

In 2023, Lithuania and Poland mark the anniversary of the 1863 January Uprising. The topic of freedom was the main focus of attention for its organizers. While putting war at the epicentre of the map of the world of our understanding last year, Russia's aggression against Ukraine revived the topic of uprisings, resistance to aggressors and fight for freedom. What did freedom mean back then, in 1863? How has the concept of freedom changed in the 21st century, especially in the face of Russia's war against Ukraine?

The aggression launched by Russia has internationally overshadowed the tragedy of the Belarusian society after the protests in 2020. It has also given a new meaning to the debate on allegedly meaningless resistance and has brought to mind the 1863 January Uprising, the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and other events important for the nations and states in the region.

A conference entitled 'Shift in Freedom Concepts: the Role of the 1863 January Uprising in the 21th Century' will mark the upcoming celebration of 11 March and the anniversary of the 1863 January Uprising. The Conference will build on the beautiful recent tradition of both countries of marking dates significant for Poland and Lithuania together. Timeless topical matters that are currently gaining a new meaning will be analysed based on Lithuania's and Poland's shared experience and history.

Historians, politicians, journalists and representatives of the academic community of Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine and Belarus will participate in the Conference.

CONFERENCE

SHIFT IN FREEDOM CONCEPTS: THE ROLE OF THE 1863 JANUARY UPRISING IN THE 21 ST CENTURY

9 March 2023

Constitution Hall, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (Gedimino pr. 53)

*Round table discussion by historians, politicians, journalists and representatives of the academic community of Lithuania,
Poland, Ukraine and Belarus*

PROGRAMME

12.30 Welcome speeches

Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Elżbieta Witek, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland (**video address tbc**)

12.50 Introductory speeches

Prof. Dr. habil. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Director of the Lithuanian Institute of History

13:00 Reflection on the 1863 January Uprising: What is freedom?

Prof. Dr. habil. Aleksandr Smalianchuk, Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Hrodna, Belarus

Dr Olga Mastianica, Lithuanian Institute of History

Prof. Dr. habil. Leszek Zasztowt, historian and professor at the University of Warsaw

Moderator: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aurimas Švedas**, Lithuanian Institute of History

13:45 Did the ‘meaningless’ uprisings have a meaning?

The experience gained in the 1863 January Uprising, the 1940 Uprising, the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, and the events in Belarus in 2020.

Piotr Skwiecinski, Deputy Director, Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Prof. Dr. habil. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Director of the Lithuanian Institute of History

Taras Voznyak, Head of the Borys Voznytskyi Lviv Art Gallery; Ukrainian culture expert, translator, political scientist

Marek Suski, Chair of the Committee on Energy and Treasury Affairs, Deputy Chair of the PiS faction, Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Moderator: **Vytautas Bruveris**, Editor in chief of news agency ELTA, journalist and political commentator.

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 When does ‘meaningless’ resistance gain meaning?

The importance of the war between Russia and Ukraine for the conceptual shift in approaches to freedom in the 21st century.

Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Marek Pęk, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland **(tbc)**

Michał Kamiński, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland **(tbc)**

Ambassador Petro Beshta - Ambassador of Ukraine in the Republic of Lithuania **(tbc)**

Valery Kavaleuski, representative of the United Transitional Cabinet's International, Belarus

Moderator: **Edmundas Jakilaitis**, Lithuanian television journalist, programme host, producer

16:30 Final comments

Prof. Dr. habil. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Director of the Lithuanian Institute of History

Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania