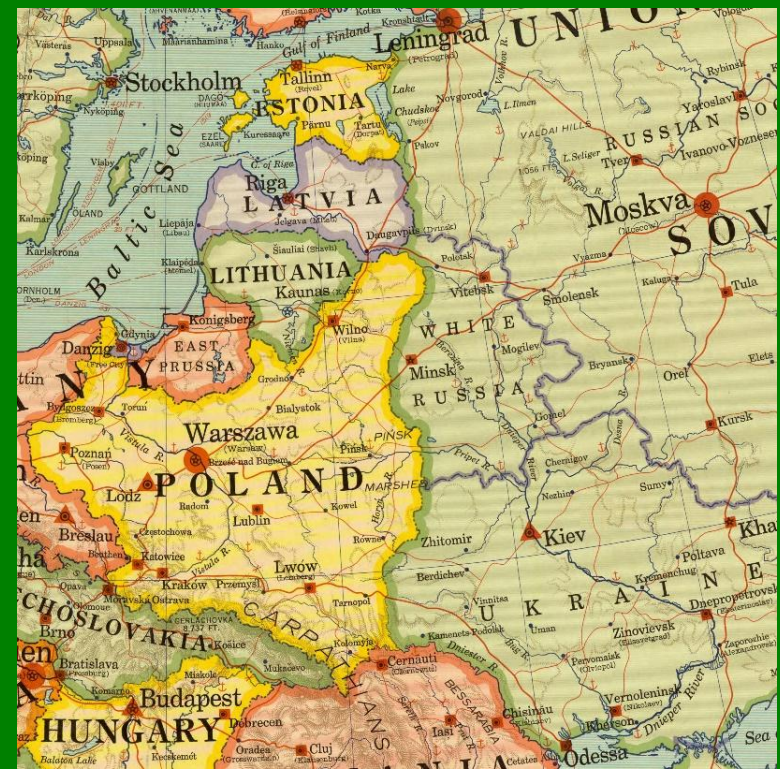
Andrew Kapochunas

LKD, New York and Washington Map Societies

Vilnius, 2025



**15th Century Grand Duchy of Lithuania,
Kingdom of Poland** *wikipedia*



1931 Rand McNally "Europe"
www.uwm.edu

Why post-WWI mapmakers/publishers created wildly different versions of Lithuanian-Polish borders: reliance on older, often inaccurately labeled maps, sheer speculation, and continuing wars in the area with repeatedly changed armistice lines. But first, a bit of history.



1902 Poole "Poland and Lithuania Before the Union Of Lublin," "Historical Atlas of Modern Europe," Oxford www.flickr.com/photos/uconnlibrariesmagic/

Just before the 1569 Union of Lublin

After 1569: The Grand Duchy agreed to Kingdom of Poland demands for territory – but retained separate ministries, laws, treasury and army, within what would become the longest-lasting union in European history:
226 years



("Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth") <https://kolekcijos.biblioteka.vu.lt>
(See 1920 C.S. Hammond map)



1762 Thomas Kitchin - A. Millar (publisher): "A Map of the Kingdom of Poland, Drawn from the Best Authorities." www.raremaps.com



c. 1758-63 T.C. Lotter (engraver, new publisher) - Mattheus Seutter (cartographer): "Poloniae Regnum ut et Magni Ducat. Lithuaniae Accuratiss.." cesgia.com, on eBay

For hundreds of years many mapmakers, like Kitchin, mislabeled the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth “Kingdom of Poland” or “Poland,” labeling the Grand Duchy, if at all, as a province of Poland rather than an equal partner. Others, like Lotter, correctly identified the Grand Duchy. Before, during and after WWI, some mapmakers and Versailles negotiators would continue to call the boundaries of the Commonwealth “Poland.”

By 1837, the Commonwealth had been gone for over 40 years, and the failure of the 1830 Polish Uprising had led to a wave of emigration of Polish patriots intent on keeping alive hopes for independence.

Mapmakers like Jan Bansemer contributed maps that glorified Poland's past, at the expense of Lithuania.



1837 Jan Bansemer: "Poland and the Neighbouring Countries according to the languages of the Inhabitants" www.eurotopo.org

Edward Stanford expanded on Bansemer's labeling with his 1863 "Map of the Kingdom of Poland": nowhere on the map is there a label or marginalia for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Instead, Stanford states: "*The Kingdom of Poland extended over all the territory coloured yellow, red and green on this map, and the Polish tongue continues to be the national language.*"

Maps like these informed the attitudes of Versailles negotiators towards Polish-Lithuanian post-WWI boundaries.



Both Polish and Lithuanian nationalists, in the years leading up to and during WWI, hoped to reestablish their countries as independent entities.

At a **December 1905** political conference in Vilnius, 2,000 Lithuanian activists agreed with future first president (in 1919) of Lithuania Antanas Smetona that the idea of “Lithuania” no longer corresponded to Grand Duchy borders, but only to the Russian guberniyas Vilna, Kovno and Suwałki, and areas where Lithuanians predominated.



