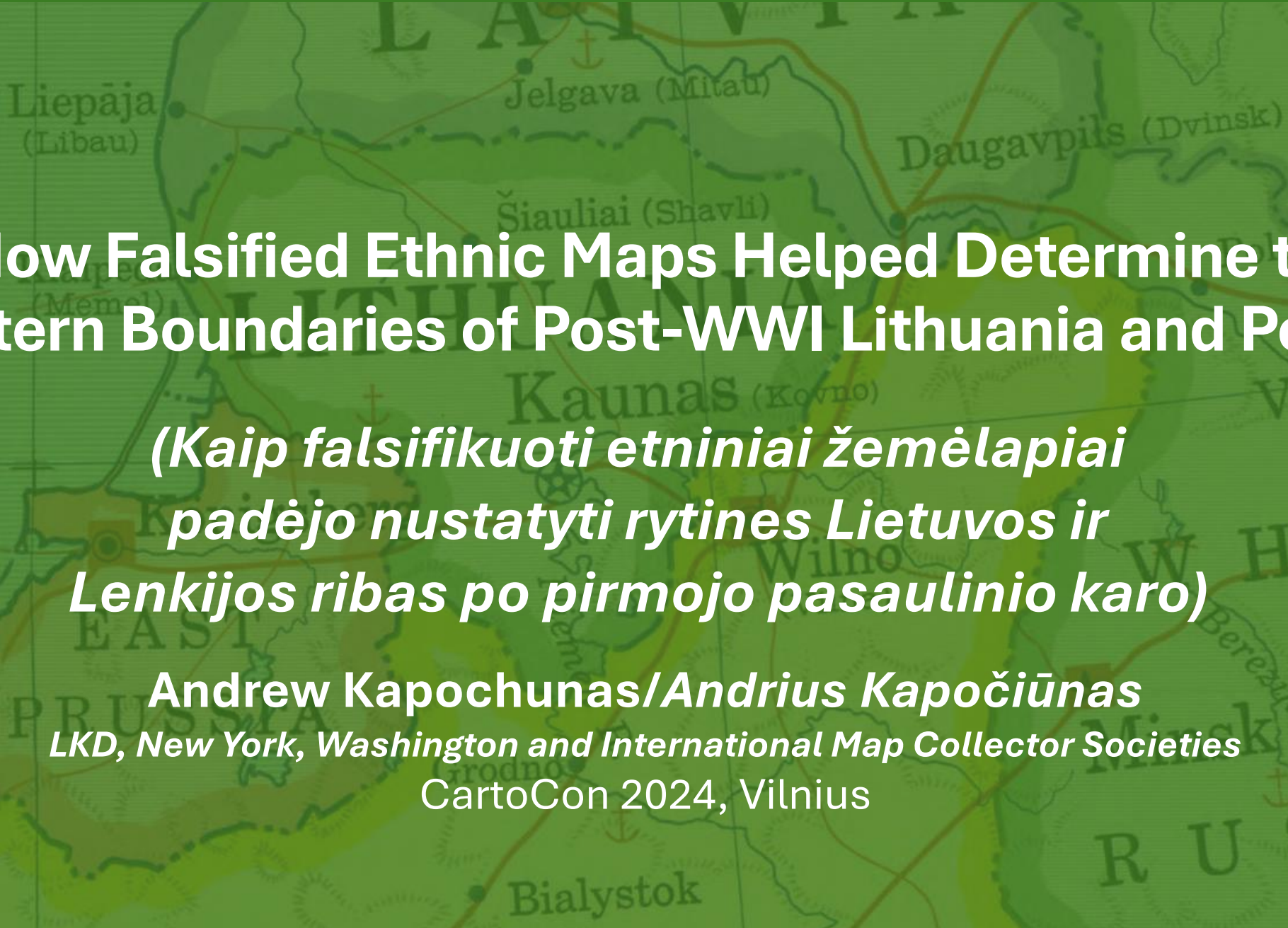
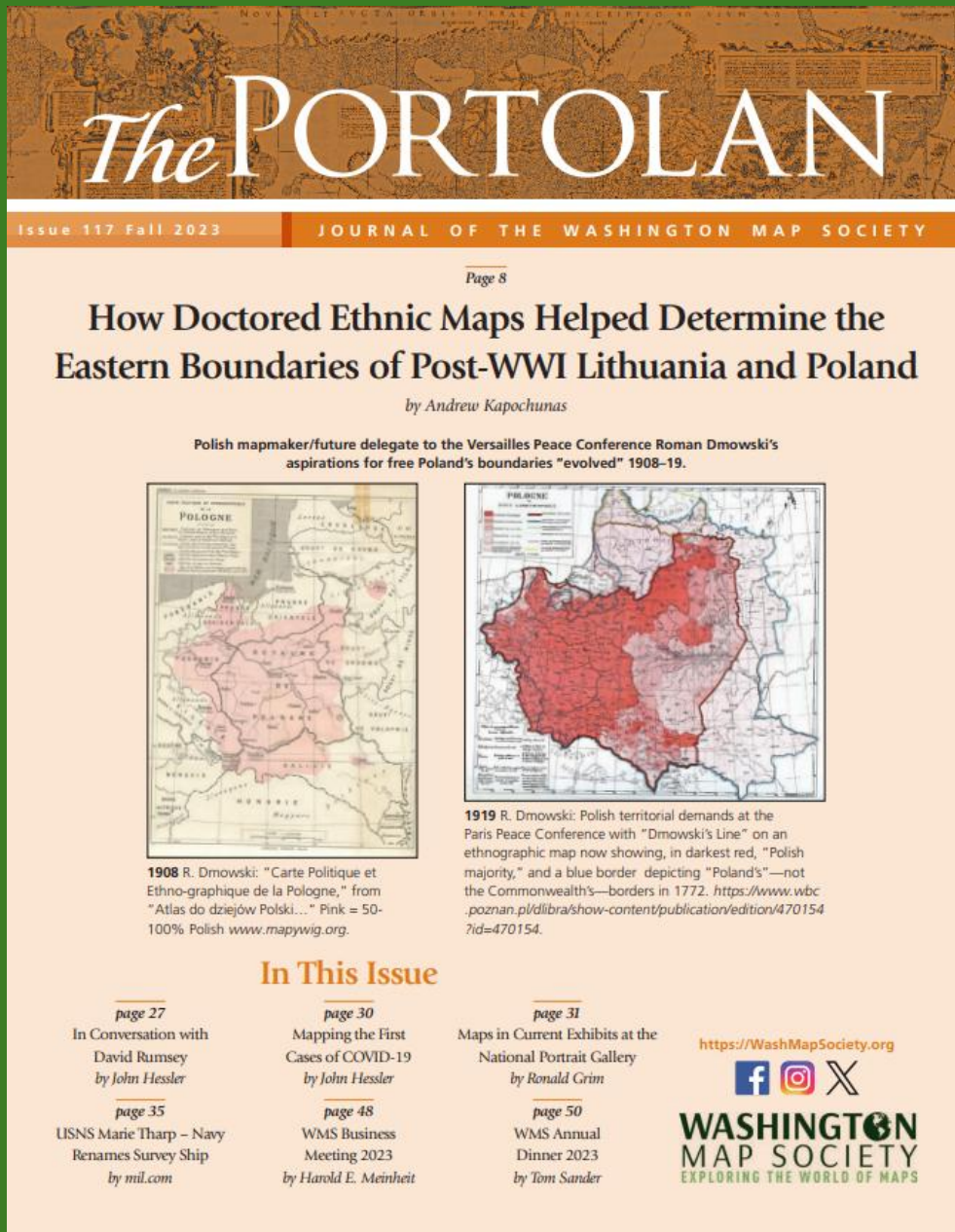


A historical map of Eastern Europe, specifically focusing on the Baltic region. The map shows the borders of Lithuania and Poland, with various cities labeled in both Lithuanian and Polish. Cities like Liepāja (Libau), Jelgava (Mitau), Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Šiauliai (Shavli), Kaunas (Kovno), Wilno, Białystok, and Minsk are visible. The map is overlaid with a green semi-transparent rectangle containing the title and author information.

How Falsified Ethnic Maps Helped Determine the Eastern Boundaries of Post-WWI Lithuania and Poland

(Kaip falsifikuoti etniniai žemėlapiai padėjo nustatyti rytines Lietuvos ir Lenkijos ribas po pirmojo pasaulinio karo)

Andrew Kapochunas/Andrius Kapočiūnas
LKD, New York, Washington and International Map Collector Societies
CartoCon 2024, Vilnius



This presentation is a brief summary of my cover article in the Fall 2023 issue of The Portolan, journal of the Washington Map Society, the largest map society in America, with over 400 members.

Copies of The Portolan are sent to nearly 50 institutions around the world, from the US Library of Congress to the Bodleian Library of Oxford University, Moscow's Russian State Library, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

I will send the complete pdf of the article to LKD members on request to kapochunas@gmail.com

“A good propagandist knows how to shape opinion by manipulating maps. Political persuasion often concerns territorial claims, nationalities, national pride, borders, strategic positions, conquests, attacks, troop movements, defenses, spheres of influence, regional inequality, and other geographic phenomena conveniently portrayed cartographically.

“The propagandist molds the map’s message by emphasizing supporting features, suppressing contradictory information, and choosing provocative, dramatic symbols. People trust maps, and intriguing maps attract the eye as well as connote authority. Naïve citizens willingly accept as truth maps that are based on a biased and sometimes fraudulent selection of facts.”

