



POLISH AND CROATIAN NATIONAL SYMBOLS



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POLISH NATIONAL FLAG



The Flag of Poland consists of two horizontal stripes of equal width, the upper one white and the lower one red. The two colors are defined in the Polish constitution as the national colours.

The colors of the flag were taken from the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland, which was a white eagle on a red shield. In heraldry, white symbolizes immaculateness and honesty, while red symbolizes courage and bravery.

CROATIAN NATIONAL FLAG



Red and white is a representation of the Kingdom of Croatia, blue and white is representative of the Kingdom of Slavonia, and the color blue represents the Kingdom of Dalmatia. Yellow is also used to symbolize the Kingdom of Dalmatia but is not used in the triband design of the national flag.



POLISH NATIONAL EMBLEM



According to legend, the White Eagle emblem originated when Poland's legendary founder Lech saw a white eagle's nest. When he looked at the bird, **a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on its wings, so they appeared tipped with gold, the rest of the eagle was pure white.**

The Polish eagle wearing a crown symbolises the sovereignty and unity of the state.

CROATIAN NATIONAL EMBLEM



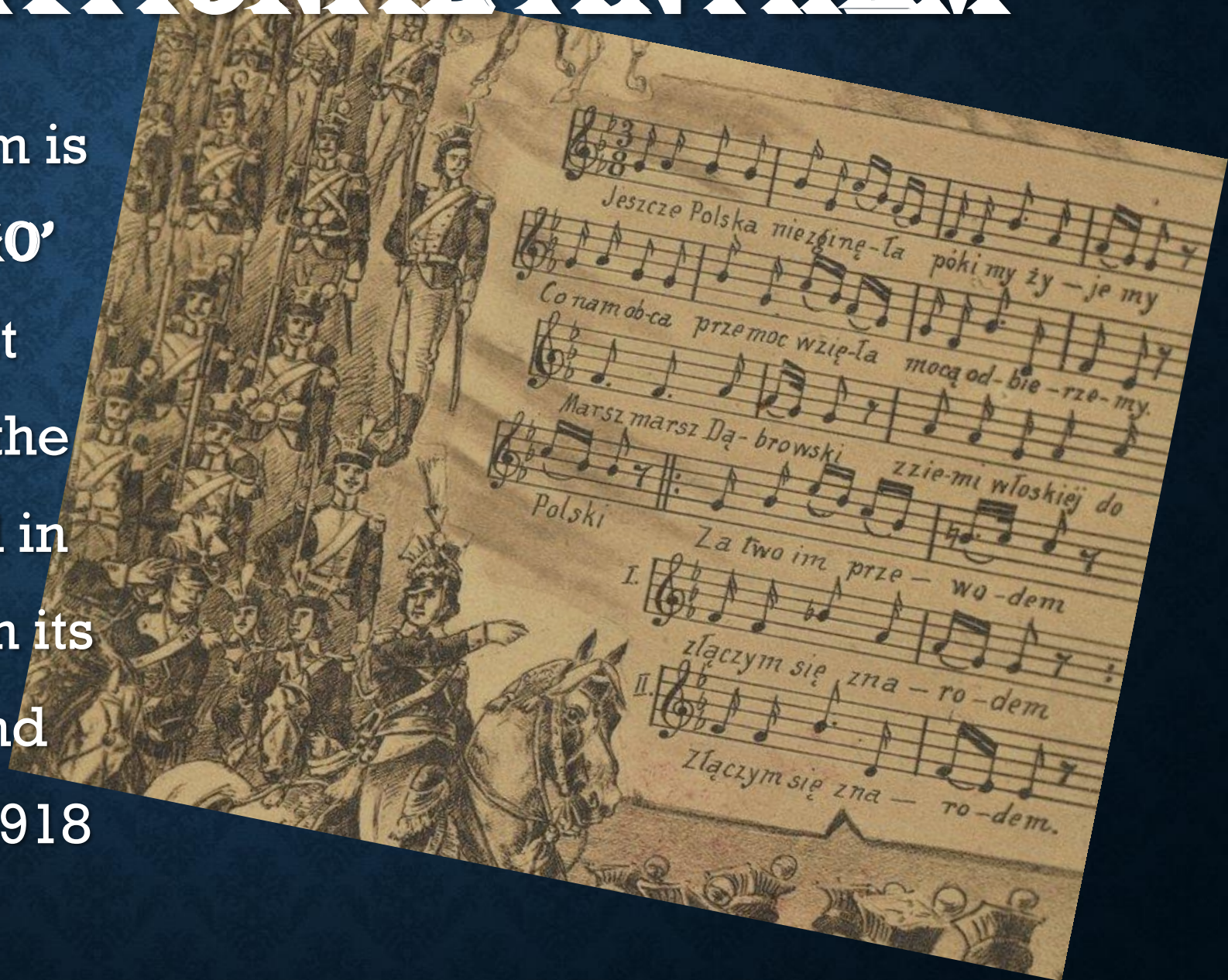
The Croatian coat of arms is found in the centre of the flag.

