



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

*He was as pure a son of liberty
as I have ever known
and of that liberty
which is to go to all.*

Thomas Jefferson,
President of the United States.

Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko wearing armour,
anonymous artist (late 18th century), oil painting,
in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.

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Republic of Poland



Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ **Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746–1817) – the price of freedom**

Liberty is the sweetest fruit a man may taste in this world [...]

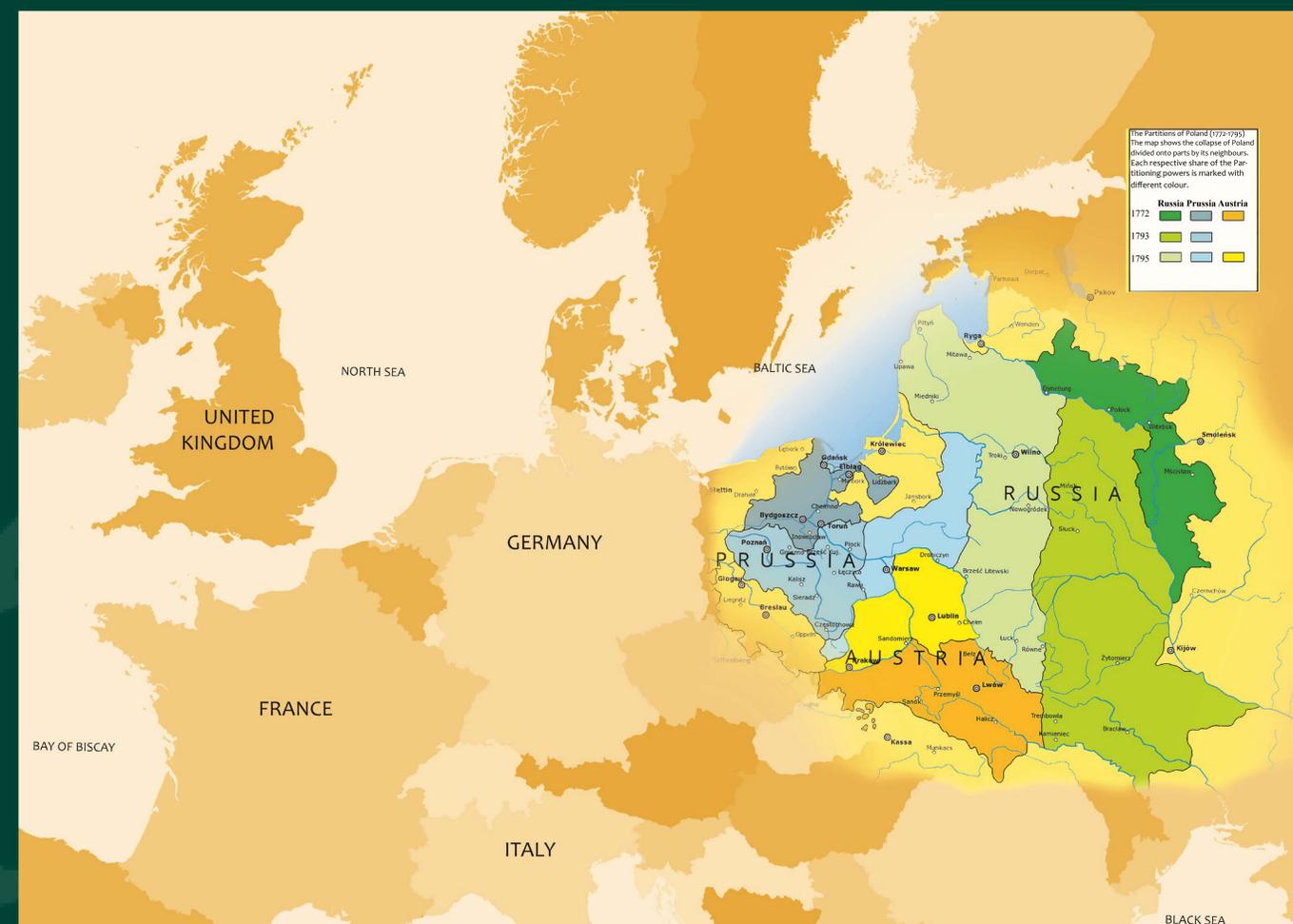
Thaddeus Kosciuszko, *Proclamation to the Nation*, a camp near Mokotów, Poland, 24 December 1794

Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746–1817) is a Polish national hero and a campaigner for the independence of the United States of North America, a honorary citizen of France in the age of revolution, and one of the most widely recognised Poles, both nationally and internationally. His lifetime and activity coincides with a most difficult and turbulent era, not only in the

history of the Polish state, but also in the history of Europe and North America: with events such as the formation of the United States of North America, the French Revolution, the collapse of the ancien régime in Western Europe, the Napoleonic era and the Congress of Vienna. Kosciuszko was born to an impoverished noble family from the territory of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which was joined with the Kingdom of Poland under the Jagiellonian reign, first through a personal union and, since 1569, also through a real union. In Kosciuszko's time this former European power, referred to as the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania, was facing a huge crisis. In the 18th century the internal weaknesses of the Commonwealth became fully transparent – anarchy, lack of armed forces, economic stagnation and political inertia – and Poland lost its international importance. In 1795 the Polish state was erased from maps for the next 123 years.



Kosciuszko's family estate in Mieczysław
 painted by Michał Kulesza (pre-1863), oil painting,
 in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.





THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ Kosciuszko in the minds of others

He was as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known and of that liberty which is to go to all.

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826),
President of the United States.

Kosciuszko is the only true republican I have ever met. He is a spotless man.

Horatio Gates (1727–1806),
an American general.

[...] What set him apart greatly ... was his unmatched humility and complete lack of understanding that he had done an extraordinary thing.

Nathanael Greene (1742–1786),
an American general.

Kosciuszko [...], being an excellent engineer officer, was fearless, but always cold-blooded in his bravery. [...] He loved freedom and national independence dearly.

Jan Ursyn Niemcewicz (1757–1841),
a Polish writer.

Only the love of his Fatherland keeps him alive, no other passion has power over him, his honesty is unquestionable.

Józef Maksymilian Ossoliński (1748–1826),
a Polish cultural activist.

This general was useful not only for his bravery, but in particular for his caution.

Prince Józef Poniatowski (1763–1813),
Polish commander, Marshal of the French Empire.