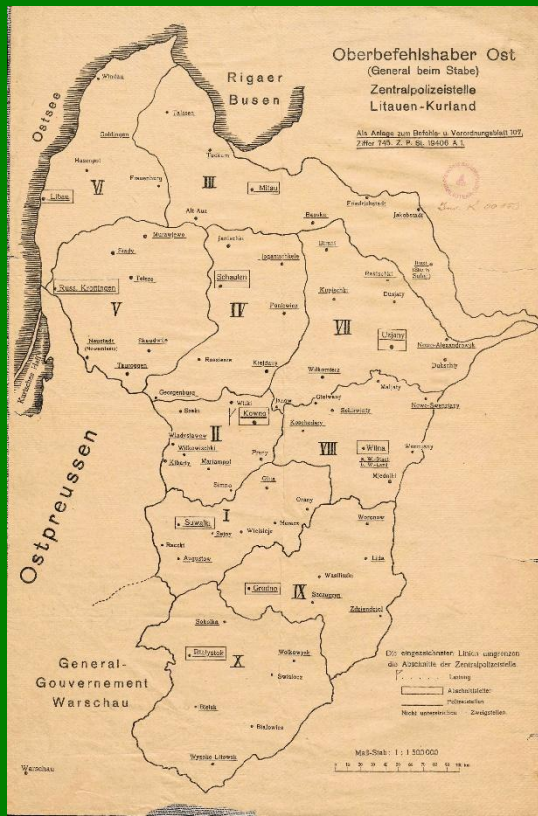
1911 V. Verickas (publisher): "Lietuvos žemėlapis su etnografinės sienos" (Map of Lithuania with ethnographic borders), published in St. Petersburg by the Il'in firm, and in Kaunas by the company "Lietuvos ūkininko" (Lithuanian Farmer). From The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences: www.elibrary.mab.lt/

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1911 V. Verbickas (publisher): "Lietuvos žemelapis su etnografijos siena" (Map of Lithuania with ethnographic borders), published in St. Petersburg by the Il'in firm, and in Kaunas by the company "Lietuvos ūkininko" (Lithuanian Farmer). From The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences: www.elibrary.mab.lt/

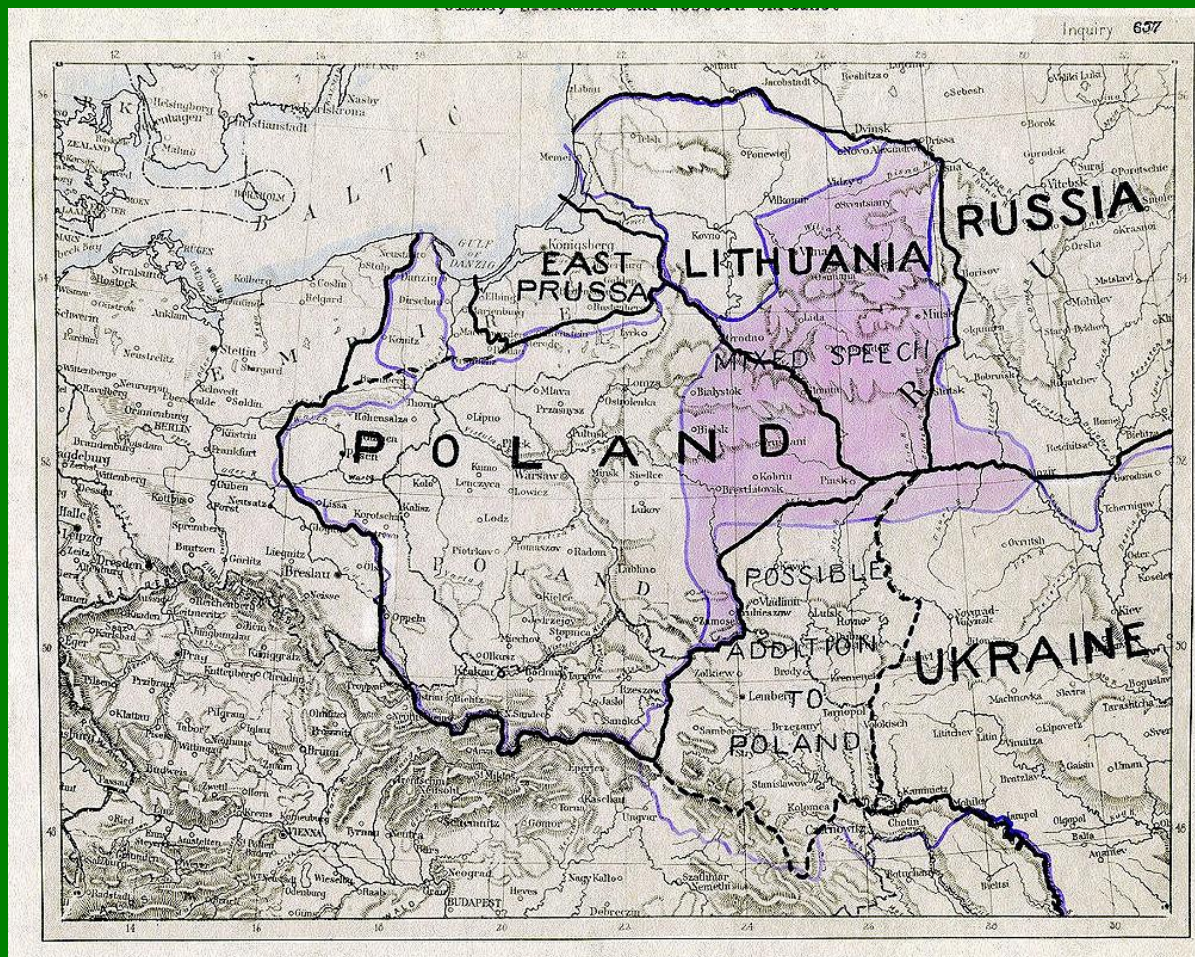


1918 "Oberbefehlshaber Ost Zentralpolizeistelle Litauen – Kurland."
 Boundaries at Aug. 1917. Wroblewski Library, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences:
elibrary.mab.lt/