Mark Monmonier: “How to Lie with Maps.” The University of Chicago Press, Third Edition, 2018), 101

The rebirth of a “Poland” with the borders of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – *thanks to hundreds of years of mislabeling by mapmakers* -- was one of America’s major goals when it entered WWI. The only new state creation mentioned in President Woodrow Wilson’s January 8, 1918 “Fourteen Points” speech to Congress: *“An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations...”*

Wilson did not say “majority Polish populations,” but he supported a Poland only within regions where there was a Polish majority.

From 1569 to today, many mapmakers mislabeled the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth



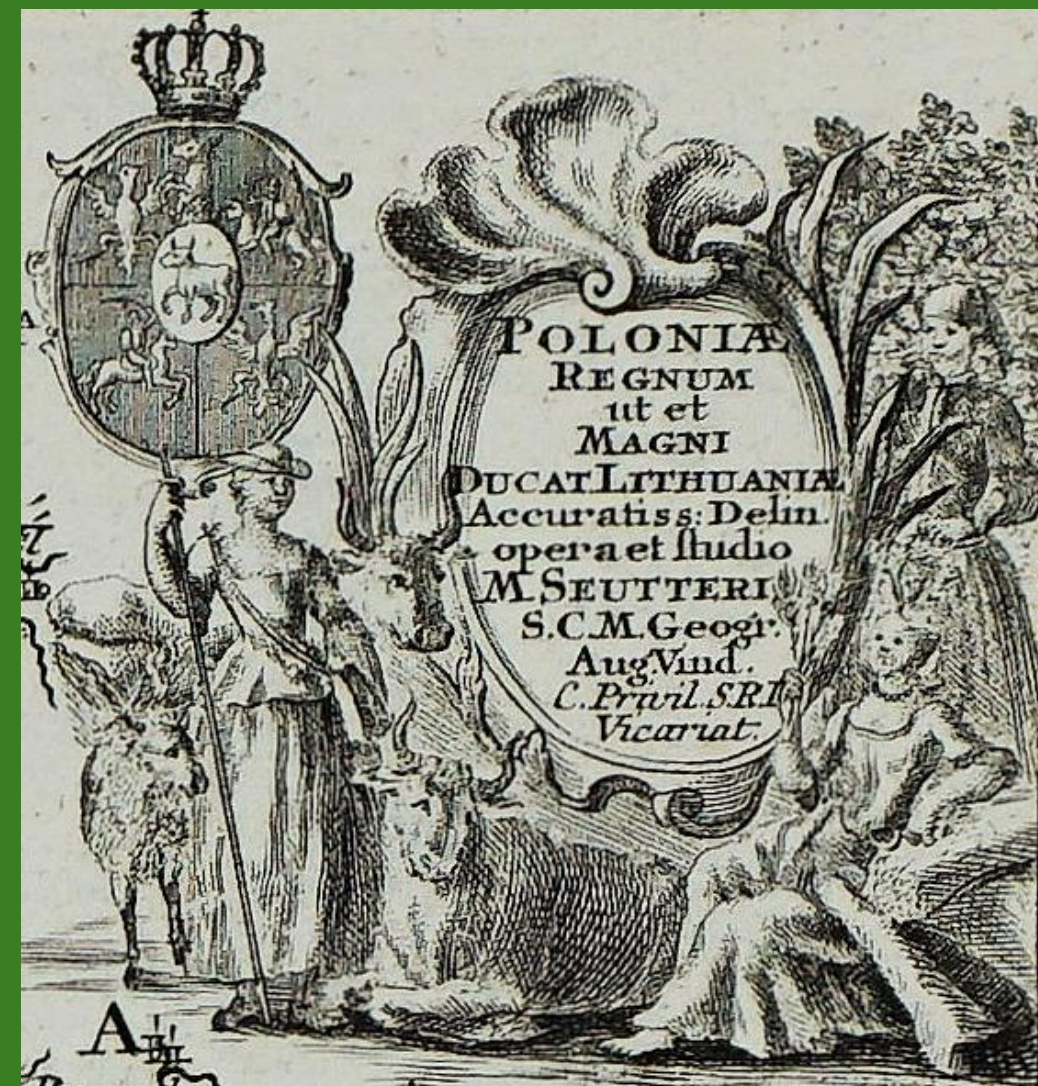
1762 T. Kitchin: "A Map of the Kingdom of Poland"



1764, T.C. Lotter, M. Seutter "Poloniæ Regnum ut et Magni Ducat. Lithaniæ" [Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania]



1762 T. Kitchin: "A Map of the Kingdom of Poland"



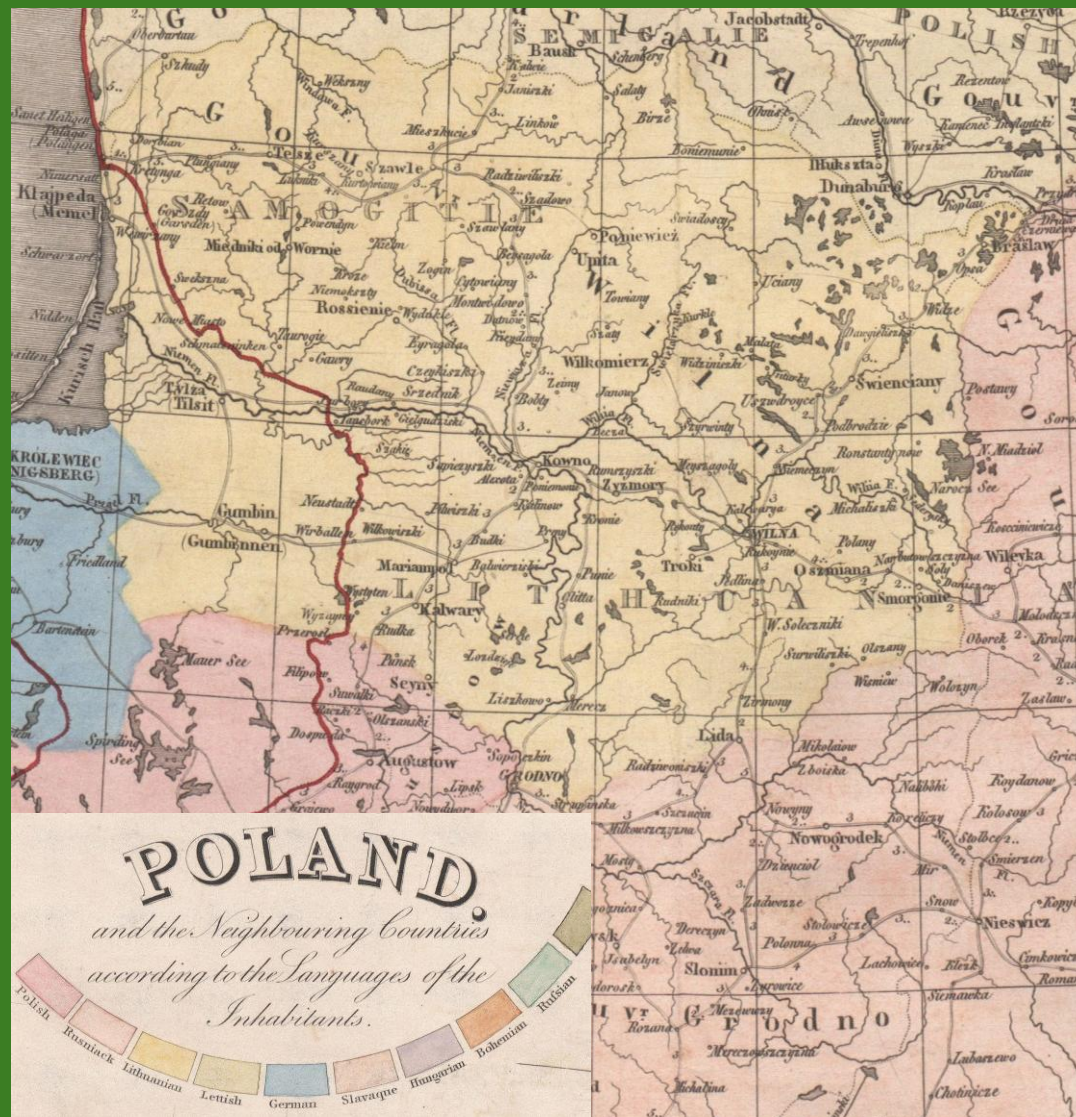
1764, T.C. Lotter, M. Seutter "Poloniae Regnum ut et Magni Ducat. Lithuaniae"



1837 J. M. Bansemer/P. Falkenhagen-Zaleski: "POLAND and the Neighboring Countries according to the Languages of the Inhabitants," London.



