

Jewish insurgents form the first Jewish cavalry since biblical times, and fight in Kosciuszko's Army. Later Kosciuszko is wounded in battle and captured by the Russians. Armed Polish resistance to Russia and Prussia ends.

Following the death of Empress Catherine the Great in 1796, her son and successor Emperor Paul agrees to release all Polish soldiers, if they agree to no longer fight against Russia. Kosciuszko is released.

**In 1798** Kosciuszko returns to America, he meets with military comrades and friends including Thomas Jefferson. He writes His "American Will" authorizing Thomas Jefferson to **"employ the whole thereof in purchasing Negroes from among his own or any others and giving them Liberty in my name, in giving them an education in trades or otherwise and in having them instructed for their new condition,.... to be good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives, and in their duties to be citizens teaching them to be defenders of their Liberty and Country."**

Returning from America, Kosciuszko spends the rest of his life in exile. He dies in Switzerland in 1817.

His body rests in a crypt in Wawel Cathedral in Krakow. His heart rests in a chapel in the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

Monuments to Kosciuszko began shortly after his death, starting with the 100 ft. high Kosciuszko Mound in Krakow, built by grateful Poles, who brought soil from areas around Poland, and from battlefields where he fought in Poland and America.

Kosciuszko Mound - Krakow, Poland



Milwaukee dedicates a monument to Kosciuszko in 1905



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# Celebrating Kosciuszko

*Thaddeus Kosciuszko*  
*1746-1817*



Painting "Kosciuszko at West Point"  
By Boleslaw Jan Czedekowski, 1885-1969

**Born 1746** in Mereczowiszczyna Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Now Belarus) He was the son of a minor nobleman.

Educated at the “Knight’s School” Military Academy in Warsaw. Followed by 5 years of study in France covering mathematics, military engineering, artillery, and liberal arts subjects including literature, philosophy, history, and ethics.

He later wrote, “**During the five years of my life I spent in foreign countries, I have endeavored to master those arts which pertain to a solid government, aiming at the happiness of all, also economics and military art; I earnestly tried to learn this inasmuch as I had a natural passion for these things.**”

**August 1776:** Kosciuszko arrives in Philadelphia offering his skills to the American Independence cause.

**September 1776:** Kosciuszko is hired as a civilian engineer to fortify the approaches to Philadelphia on the Delaware River and the city of Philadelphia itself against British attack.

**October 1776:** Kosciuszko’s engineering skills impress the Americans. It earns him a commission as a Colonel of Engineers in the Continental Army. His first assignment in the Continental Army takes him to Fort Mifflin, New York, where his advice on how and where to construct defenses is ignored. The British win the battle, and capture the fort.

**September 1777:** The British Army under General Burgoyne moving south from Canada is stopped at the momentous Battle of Saratoga.

This is in large part due to Kosciuszko’s strategically designed fortifications. At Saratoga, Burgoyne’s army is forced to surrender. This battle convinces France and Spain that the Americans can win, and they declare war against England.

**March 1778:** Kosciuszko arrives at West Point, New York, and spends 2 years designing and building fortifications. These fortifications block the British from moving down the Hudson River and splitting New England from the mid-Atlantic and Southern States. To relax, he plants a garden. Today a garden is maintained in his honor on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy.

**In 1780** Kosciuszko becomes Chief Engineer under General Nathanael Greene, in the Southern Campaign. The English surrender at Yorktown in Oct. 1781. The Treaty of Paris is signed in 1783, ending the war.

Thomas Jefferson and Kosciuszko meet several times during the course of the war and become lifelong friends. Jefferson calls Kosciuszko “The Purest Son of Liberty, that I have ever known.”

A grateful Congress and General Washington promote Kosciuszko to Brigadier General and grant him American citizenship.

**In 1784** Kosciuszko returns to Poland.

**In 1789,** Poland commissions Kosciuszko as a Major General in a last ditch attempt to strengthen its army and fend off foreign intrusions and domination.

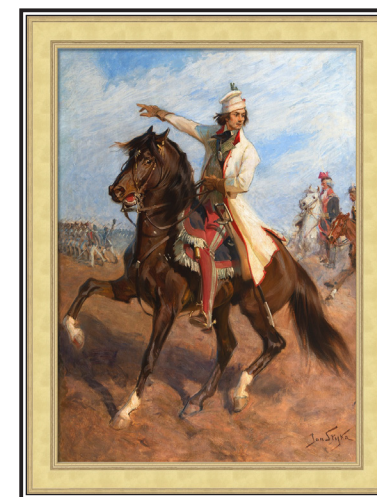
Poland adopts the first constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791.

**May 1792:** Russia invades Poland, beginning the Polish - Russian War of 1792. Poland is outmanned 3:1. Later, the King of Poland orders Poland to cease hostilities against Russia, abandoning its independence, for a supposed peace.

**January 1793:** Russia and Prussia sign the Second Partition of Poland.

**March 1794:** Polish insurgents appoint Kosciuszko Commander-in-Chief of a newly formed army to fight the Russians. Kosciuszko vows “**not to use these powers to oppress any person, but to defend the integrity of the borders of Poland, regain the independence of the nation, and to strengthen universal liberties.**”

Poland’s peasants rally to the cause of freedom, and defeat the Russians in the Battle of Raclawice near Krakow.



Painting “Kosciuszko at the Battle of Raclawice”  
By Jan Styka, 1858-1925