Snapshots Section

Country Name:

- Republic of Lithuania; short form: Lithuania
- Local*: Lietuvos Respublika*

Country Founded in:

- September 6, 1991

Population:

- 3,585,906 (July 2006 est.)

Government Type:

- parliamentary democracy

Geography/location in the world:

- Eastern Europe
- Borders the Baltic Sea
- Landmass slightly larger than West Virginia
- Land Boundary Countries include: Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Russia (Kaliningrad)

Number of people groups:

- 3 people groups with another 3.6% unspecified

Picture of flag:

https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/lh-flag.html

Religion Snapshot

Major Religions

- Christianity (Roman Catholic) 79%

- **All religions and % for each:**
- Russian Orthodox 4.1%
- Protestant (including Lutheran and Evangelical Christian Baptist 1.9%
- Unspecified 5.5%
- Non-religious 9.5%

(http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lh.html, Library of Congress Country Profile)

Government interaction with religion:

The government allows for religious freedom except in cases where religious activities contradict the Constitution and the law.

Source: http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2002/13946.htm

Mission Atlas Project

Republic of Lithuania

Name:
- Republic of Lithuania; short form: Lithuania
- Local: *Lietuvos Respublika*

Demographics:
The population of Lithuania is 3,585,906 people as estimated in July of 2006.

Age Structure:
- 0-14 years: 15.5% (male 284,888/female 270,458)
- 15-64 years: 69.1% (male 1, 210,557/female 363,965)
- 65 years and over: 15.5% (male 190,496/female 363,965)

Median Age
- Total: 38.2 years
- Male: 35.7 years
- Female: 40.8 years

There is a population growth rate of 0.3%.

Birth Rate:
- 8.75 births/1,000 population

Death Rate:

- 10.98 deaths/1,000 population

Life Expectancy at Birth

- Total Population: 74.2 years
- Male: 69.2 years
- Female: 79.49 years

There are only 19 cities with a population more than 20,000. Cities are quite evenly spread out through the territory of Lithuania. This forms a good network to support economic development throughout the country. About 66.7% (as of 2001 census) of the population live in cities and the percentage is growing.

There are five cities in Lithuania that have a population of 119,000 people or more living in them. The other cities range in size from about 72,000 down to about 330 people. Therefore a large population of Lithuania lives in smaller cities or towns outside of the capital.

(www.cia.gov/cia/factbook/geos/lh.html and Widipedia.org, Library of Congress Country Study)

Language:

The Lithuanian language comes from the Letto-Lithuanian branch of the Indo-European languages. Some scholars believe that the Lithuanian language relates to Sanskrit of ancient India.

The standard Lithuanian language is based upon the Western Aukstaiciai (High Lithuanian) dialect and was formalized at the end of the 19th century.

There are many other Lithuanian dialects that have vanished over the last fifty years. Most Lithuanian speakers reside in Lithuania others live in Russia and Poland with some even living in North and South America in places such as US, Brazil, Argentina, and Canada and also in Australia.

Lithuanian is the official language of Lithuania. There are two principal dialects Aukstaitian and Samogitian. 80% of the Lithuanians are native speakers. In the Lithuanian language there are 12 written vowels and 20 consonant characters.

Source: WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997. ;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuanian_language

Society/Culture:

Lithuania has a lot of rich folklore including songs, music, tales, riddles, arts and crafts. Lithuanian dainos (songs) are known worldwide for its lyric and melodic beauty. These dainos were created while performing farm work and or celebrating

festivals and mournful occasions. There are many performances of these folk songs held which are very important to society. The first Lithuanian folk song goes back to the 16th century. The idea of folklore has been taken from Belarusan and Russian societies. At Vingis Park in Vilnius every five years there is a huge folk music festival with the option of holding up to 20,000 people on stage. The performers include costumed dancers and musicians.

Lithuanian folk art decorates everyday common household items such as bedding, towels, window treatments, wooden trim and ceramics. The themes of these items include religion, work and life.

The wearing of traditional Lithuanian dress has become scarce. It is only seen on major holidays and by those who participate in singing or dancing groups or ensembles. Women's traditional clothing included linen tunics with high collars, long wool skirts, aprons that had been decorated, and a shawl that was held together in the front by a large brooch or pin. Some of the materials that made up the brooch were bronze, silver, glass or gold. Depending upon the region in which you lived there was a difference between the colors that you wore and even how the clothing that was worn. The outfits that were worn by men did not have the amount of color as that of the women's clothing had. The men wore darker colors with the only patterns being on the collars and the fronts of the shirt.
(WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997)

54 50' N latitude and 25 18' E longitude is the Centere of Europe. This location falls 6 or 7 kilometers from Vilnius.

They have erected a park called Europos Parkas. The park includes 90 different pieces of art from 27 different countries. The park began in 1991 and was founded by Gintaras Karosas. Gintaras Karosas created the first sculpture in 1991 and opened up the park for its first visit also in 1991. In 1993 they held the first International Sculpture Symposium. At the first symposium there were artists there from several different countries. The countries included Greece, United States of America, Hungary, Finland, Armenia and Lithuania. Since the first year of the symposium has been able to bring in many different people from many different Countries. The artists come in and study Lithuanian art and culture and then are given the opportunity to create their work of art. Europos Parkas allows artists from around the globe to come in and create masterpieces all the while showing the world around how much more wonderful things are when you choose to work together to create unity.
www.europosparkas.lt/Straipsniai/history.htm;
http://www.inyourpocket.com/lithuania/en/review?id=3296&oid=3296

The people of Lithuania believe that their country is a very hospitable part of the world and because of this they are known as a smiling people.
www.randburg.com

National Holidays:

January 1- New Year's Day
January 13-Defenders of Freedom Day
February 16-Restoration of Lithuania's Statehood (1918)
March 4-Saint Casimir's Day (anniversary of the death of Saint Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania
March 11-Day of Restitution of Independence of Lithuania (from the Soviet Union 1990)
March 30-Catholic Easter (1997)
May 1-International Labour Day
June 14-Day of Mourning and Hope
June 23-St. John's Day celebrated according to mostly pagan traditions (a.k.a. Midsummer Day, Saint Jonas Day)
July 6-Crowning of Mindaugas, Day of Statehood
August 15-Assumption Day
August 23-Black Ribbon Day
September 8-Crowning of Vytautas the Great
October 25-Constitution Day
November 1-All Saint's Day
December 25-Christmas Day
December 26-Boxing Day

Source: http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas/Lietuva/lt_government.shtml;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holidays_in_Lithuania; WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997.