[...] the rebel, Kosciuszko, who, having incited Poland, plotting with the monsters who rule France, wants to spread rebellion against Russia everywhere, out of spite.

Catherine II (1729–1796),
Empress of Russia.

Be sure that no one has more respect and admiration for your character than I do [...]

George Washington (1732–1799),
President of the United States.

Kosciuszko, the martyr of freedom, is dead [...].

William Henry Harrison (1773–1841),
President of the United States.

[Kosciuszko] became one of the immortal heroes of the mankind. Why? Because his name is Poland.

Szymon Askenazy (1865–1935),
a Polish historian.



Portrait of Kosciuszko in an American Army General's Uniform with Fort Clinton in the background, painted by Bolesław Jan Czedekowski (1947), oil painting, in the collection of Fundacja Kosciuszowska (Kosciuszko Foundation, New York City).



THADDEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ A timeline of Thaddeus Kosciuszko's life and activities

4 February 1746

Probable date of birth of Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura in Mereczowszczyzna.

1765–1769

Educated at the School of Chivalry and then at the School of Engineering of the Corps of Cadets.

1776–1783

Kosciuszko participates in the American War of Independence.

Before 19 September 1777

Kosciuszko fortifies Bemis Heights near Saratoga in order to stop the British army.

1778–1780

Kosciuszko fortifies West Point upon the Hudson.

13 October 1783

Kosciuszko is nominated an American brigadier general and admitted to the prestigious Society of the Cincinnati.

May–July 1792

Participation in the Russian war to in defence of Constitution of 3 May.

24 March 1794

A military uprising in defence of the independence and political autonomy of Poland begins. Kosciuszko takes an oath as the Commander-in-Chief of the National Armed Forces.

4 April 1794

Insurgent forces engage in battle with the Russian army near Raławice.

10 October 1794

The insurgent forces fail during the Battle of Maciejowice; Kosciuszko, severely wounded, is taken captive.

October 1794–November 1796

Kosciuszko is a Russian prisoner-of-war.

August 1797–June 1798

Kosciuszko's second stay in the United States of America.

1798–1815

Kosciuszko's stay in France.

mid–July 1815

Kosciuszko settles in Solothurn, Switzerland.

15 October 1817

Kosciuszko dies at the age of 71 in Solothurn.

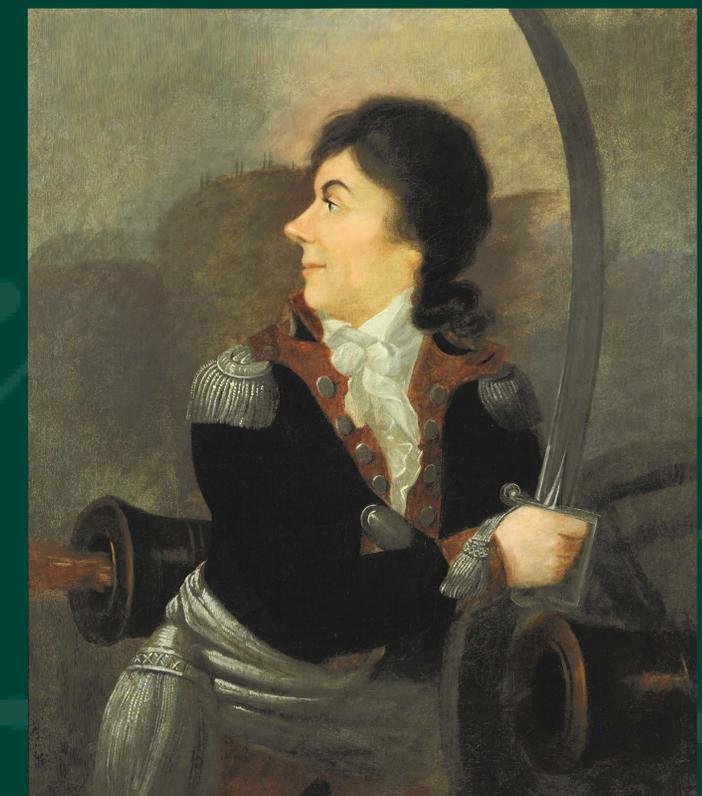
23 June 1818

The coffin with Kosciuszko's body is buried in St. Leonard's royal crypt at the Wawel Cathedral.

1820–1823

A monumental mound is erected in Cracow by the Poles to commemorate Kosciuszko.

Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, anonymous artist (c. 1792), oil on canvas, in the collection of Polish Army Museum.





THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ Thaddeus Kosciuszko as a military man

*Thy lotted people and extinguish'd thy name,
Thy sigh for freedom, thy long-flowing tear,
That sound that crashes in the tyrant's ear –
Kosciuszko*

The Age of Bronze, Lord George Byron

Young Kosciuszko, born amidst the greatest crisis of the Polish state, received solid general education at the School of Chivalry in Warsaw (1765–1769). Military engineering became his specialty and brought him greatest success. Despite several-years-long studies on the subject in Paris, was not commissioned, neither in the Polish, nor in the Lithuanian army. He decided to search for employment and happiness in the USA. When he arrived in America in August 1776, the war against the English was being waged on all fronts with varying degrees of successes. The Americans trusted Kosciuszko's ability to prepare Philadelphia for a British offensive and assigned him with developing a fortifications plan for Bilingsport. His "American dream" came true on 18 October 1776 with a nomination for a USA army engineer and colonel.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko in a General's Uniform,
anonymous artist (19th century), oil painting, in the collection of the Historical
Museum of the City of Kraków



The Declaration of Independence,
painted by John Trumbull (1795), oil painting in the collection
of US Capitol in Washington, D.C.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Kosciuszko was Head Engineer of General Horatio Gates's Northern Army. In 1777, he became renowned for fortifying the foreground of Bemis Heights, which contributed greatly to the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga (17 September 1777). In 1778–1780, he built West Point as a part of the defence fortifications around New York City to close the Hudson River to English ships. He executed his innovative plan to create a system of scattered forts and use landscape features with great effort and earned the support of the US Army Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington. He left West Point to join the troops on the front line where he became the Head En-

gineer of General Nathanael Greene's southern army. He prepared crossings on the Yadkin and Dan Rivers in North Carolina. From May 1781, he participated in an unsuccessful siege of the Ninety-Six fort in Southern Carolina. In 1782, he managed the engineering works at the Charleston blockade, exhibiting great courage in combat as a line officer as well. On 15 November, he took part in the last battle of the war at James Island. In recognition of his merits, the Congress promoted him to Brigadier General of the American Army on 13 October 1783.



