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DATA FILES AND GAZETTEERS**

**File of Settlement Names in the Vistula Catchment Area
From the 12th Century to the Present***

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FILE OF SETTLEMENT NAMES IN THE VISTULA CATCHMENT AREA FROM THE 12TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

Paper submitted by Austria

1 Introduction

This names file is part of a larger project implemented by the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and completed in 2003. The larger project aimed at explaining and demonstrating the relationship between intensified land use, in particular the development of settlement, and flood disasters. With the help of the Polish-German Centre in Cracow a large team of historians was composed, mainly from Poland, but also from Ukraine and Belorussia. Under the direction of Waldemar BUKOWSKI and Zdzislaw NOGA this team collected data on the historical process of settlement in the Vistula basin embracing not only parts of modern Poland, but also of Ukraine, Belorussia and Slovakia and covering an area of 194,000 km². The Austrian Institute of East and South-East European Studies in Vienna was responsible for the editorial and cartographic processing of the project. This included an animated cartographic presentation which displays in an interactive way the expansion of the settlement network as well as floods. The animation has been developed in co-operation with the working group „Geoinformatics” at the Institute of Geography and Regional Research at the University of Vienna.

2 Contents and methodology of the names data file

The data file and the accompanying animated cartographic representation contains names and other information of about 32,000 settlements in the Vistula catchment area. In detail it contains for each settlement

- all names from the 12th century to the present which could be found in source materials,
- a bibliography of these sources,
- the founding date according to historical documents,
- the demographic development as far as it could be traced back,
- changes in the administrative status (e.g. the granting of market and municipal rights including the variant of market and municipal law applied),
- changes in political affiliation.

2.1 Diachronic documentation of settlement names

In the Middle Ages place names used to emerge spontaneously and in a bottom-up manner. Just in a few cases, at a time of colonization based on German Law, they were bestowed from above by administrative authorities. The names were oscillating. While in official documents usually a Latin version appears, other forms occur as well. The file contains the most frequent version of a name. In linguistically heterogeneous areas or in areas with varying political affiliations, different names for the same settlement were used at the same time (e.g., in the Spiš Hungarian, German and Slavonic names).

In the 19th and 20th centuries settlement names gradually assumed an official and formal character. Establishing standardized and permanent names was also necessary to ensure the proper functioning of many institutions including, e.g., mail service. Centralization of the state and its political interests, and later the organization of transport and communications were factors which let the modern state achieve a monopoly in the field of settlement names. This state of affairs was in Poland sanctioned by a directive of the President of the State as of 1934. It is for this reason that for the 19th and 20th centuries the file contains official names in spite of the fact that other names were still used, especially in linguistically mixed areas (e.g., in the Ruthenian Voivodship and in Podlasie).

Abandoned names have also been included, but only when it was possible to identify the location of their settlement.

2.2 Founding date of the settlement

The first mentioning in primary sources has been taken as the date of a settlement's foundation. In certain justified cases the foundation has been dated back half a century, e.g., when the first primary source reference mentions the existence of an already well-cultivated settlement or when there were other reasons to believe that the village had existed for at least two generations, e.g., when the hereditary administrative office of *solectwo* was already divided up, i.e. transferred into the hands of brothers or relatives. It was not always possible to determine whether settlements were founded on the basis of rent law and what variant was employed in their case (Magdeburg Law, Chelmno Law etc.). Temporary abandonment of a settlement (due to war or natural disasters) has not been regarded as the end of one and the start of a new settlement. In the 19th and 20th centuries, by urbanization and industrialization many settlements were incorporated into expanding towns and cities and lost their administrative autonomy, a fact which has also been recorded.

2.3 Demographic development

The demographic development has also been taken into account. By population size settlements were categorized into classes: up to 3,000, 3,001-5,000, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-30,000, 30,001-50,000, 50,001-100,000, above 100,000 inhabitants. It must, however, be conceded that up to the middle of the 19th century population figures are in practice only estimates. From sources and literature it was also not always possible to determine when exactly a settlement passed to another population category.

2.4 Changes in political affiliation

Over the centuries the Vistula basin was subdivided by shifting international borders. Only the central part of the basin was mostly a part of Poland. The file records only the most important international border changes. It has also to be taken into account the border regimes vary and must for long periods of history not be compared with modern regimes.

The oldest borders in the 13th century refer to the Kingdom of Poland, which at that time was divided into provinces. The boundaries between Piast principalities have not been recorded.

Major changes occurred in the 14th century. In 1308 Poland lost Gdansk Pomerania to the Teutonic Knights. Then, in the mid-14th century King Kazimierz the Great annexed Red Ruthenia to Poland. It took several decades to gain control of Red Ruthenia (1340-1366), the new borders were determined by mutual agreement in 1350.

The next major change occurred at the time of the incorporation of Prussia by King Kazimierz Jagiellonczyk (1454). As a result of the second Peace of Torun (1466) the State of the Teutonic Order was divided into two parts: Royal Prussia (incorporated directly by Poland) and Prussia of the Teutonic Order which became a Polish fief. Later, the incorporation of Mazovia into the Kingdom of Poland (1526) was important and recorded on the file.

From the moment of the conclusion of the Union of Lublin (1569) Poland and Lithuania constituted a joint political organism, but each of its parts remained a separate entity. Therefore, the internal border of the Commonwealth between Poland and Lithuania did not have the character of an international border. The separate existence of the Crown and Lithuania was only abolished by the Constitution of the 3rd of May (1791). We should add that at the time of the conclusion of the Union of Lublin the borders in Podlasie and the District of Bielsko also changed.

The 18th century saw major border changes. As a result of successive partitions of the Commonwealth (1772, 1793, 1795) the adjoining states Prussia, Russia and Austria shifted their borders and became neighbours. The Polish state ceased to exist.

This situation was changed by the Napoleonic Wars. In 1807 in accordance with the Treaty of Tilsit, the Kingdom of Poland was formed from a part of the Prussian Partition and increased in 1809 to include a third of the Austrian Partition. After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress Kingdom was established at the Congress of Vienna (1815), and bound by personal union with Russia and the Republic of Cracow (covering the city of Cracow and a small surrounding area), leaving the occupied territories under the tutelage of the three states. As a consequence of the defeat of an insurrection (1846) the city of Cracow was annexed by Austria.

The next series of major border changes occurred after the First World War when in 1918 Poland recovered its independence. In accordance with the Treaty of Versailles (1920), the Free City of Gdansk was created: an artificial administrative entity, which remained under the protectorate of the League of Nations.

The outbreak of the Second World War and Poland's ensuing defeat brought new changes. Polish territory was divided between Germany and the USSR. Large areas of western and northern Poland were directly annexed by the Reich. The *General-Gouvernement* with Cracow as its capital was formed out of the remaining Polish territory annexed by the Germans. After the outbreak of the German-Soviet War (1941), the eastern areas conquered by the Germans received their own occupation administration. The defeat of the Germans in the Second World War resulted in new border changes. After the collapse of the USSR the eastern edges of the Vistula basin currently are located within the borders of Belorussia and Ukraine.

2.5 Accessibility of the file

The names data file with all information mentioned above will soon be made accessible on the Internet. Interaction with the file includes a variety of search functions like searching for individual names, names of a certain period in history, names of settlements affiliated to a certain political unit, settlements of a certain population size, settlements of a certain administrative status, settlements under flood in a certain year or period, the occurrence of floods in a certain year or period, etc. It will also be possible to zoom into the map which displays the settlement network up to a scale of 1: 800,000 and to move the animation at different velocities.

For more information see www.osi.ac.at