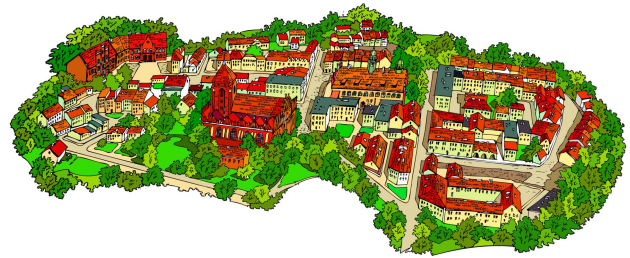


Warmia is a historical region in Poland in today's Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship. Its name comes from the Prussian tribe, the Warmians, who used to inhabit the area extending from the Vistula Lagoon up to Braniewo and Lidzbark Warmiński in the South. The shape of the area of Warmia, governed by Catholic bishops, resembled a triangle with irregular sides and its truncated-tip reaching the Vistula Lagoon.

At first, the bishops resided in Braniewo (1280-1340), then in **Orneta** (1340-1350), and since 1350, in Lidzbark Warmiński too. The historical Warmia diocese remained under the Teutonic ruling for 223 years until the Second Peace of Thorn. In 1466, this area belonging to the bishop and the chapter, as well as the neighbouring area of Tolkmicko and Elbląg, were incorporated into Poland; then, 306 years later, under the First Partition of Poland, into Prussia and Germany. The first inhabitants were Prussians and Germans, but since mid-15th century, Poles as well. The division, however, does not correspond to today's national categories, and therefore, the inhabitants of the Warmia region are simply called Warmiacy – deriving from the region's name.



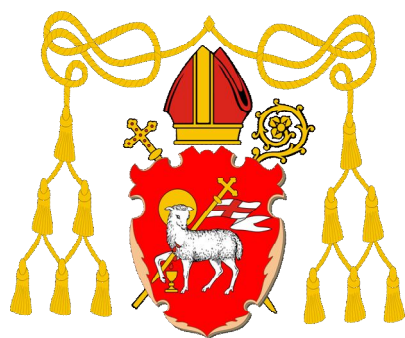
Between 1329 and 1388, a tremendous cathedral – a pearl of brickwork gothic – was built on a hill in **Frombork**. The entire structure was called *Castrum Dominae Nostrae* (Our Lady's fortress) – or *Frauenburg* in the German language.



The diocese of Warmia had its cultural capital, **Braniewo** referred to as the Athens of the North, the oldest city in Warmia, which was part of the Hanseatic League since the 14th century. Warmia under the Teutonic state was economically independent and enjoyed military protection provided by the Order. During the Polish–Teutonic War between 1409 and 1411, the region

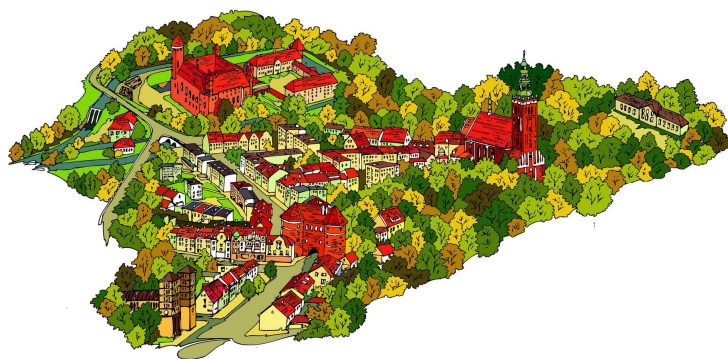


of Warmia deployed three military units (the so-called chorągiew, literally a banner), i.e. there were: bishops' unit, chapter's unit, and the unit from the city of Braniewo. Supposedly, the military units from Warmia were under the aldermen-bishops and chapter's command. In the Battle of Grunwald, about 1,000 armed soldiers from Warmia took part.



After the Second Peace of Thorn in 1466, it was incorporated into Polish Crown along with Royal Prussia, but it maintained its autonomy, whereas the bishops of Warmia together with the cathedral chapter played the role of secular administrators. The Bishops of Warmia, secular governors in the Prince-Bishopric of Warmia, had the right to possess their own military forces and mint their own coins. The bishops used to call Warmia regional parliament-like assemblies (Polish sejmiki), taking place in **Lidzbark** tax resolutions. In 1718, permanent taxes for the army of the

Warmiński, in order to approve Polish State were introduced, and since then such regional assemblies were called less frequently. Following the First Partition of Poland, Warmia was incorporated into Royal Prussia and was located in its province of Eastern Prussia. Due to its religious identity, Warmia remained different from the rest of Prussia until 1945. Historically speaking, the colours of Warmia are red and white. It occupies an area of 4,249 km².



PIENIĘŻNO



RESZEL