Government:

Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy. There are 10 counties called apskritys - Alytaus, Kauno, Klaipedos, Marijampoles, Panevezio, Siauliu, Taurages, Telsiu, Utenos, and Vilniaus.

Lithuania is based on a civil law system. Legislative acts can be appealed to the constitutional court.

There is universal suffrage at the age of 18.

The Government is divided into 3 branches – Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

Executive:
Chief of State – President - President is elected for five years by popular vote.
Head of Government – Prime Minister – The Prime Minister is appointed by the president after approval from Parliament.
Cabinet – Council of Ministers – The Council of Ministers is appointed by the president at the nomination of the prime minister.

Legislative:

Unicameral Parliament or Seimas – The unicameral parliament holds 141 seats with 71 members elected by popular vote, 70 are elected by proportional representation. These members serve for a four year term.

Judicial:
Constitutional Court
Supreme Court
Court of Appeal
  Judges for each of these courts are appointed by the President.

(http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lh.html, Library of Congress Country Study)

Economy:

Lithuania is the Baltic state that conducted the most trade with Russia that has now slowly rebounded from the 1998 Russian financial crisis. Unemployment dropped from 11% in 2003 to 4.8% in 2005. Growing domestic consumption and increased investment have furthered recovery. Much of the trading that Lithuania has done is with the countries to the west. Lithuania has gained membership in the World Trade Organization and joined the European Union (EU) as of May 2004. Privatizations of the large, state-owned utilities, especially energy, have almost been completed. Overall more than 80% of enterprises have been privatized. Foreign government and business support have helped in the transition from the old economy to a new market economy.

Currency – Lithuanian Litas
2.774 Litai to $1

GDP Purchasing Power Parity -- $49.21 Billion   GDP Composition By Sector:
GDP Official Exchange Rate -- $23.5 Billion   Agriculture – 5.5%
GDP Real Growth Rate – 7.5%   Industry – 32.5%
GDP – Per Capita -- $13,700   Services – 62%

Labor Force – 1.61 Million   Inflation Rate -- Consumer
Prices: 2.7%

Labor Force by Occupation –
Agriculture – 20%
Industry – 30%
Services – 50%

Primary Agriculture Products:
- o Grain
- o Potatoes
- o Sugar Beets
- o Flax
- o Vegetables

- o Beef
- o Milk
- o Eggs
- o Fish

Export Partners:
- o Russia 10.4%
- o Latvia 10.2%
- o Germany 9.4%
- o France 7%
- o Estonia 5.9%
- o Poland 5.5%
- o Sweden 5%
- o US 4.7%
- o UK 4.7%
- o Denmark 4.3%

Import Partners
- o Russia 27.9%
- o Germany 15.1%
- o Poland 8.3%

The main industries in Lithuania are metal-cutting machine tools, electric motors, television sets, refrigerators and   freezers, petroleum refining, shipbuilding (small ships), furniture making, textiles, food processing, fertilizers, agricultural machinery, optical equipment, electronic components, computers, and amber jewelry.

(https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lh.html, Library of Congress Country Study)

Literacy:

The people of Lithuania that are 15 years of age or older can read and write.
Total Literate Population: 99.6%
Male Literate: 99.7%
Female Literate: 99.6%
(https://www.cia.gov/cit/publications/factbook/geos/html, Library of Congress Country Study)

There are three different types of schools in Lithuania. The elementary schools hold grades one through four. The second type of school is called the nine-year and it holds grades one through nine. There are secondary schools which hold up to grade twelve. There is an opportunity for people to continue school in Lithuania. The schools have changed from being taught in Polish, Russian or the Lithuanian language to mainly being taught in Lithuanian. They moved away from military type classes and emphases to the areas of psychology and sociology.
(WorldMark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, Volume 4, 1997.)

Land/Geography

Lithuania is found in Eastern Europe and it is bordered by the Baltic Sea located between Latvia and Russia. The neighboring countries are Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Russia. Lithuania is 65,200 square kilometers and is a little bit larger than West Virginia. The terrain of Lithuania is lowland with many small scattered lakes and the land is very fertile. There are fertile plains that are centrally located, but are differentiated by uplands

formed from ancient glacial deposits. The weather is wet, moderate winters and summers. There are several current environmental issues with the contamination of soil and groundwater with petroleum products and chemicals. (http://www.cia.gov/cia/publiations/factbook.geos/lh.html)

History

The people who established Lithuania came from two different directions. Some came from the Jutland Peninsula and from what is now present-day Poland. During the 8th millennium BC the temperature began to warm up and they began to fish and pick berries to survive on and they were also not into traveling and moving around as much.

From the 8th millennium BC to the 6th-5th millennium BC they began to build houses to hold many occupants from their families and they began to control many different animals. During the 3rd millennium the Lithuanian people began to try and cultivate the lands for agriculture, but this was a challenge for them because they did not have the needed tools to allow this process to happen easily. They also started making crafts and began to buy and sell.

Around 2500 B. C. the Indo-European peoples began to infiltrate Lithuania and in 2000 B.C. the Baltic people were formed. The first known Lithuanians were a group known as Balts which included Prussian and Latvian people. During the 7th through the 2nd centuries the Baltic tribes established now modern day Lithuania. The first time that Lithuania was written down in any account was February 14, 1009A.D. in the Annals of the Quendlinburg monastery.