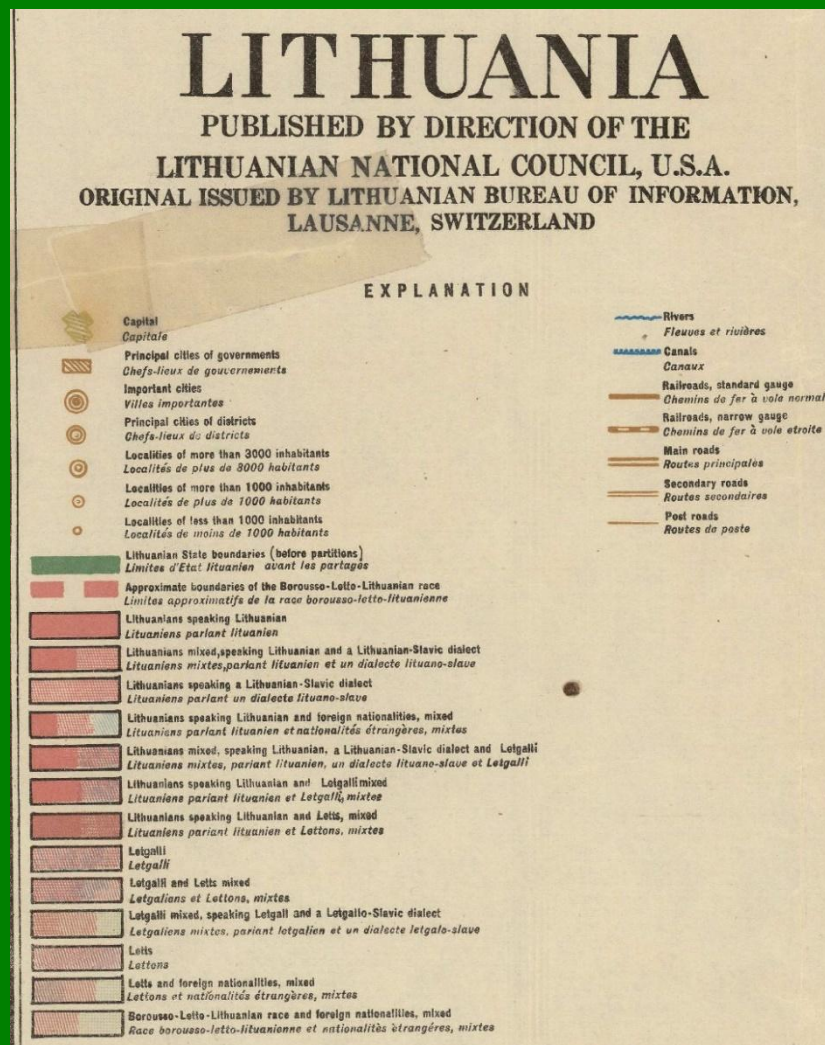
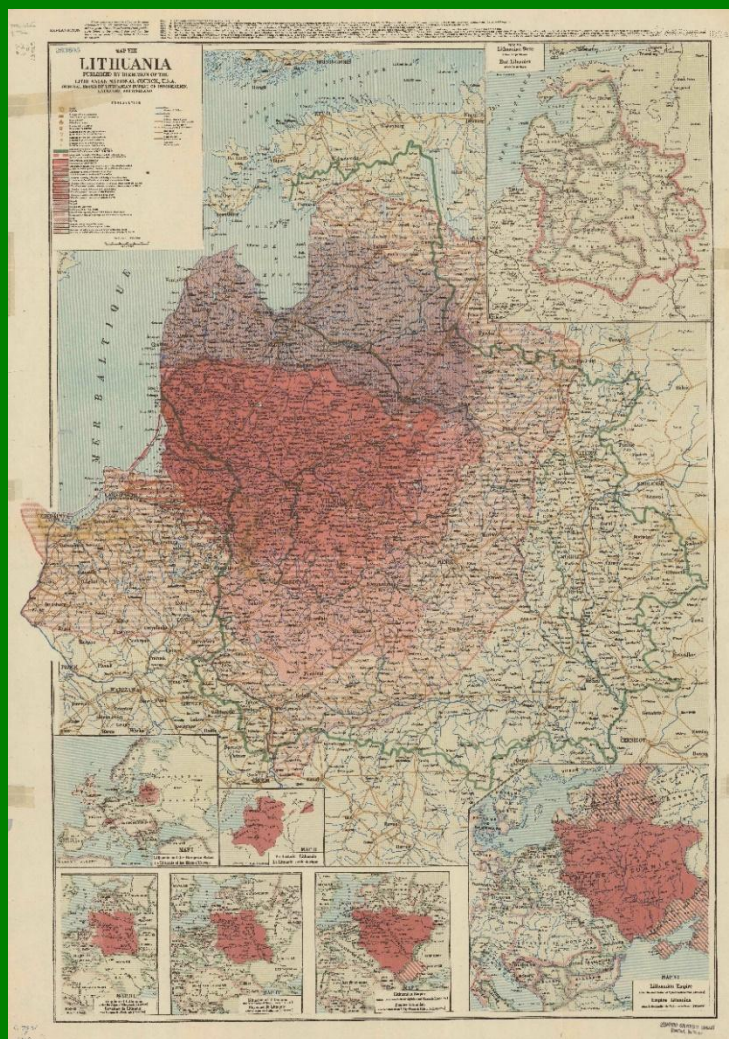
1918 Max Friederichsen: "Karte von Litauen - Lietuvos Žemlapis," Hamburg.
<https://www.lnb.lt/en/>