Washington Crossing the Delaware,
painted by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (1851), oil painting, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



Surrender of General Burgoyne,
painted by John Trumbull (1821), oil painting, in the collection of US Capitol in Washington, D.C.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Kosciuszko was admitted to the elite Society of the Cincinnati formed by the most distinguished veterans of the Revolutionary War. He gained considerable experience as a military engineer, fortification constructor, and a field engineer. Upon his return to Poland, once again he was refused employment in the army. He eventually received a military position during a milestone event in the history of Poland, the Great Sejm in the years 1788–1792, which resulted in one of the world's first constitutions adopted on 3 May 1791, which he defended fiercely.

His bravery in the battle of Dubienka against overwhelming Russian forces made him a key candidate for the leader of an uprising. He became a role model and an authority for his soldiers. On 13 January 1793, Prussia and Russia signed a treaty on the second partition of Poland. It was widely believed that the state's only chance laid in an armed resistance. After several months of preparation, on 24 March 1794, an uprising began in Cracow and Kosciuszko became the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. Despite he lacked resources, he increased the size of his army and created proper administrative structures.



George Washington Decorates Kosciuszko with the Order of the Cincinnati medal, painted by Michał Stachowicz (1818), mixed techniques (drawing and painting), in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



Battle of Racławice, painted by Walery Elias Radzikowski (1895), watercolour, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Due to a shortage of firearms, the insurgents were equipped with scythes and pikes. Kosciuszko's goal was to expand the uprising onto the entire country. He hoped that he wouldn't have to face all enemies simultaneously. On 4 April 1794, he led his scythe-men against the Russians at the Battle of Raławice and won the first combat of the insurrection. Afterwards, Kosciuszko kept wearing a symbolic peasant coat. His most important military task was a closer coordination of the entire campaign.

The defence of Warsaw against the Prussian and Russian armies (13 July–6 September 1794) was undoubtedly Kosciuszko's most significant and successful warfare operation in Poland. On the other hand, the Battle of Maciejowice (10 October 1794) arouses the greatest controversies concerning Kosciuszko's skills of command. He fought bravely but was seriously wounded. The Poles lost the battle eventually and Kosciuszko was imprisoned.



Polish Army in the Days of the Kosciuszko Uprising, painted by Walery Eliasz Radzikowski (1894), watercolour, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



Polish Army in the Days of the Kosciuszko Uprising, painted by Walery Eliasz Radzikowski (1894), watercolour, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Several days after the battle, Kosciuszko's wounded leg was partially paralysed; it took him almost four years to regain full motor capability. Kosciuszko became famous as a talented military engineer involved in the war of Independence of the United States and is considered to be one of the greatest organisers in the history of the Polish armed forces. As the Commander, despite the difficult conditions, he was able to organise a relatively strong and decently equipped army. He was also the most active and bold of Polish commander in the late 18th century. Kosciuszko, as a soldier, was to prove his courage on numerous occasions; he was "fearless, but always cold-blooded in his bravery". Above all, Kosciuszko believed in obeying the rules and military code of honour. His military career was to be relatively short and ended suddenly in 1794 when the Insurrection failed and the Polish state was liquidated. Despite the failure of the uprising, he became a national hero during his own lifetime.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko,
painted by Kazimierz Wojniakowski (1794), oil on canvas,
in the collection of The Poznań Society of Friends of Science.



Kosciuszko at the Battle of Maciejowice,
painted by Teodor Baltazar Stachowicz (first half of the 19th century),
oil painting, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ Kosciuszko as a Politician

“I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, swear in the name of God all the Polish Nation not to use these powers to oppress any person, but to defend the integrity of the border of Poland, regain the independence of the nation, and to strengthen universal liberties. So help me God and innocent Passion of His Son.”

Thaddeus Kosciuszko, 24 March 1794

Kosciuszko owed his broad intellectual horizons, diversity of passions, and cognitive interest to his education. A stay in France during the Great Revolution and participation in the American War of Independence shaped his views. Kosciuszko became a citizen of the world. He respected greatly the doctrine of natural rights developing in the Age of Reason, such as the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness included in the “Declaration of Independence” of 1776. The forming American democracy became his model of government. In an age of European monarchies, he was a declared enemy of absolutism and a great advocate for republican principles. General Horatio Gates said, “Kosciuszko is the only true republican I have ever met.” On 26 August 1792, as a freedom-fighter, he was awarded honorary citizenship of the revolutionary France.



Thaddeus Kosciuszko Saves Poland from Grave,
painted by Michał Stachowicz, (c. 1794),
painting, in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Although Kosciuszko spent almost half his life abroad, he remained a true Pole. The first ever Commander-in-Chief inspired Poles to fight for restoration of the country after partitions. On 24 March 1794, he undertook a the great challenge: to free Poland from enemy forces, re-establish and secure its borders, regain the independence of the Polish state, and safeguard universal freedom. The essence of the armed uprising was expressed in Kosciuszko's public oath on Cracow's Main Square.

A new chapter in Kosciuszko's life began; he became not only a military man but also a leader of his nation. During the seven months of the insurrection, he managed the country's both internal and external affairs. He preferred compromise to radical Jacobean methods and tried to win the support of all social classes, peasants in particular. Their problems were to be resolved by granting them personal freedom proclaimed at Połaniec on 7 May 1794.



