

History
Magazine

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4th Sem

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: partitions of Poland :

The partitions of Poland were three partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth that took place toward the end of 18th century and ended the existence of the state, resulting in the elimination of sovereign Poland and Lithuania for 123 years.

first partition :- The first partition of Poland took place in 1772. Growth in the Russian Empire's power, threatening the Kingdom of Prussia and the Habsburg monarchy was the primary motive behind this first partition.

Frederick the great engineered the partition. The weakened commonwealth's land was apportioned among its more powerful neighbours - Austria, Russia and Prussia.

So as to restore the regional balance of power in central Europe among these three countries. Poland was unable to defend itself. The Polish parliament ratified the partition in 1773. The agreement deprived Poland of approximately half of its population and almost one third of its land area.

2nd partition of Poland took place in 1793. Austria did not participate in the 2nd partition. The 3rd partition took place in 1795. With this partition the commonwealth ceased to exist.

The basic causes leading to the three partitions that eliminated Poland from the map were the decay and the internal disunity of Poland and the emergence of its neighbours Russia and Prussia as leading European powers.