Now in modern day Lithuania the Prussians are no longer. The Teutonic Knights and Livonian Brothers of the Sword took over a great deal of what is now Estonia, Latvia and parts of Lithuania. Mindaugas lead the people to defeat the Livonians at the battle of the Sun in 1236. In 1250 Mindaugas signed an agreement with the Teutonic's and then was baptized in 1251 by the bishop of Chelmno in their presence. On July 6, 1253 B.C. Mindaugas was crowned as King of Lithuania and the nation became the Kingdom of Lithuania which was later upset when Mindaugas was murdered by his nephew Treniota which caused a return back to paganism. In 1316 Gediminas pushed Lithuania to the east by conquering the Mongols who then controlled Russia and also included what are now Belarus and the Ukraine allowing Lithuania to stretch from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

In 1377 Jadwiga of Poland was strongly encouraged to marry Jogaila who was the Grand Duke of Lithuania for the betterment of Christianity three days after Jadwiga was baptized. Jogaila and the Lithuanians were very much in favor of the marriage because this would give them a good alliance against the ever threatening Germany.

February 2, 1386 the Polish Parliament elected Wladyslaw II Jagiello as King of Poland which meant that Poland and Lithuania shared the same ruler who was the grand duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, but Lithuania remained a separate country from Poland. As much as Lithuania wanted to stay separate from Poland their highest aristocratic social class began to be inclined to that of Poland's language and culture causing the countries to grow closer. Some of the reasons the countries grew closer together were the position of the Catholic Church, numerical superiority of the Polish nobility and its achievements, the desire to join a more powerful social class of ethnic Lithuanian and Belarusian aristocracies have been cited as factors.

During the 16th century Lithuanians returned from their studies abroad and began the Lithuanian Renaissance. During this time Italian architecture began to infiltrate Lithuania. Also during this time there was the first handwritten and printed text of the Lithuanian language. In the year of 1569 under the Lublin Union, Poland and Lithuania formed a new state called the Republic of Both Nations or referred to as Poland-Lithuania. Once Poland and Lithuania became one state polonization began which meant the upper classes of Lithuania began to converse in polish. In 1696 polish became the official language of Lithuania replacing Lithuanian and Ruthenian. Although Poland and Lithuania were now united as one state, Lithuania operated as the Grand Duchy of Lithuania keeping their own army and treasury.

The Constitution of May 3, 1791 caused Lithuania to be split between Russia and Prussia causing Lithuania to cease to exist as a country for over a century. 1831 and 1863 were two years in which Poles and Lithuanians attempted to revolt, but they were unsuccessful. In the year of 1864 it brought about a banning of the Lithuanian language in junior schools. They went around this by having books printed elsewhere and smuggling them into Lithuania. The Russians revitalized the language after many years of not having it. The language was brought back into Lithuania with the poor people and then trickled up through the classes.

During World War 1 Germany was in control of Lithuania because of the German presence the Russian imperial government ceased to exist. In response to the collapse, Lithuania was under German control during the war, but after the war, they were able to have full independence once Germany surrendered. The Polish-Lithuanian dispute encompassed the peoples not knowing where the capital of Vilnius belonged. They held an election, which several of the people groups chose to boycott. Even though they boycotted the election, the decision was made to join Poland and to do away with Central Lithuania.

The Polish Sejm was proposed by the Central Lithuania parliament on March 22, 1922 and the League of Nations on March 15, 1923. The Lithuanian government would not accept the fact that the Polish government wanted to do away with the capital of Vilnius and so Lithuania stayed in a state of war during this time. Lithuania laid claim to the land of Vilnus because of the multicultural area where the Poles, Lithuanians, Belarusians and Jews resided.

Lithuania's first government was unable to stay in office because it was overthrown in a military coup. Anatanas Smetona was the first president of Lithuania. He came back and overtook office as a dictator in December 1926. Augustinas Voldemaras was the prime minister. He fell in September of 1929. Semtona continued to be over Lithuania's government until 1940.

During the year of 1938 there was an incident in which a solider from Poland was killed. In reaction to this Poland was trying to force Lithuania back into democratic agreement so that they would no longer be worried with trying to regain the capital of Vilnus. The powers that were in control in Europe were not interested in what was happening because Hitler was taking over at this point and time and they were watching him to see what he was planning to do. Lithuania was given 24 hours to act upon this ultimatum because they felt of the weaker state they chose to go along with the diplomatic relations. There were three things that Lithuanians were able to gain which were treaties about railway transport, postal exchange and other means of communication finally they were able to send letters and to place phone calls across the borders. In 1938 the National Socialist Party obtained a large influence and a large number of seats in the election and they began to negotiate to give away Klaipeda to Germany

Sadly enough this was an area that had many Jews living there at the time and because they begin to see what was happening they chose to get out away from the proceedings. Then they had General Stasys Rastikis visit and try to set up a military alliance, but they chose not to follow through which proved to be a fatal decision. The city of Vilnus was taken over with a large Red Army presence and the Soviets established themselves. According to the Ribbentrop—Molotov pact Lithuania was supposed to be controlled by German Nazi forces, but they chose not to align with Germany in fighting against Poland and so they were handed over to the Soviets.

During the first Soviet occupation Lithuania was given an ultimatum and told that they wanted several of the Lithuanian politicians to be removed from their offices because they supposedly kidnapped some of the Russian border guards. This whole scheme was planned by the Russians. The Soviets began to seek out Lithuania's military units. Lithuania chose not to defend themselves from the ultimatum, although their President Antanas Smetona was against it all the way and tried to get them to come up against it, but the officials that were in office in Lithuania decided to accept it because they thought that there was nothing else for them to do and they would have lost it anyway. The people of Lithuania wanted to fight and if they lost half of their people it would be okay if they could still gain possession of their land, but even with making those sacrifices it was doubtful that they would be able to stop the Soviets. They accepted the ultimatum.