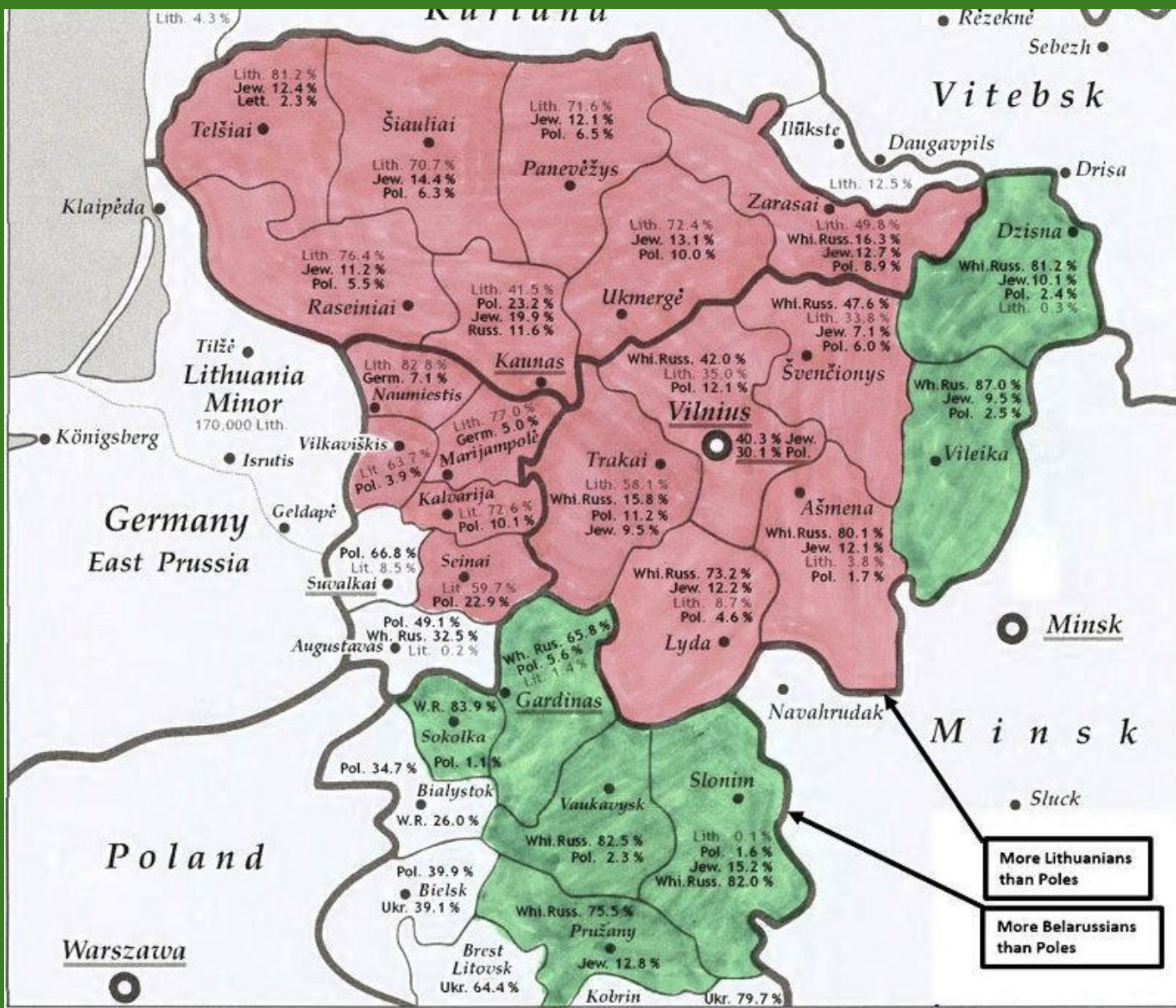
1863 "Stanford's Map of the Kingdom of Poland," London.



1837 J. M. Bansemer/P. Falkenhagen-Zaleski: "POLAND..."

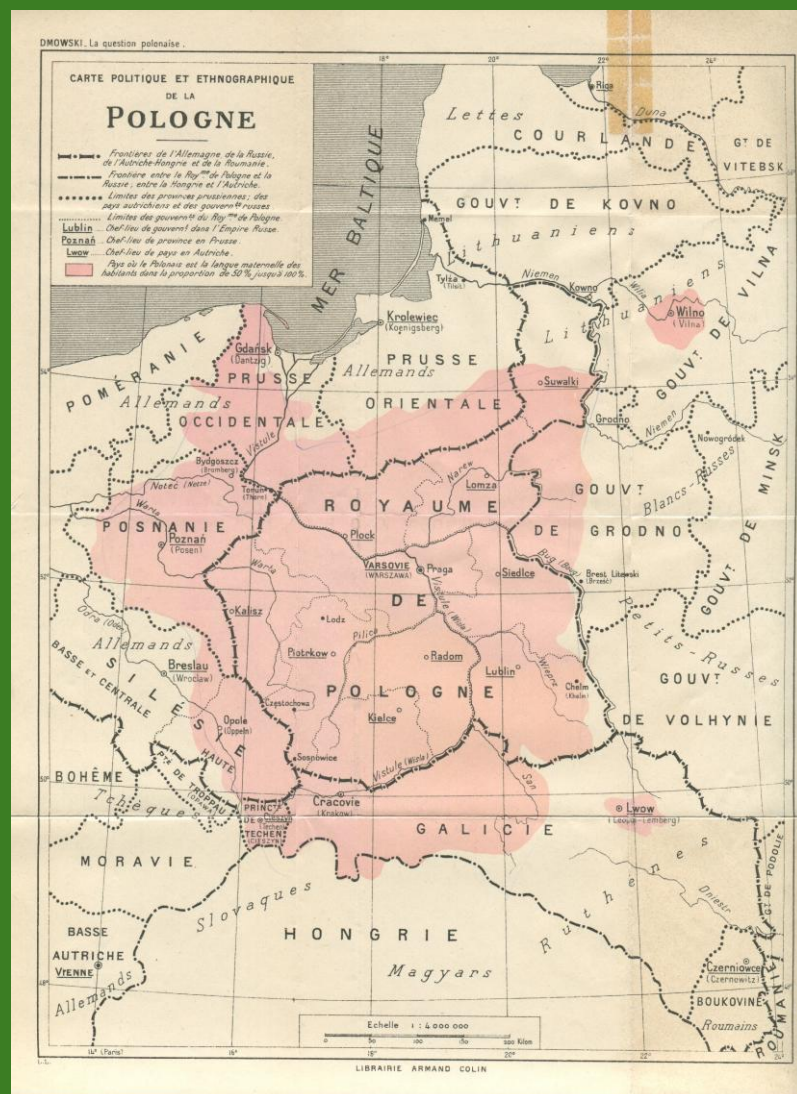


1863 "Stanford's Map of the Kingdom of Poland"

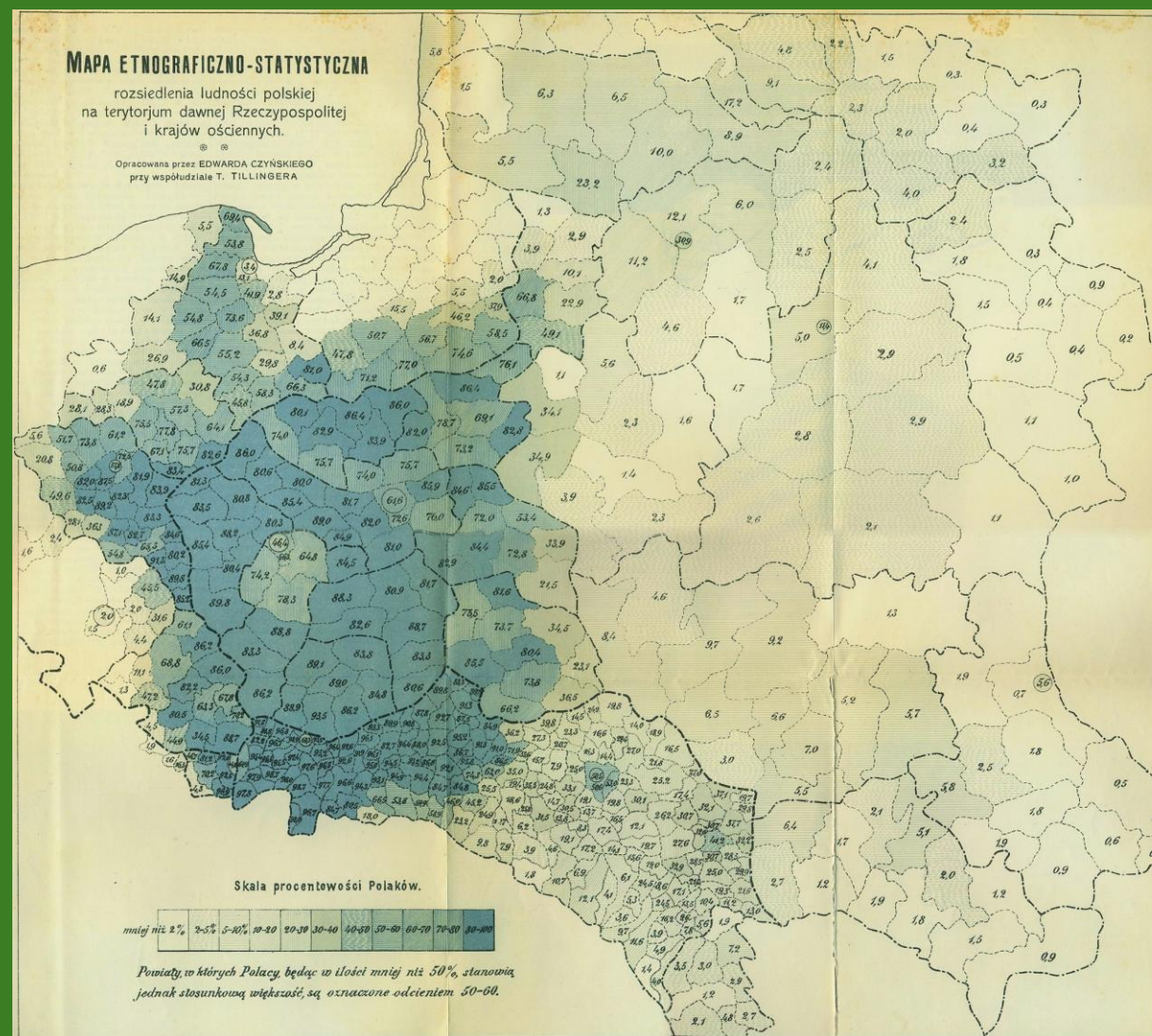


“1897 Russian Census in Lithuania” (the first and only census of the Russian Empire) created 2016 by V. Birstonas using information on my site's "1897 Russian Census Maps."