Blessing of Swords of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and General Józef Wodzicki,
painted by Walery Eliasz Radzikowski (second half of the 19th century), gouache,
in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

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The Proclamation of Połaniec ensured the peasants right to stay on their land, limited the scope of feudal service and aimed at equating all citizens of Poland. To gain support of minorities, Kosciuszko emphasised he was not biased against any of them. His ideological legacy is expressed in the words “for our freedom and yours”. After the Insurrection failed, he spent two years in a Russian prison. Although Kosciuszko lost

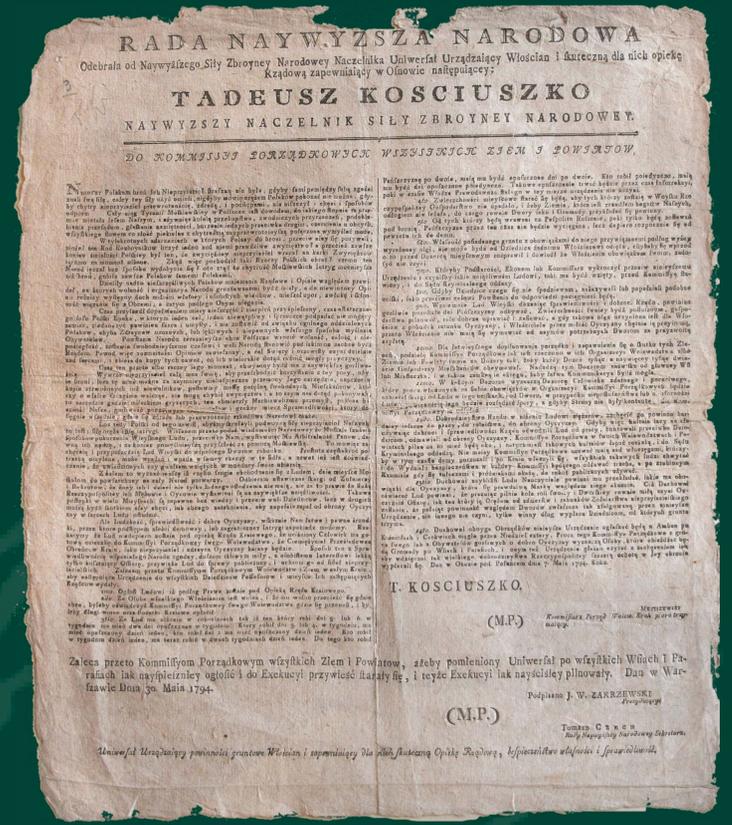
as the Commander-in-Chief, ironically he won: he was considered a hero, a leader, a martyr and a martyr for freedom. His name and cause became renowned worldwide. For the rest of his life, he tried to make the revival of the Polish state possible, but he never witnessed the actual restoration of Poland in the early 19th century.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, anonymous artist (c. 1840), oil painting, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



The Oath by Thaddeus Kosciuszko on Krakow's Market Square, painted by Michał Stachowicz (1797), gouache, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



Proclamation of Połaniec, Warsaw, (7 May 1794), paper, print, in the collection of the Kosciuszko Mound Committee in Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Twice Kosciuszko tried to win support for the Polish case from the two most powerful hegemony of his age: the French military and political leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, and the Russian Emperor, Alexander I. They, however, wanted to use him only for their own interests. Although Kosciuszko may not have been the greatest politician, he always wanted and tried to remain independent within the scope of ideology or politics. When, on 9 November 1799, General Napoleon Bonaparte executed a coup d'état called the "18 Brumaire", Kosciuszko was deeply shocked by the news of this event because the republic was destroyed. Kosciuszko reproached the coup with bitter words,

believing Napoleon was a tyrant who had buried the republic. This was one of the reasons why Kosciuszko did not support the idea of the Duchy of Warsaw, a poor substitute for a state which was created on the volition of the French Emperor. Thereafter, Kosciuszko, who was so persistent in defending Polish interests and demanding independence for the entire Commonwealth, found himself outside the circle of pro-French activists. In the early 19th century, this meant exclusion from all the major political events in Europe.



View on Planty Gardens with the Tree of Freedom,
painted by Teodor Baltazar Stachowicz, Kraków (1849),
oil painting, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



Napoleon upon a Grey Horse,
painted by Piotr Michałowski (pre-1846),
oil painting, in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

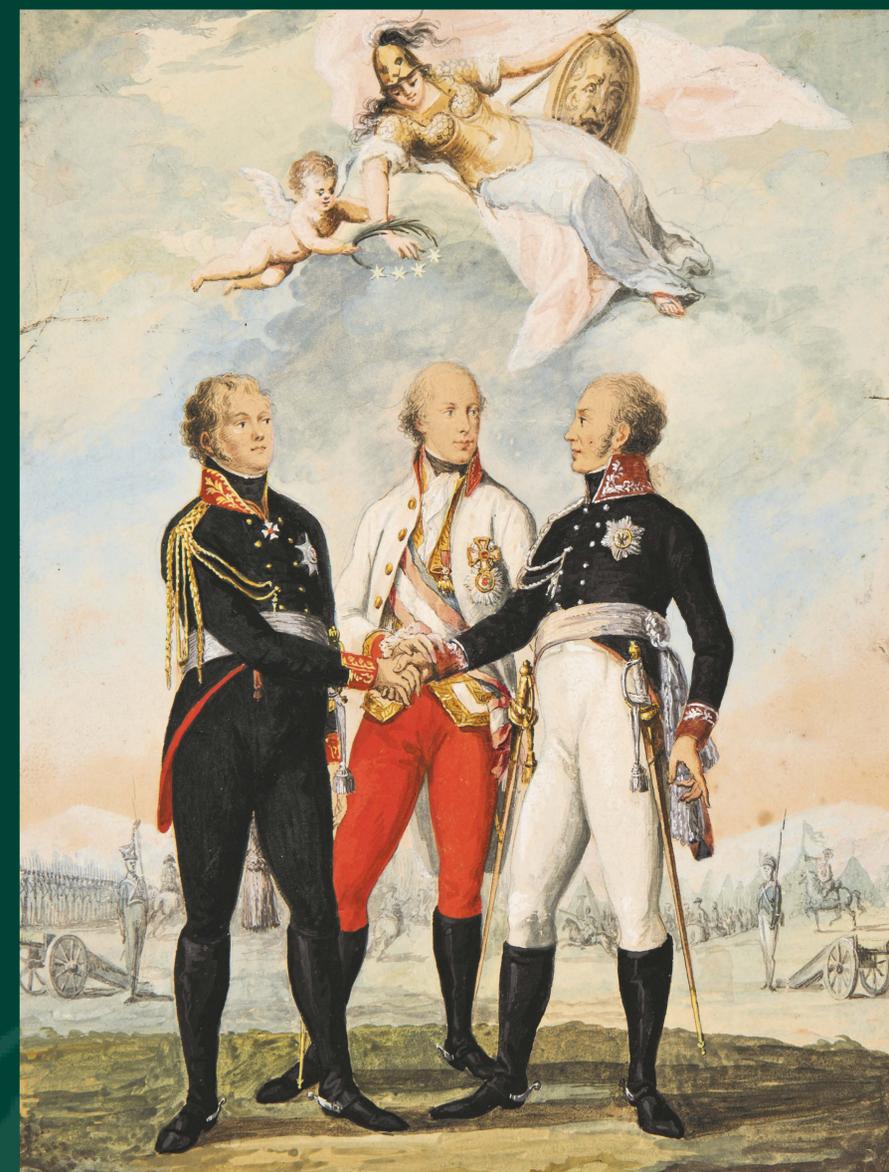
Kosciuszko resented the imperial policies of Catherine II expressed in the partitioning of Poland. Yet, after 1814, he started to have hopes for reconstruction of the Polish state. Eventually, the position taken by the Emperor Alexander I and the provisions of the Congress of Vienna disappointed Kosciuszko severely.