The Soviets came in and put in a government that would show loyalty towards themselves. The first government that they put into place involved people that were well known throughout Lithuania such as poets and singers so that the common people of Lithuania would be accepting. Vladimir Dekanozov designated those who would be possibilities to rule in Lithuania because of the Soviet representation in Lithuania. Dekanozov chose Justas Paleckis as Prime Minister, he was not as of yet a member of the Communist Party, but was a Lithuanian leftist. The choosing of the Lithuanian Prime Minister was not done through the formalities of their constitution. Dekanozov worked through the Lithuanian Communist Party that was headed by Antanas Snieckus, while the cabinet was headed by Paleckis, who served as an apart of the government in the administrative form.

July 14-15, 1940 there were elections held to nominate for the People's Parliament while the previous government was only in office for a short period of time. The only people who had the privilege of nominating people for the elections were those from the collaborationist Communist Party of Lithuania and their leaders either returned from Moscow or they were freed from prison. The people of Lithuania were made to attend the elections, but then still the results were not true. July 21, 1940 the People's Parliament acknowledged that Lithuania would be joining the Soviet Union and then August 3, 1940 Lithuania was admitted in by the Supreme Council of the USSR into the Soviet Union. Lithuania was no longer annexed and the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic was formed.

When the government that made up of popular people was done away with then it was taken over by The Communist Party of Lithuania which only included a small number of actual Lithuanians in the ruling body. Nationalisation of property was started by the Soviets and the local communists. In June of 1941 the USSR deported 35,000 Lithuanians to Siberia and around other parts of Russia. There were 40 massacres that occurred throughout Lithuania killing several thousand people. An example of one of these massacres was the Rainiai massacre it was not the largest, but one of the most well known. The Lithuanians and the Jews were very much apart of creating the Lithuanian state separated during this time. The Jews that were in Lithuania preferred the Russian occupation to the Nazi rule in their country. Lithuanians were very afraid overwhelmed

by the inhuman deportations and massacres. The Russian occupation of Lithuania was brief, but it did a great deal of harm. The Lithuanian Activist Front which was an underground association led off by Kazys Skirpa formed and when Germany began trying to initiate a war they decided to use that chance to pronounce freedom.

June 22, 1941 Hitler and his forces invaded the Soviet Union and the Lithuanians declared freedom because they thought that Hitler would not have enough force and strength to be able to take over Lithuania. June 24, 1941 Juozas Ambrazevicius was a member of the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF) became the prime minister. The soviet forces massacred and killed Lithuanian political prisoners as they left the country. Kazys Skirpa was the leader of the LAF and at this time he was not in Lithuania he was in Germany and the Germans forbid him leaving because they did not want him to go back to Lithuania and try to make it an independent country. They Nazi Germany had every intention of it to be apart of the occupied territories. The government that came into power after the Soviet army left asked the Lithuanians not to move away, but to stay where they were and they did not want them to ransack the area. Lithuania was once again declared an independent nation.

The current government of Lithuania tried to plead for Lithuania's independence by negotiating with Germany. When the Germans entered Lithuania they did not immediately start changing things, but allowed the people of Lithuania to begin to believe that they would be able to stay independent or at least self-governing. Over time the Germans began to take full control of Lithuania and took over their powers, but Lithuania because they did not have an army was unable in any way to fight back against Germany. Eventually Germany annexed Lithuania. On August 7, 1941 the government of Lithuania dissolved itself. Germany then barred the Lithuanian Activist Front.

When the Germans came in and began to occupy Lithuania the natives soon realized that the Germans had no intentions of making Lithuania independent or even self-governing. Germany added several pieces of land from the Vilnius region that were not originally were not given to Lithuania by the Soviets. The people who lived in Lithuania especially in the cities soon found that there were harsh economic conditions and that they lost their independence totally however, the people who lived in the country were better off in this sense because they were able to grow their own food.

There were large numbers of German farmers who moved into the country to work on the land of the natives and this is in conjunction with the dissolving of the Lithuanian government this all happened during the resistance movement in Lithuania. The natives of Lithuania were not united in their efforts and there were several different groups during this time with a large portion of people for independent Lithuania and there was another group called Soviet partisans which was made up of Russians, Belarusians and Jews and they wanted Lithuania to be included in the Soviet Union, the third group Polish Armia Krajowa fought to liberate Poland and to be come apart of Poland again. The koniuchy massacre was committed by the Soviet partisans and they also sacked towns and villages. The Armia Krajowa committed one massacre killing 27 people in answering the massacre that killed 37 people by Lithuanian police in the village of

Glinciszki. Each of the groups was having trouble relating to each other and their relationships were stressed. The group of Armia Krajowa was fighting against the Nazi's, Lithuanian police, Local Lithuanian Detachment and the Soviet partisans. While the partisans moved through the country attacking German positions and their supply lines.

The Lithuanian Activist Front group formed five police companies to try and regain control of the country. The Kaunas became apart of the Tautos Darbo Apsauga and then in Vilnius they became part of the Lietuvos Savissaugos Dalys. These all came under the umbrella of Policiniai Batalionai and the Germans named them the Schutzmannschaft which had 8,388 men by August of 1942. All of these groups took part in the Holocaust in Lithuania. Examples of them being involved in the Holocaust were the Lithuanian Schutzmannschaft Battalion 2 killed 2,000 Jews in October and November of 1941, Schutzmannscaft 7th Company killed 9,200 Jews in 1942, and the Lithuanian Schutzmannscaft Battalion 254E company killed 1,800 Jews in 1943 in the course of one action. The Lithuanian Guards played a role in the concentration camps, while the two battalions of Schutzmannscaft were positioned at the Majdanek death camp and there executions were carried out. There are 504 Lithuanians who were recognized as Righteous among the Nations for their risking their own lives to save the Jews.