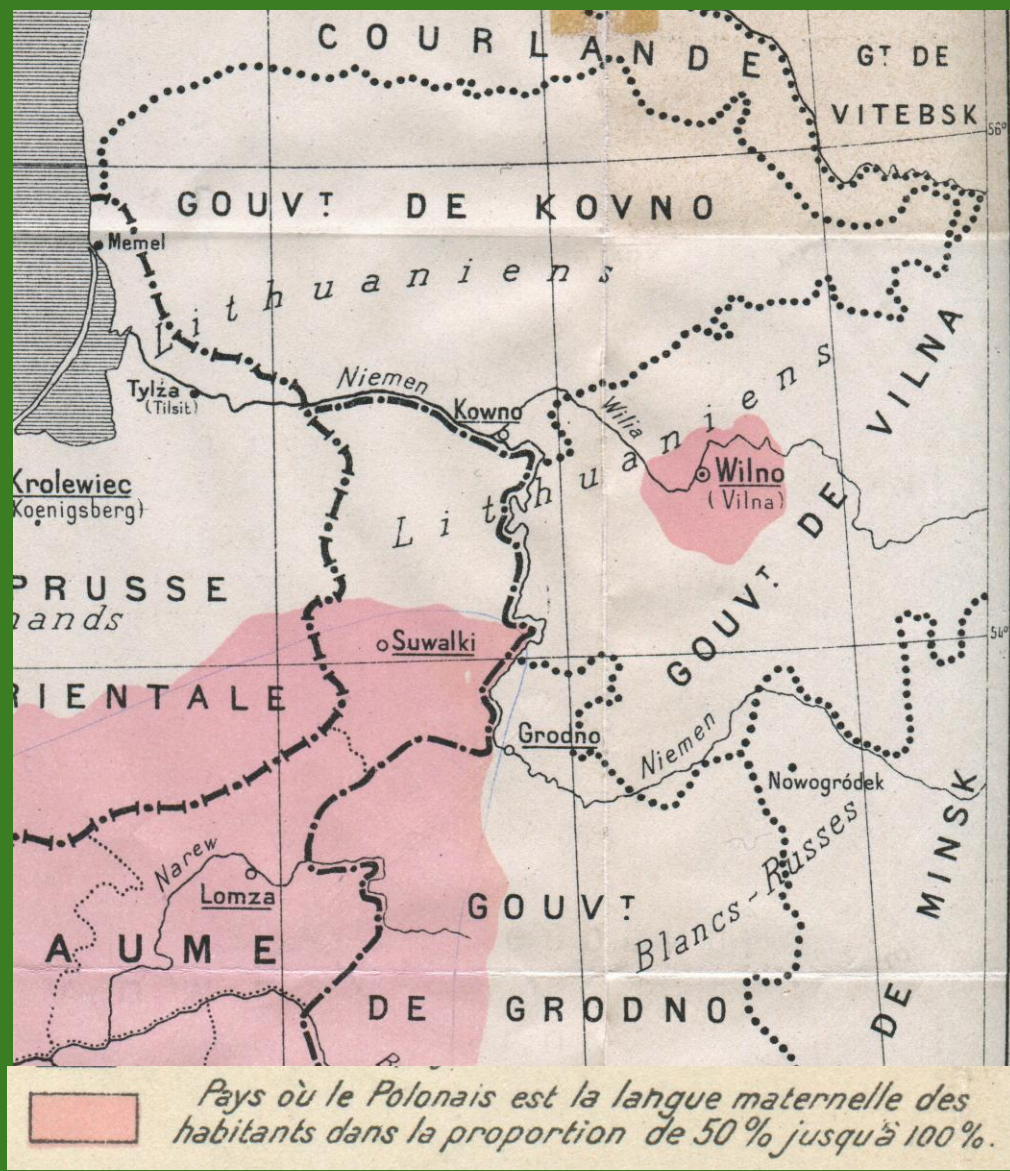
I then colored, in purple, districts where ethnic Lithuanians – by primary language in the household -- outnumbered ethnic Poles, and, in green, districts where ethnic Belarusians outnumbered ethnic Poles.



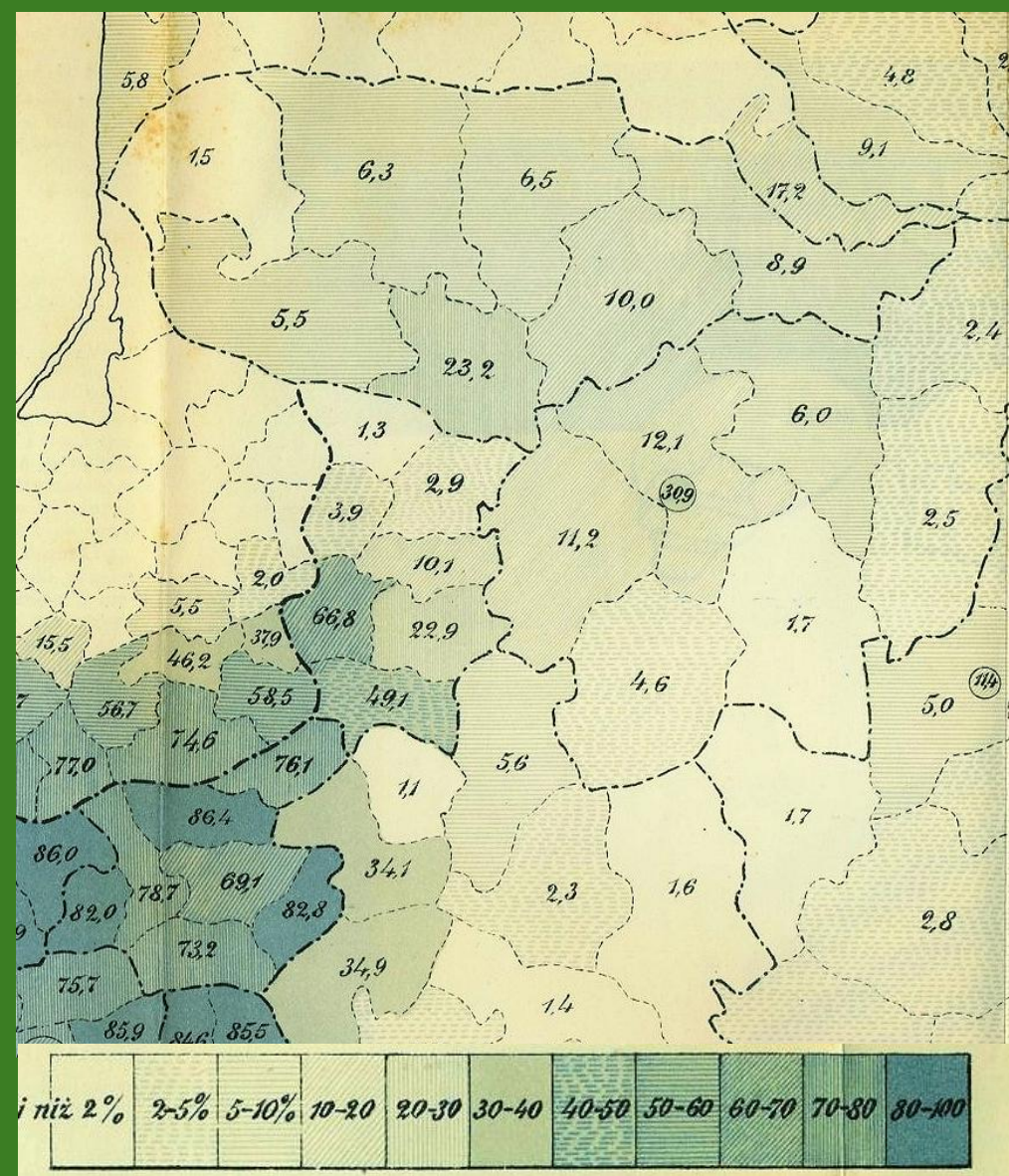
1909 R. Dmowski: "Carte Politique et Ethnographique de la Pologne," Lwów.