German cartographers' versions of occupied Lithuania's boundaries – one defining military zones, one for general distribution



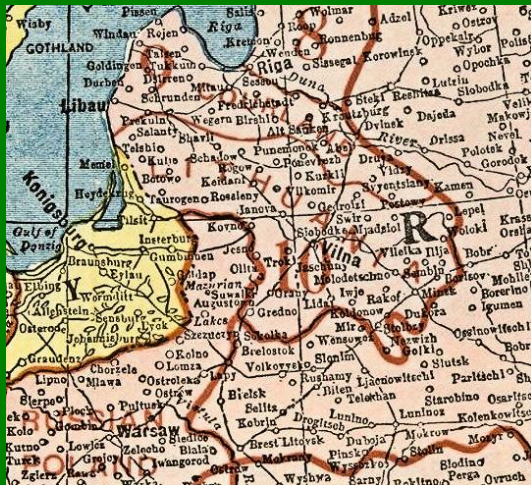
1918 Map # 6 Johns Hopkins Libraries: <http://exhibits.library.jhu.edu>

Isaiah Bowman's suggested Polish-Lithuanian borders, from his "Black Book" American cartographic team's secret guiding document for Paris Peace Conference 1919-20 negotiations.

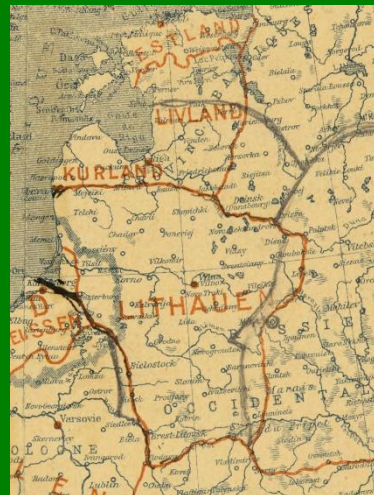


1919 Vladas Daumantas (Dzimidavičius): "Carte de la Lituanie," Lausanne; US: "Lithuania" www.searchworks.stanford.edu

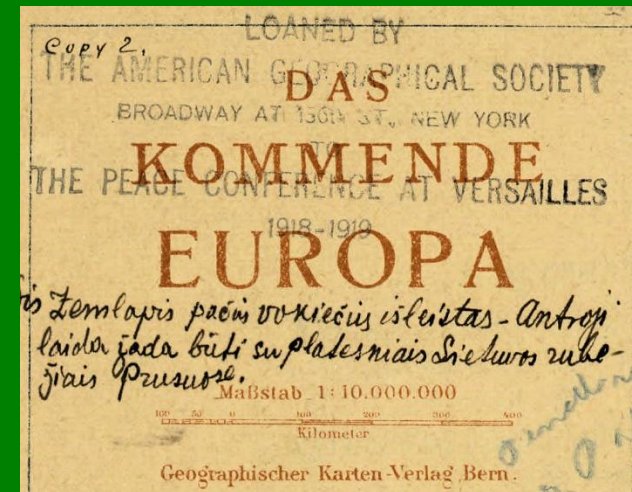
Lithuanian mapmaker/patriot map distributed at Versailles, in French and English: 13 shades of Lithuanian/Lettish



1918 "American Victory Map of Europe"
www.uwm.edu

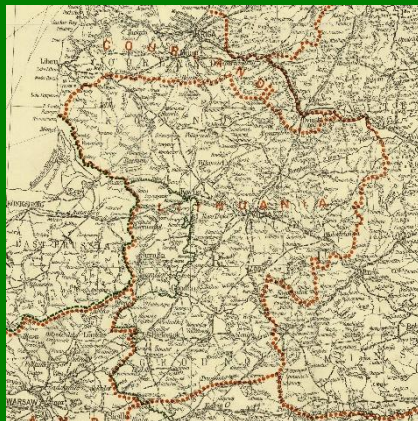


1918 ("The Coming Europe")
www.uwm.edu

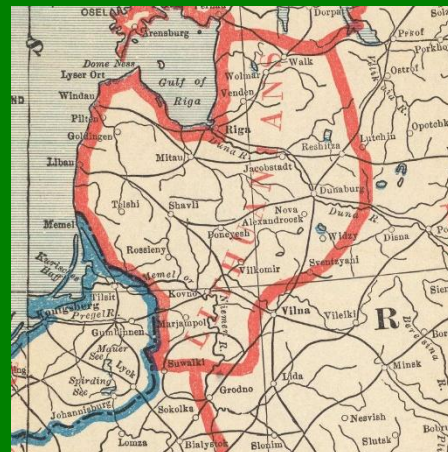


1918 Legend, "Das Kommende Europa"

Published 1918, before the 1919-20 Paris Peace Conference



1918 "Daily Telegraph War Map No. 29: German Peace Boundaries" www.uwm.edu



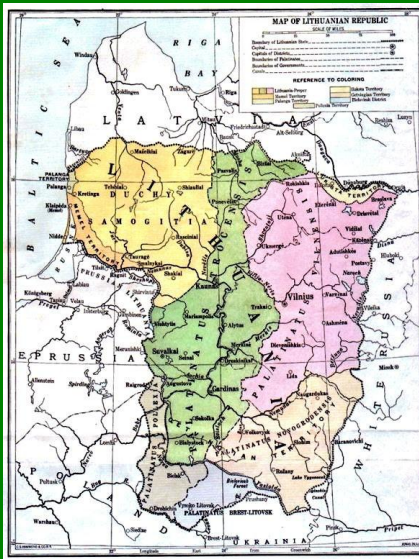
1918 F.A. Ferris overprinting C.S. Hammond: "A Map of Liberty and Peace for Every Nation"
www.davidrumsey.com