Prior to the Holocaust there were 160,000 Jews that were within Lithuania. It was a great center of thought for the Jews. The number of refugees by 1941 had reached 250,000. Even before the Germans came into Lithuania and even after they entered the Lithuanians were attempting to carry out violent programs against the Jews. Then between the 25th and 26th of 1941 the Lithuanian partisans eliminated about 1,500 Jews. There were then many Jewish synagogues that were set on fire. Following the 25th and 26th of June another group of 2,300 Jews were killed.

In 1941 in the months of June and July the German Einsatzgruppen with some of the Lithuanian auxiliaries held large scale massacres of shooting the Jews and by November of that same year in the city of Paneriai the Jews were exterminated. The rest of the Jewish population was found in the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Siauliai, and Svencionys ghettos and concentration camps where they died of starvation or some types of disease. 1943 brought a time when the ghettos were destroyed by the Germans or made into concentration camps with 5,000 being deported to the extermination camps. Only 10% of Lithuania's Jewish population remained.

In 1944 during the summer the Red Army reached eastern Lithuania. Vilnius was taken over by the Home Army during Operation Ostra Brama. Klaipeda was captured by the Russians in January 1945. Having captured these two places the Soviets again claimed Lithuania.

Between the years of 1941-52 there were 29,923 families exiled to Siberia and other far away places of the Soviet Union. The numbers of those who were deported vary from 120,000 up to 300,000 in the official statistics. In 1944 there were several tens of thousands of resistance fighters who participated in an unsuccessful partisan warfare

against the Soviet regime. The last partisan to be killed in combat was in 1965. The Soviets wanted to bring in workers who were not from Lithuania to allow the Lithuanians time to get used to and encourage industrial development one group that they especially brought in were the Russians. Grutas theme park was created as a sculpture garden of the Soviet-era statues it was an exhibition of other ideological remnants.

The Lithuanian Communist Party controlled all of the political, economic, and cultural life up until mid-1988. The Lithuanians distrusted the Soviets so they gave their support to Gorbachev's social and political reform programs. Intellectuals began the "Sajudis" or "The Movement" which came about in the middle of 1988 declaring democratic national rights willing popularity throughout the country of Lithuania. The 1940 decision making Lithuania apart of the U.S.S.R., a legalized multi-party system was revoked when the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet made several constitutional amendments saying that Lithuania law was to rule over Soviet laws and legislation. Many of the Lithuanian Communist Party members were in favor of Sajudis; with this support Algirdas Brazauskas was elected the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the LCP in 1988. August 23, 1989 the world's attention was drawn to Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians who joined hands in a human chain that made it 600 kilometers from Tallinn, to Riga, To Vilnius. This is referred to as the Baltic Way. December of 1989 Brazauskas-led LCP claimed independence from the Communist party of the Soviet Union and is now it's own party changing its name to the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party in 1990.

Elections were held in 1990 and those candidates that were backed by Sajudis were the ones who were able to win. Lithuania was the first republic of the Soviet to declare its independence on March 11, 1990 by the Supreme Soviet also known as Supreme Council of Lithuania. The Supreme Council of Lithuania selected leaders of the state and they adopted the Provisional Fundamental Law which was a temporary constitution for them and the Lithuanian SSR ceased to exist on this day. The new head of state was Vytautas Landsbergis and the new prime minister was Kazimiera Prunskiene. On March 15th the Soviet implemented sanctions politically and economically against Lithuania. The soviet military apprehended public buildings and showed force by driving their tanks through the streets of Vilnius.

January 10, 1991 U.S.S.R. seized the several places within Vilnius including the main publishing house and attempted to suppress and take away the power of the National Salvation Committee. The soviets then came in and took over the TV. Tower killing 14 unarmed civilians and injured 700 people. The national Salvation Committee declared that the Government was overthrown, but they never captured the houses of Supreme Council and Government. The Lithuanian independence movement continued and was not suppressed and Moscow failed to continue even when there was worldwide criticism and a dearth of local popular support.

There was a national Plebiscite which means the people of Lithuania were asked to either acceptor reject an independent, democratic Lithuania. This happened on February 9th and 90% of the Lithuanians took part in the vote with 76% being actual

eligible voters voted in favor. Lithuania was still trying to attain Western diplomatic recognition of its independence led by Landsbergis. The Soviet Foreign Ministry was calling the validity of the elections out and questioning them backed by Brazauskas commanded in the Seimas. The soviet military was still trying to enforce their power by forcing conscription, seizing of buildings, attacking customs posts and even killing customs and police officers.

There was a Soviet coup attempts during 1991 that failed throughout Vilnius and several other cities where the Soviet military troops tried to take over communications and other government facilities. The Communist Party was banned and their property was taken away from them by the Lithuanian Government. Independence was finally recognized by the Russians in September of 1991 several months after the referendum.

The liberating community was the Sajudis and the people of Lithuania no longer supported them as strongly because they expected for the country to gain and become rich due to becoming a capitalist economy, but this did not immediately happen. Lithuania was in the process of moving towards a market economy in the process of doing so one of the things they used to mark progress was employment which under the Soviet rule was 100% due to underemployment now began to drop. In the elections of 1992 the Sajudis ran against the Lithuanian Communist Party which was renamed the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (LDDP). The LDDP had the majority in the 1992 elections beating the Sajudis although the LDDP did not have the influence to be able to change the constitution. The LDDP did not have enough candidates that year to be able to fill up parliament so the open seats were given to other parties based upon the percentages of votes. The LDDP chose not to be radical like the Belarusians, but chose to help Lithuania move in the direction of an independent state. The Leftist policies at this time were not right for Lithuania, so in the 1996 elections rightist Homeland Union was able to win the greater part of seats. The Homeland Union created by Vytautas Landsbergis who was the leader of the Sajudis. Landsbergis saw that the Sajudis needed reform. They began to loose their significance and began to weaken. Today they have parted ways with politics all together.