That coat of arms is among the most distinctive in Europe.

The five smaller shields on top of the main shield represent the five historical regions of Croatia, and the chequerboard design of the main shield is almost as famous as the nation itself. Known informally in Croatian as the šahovnica (literally “chessboard”), it is the red and white checks that define the flag and inspire so much passion (both positive and negative) throughout the region.

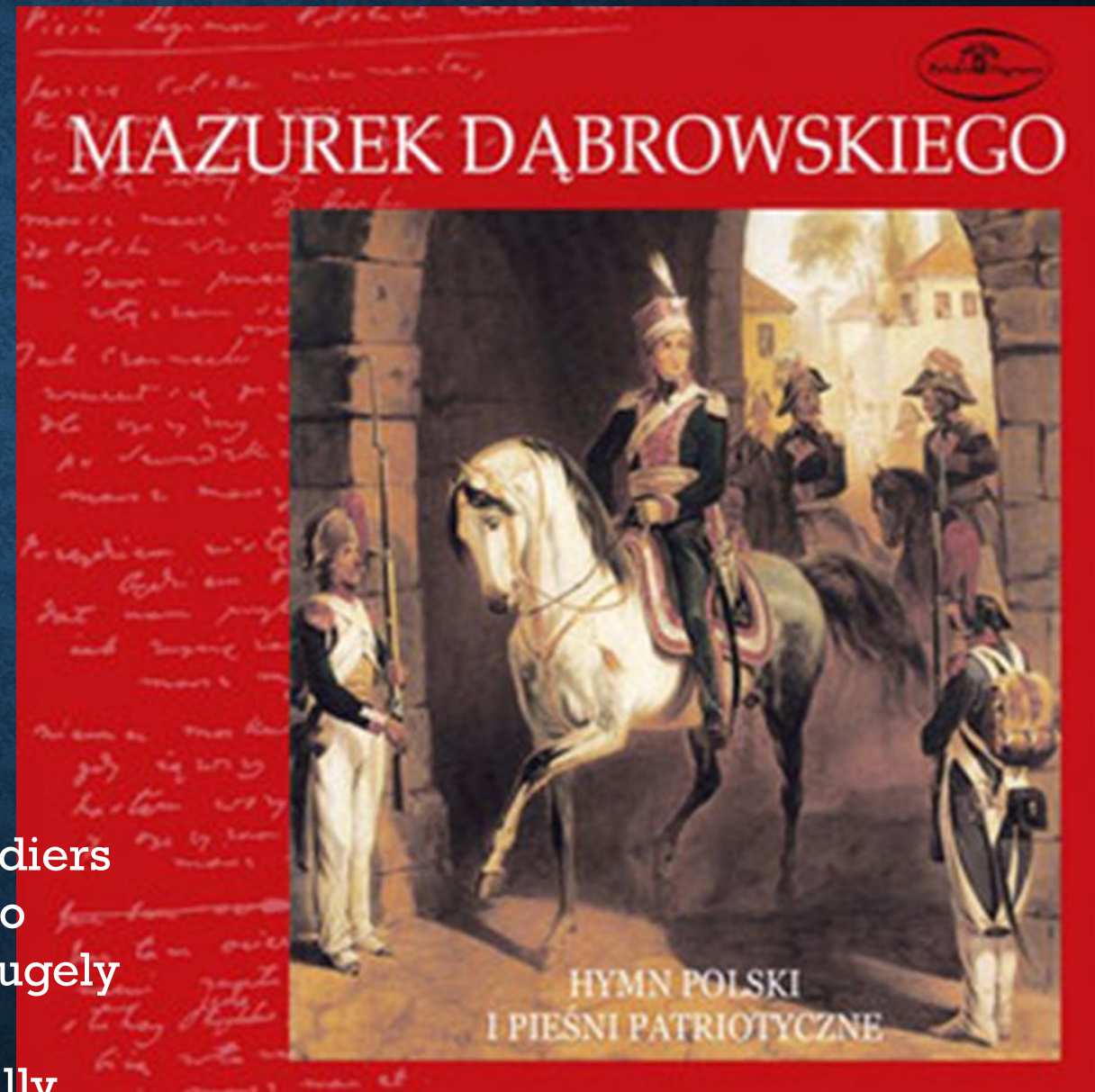
POLISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Polish national anthem is **'MAZUREK DĄBROWSKIEGO'** ('Poland Is Not Yet Lost'). It was officially adopted as the national anthem of Poland in 1926, although it had been its unofficial one since the end of the First World War in 1918





Józef Wybicki's lyrics were needed to remind the soldiers that even though the country of Poland had ceased to exist, the idea of Poland had not. It soon became a hugely popular patriotic song, and then when Poland did reappear on the map of Europe, the song was officially adopted as the national anthem in 1926.



CROATIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem of Croatia is

“Ljepa naša domovino” which

translates as “Our Beautiful Homeland”. The

anthem originates from the 19th century, and

was also used as the anthem of Croatia when

it was part of Yugoslavia. It became the

official anthem of the country of Croatia upon

independence in 1991.