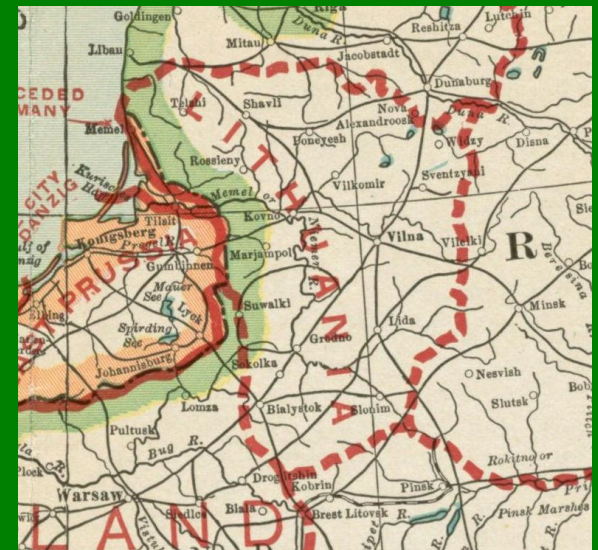
1918 Harmsworth Atlas: "Baltic States"
 A. Kapochunas



1919 J. Forest "Europe Divisions Politiques" www.uwm.edu

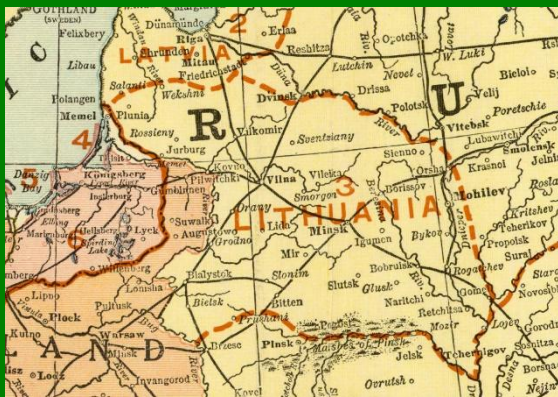


1919 "Lithuanian Republic," a Lithuanian proposal at Versailles. www.forum.paradoxplaza.com

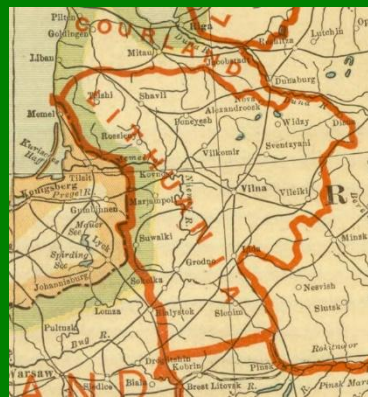


1919 C.S. Hammond "... the Proposed New States" www.leventhalmap.org

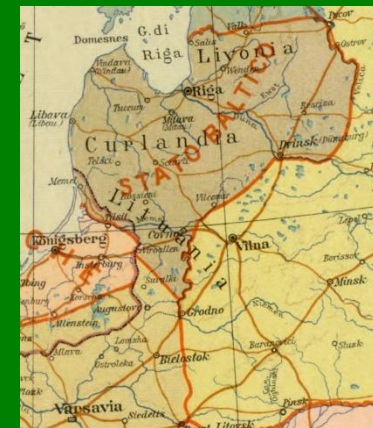
Published 1919, during the 1919-20 Paris Peace Conference



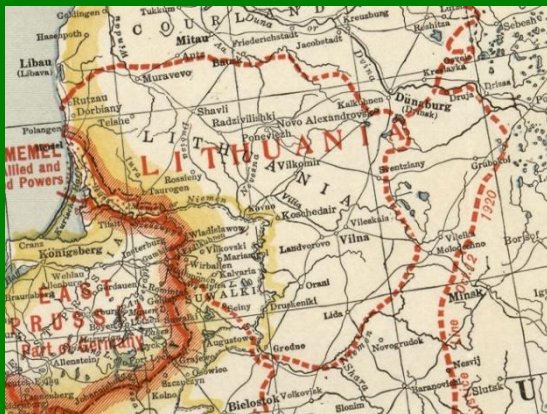
1919 "The Rand McNally Map of New Europe" www.uwm.edu



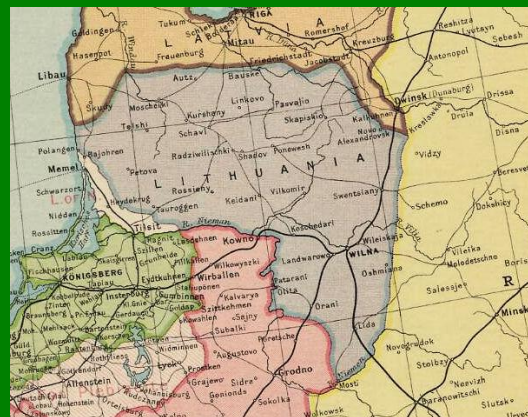
1919 C.S. Hammond "Europe Showing Peace Conf. Boundaries" www.uwm.edu