They made the decision to create a market economy and what used to be owned by the government now could be purchased from the government and made into private. If you did not have the money to make this happen you could get a government voucher to help privatize such things as real estate. When it came to making business privatized then they would hold auctions and whoever was able to offer the most cheques would take the property. The people of Lithuania worked together to offer more cheques and because they did this there is not just one group of people that have all the wealth, but it is spread out. They stated privatization with the small businesses and moved to the larger enterprises. Still to this day some of the telecoms and airlines are unprivatized. Some of the factories during the process of privatization were unable to still be up and running in this new system. Still others claim the only way for them to have been able to prosper would have been under the control of the Soviets.

Although Lithuania was its own independent state many of the Russian forces still remained in its territory. Lithuania wanted the Russians out of their country and so they made it a top foreign priority. On September 8, 1992 they signed an agreement stating that Russia would remove its forces and by August 31, 1993 Russia was completely out of Lithuania and so the agreement was upheld.

Lithuania's first members of its military were volunteers who took oath at the Supreme Council of Lithuania soon after the independence declaration. SKAT was formed during this time. When the LDDP came to power in 1992 the volunteer's importance was lessened because they were not given the amount of weaponry, financing or uniforms that they needed. The Coup of the Volunteers was when the volunteers hid in the woods and chose not to obey the government they considered attacking these rebels, but they chose not to. This almost created a civil war within Lithuania, but they did not end up fighting. The situation calmed down and the military eventually built themselves up with a standard air force, navy and land army. SKAT was able to remain and they created an interwar paramilitary organizations for example the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union and the Young Riflemen which is similar to Boy Scouts. The riflemen's organisations do not enjoy the power they possessed during interwar Lithuania.

Lithuania based their monetary system upon Litas, which was used during interwar Lithuania. Before they took the Litas as their currency they tried to use the Russian Roubles, but Russia would not allow this. The next currency they put into place was that of the talonas commonly known as Vagnorke because of Gediminas Vagnorius who was prime minister during this time. This currency did not make it because it was very simple and easily counterfeited and it was also very susceptible to inflation. There were two versions of the talonas which were the large notes and the smaller notes. The smaller notes were used to change the large notes when their value plummeted, although they thought they might have regained their worth. Litas were issued, but were printed outside of Lithuania and they were to be pegged to the United States dollar and then to the Euro. There have been some possible conspiracies and affairs in dealing with the litas. Since joining the European Union except for the first few years' inflation has been the lowest in Europe.

In 2002 Lithuania was invited to join the European Union and then one month later NATO. Lithuania joined both during 2004. Since then the military forces of Lithuania has begun modernization and integration with the NATO forces. Since Lithuania's joining the European Union there has been a large amount of emigration to the UK and to Ireland.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania/History

Christian History

There were several pagan tribes found in Lithuania during the fifth century each of the groups formed a loose alliance. During the 13th century the German Teutonic Knights were coming to Lithuania to invade it was then that the tribes came together to

go against them and formed a political union. The leader of this group in Lithuania was Mendog and he was baptized in 1251. Following his baptism two years later the pope named him king. Twelve years after his conversion Mendog did away with Christianity in 1263. Ultimately his goals were strategic more so than spiritual.

Catholic Church

Lithuania has been identified as a Roman Catholic country. During the 1800's it was feared by the Roman Catholic Church that there was going to be a strong movement of the Lithuanian nationals taking away the dominance of the culture of the Polish which would in turn change the position of the Catholic Church. After World War I politics were plagued by conflicts of the Catholic Church and anticlerical nationalists. During the 1940s the church was a crucial part of national resistance and had been helped by being annexed by the Soviet Union. Even though the Soviets decided to annex the Catholic Church it is still a central and powerful force. During the Soviet reign beginning in 1972 the Catholic Church of Lithuania began to publish *The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* which made known what was happening to the rulers of the church. For example Father Zdebskis was put into a corrective camp for teaching the children about faith. Father Lygnurgaris went to the hospital to visit someone who was very sick and ended up getting fined for it. Also, there were other witnesses imprisoned for their faith. There was a seventy year old lady who was imprisoned for a year for teaching children the Lord's Prayer, apostle's creed and the Ten Commandments. Also, the children in school had to write essays against the church and if they did not they would fail.

As of 1992 there were 2 archdioceses in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. There were 4 dioceses in the cities of Kaisiadorys, Paneyezys, Vilkaviskis, and Telsiai. The church is now lead by Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius in Kaunas. He was held captive by the Soviets for 30 years. Within the Catholic Church there are 668 parishes, 2 theological seminaries and several convents and monasteries. The Holy See has diplomatic relations with Lithuania and in 2000 was represented by a residing member in Vilnius. 79% of Lithuanians are members of the Roman Catholic Church. The Hill of Crosses is near the city of Siauliai. It is a sign of anti-Communist Catholic resistance. It was banned by Czarist Russian Orthodox authorities in the 1800s and again in the 20th century the Soviets did not allow the Lithuanian's to have explicit religious symbols. Even though the crosses were removed the Lithuanian's continued to return to the hill and began replacing them first with smaller ones and then they brought back bigger ones to replace the ones removed. Pope John Paul II visited the Hill of Crosses.

Other Churches

There are a small number of other traditions residing in Lithuania and some of the largest of those denominations are Russian Orthodox, Lutherans, and the Old Believers.