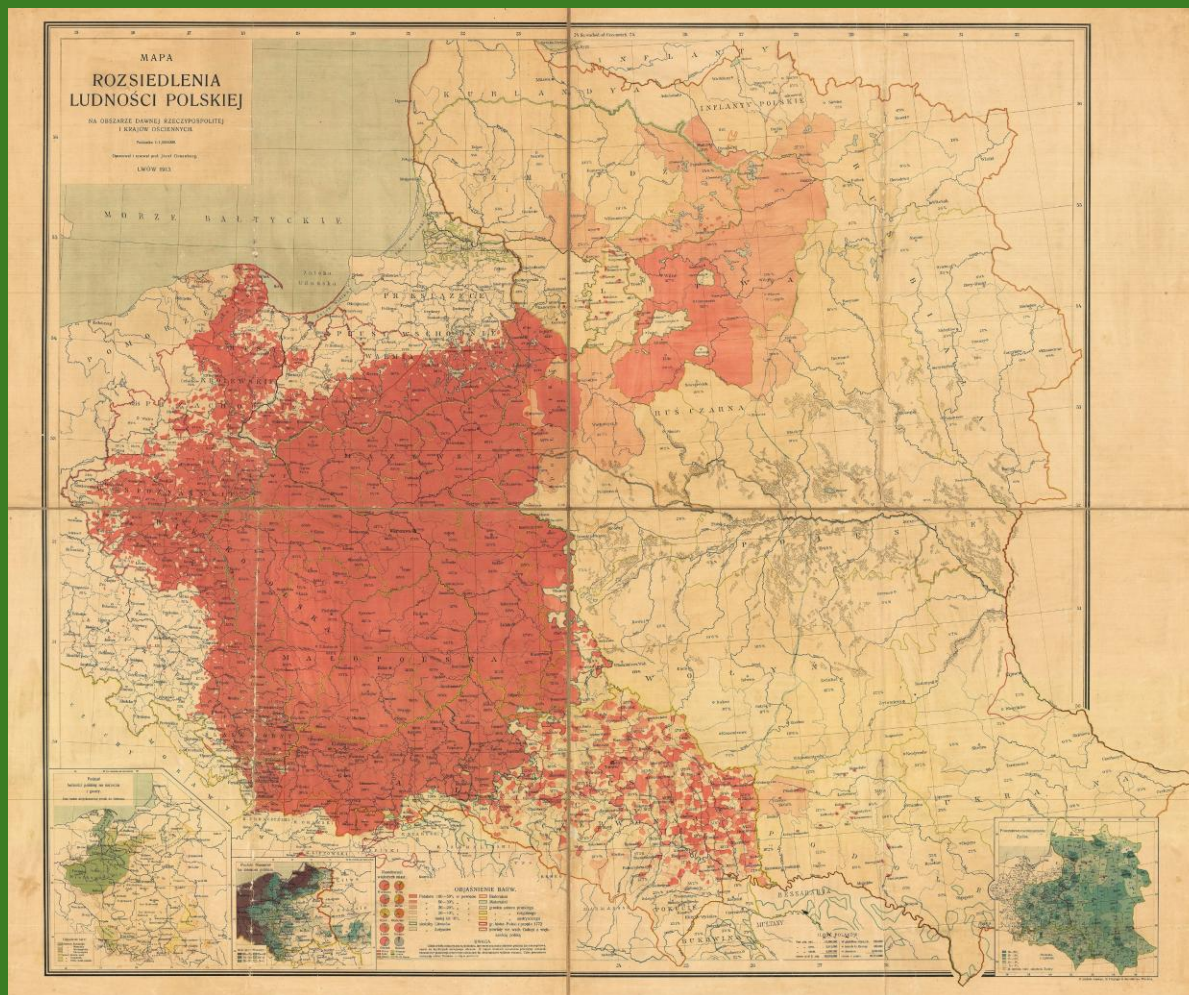
1912 M. Orgelbrand: "MAPA ETNOGRAFICZNO STATYSTYCZNA," Warszawa.



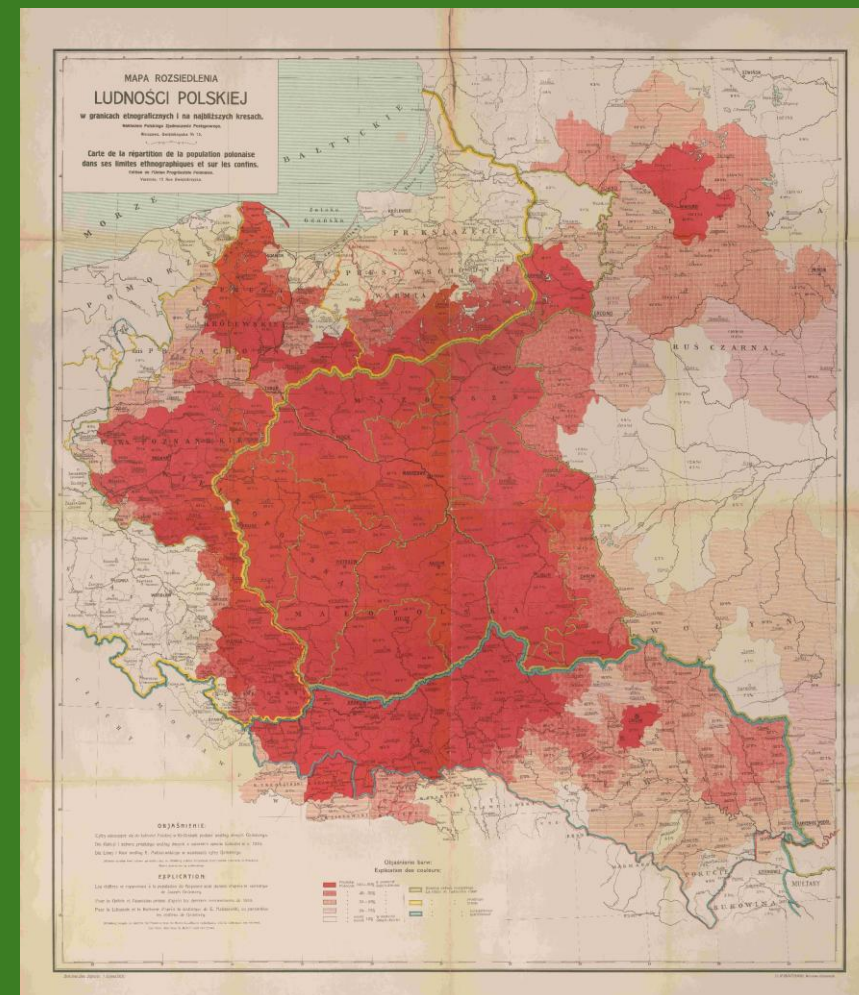
1908 R. Domowski: Lwów



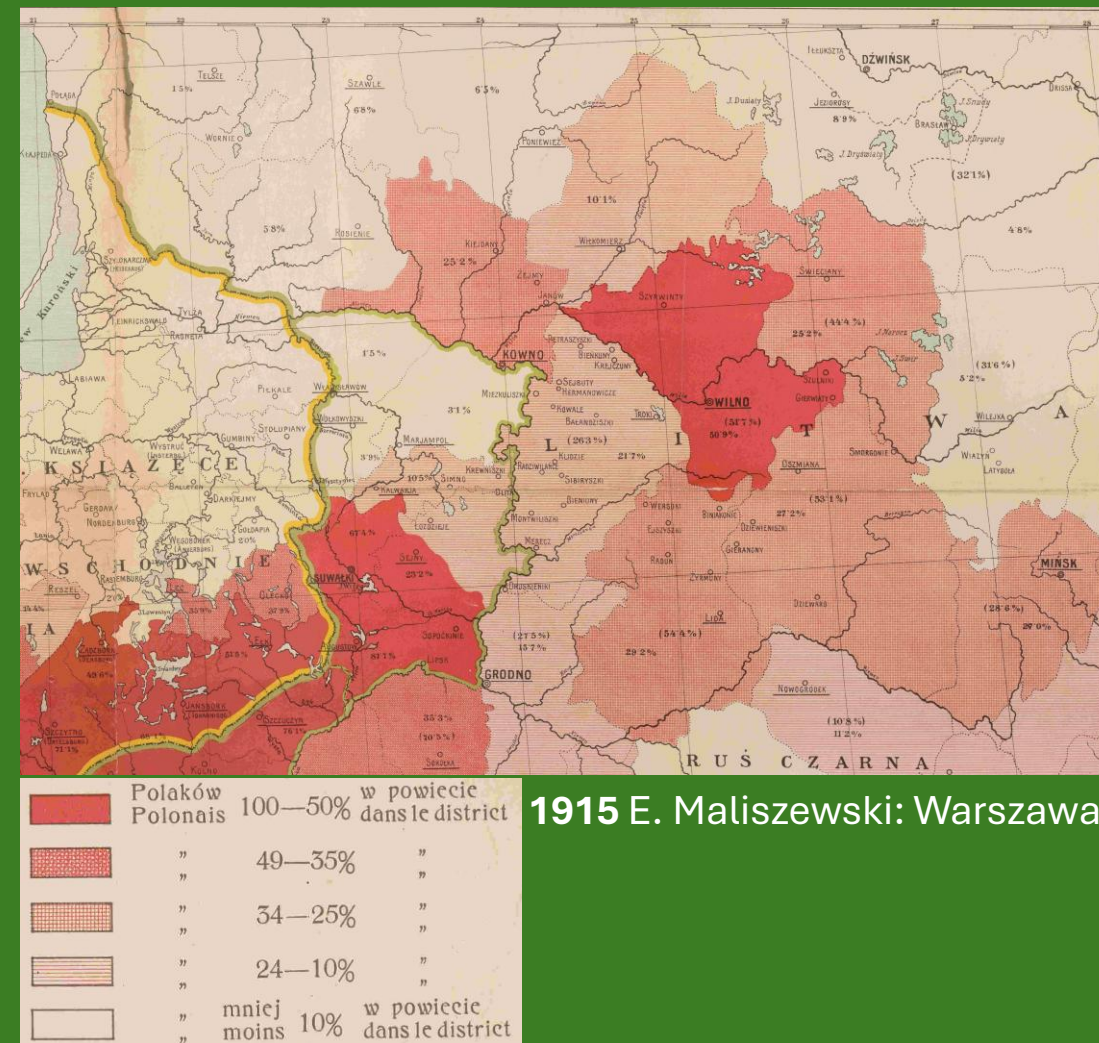
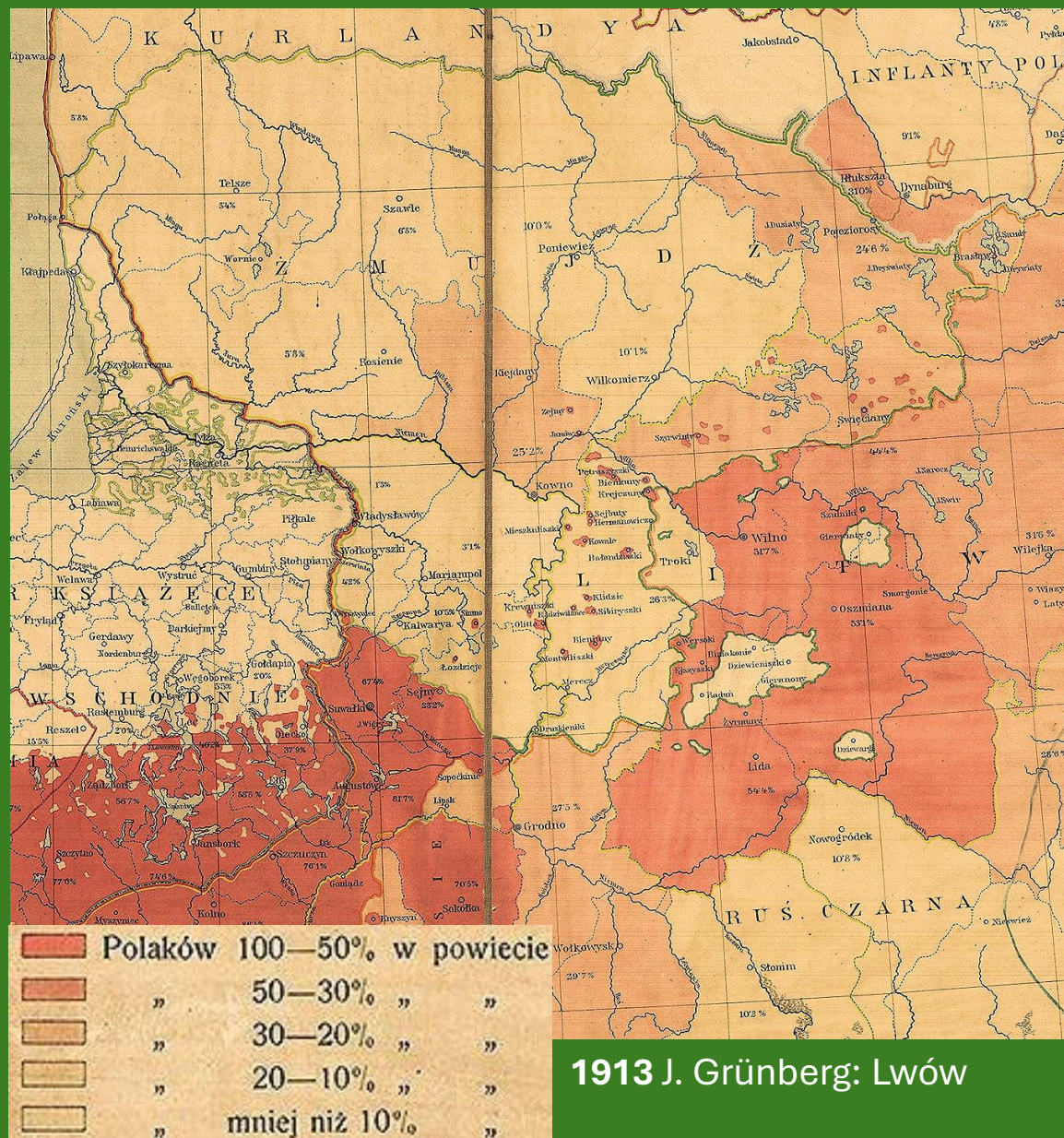
1912 M. Orgelbrand: Warszawa

