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THE EASTERN FRONTIER OF POLAND

The Disputed Area and its People

The territory now in dispute between the Governments of Poland and the U.S.S.R. may be designated generally as Eastern Galicia and a part of White Russia. The area is approximately 69,000 square miles and the population in 1939 was somewhere in the neighbourhood of ten and a half million. The following population statistics, which are of Polish origin and should be treated with caution, are based on language and give a general idea of the ethnographic character of the areas.

Areas Included in Poland, 1920-39,  
Situating East of the Curzon line.

		Polish	Russian, White Russian or Ukrainian	Jewish
E. Galicia	1921	1,525,000	2,321,000	281,000
	1931	1,860,000	2,565,000	343,000
White Russian Areas	1921	1,284,000	2,112,000	353,000
	1931	2,010,000	3,166,000	555,000
Totals	1921	2,809,000	4,433,000	634,000
	1931	3,870,000	5,731,000	896,000

The parts of White Russia included in Poland in 1921 are a westward extension of White Russian areas which, since the Revolution, have formed one of the Soviet Republics. The White Russians themselves are a Slav group related both to the Russians and the Poles but with language affinities closer to Russian than to Polish. For the most part the White Russians are peasants and no important middle class or intellectual groups have developed amongst them.

From the middle ages until the partitions of the 18th century, the western parts of White Russia were possessions of the Polish Crown, to which they were added through the personal and later constitutional union of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy and the Polish Kingdom. During this period the land-owners were for the greater part Polonized, and the trading