Renewal Movements:

During the 1990s there was a renewal among the Pentecostal/Charismatic's and went across into most of the old churches and covered about 51,300 adherents. There were 6% Pentecostals, 70% Charismatic's and 24% Independents.
http://chi.gospelcom.net/DAILYF/2001/03/daily-03-19-2001.shtml
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania

Religions

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals:

Baptist World Alliance:

In 1998 a report showed 422 adherents to the Baptist World Alliance. There are 7 congregations and 0.01% of the population. The Baptist World Alliance brings together Baptist from all over the world, people very involved with evangelism, defending the rights of those who might otherwise not have anyone to fight for them, and helping those in need and training those in leadership positions throughout the world.
http://www.bwanet.org/AboutUs/WhatIsBWA.htm

Lutheran:

There are 54 Lutheran congregations in Lithuania. There are 20,000 adherents to the Lutheran faith. All of the parishioners and clergymen are represented by the synod which meets every 5 years. All of the Lithuania Lutheran Churches hold membership in the ELCL. The Lithuanian Lutheran Church was founded at the time of the Reformation. It works with the Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches and those churches in the Reformed Confession of the Lithuanian Council of Churches. It was accepted into the European Council of Churches and Theobalt which makes up the churches that border the Baltic Sea addressing international issues of the environment and culture in 1968.
http://www.liuteronai.lt/index_ang.html
http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35468.htm

Calvinist:

In 1997 there was a report that stated that there were 15,000 Calvinists in Lithuania. The Calvinists have five basic beliefs which are total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the Saints.

Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Lithuania:

As of 1998 there were 7 units of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Lithuania. There were 422 adherents to this particular faith.

Catholics/Orthodox Churches:

Catholic:

According to the report the number of Catholics practicing in Lithuania is 2,960,000 which represent 80% of the population. Lithuania was proclaimed a Catholic nation in 1387 by Jogaila. Between 1387 and the 17th century there were many other religions and groups that came into the country drawing Lithuania away from being considered a Catholic nation, but in the 17th century they once again returned to a Catholic nation. Catholicism in Lithuania had trouble during the 19th century, but was able to survive Today the Catholic Church is going strong.
http://www.randburg.com/li/general/general_13.html

Old Believers:
During the 2001 population census there were 27,000 people who claimed to be "Old Believers." The "Old Believers" have established 57 communities.
http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35468.htm

Russian Orthodox:

According to the 2001 census poll there are around 140,000 adherents to the Orthodox Church. There are 50 communities mostly along the eastern border of Lithuania closest to the border of Belarus. The Russian Orthodox group in Lithuania is the second largest religious group.

Cults and Sects:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

In 1997 there were 400 adherents containing 0.01% of the population. There are three different established churches.

Jehovah's Witnesses:

There are 2,916 Jehovah's Witnesses in Lithuania. There is one Jehovah's Witness for every 1,200 Lithuanians. There are 39 congregations. The Jehovah's Witnesses spent 666,589 total hours preaching and held an average of 2,078 Bible Studies within Lithuania. There were 5,613 at the Memorial attendance of Lithuania in 2005. This attendance represents the yearly communion meeting attendance.
http://www.watchtower.org/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

Non-Christian:

Islam:

Lithuania has 12 mosques. There are an estimated 110,000 adherents to the Islam faith.
There is a group within Lithuania working to spread Islam around the entirety of the
country. They see Islam as becoming one of the main religions within all of Lithuania
within the next 20 to 30 years.
http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2004-07/22/article01.shtml

Judaism:

Jews settled in Lithuania as early as the 15th century. There are 6,000 adherents to the
Jewish faith in Lithuania. There are 5 Jewish synagogues in Lithuania. The Lithuanian
Jews belong to Ashkenazim which are the Jews of Western, Central Eastern Europe. The
Lithuanian Jews are known for strong religious feelings, intellectual rationalism, and
exceptional erudition. The Lithuanian Jews were called litvaks which means "they, who
do not agree."
http://www.randburg.com/li/general/general_13.htmlhttp://litvakai.mch.mii.lt/religious_tradition/Default.ht
m

Romuva:

Romuva is a Baltic faith. This faith is Pagan. Romuva brings together man and a
connection with nature. It also strengthens the tie of society and culture. The faith is
represented by an oak tree with three different levels representing one the world of the
dead which is the past, the world of the living which is the present and divine heights
which represents the future and they are all integrated together. They flourish in the
universal idea of harmony. In 1992 there were 2 units of the Romuva faith.
http://www.romuva.lt/?kalba=engl&page=romuvos&nr=3

Scientology:

In 1999 there was one unit of Scientology in Lithuania. The religion of Scientology leads
the followers to believe that you are to become certain of your spiritual existence, your
relationship with the Supreme Being, and your role in eternity. Scientology means "the
study of truth." In scientology man is able to conclude their own problems, gain
happiness, and knowing their abilities and being aware of all that goes on around them.

http://www.bonafidescientology.org/
http://www.scientology.org/

Tatars:

Some of the Tatars gained refuge from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and they received
land and nobility for their military service. They were apart of the Battle of Grunwald.
The Tatars in Lithuania had to join the military and for their land that they owned had to
give so many horses to cover for it. The Tatars were given much by the government of
Lithuania. As of 1997 there were 6,000 adherents to the Tatars in Lithuania. The Tatars
of Lithuania are of the Sunni Muslim denomination. They believe in life after death,
heaven and hell, angels and devils. The Lithuanians are learning to read the Koran. Only

those Lithuanians who are rich are able to travel to a holy Muslim place. The
Lithuanians of this faith use the Muslim calendar each year.
http://www.gaumina.lt/totoriai/english/religija.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatars
Source:www.adherents.com

People Groups

Armenian(1,700)

They are a Eurasian people. Other names for them are Armiane, Ermeni, Ermini, Hai,
and Western Armenian. They speak Armenian. The primary religion is Christianity with
50% adherence. Many of them are orthodox.

000
Azerbaijani (1,400)

The people of Azerbaijani are known as Azeri. They are Eurasian. Other names for the
people of Azerbaijani are Azerbaigan, Azerbaijani, South, Azeri Turk, and Turkmen.
The language spoken is called Azerbaijani, North. The religion there is Islam with no
known adherence to Christianity.