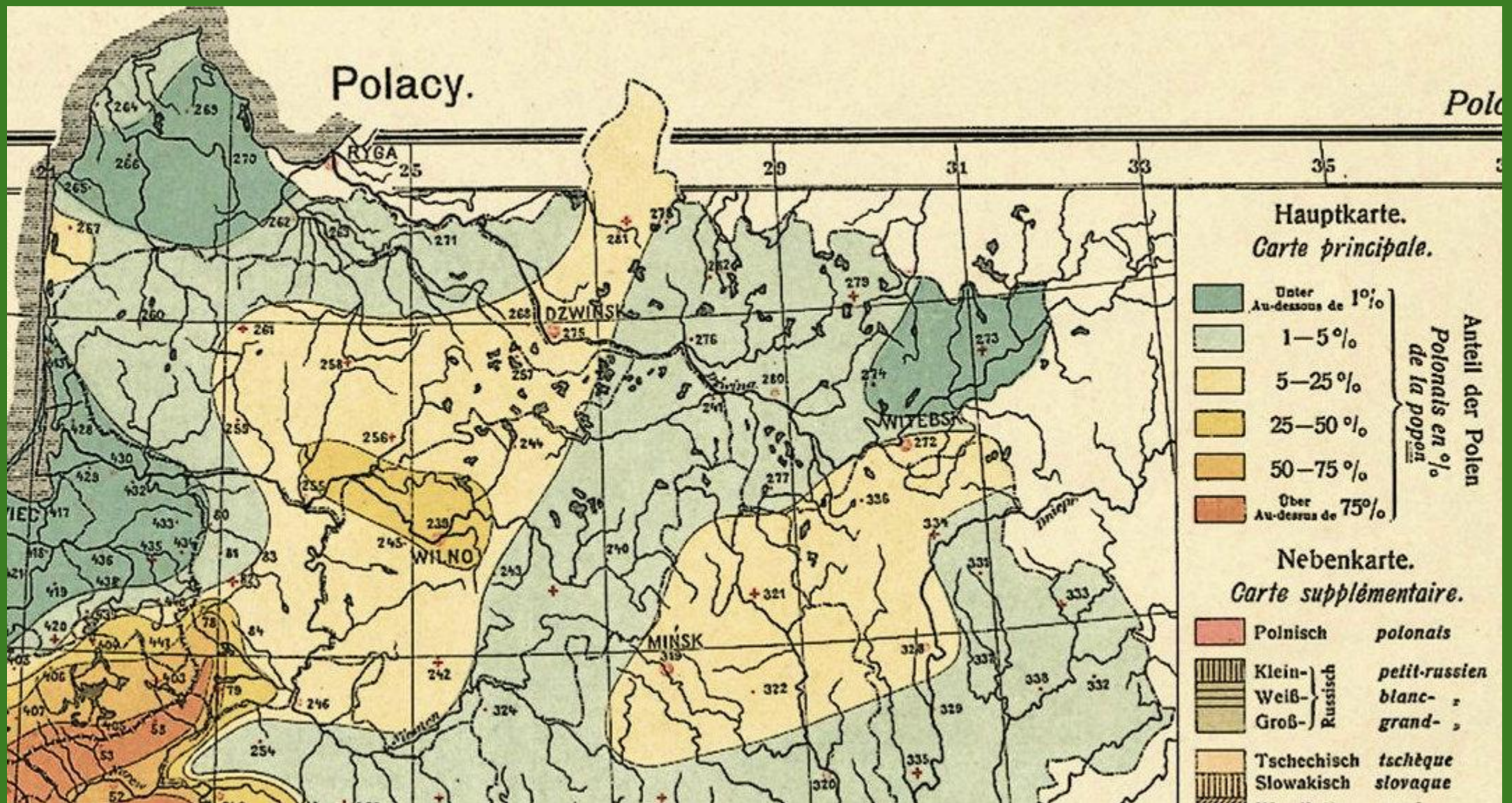


1913 J. Grünberg: "Mapa rozsiedlenia ludności polskiej," Lwów.
 ("Map of the settlement of the Polish population")

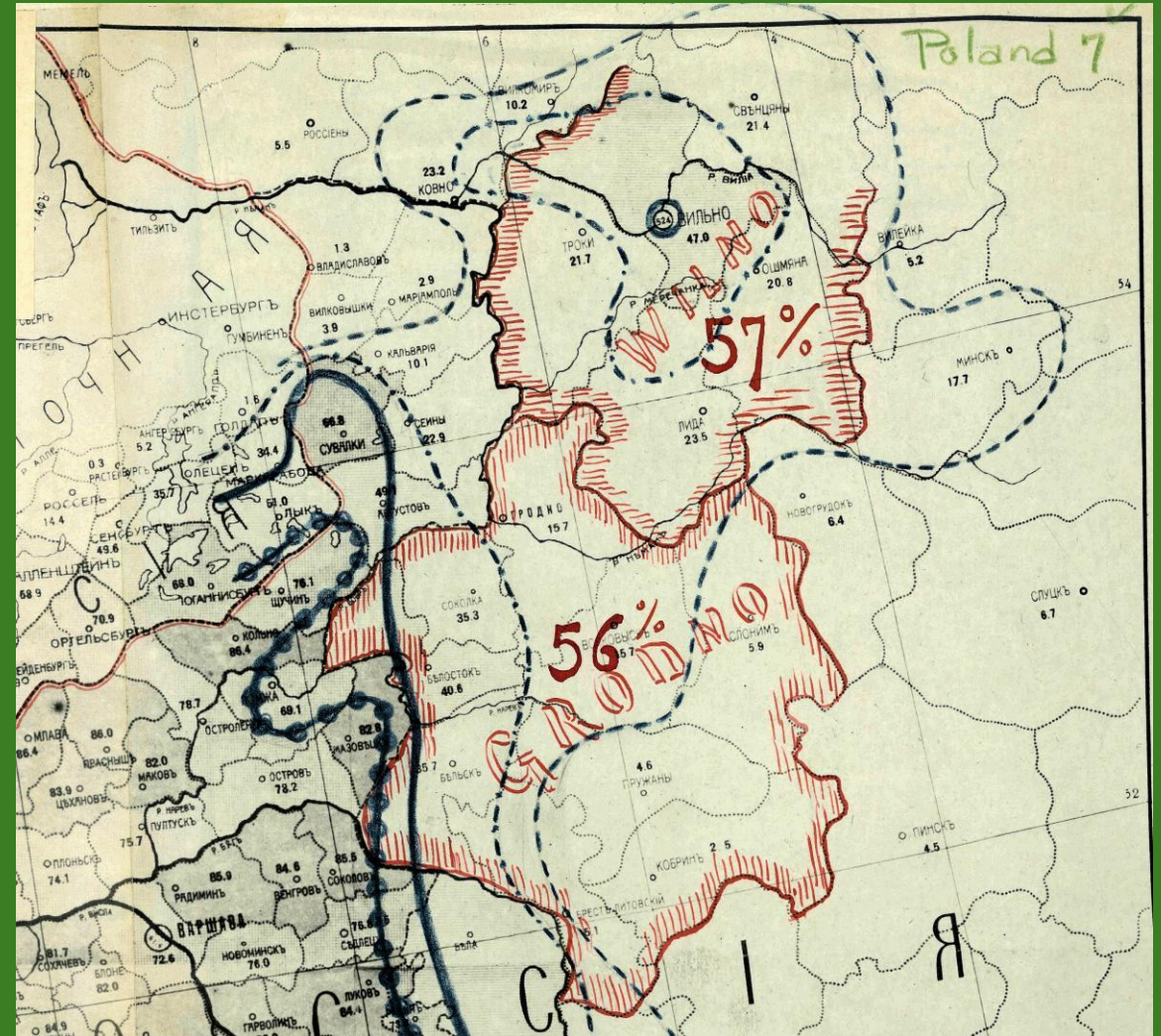


1915 Polish Union of Progressives: "Mapa rozsiedlenia ludności polskiej," Warszaw.
 Statistics by E. Maliszewski, J. Grünberg





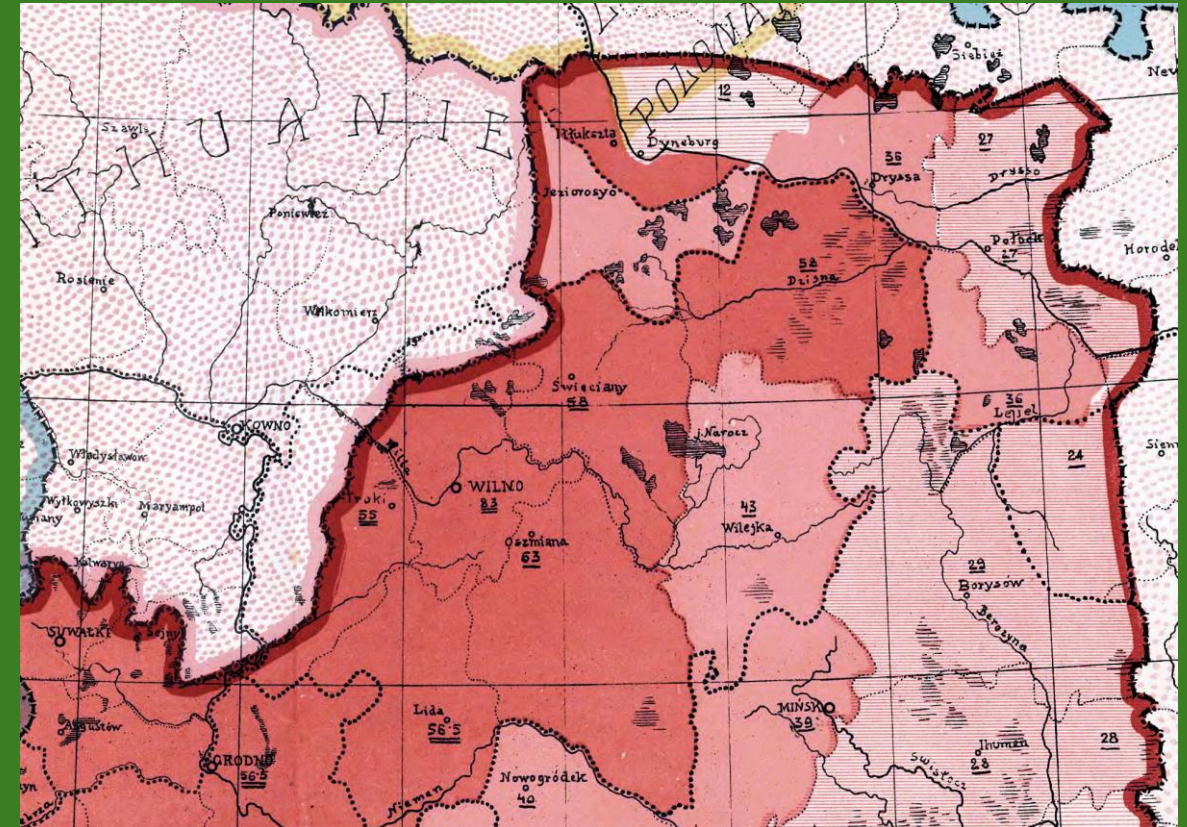