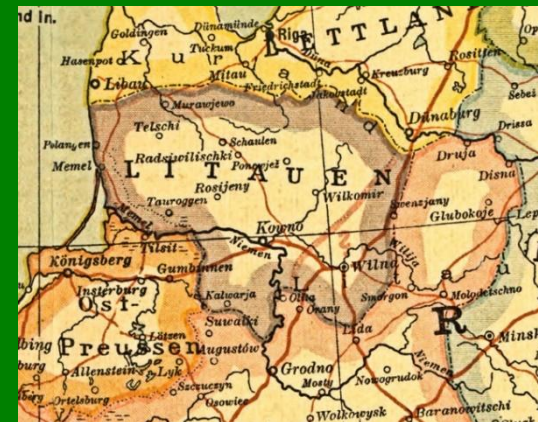
1919 G. Bertoldo: "...Futura Europa..." www.uwm.edu



1920 Nat. Geog. Soc. "Map of Europe Showing Countries as Established by the Peace Conference at Paris" www.loc.gov



1920 "Bartholemew's Political map of the new Europe, 1920" wikipedia

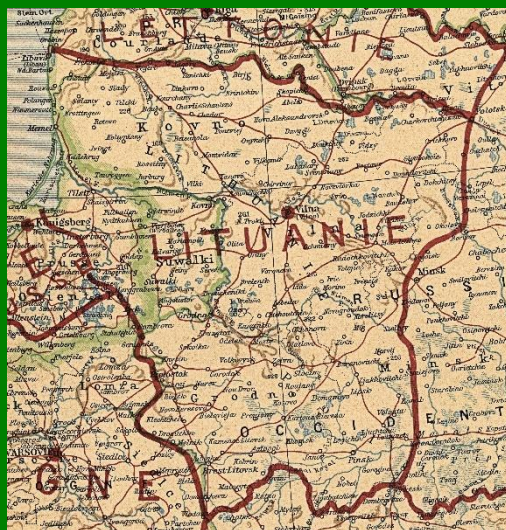


1920 Artaria: "Das Neue Europa" www.uwm.edu

Published 1920, after the Paris Peace Conference ended



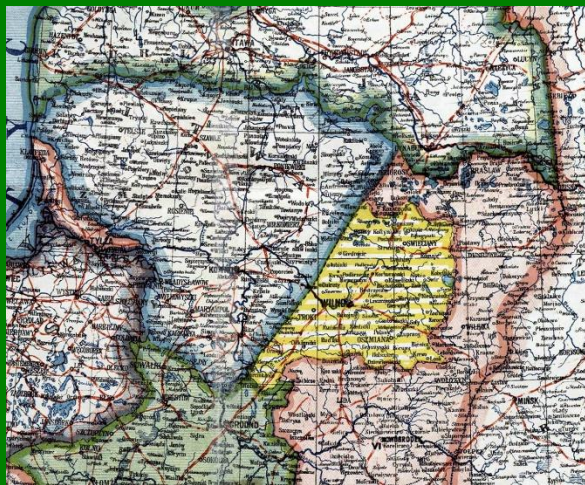
1920 Harmsworth Atlas: "Baltic Provinces" A. Kapochunas



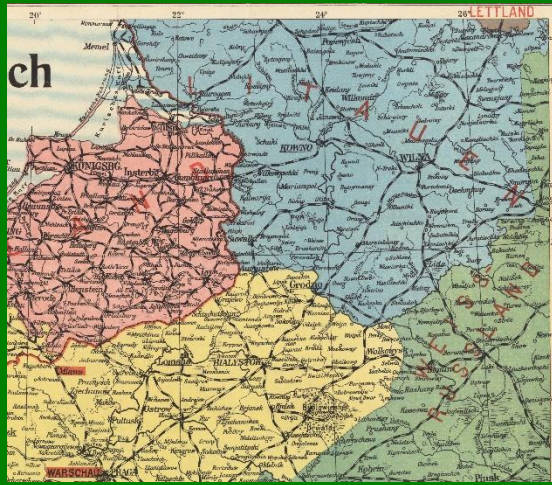
1920 Société De Cartes Géographiques Berne: "Carte Générale de L'Europe" www.mapywig.org



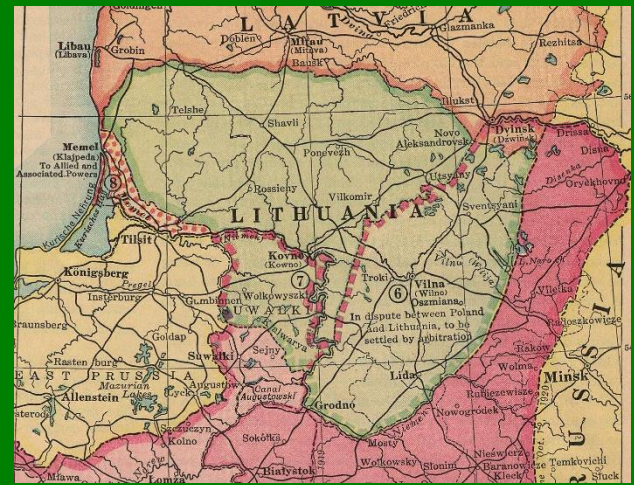
1920 ("Map of the Republic of Poland") www.mapywig.org