000
Bashkir (400)

The Bashkir are Eurasian. They are also known as the Bashkirian people. The primary
religion is Islam. There is a 7% adherence to Christianity.

000
Byelorussian (55,000)

The Byelorussian people are Eurasian. They are also known as Belarussian. The
language spoken here is Belarusan. Christianity is the primary religion with a 70%
adherence.

000
Chuvash (700)

The Chuvash are a Turkic people. Their language is Chuvash. The people are also
known as Bolgar and Bulgar. Chrisitianity is the primary religion with a 35% adherence.

000
Deaf of Lithuania

The deaf of Lithuania do not have a known population in Lithuania, but there are 32,000
in all of the countries. They communicate through using the Lithuanian Sign Language.
The major religion is Christianity with an unknown adherence.

000
Estonian (600)

The Estonians are a Eurasian People. They are also known as Estlased, Estonia, Northern Estonian and Southern Estonian. They speak the Estonian language. The Primary religion is Christianity with a 61% adherence to Christianity.

000
Georgian (700)

The Georgian people are Eurasian. Their language is called Georgian. The primary religion is Christianity with a 30% adherence. The Georgians are also known as Adjari, Adzhar, Gruzin, Imerxev Georgian, Kartuli, and Western Georgian.

000
German (2,200)

The Germans are a Eurasian People. The alternate names for them are German, Standard; High German; Saxon; Transylvanian and Volga German. The primary religion is Christianity with a 78% adherence.

000
Jew, Eastern Yiddish-Speaki (3,600)

The Jew, Eastern Yiddish-Speaki are known as Jews. The language in which they communicate is Yiddish, Eastern. They are apart of the least-reached people. There is a 0.03% Christian Adherence among these peoples.

000
Karaite, Karaim of Lithuania (3,300)

The Karaite, Karaim are a Eurasian People. They are also known as Karaim or Karaite Jew. The language spoken is called Karaim. There is Judaism present within the country. However, there is no known Evangelical adherence.

000
Kazakh of Lithuania (700)

The Kazakh are a Turkic people. They are also known as Gazaqi, Hazake, Kazax, Qazaq and Qazaqi. The primary religion is Islam with no known Christian adherence. The language that is spoken here is the Kazakh language.

000
Latvian of Lithuania (4,200)

The Latvian people are an Eurasian people. Other names of the Latvian people are East Latvian, Latgalian, Lett, Lettish, and Upper Latvian. The primary religion was Christianity. There is a 90% adherence to Christianity in this country. They speak Latvian.

851
Lithuanian (2,729,000)

The Lithuanians are a Eurasian People group. The language spoken is Lithuanian. The primary religion is Christianity. Roman Catholics exist here. Forty percent of Lithuanians are evangelical. Another name for Lithuanian's is Samogit.

000
Moldavian (1,500)

The Moldavian people group is a Eurasian people. The language spoken here is Romanian. Christianity is the primary religion there in Moldavian with an 82% adherence rate.

000
Mordivinian (500)

Mordivinian are a Eurasian people. That language spoken by the Mordivinian is Erzya. The primary religion is Christianity with a 65% adherence within Mordivinian.

852
Polish (248,000)

The Polish are a Eurasian people. The language spoken here is polish.   The primary religion is Christianity. There are Roman Catholics there. There is a group of one percent evangelicals. Alternate names are Pole, Poles, and Silesian.

853
Russian (278, 000)

The Russians in Lithuania are a Eurasian People. Other possible names for the Russians are Eluosi, Olossu and Russ. The language spoken is Russian. The primary religion is Christianity. The religious sub-division was orthodox. There is a 31.30% Christian adherence. Also, there is 1% of the population that is evangelical.

000

Tajik (600)

The Tajik of Lithuania are an Iranian-Median people group. Other possible names that you might hear them called would be Afghani Tajik, Tadzhik, Persian Tajik, and Tadzhiki. The primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There is no known Christian adherence or Evangelical adherence.

000
Tatar (5,100)

The Tatar people are a Turkic people. The language spoken here is Tatar. Alternate names that could be used are Dada, Dadan, Kazan Tatar, Tartar, Tata'er, Tura and Turkish Tatar. Their primary religion is Islam with a sub-division of Sunni. There is a 1.50% Christian adherence.

000
Ukrainian (41,000)

The Ukrainian is a group of Eurasian People. The primary religion is Christianity with a 69% adherence. The primary language spoken here is Ukrainian.

000
Uzbek, Southern of Lithuania (1,500)

The Uzbek, Southern might also be referred to as Afghan Uzbek, Southern Uzbek, Uzbak, or Uzbek. The Uzbek, Southern are a Turkic People. Their language is called Uzbek, Southern. The primary religion for this group is Islam. The religion sub-group found here is Sunni. There are no known Christian or Evangelical adherents among this group. This group is one of the least reached peoples of the country of Lithuania.

   Source:
http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php,http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=Lithuani   www.adherents.com

Missiological Implications

1. Christians and churches should pray for freedom from oppression for the peoples of Lithuania. In the history of Lithuania the people have been oppressed by many different leaders. It has only been since 1993 that Lithuania has been a totally free country.
2. Christians and churches should recognize the over 73% of the people in Lithuania are either Catholic or Orthodox in their faith and the level of faithfulness to these religious expressions is low. The development of means of sharing with follows of Catholic and Orthodox peoples must be developed and local Christians trained it their use is imperative.

3. Christians and churches should develop means for sharing the Message with the non-religious who make up over 24% of the people (more than 865,000). This group is growing at an annual rate + 0.6%. Developing and training local evangelists in means for reaching these lost people is imperative.
4. Christians and Christian groups should train local believers in the methods of small group evangelism and house churches. This approach would allow evangelism among the Catholic and Orthodox populations and avoid some of the persecution that might develop upon conversion to non-Catholic and non-Orthodox religion.