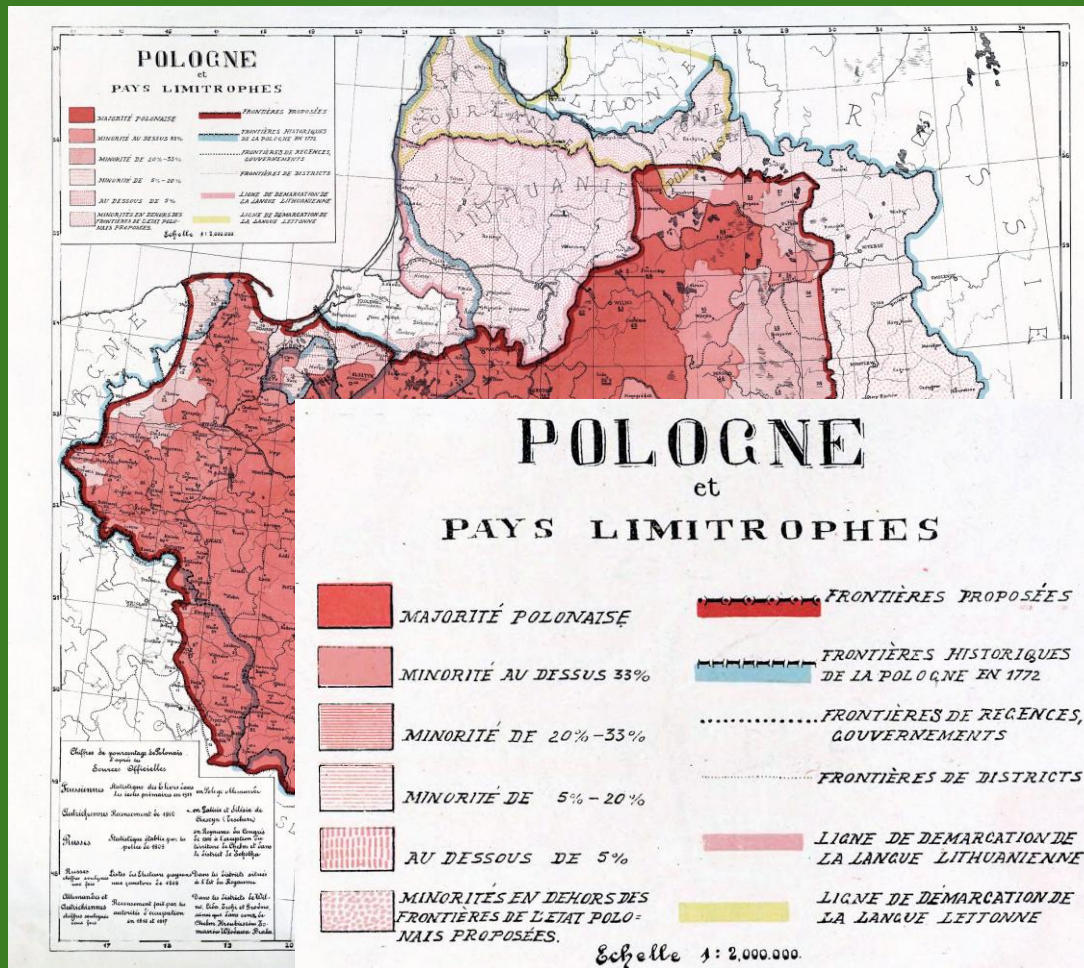
1916 E. Romer: "Polacy" from "Geograficzno-statystyczny atlas Polski," Warszawa, Kraków



1918 H. Arctowski: "Preliminary Report -- Percentage of Polish Population in Poland and Lithuania"



October 8, 1918: Wilson's map experts produced "Proposed Frontiers of Poland" based on falsified ethnic map percentages