Kosciuszko died in 1817 in exile, as the spiritual leader of a nation without a country. His political will was confined in a leaflet entitled anonymously in Paris in 1800. It described the idea a new national uprising without any external support and promoted a persistent guerrilla war.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko was a unique type of statesman. Driven by common well-being, integrity and independence of the Fatherland, and freedom of citizens, he took a straight path to reach his bold goals and avoided complex political games. This is perhaps the road to greatness, although not necessarily a road to success.



Emperor Paul Visits Kosciuszko in Prison,
anonymous artist (first half of the 19th century),
oil painting, in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



Holy Alliance: Alexander I, Francis I, Frederick William III,
painted by Michał Stachowicz (c. 1830), gouache and watercolour,
in the collection of the National Ossoliński Institute in Wrocław.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ The private life of Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Thaddeus Kosciuszko
Good and brave, but unhappy

Maria Czartoryska Wirtemberska

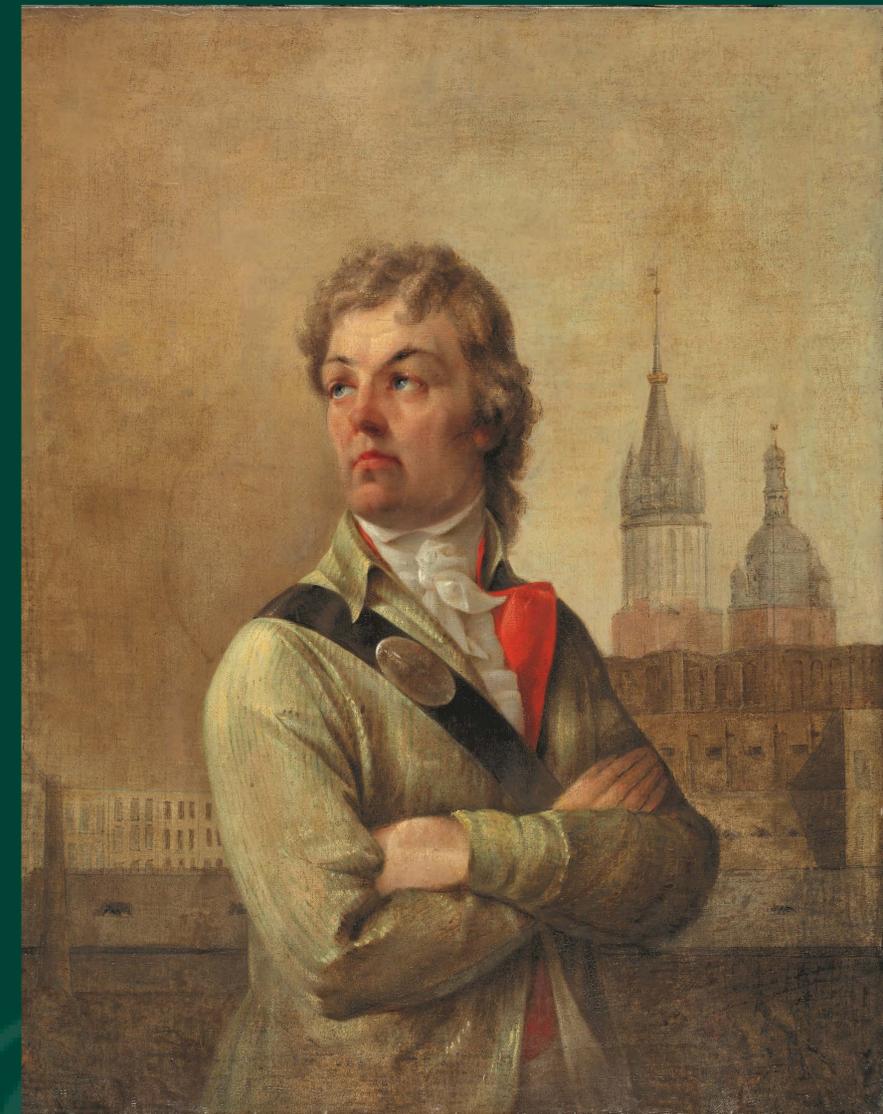
Appearance

Kosciuszko's image recurred numerous times in national iconography, but also in foreign works of art. According to accounts, he was a slim, fit man, not particularly tall, of fine and slender stature and with irregular facial features and a slightly snub nose. Youthful face, quite fair, thick, and wavy hair and expressive, most likely blue eyes, were to his advantage.

As Commander-in-Chief of the 1794 uprising, Kosciuszko often wore a common grey woollen frock coat with “no indication of the highest rank”. During his emigration to France, he preferred a navy blue frock coat, a black tie, boots and a round hat. Formal black frock coat made him feel uncomfortable. He picked his outfits for functionality and comfort of wearing. He liked peasant clothes. He stopped paying attention to his appearance eventually; his frock was faded, patched and mended, with a rose or violets pinned for decoration.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko,
drawing by Aleksander Orłowski (pre-1794),
in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko
by Jan Nepomucen Bizański (1862), oil painting, in the collection
of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Personality

Kosciuszko was a level-headed but also a lively man. He was perceived as sensitive, easy to hurt, reasonable and diligent. Modesty, kindness, and empathy made him immensely popular with soldiers. His reactions to various events were flexible, constructive, and pragmatic. He was a man of deeds, courageous and ready to take risks, such as his first journey to North America or commanding the 1794

uprising. Witty, but simple-minded, honest, and shy, he occasionally had trouble communicating. Not particularly sociable, he was not a recluse either. He avoided unnecessary conflicts and exhibited good mediating skills. He appreciated independence and was not easily influenced. Numerous obstacles and failures toughened his psyche. He remained rational in stressful situations, however he suffered from occasional breakdowns.



