

## Kurds at the Origins of Lithuanian Statehood

A detailed substantiation of the presence of Kurds in Lithuania is given in the article "[Cimmerians](#)".

Arriving in the Baltic States from the Black Sea steppes, the Kurds settled in Lithuania and, taking control of the local tribes, established the regime of xenocracy here. The creation of the Lithuanian state is one of the examples of “import of political technologies”. The Kurds, as Cimmerians, took part in the creation of the Bosphorus state. [STETSYUK VALENTYN. 2021]. Having such political experience, they applied it among the barbarian population of the Eastern Baltic, as was the case in medieval Europe.

*It is known that as a result of self-development in early medieval Europe, not a single state arose - all of them arose, if not as a result of the seizure of Roman territory (synthesis path), then under the influence of already existing states of the Mediterranean tradition (the so-called non-synthesis path of the contact zone [SHUVALOV P.V. 2012, 278].*

It is possible to interpret the names of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania using the Kurdish language:

**Mindaugas, Mendog**, the first known Grand Duke of Lithuania and the only Christian King of Lithuania (1253–1263) – Kurd. *mend* "modest", *awqas* "so much" ("very"?);

**Treniota**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1263—1264) – Kurd. *ture* “angry”, *nêt* “thought, desire”;

**Vaišelga, Wojsielk**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1264—1267) – Kurd. *xwey* "master", *şûlq* "wave";

**Švarnas, Szwarno**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1267/1268—1269) – Kurd. *şarm* "shame", "shyness" out of \**şfarm* as the metathesis of OIr. \**şarma* "shame";

**Traidenis, Trojden**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1269—1281) – Kurd. *tureyî* “anger”, *dên* “sight”;

**Daumantas, Dovmunt**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1282—1285) – Kurd. *devam* “long”, *entam* “limb”, “stature”;

**Pukuwer**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1291—1295) – Kurd. *pevketin* “make peace, agree”, *wêran* “destroyed”;

**Vytenis, Witenes**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1295—1316) – Kurd. *wetîn* "love", "wish";

**Gediminas, Gedymin**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1316-1341) – Kurd. *hedimîn* 1. "to collapse, fall apart", 2. "perish";

**Algirdas, Olgierd**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1345-1377) – Kurd. *ol* "creed, religion", *gerd* 1. "great", 2. "great man";

**Jogaila, Jagiello**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1377-1392) and the King of Poland (1386–1434) – Kurd. *egal* "hero", *yê egal* "heroic", *lawe (lo)* "child, son";

**Kęstutis, Kiejstut**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1381-1382) – Kurd. *key* "king", and the second part of the name may come from the Indo-European root word meaning "to stand" that has disappeared from the Kurdish language (cf. Kurd. *stûn* "pillar");

**Vytauta, Witold**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1392-1430) – Kurd. *xwî* "prominent, obvious", *tawet* "strength, power";

**Švitrigaila, Świdrygiello**, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1430-1432) –  
Kurd. *swînd* "oath", *-r* – the case suffix, *egal* "hero", *lawe (lo)* "child, son".

Even the very name **Lithuania**, which does not have a satisfactory etymology, could be given by the Kurds (cf. Kurd. *lûtf, litf* "favor, mercy"). This Kurdish word is considered to be borrowed from the Arabic language. In fact, the Cimmerians should have borrowed it from Akkadian during their stay in Asia Minor. Akkadian is one of the oldest Semitic languages spoken by the Assyrians. The Baltic languages also have borrowings from Kurdish:

Lith. *balvas*, Let. *balva* "gift, bribe" – Kurd. *belwa* "temptation";

Lith. *daba* "nature, kind, way", Let. *dāba* "natural quality, habit, nature",  
Blr. *doba* "nature" – Kurd. *dab* "custom, disposition, habit", which, in turn, was borrowed from Akkadian (Ar. *tabia* "nature").

Lith. *ežeras*, Let. *ežers* "lake, pond" – Kurd. *zirē* "lake";

Lith. *galata* "deceiver" – Kurd. *galte* "joke";

Lith. *kūdikis* "child" – Kurd. *kudik* "youngling, baby";

Lith. *manga* "lewd person, prostitute" – Kurd. *mange* "cow, she buffalo";

Lith. *miškas* "forest" – Kurd. *mêşe, bêşe* "forest, grove";

Lith. *Nemunas* "Neman" – Kurd. *nem* "wet, moist", *yan* "side";

Lith. *vaisba* "trading" – Kurd. *bayi* "trading".

The presence of the Kurds in Lithuania is confirmed by the numerous place names of the country, deciphered using the Kurdish language (see the map below).



*Kurdish place names in Baltics*

Here are some examples of interpretations:

**Klaipėda** (old name Kalojpeda) – Kurd. *kala* "goods, property", *peyda, pède* "be found".

**Telšiai** - Kurd *telaš* 1. "yarn", 2. "sliver, shavings", 3. "effort".

**Šiauliai** - Kurd. *šewl* "a ray of light", "shine".

**Kadikiai** - Kurd. *kedî* "accustomed", *kaye* "game". Cf. Kadıköy in Turkey.

**Tarakonys** – Kurd. *tarî* "dark", *konî* "spring, well".

The Kurds continued their campaigns to the north. Through the territory of Latvia and Estonia, they reached the Gulf of Finland. The path of the Kurds to these places is marked by a chain of other Kurdish place names, among which the most convincing decoding is the name of the city of Izborsk in the Pskov region – Kurd *izb* "bachelor, single", *ors* "wedding". Moving on, the Kurds reached the Neva River, as evidenced by the name of the city of Gatchina (Kurd. *hacet* "tool, method") and the village of Tavry in the Koltushsky rural settlement of the Vsevolozhsk district of the Leningrad Region (Kurd.

*tawêr* "rock"). The Kurds live in close proximity with the Baltic-Finnish tribes left its mark in borrowings from Kurdish in Vepsian, Finnish Estonian and other languages.

### **Literature**

SHUVALOV P.V. 2012. Import polittekhnologiy i varvarskie gosudarstva – (*In Russian*) – Import of Political Technologies and Barbarian States//XXIV Readings in Memory of Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Vladimir Terentyevich Pashuto. Moscow April 18-20, 2012. Materials of the conference. Moscow.

STETSYUK VALENTYN 2021. [An Outline of the Ancient History of Kurds.](#)