1921 J.M. Bazewicz: "Mapa Polski"
www.rcin.org



1921 "Special Verkehrskarte [Transport Map] Polen u Russland" www.mapywig.org

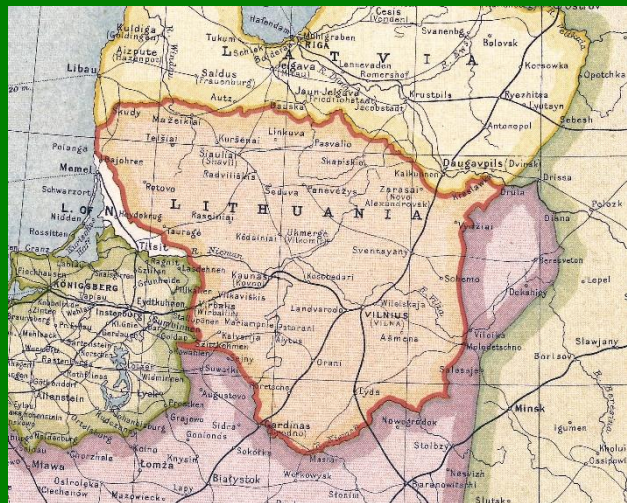


1921 Funk & Wagnalls "Poland & Lithuania" A. Kapochunas

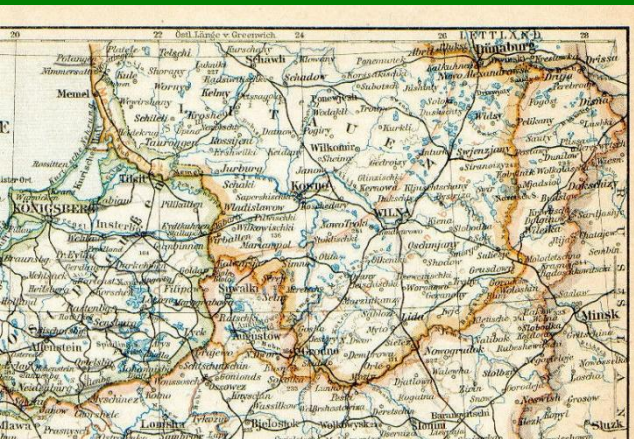
Published **1921**, a year after the January 1920 Paris Peace Conference



1921 Kenyon Co. "Western Russia and the Ukraine Republic"
<https://dmr.bsu.edu/>



1921 Times Survey Atlas of the World "Eastern Europe Communications"
A. Kapochunas



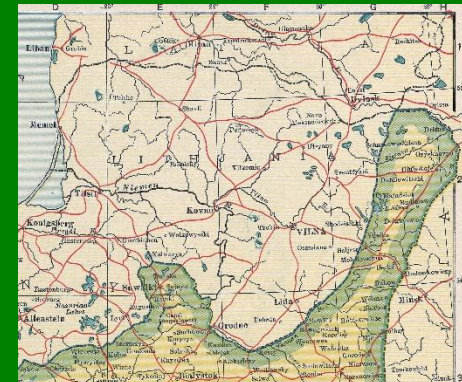
1921 "Meyers kleiner handatlas "Polen"
A. Kapochunas