Miniature – Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, painted by Anna Rajeczka (1794), parchment, optical glass; in the collection of Polish Army Museum



Sztary Czartorysk, a detailed plan made for Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski by Thaddeus Kosciuszko (c. 1774–75) water colour, in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Human relationships

Modest and shy, Kosciuszko wasn't particularly sociable. Dignified, well-mannered behaviour and kind nature contrasted with his reservation. As a widely respected fortification Engineer in North America, he made more friends, including General Horatio Gates and General Nathanael Greene. His long-lasting friendship with Thomas Jefferson, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence and the third US President, was based on common views and interests.

Kosciuszko drew a clear line between his public and private lives. During the French period, he received only his trusted friends at the Zeltner's house, but under Napoleon, he reduced his social circle to declared republicans only, including the generals Marie Joseph de La Fayette, Jean Victor Moreau, Etienne Jacques Macdonald, André Massena, and General Lazare Carnot, a military engineer and organiser of the revolutionary army. Although respected for his republican views, he remained outside the elite of Solothurn.



Portrait of Thomas Jefferson, according to a drawing by Thaddeus Kosciuszko, by Michał Sokolnicki, (ca. 1800), watercolour, in the collection of National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.



Portrait of Jean Lapiere, also known as Domingo, Kosciuszko's adjutant and valet, painted by Jan Sikorski, (1840), oil on canvas, in the collection of Polish Army Museum.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Romantic life

Brought up by a traditional family, Kosciuszko, must have been a sentimental lover. His first great unfulfilled love, Ludwika Sosnowska, was the daughter to a rich and powerful Senator. The beautiful-eyed girl was well educated, refined and sensitive. She returned his feelings, but Ludwika's parents foiled their marriage plans due to Kosciuszko's low social and financial status. Unhappy love drove him to emigrate, yet, he kept searching for a woman with similar temper and personality.

His merits in the war of 1792 made Kosciuszko brought Kosciuszko popularity and admiration. Kosciuszko's special respect for women was expressed in one of his first proclamations as Commander-in-Chief of the insurrection.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko,
anonymous,
(c. 1800), oil on canvas,
in the collection of Polish Army Museum



Portrait of Ludwika Sosnowska,
anonymous artist (c. 1775), oil painting, in the collection
of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

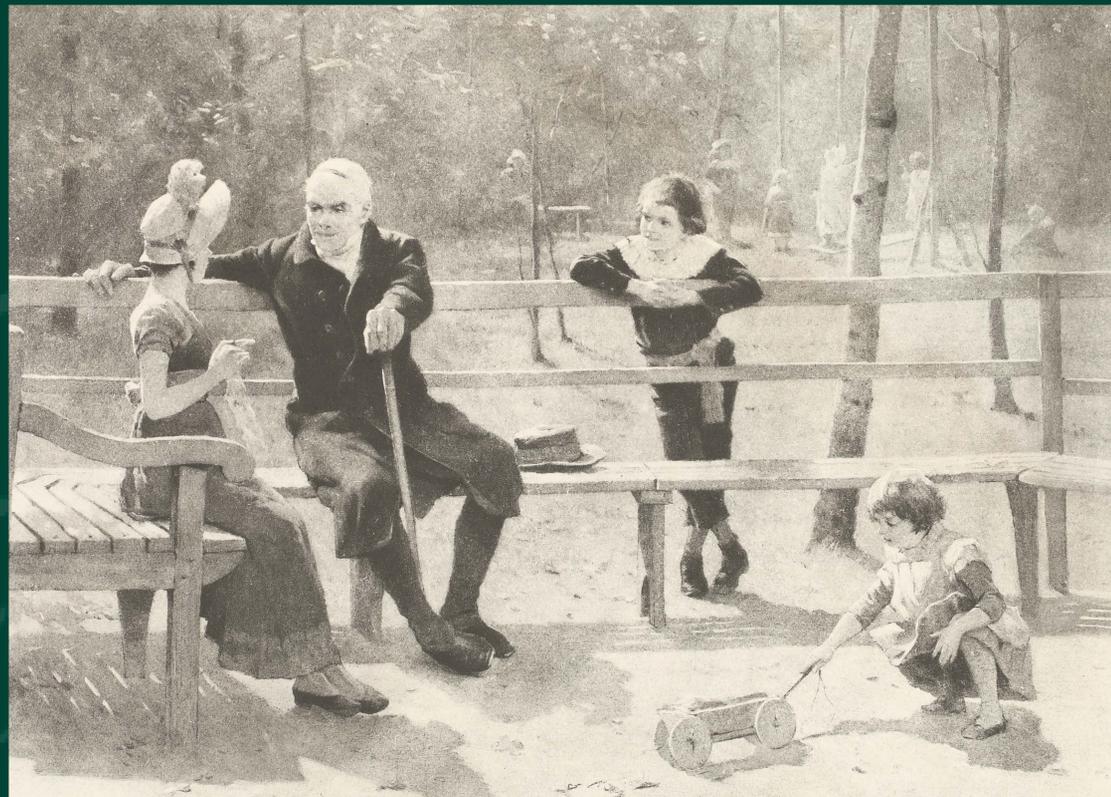
THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Kosciuszko's gentleman-like approach to women was well-known, while his turbulent life and experiences increased his attractiveness in the eyes of the female sex. It can be said Kosciuszko was not a typical figure of his age. Besides casual relationships based on physical bonds only, he was capable of authentic, profound feelings. He was sentimental, yet he was able to find pleasure in life and physical sensations. Maybe the failures at a young age made Kosciuszko reluctant towards engaging in a lasting relationship with anyone. Perhaps, at some point, he did not wish to change the habits and ways of a single man. Interestingly, it is to women to whom Kosciuszko owes his label of an extraordinary man combining the typical masculine traits of a soldier

