

The coronation of Bolesław Chrobry

The year 2025 marks the thousandth anniversary of the coronation of Poland's first king, Bolesław Chrobry. He was born in 967 as the son of Mieszko I and Dobrawa. He succeeded his father in 992 and was crowned king of Poland in 1025. He died the same year.

Upon taking power from Mieszko I, Bolesław Chrobry had to get rid of his half-brothers and their mother to strengthen his position as ruler, so he exiled them from the country. In 996, Wojciech, the Bishop of Prague, exiled by the Czechs, appeared at Bolesław Chrobry's court. Arriving in Poland, he planned to organize a Christianization mission to the land of the pagan Prussians. During this mission, he was murdered. His body was later redeemed by Bolesław Chrobry and buried in Gniezno Cathedral. Upon hearing of his friend's death, Otto III made a pilgrimage to his grave. This imperial visit in March 1000, known as the Congress of Gniezno, also had a political dimension, as it was linked to the idea of creating a united Christian Europe. Bolesław Chrobry gained the imperial respect and friendship thanks to the magnificent reception given to Otto III, which allowed him to consider the royal crown. However, the most important achievement of the Congress of Gniezno was the establishment of a Polish ecclesiastical metropolis, which demonstrated Poland's growing importance among the states of Europe at the time. At the end of his reign, Duke Bolesław Chrobry was crowned king of Poland. The coronation took place in Gniezno Cathedral during Easter time in 1025. It had enormous moral and political significance – it testified the complete independence of the Polish rulers and their state.