1922 Edinburgh Geo. Inst. "Europe, Political"
The Times Atlas www.davidrumsey.com

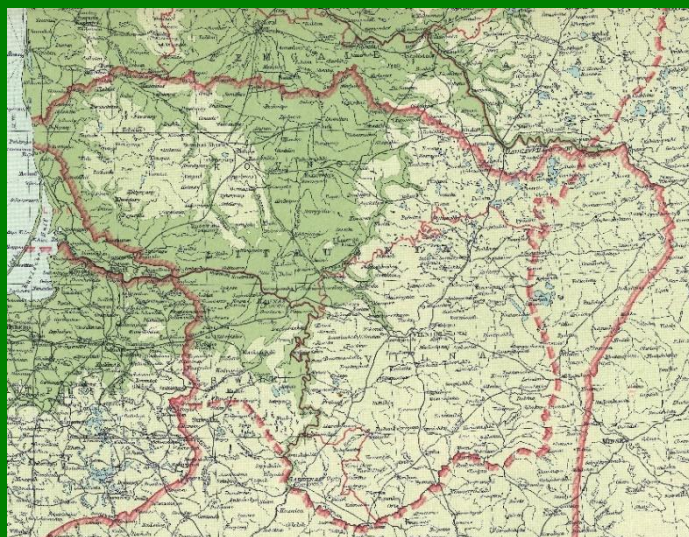


1922 US atlas: "Poland and the Baltic States"
A. Kapochunas

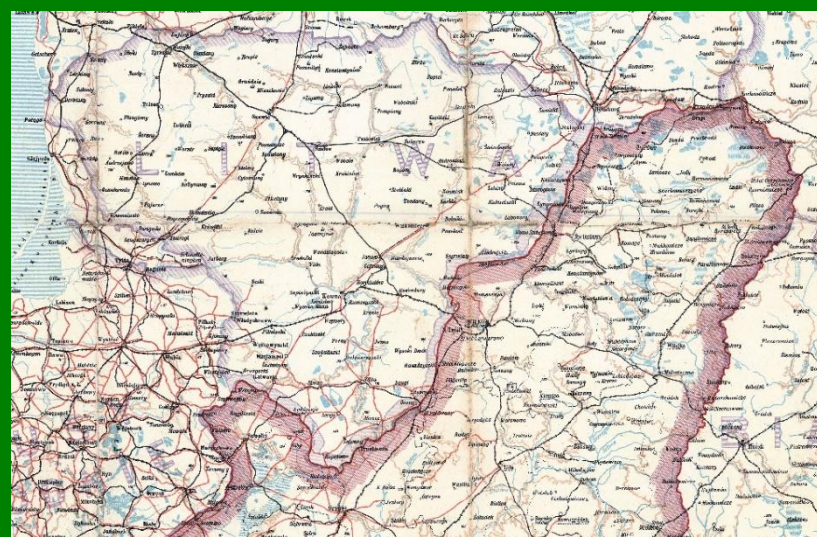


1922 US atlas: "Poland"
A. Kapochunas

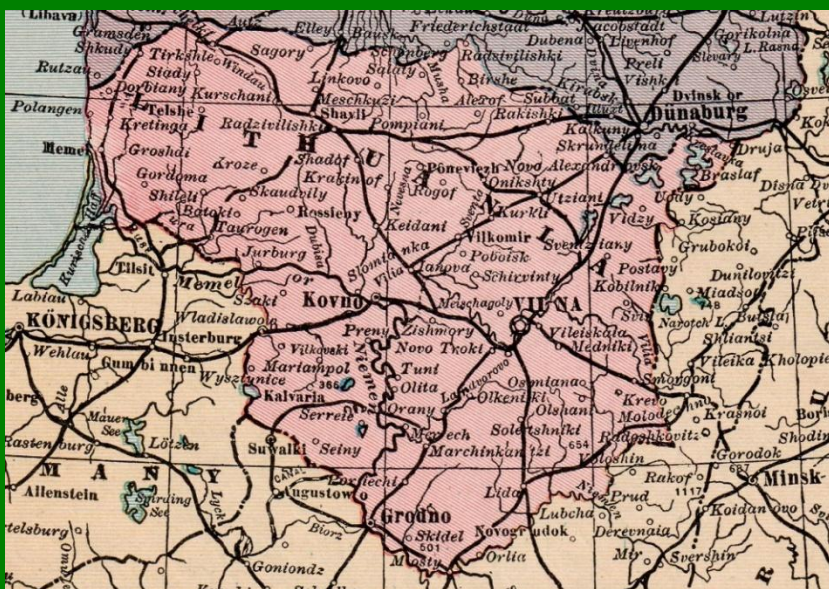
Published **1922**, two years *after* the January 1920 Paris Peace Conference



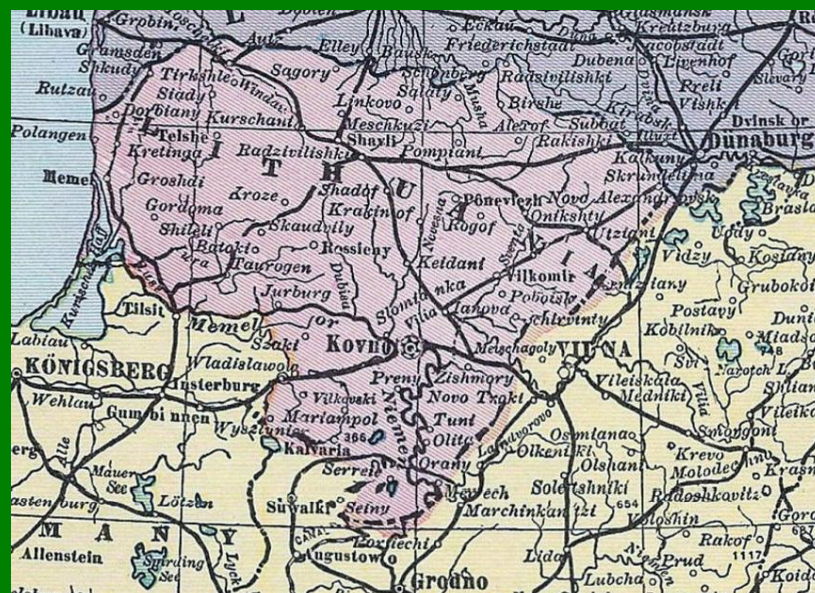
1922 C.S. Hammond: "Baltic States & East Prussia"
"The Times Survey Atlas," London. A. Kapochunas



1922 Instytutu Wojskowo Geograficznego: (Republic of Poland and Neighboring Lands), Warsaw. www.mapywig.org



1923 C.S. Hammond "The Baltic States" A. Kapochunas



1924 C.S. Hammond "The Baltic States" A. Kapochunas

In Lithuania in the **1923** map – but not in the 1924 map:

Grodno (Polish version; Lith.: Gardinas; Bel.: Hrodna; Yiddish: Grodne)

Lida (Polish/Belarusian version; Lith.: Lyda; Yiddish: Lyde)

Vilna (Russian version; Lith.: Vilnius; Polish: Wilno; Yiddish: Vilne)

Vidzy (Romanized Bel. Version; Polish: Widze; Lith.: Vidžiai; Yiddish: Vidzh)

1924 map: all those towns, still spelled the same, were now in Poland.

Six years after the end of WWI, maps of the area were finalized.

Ačiū!
(Thank you!)

Questions?

*For maps of the area of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
and things Lithuanian:*

www.LithuanianMaps.com and www.LithuanianJournal.org