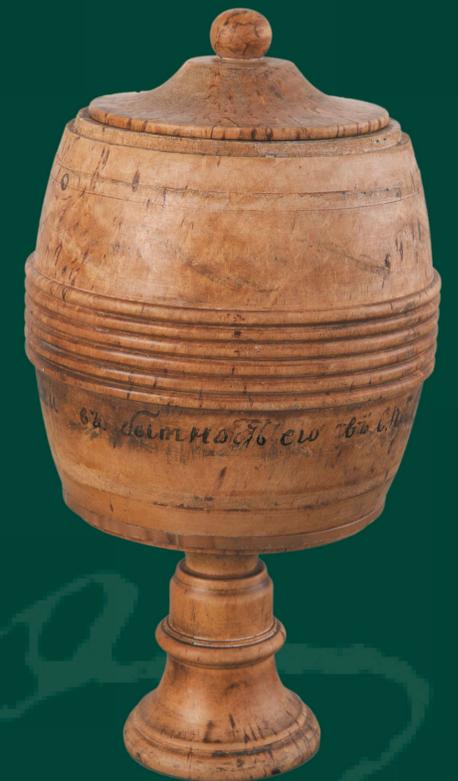
with the gentleness and sensitivity of a man of the new era – the age of romanticism. Neither Kosciuszko's origin nor his physical traits predestined him for greatness. He owed his position and influence not to coincidence but to his abilities and perseverance in pursuing his goals. Lacking an impressive physical presence, he built his stance based on subsequent experiences and new skills. His life spared him no failures but he knew how to overcome them without compromising his hopes for a better tomorrow. In daily life he was undemanding. His lifestyle was regular. From childhood onwards, he was a very active sportsman, which ensured his fitness and endurance until a very old age.



Snuffbox, made by Thaddeus Kosciuszko
(c. 1800), lathed,
in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



"In Solothurn",
by Zygmunt Ajdukiewicz (1891), photogravure, 1892,
in the collection of the Kosciuszko Mound Committee in Kraków



Bonbonniere, made by Thaddeus Kosciuszko,
(c. 1800), lathed,
in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

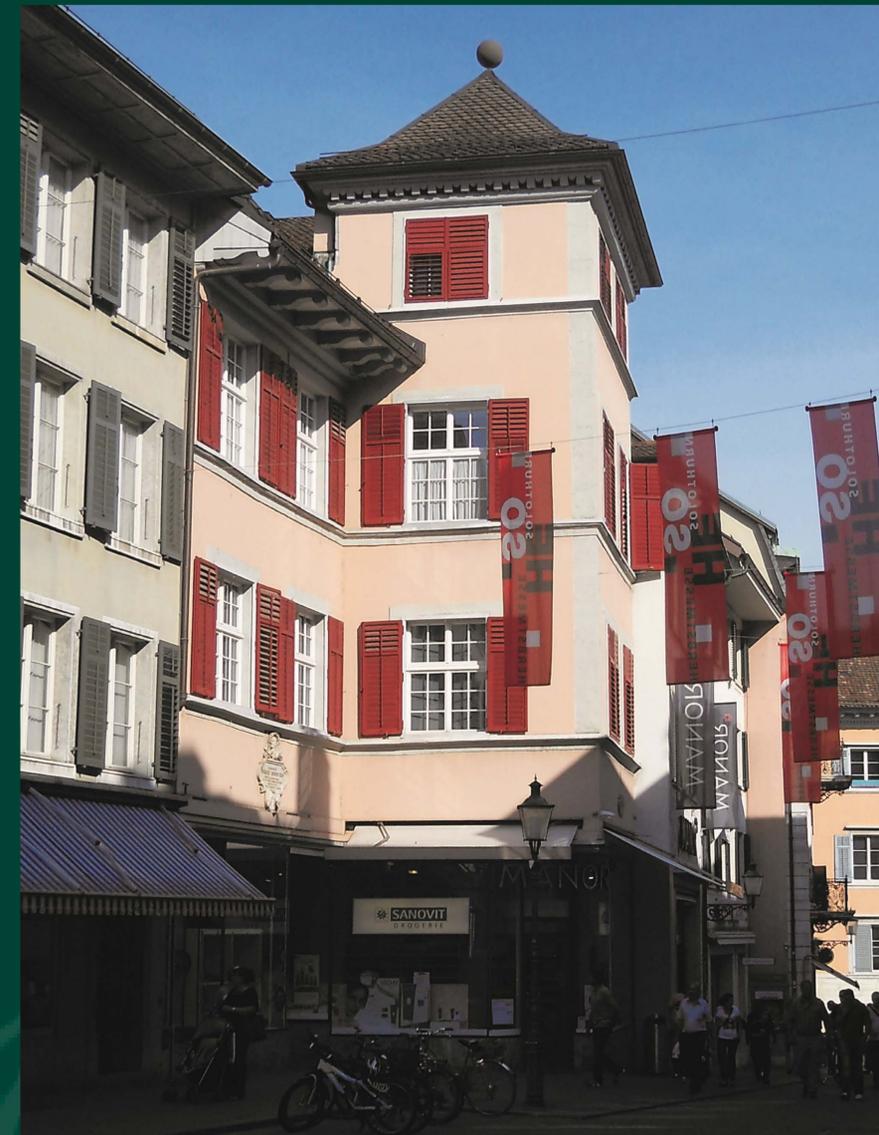
THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Physical effort and time spent outdoors hardened him physically and, despite his light build, he was resistant to exhaustion and toil. He was a passionate gardener and horseman. He also showed artistic talent and manual skills from a young age. He liked to draw and paint and to craft small decorative objects with the use of a lathe. He also read a lot during his emigration. He never enjoyed socialising, although as a public figure he had to participate in social life to some extent. He liked to play chess, whist and billiards. He did not pay much attention to food. He avoided strong liquors, and preferred good Hungarian wine for more formal celebrations. His favourite stimulant was coffee.

A great dream he never saw come true was to get married and start a family. He adapted to new places and conditions relatively easily, his requirements being always modest. Kosciuszko was renowned for his charity activities; in the Swiss town of Solothurn, he was called a “benefactor of the poor”.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko as an old man, painted by Stefan Kozakiewicz (1867), in the collection of the Kosciuszko Mound Committee in Kraków.



House in Solothurn, Switzerland, where Kosciuszko was living at the time of his death in 1817, photograph by Piotr Hapanowicz.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

■ Kosciuszko's Heritage

Kosciuszko became a loyal soldier of freedom. [...] His fame will live as long as there is freedom on earth.