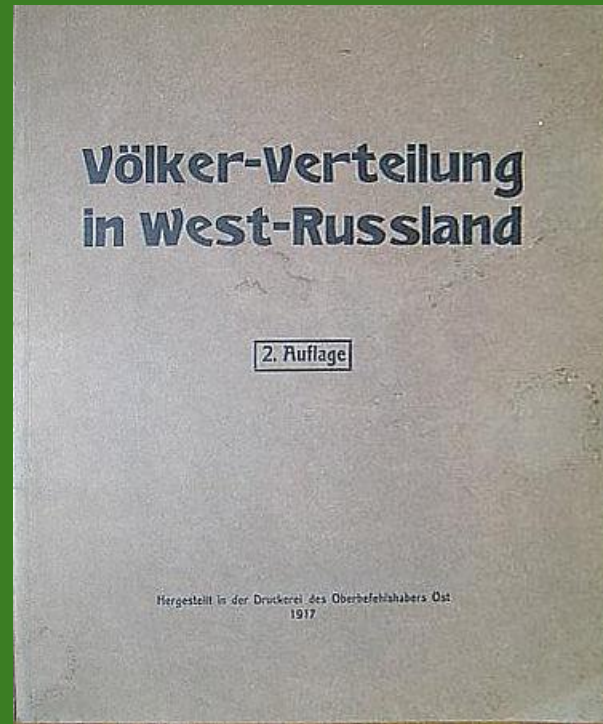
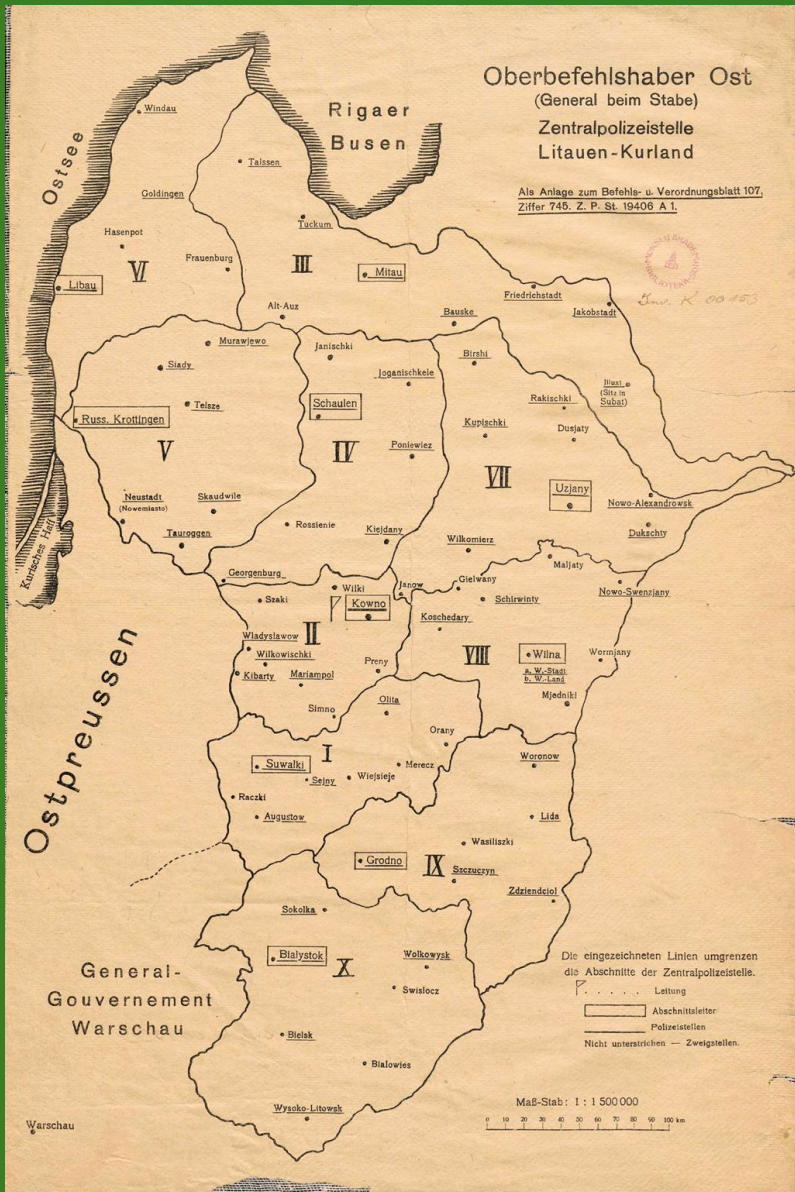


c. 1919: R. Dmowski's territorial demands for Poland, after seeing what American map experts proposed for Poland's post-WWI boundaries, distributed to delegates at Versailles

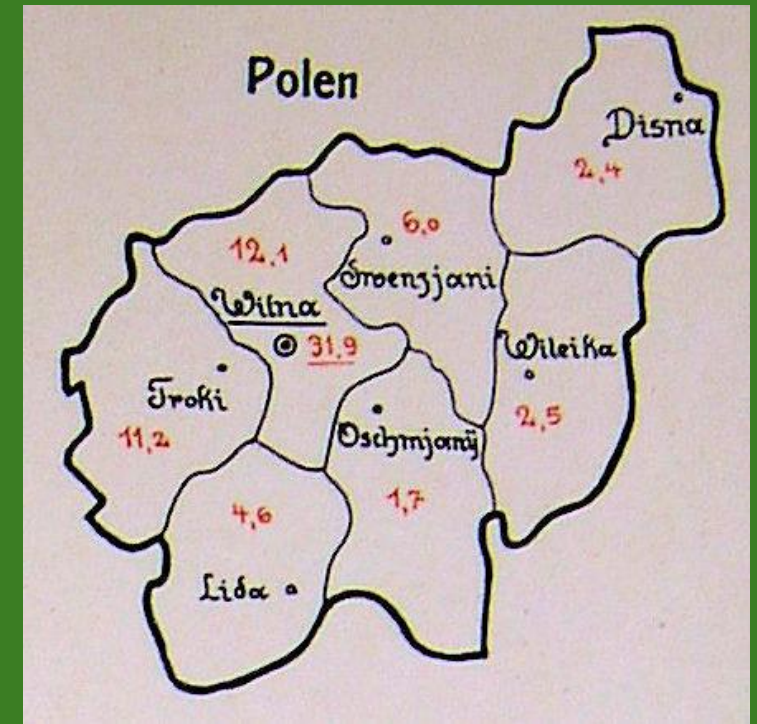
Chiffres de pourcentage de Polonais d'après les Sources Officielles		
49	Prussiennes	Statistique des Écoles sans les écoles primaires en 1911 en Pologne allemande
	Autrichiennes	Recensement de 1910 en Galicie et Silésie de Cieszyn (Teschen)
	Russes	Statistique établie par la police de 1909 en Royaume du Congrès de 1815 à l'exception du territoire de Chełm et dans le district de Sokołka
48	Russes	Listes des Electeurs paysans dans les districts situés à l'Est du Royaume
	Allemandes et Autrichiennes	Recensement fait par les autorités d'occupation en 1916 et 1917
		Dans les districts de Wilno, Lidz, Grodno et Grodno, ainsi que dans ceux de Chełm, Hrubieszów, Tomaszów, Włodawa, Praga.
		17 18 19

Dmowski's "Official Sources" included no official government censuses

- **Prussienes statistiques, 1911; Autrichiennes, 1910** Neither Prussian nor Austrian censuses were performed in future Lithuania, Belorussia or Ukraine
- **Russes, 1909** Police statistics from Suwalkija, Poland
- **Russes, 1909** Zemstvos (postal) censuses. 12 guberniyas in the Empire of Russia had no zemstvos: 3 Baltic provinces and 9 guberniyas in western Russia. In 1909 there were only discussions about adding zemstvos to the western guberniyas. Howard Lord, Harvard historian, Bowman's regional specialist on Russia and Poland, and Arctowski's superior, wrote to Bowman, "As representation in the planned zemstvos was to be based on nationality, the authorities felt it necessary to present statistics of nationality in the western governments; they got statistics in their usual fashion: **they faked them.**"
- **Allemandes, 1916–17** Censuses performed during German occupation: areas polled did not translate to the guberniyas of Kovno, partially occupied Vilna, or Grodno, let alone unoccupied Witebsk and Minsk



1917 German atlas of ethnic maps



1917 % Polish speakers – from the 1897 Russian census for Wilna guberniya!

Could 1917 German census results account for the increased percentages of Poles east of Vilnius? No! They never got that far. And German occupation districts and boundaries through August 1917 did not align with 1897 Russian guberniya boundaries

Vilna Guberniya uyezd/district	1897 Russian Census: Poles	1908 Dmowski Map: Poles	1913 Gruenberg Map: Poles	1915 Maliszewski Map: Poles	1918 Arctowski Map: Poles	1919 Dmowski Map: Poles
Dzisna	2.4%	<50%	24.6%			58.0%
Lida	4.6%	<50%	54.4%	29.2%	23.5%	56.5%
Oszmiana	1.7%	<50%	53.1%	27.2%	20.8%	63.0%
Swieczany	6.0%	<50%	44.4%	25.2%	21.4%	58.0%
Troki	11.2%	<50%	26.3%	21.7%	21.7%	55.0%
Wilejka	2.5%	<50%	31.6%	5.2%	5.2%	43.0%
Wilno	12.1%	50%-100%		50.9%	47.0%	83.0%
Wilno City	30.1%	50%-100%	51.7%		52.4%	

The gradual inflation of ethnic Polish percentages in historic Lithuanian areas – *without the benefit of supporting government censuses*

Dzisna and Wilejka were not occupied by Germany during WWI



1933 (Detail) “Europe” Inter-War Lithuanian and Polish boundaries

“The 1919 year of maps at the Paris Peace Conference offers a stark reminder about ethical issues of truth and falsity in cartography, the deceptiveness of maps, and the many dangers maps bring...Although one can point out shortsighted measures and unjust decisions made at Versailles—and historians have gushed volumes—it is perhaps easier to understand if the spotlight shifts slightly east why Wilson in his basic ignorance of geography put such trust in his professional experts.”

Steven Seegel: “Mapping Europe’s Borderlands”

Ačiū!

kapochunas@gmail.com

<http://www.newyorkmapsociety.org/>

<https://www.lithuanianjournal.org/>

<http://lithuanianmaps.com/>

The successor site of LithuanianMaps.com:

<https://lietuvoskartografija.lt/lithuanianmaps/>

My Lithuanian environmental map award winners:

<https://lietuvoskartografija.lt/kapociuno-premija/istorija/>