William Henry Harrison

Kosciuszko is one of the most important heroes in the world, becoming a symbol of freedom, patriotism, and democracy. Each age finds slightly different values and messages in his work. It is universal and timeless, thus Kosciuszko's myth is still alive. Although his political decisions and even the military ones were criticised on numerous

occasions, almost everyone noticed his unlimited love for freedom, fatherland and a righteous, uncompromising character. He was a modern man in the very best sense of the word – the way we understand it. As was characteristic of him, Kosciuszko rejected a number of customs, instead striving for a noble simplicity and never resigned from what constitutes a noble man – honour, loyalty, faithfulness to ethic values, love of freedom for every man and the nation. Kosciuszko's experiences resulted in developing his own philosophy of life, in which the idea of freedom played the most important role.



Apotheosis of Kosciuszko,
painted by Michał Stachowicz (1818),
in the collection of the National Museum in Kraków.



Sarcophagus of Thaddeus Kosciuszko in the Cracow Cathedral,
photograph by Feliks Molski.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

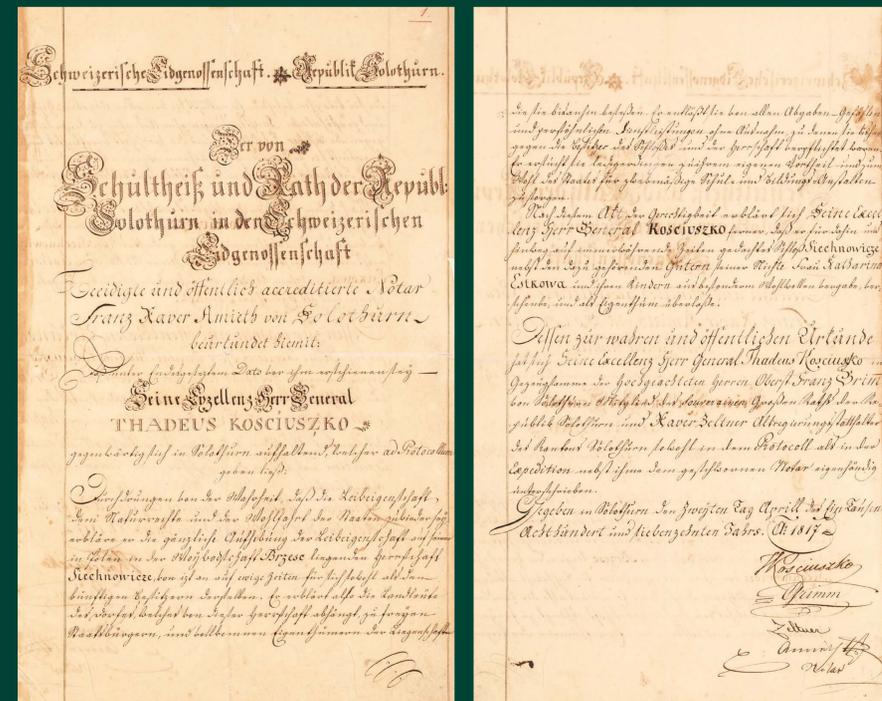
Kosciuszko is a world-recognised myth and hero, a symbol of freedom, patriotism, and democracy. His work is universal and timeless. Despite criticism of both his political and military decisions, his unlimited love for freedom, fatherland and a righteous, uncompromising character have appealed to subsequent generations. Kosciuszko was a modern man as we understand the term. He rejected a number of customs, striving for simplicity instead and he never gave up on such noble virtues as honour, loyalty, and ethical values. He developed his own freedom-centric philosophy of life.



Portrait of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, anonymous artist (1789-1792), oil on canvas, in the collection of Polish Army Museum.



Statue of Kosciuszko in Cracow, photograph by Piotr Hapanowicz.



Will of Thaddeus Kosciuszko dated 2 April 1817, manuscript, from the collection of the Kosciuszko, Museum in Solothurn, Switzerland.



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In 1794, Kosciuszko inspired Poles to take up armed resistance and showed them that the country could be restored and that the shame of partitions could be washed away only through fighting. Subsequent generations of Poles fought for the independence of Poland: in the November Uprising (1830–1831), Cracow Uprising (1846), Spring of Nations (1848), January Uprising (1863–1864), and during the Great War (1914–1918). After one hundred and twenty-three years of bondage, in 1918 an independent state of Poland. Kosciuszko devoted his life to the idea of freedom and independence and the price he paid was high. He never fully recovered after he was wounded on the battlefield and imprisoned by the Russians, he did not have a chance to enjoy marriage and

family life, he had no home, except for his childhood one, and he was to die in exile. Kosciuszko's death became only the beginning of his life in history and people's memory. The fact that the greatest writers of the times, for example Lord George Byron, John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Wolcot, Leight Hunt, Thomas Campbell and Adam Mickiewicz, devoted their works to Kosciuszko proves how respected he became. He was greatly admired by the Scottish writer, Jane Porter, whose novel, *Thaddeus of Warsaw*, was hugely popular in the first half of the 19th century in the United States. Themes related to Kosciuszko were very popular in various fields of art.



Procession with Soil from Raclawice onto their Way to Kosciuszko Mound in Cracow, painted by Teodor Baltazar Stachowicz (1859), oil painting, in the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków.



View on Kosciuszko Mound in Cracow, contemporary photograph.



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After his death, Kosciuszko was to become an object of cult. In less than six months after the Commander had died, on 11 April 1818 Antoni Prince Jabłonowski brought Kosciuszko's remains from Solothurn in Switzerland back to Polish soil – to Cracow. On 23 June 1818, a coffin with the heroes' remains was buried in St Leonard's crypt at Cracow's Wawel Cathedral. Poles commemorated Kosciuszko in a special way in Cracow: in the years 1820–1823 they erected a mound that was over 30 metres high.

The Kosciuszko Mound became an 'eternal sign' of Polish national identity. A Polish traveller, Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, named the highest mountain of Australia he discovered Mount Kosciuszko. His statues can be found in Poland (e.g. in Cracow, Łódź, Warsaw), in the United States (e.g. in Washington D.C., Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland) and in Switzerland (Solothurn). New York has the Kosciuszko Bridge, the name given to the two bridges that span Newtown Creek between the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.



Statue of Kosciuszko in Washington, D.C.
photograph by Feliks Molski.



Statue of Kosciuszko in Philadelphia,
photograph by Feliks Molski.



View on Mount Kosciuszko in Australia,
photograph by Andrzej Kozek.