II. Key facts about Lithuanian history

Lithuanian history is very interesting and rich. This part will introduce you to the most important and most interesting facts of the history of Lithuania – from country's name being mentioned for the first time in written sources till significant events of the 21st century.

May 2004 Lithuania joined the **European Union.** http://ec.europa.eu/lietuva/abc_of_the_eu/kelias_i_es/kelias_i_lt.htm

29 May 2004 Lithuania became a **member of NATO.** http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO

11 March 1990 **Lithuanian Independence Restoration.** http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kovo_11

Lithuanian Reform Movement „Sajudis" on 22-23 October 1988.
http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos_Persitvarkymo_S%C4%85j%C5%ABdis

1944 Lithuania was occupied by **Soviet Union** again. http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos_TSR_istorija

1941 Lithuania was in **German influence zone.** http://www.genocid.lt/centras/lt/1488/a/

At the beginning of World War II **Lithuania was occupied by Soviet Union** (1940).
http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=7365&p_k=1

Restoration of the State of Lithuania – 16 February 1918.
http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lietuvos_Nepriklausomyb%C4%97s_Aktas

Lithuanian press ban period from 1864 until 1904. During this time the press was allowed only in Russian. Lithuanian books were secretly spread by the book smugglers http://www.spaudos.lt/Istorija/SD_issamiau.htm

In the 18th century there were three **Partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** conducted by Austria, Prussia and Russian Empire. They divided the Commonwealth's lands among themselves. Lithuania became a part of the Russian Empire. http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abiej%C5%B3_Taut%C5%B3_Respublikos_padalijimai

3 May 1791 adoption of the first in Europe and the second in the world after the United States **written Constitution**. This Constitution was the main law of the **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.**
http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gegu%C5%BE%C4%97s_tre%C4%8Diosios_Konstitucija

1765-1775 the first Lithuanian poem "METAI" ("The Seasons") was published. The author Kristijonas Donelaitis is considered to be **the pioneer of Lithuanian literature.** http://www.donelaitis.info/

Vilnius University was founded in 1579. http://www.vu.lt/lt/apiemus/istorija

The first printed book in Lithuanian language. Martynas Mažvydas "Katekizmas" ("Catechism") published in Königsberg in 1579. http://www.šaltiniai.info/index/details/861

1 July 1569 the Union of Lublin was signed. **Lithuania and Poland were joined together**. The compound of two countries was named the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It existed until 1795. http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liublino_unija

In 1410 Lithuania has achieved a victory in one of the largest medieval **Battle of Grunwald.**
http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%BDalgirio_m%C5%AB%C5%A1is

In 1529 the **first Lithuanian Statute** was released. Later the sesond and the third Statues were released in 1566 and 1588. These three Statutes formed the basis of the legal system of the Grand Duchy.
http://alka.mch.mii.lt/valstybe/statutai/trumpa.lt.htm

The governance of duke **Vytautas the Great** (1392-1430) was significant in the way that Lithuania's territory was the largest in the state's history from the Baltic to the Black Sea http://www.vilnijosvartai.lt/personalities/view/?id=216

In 1387 **Lithuania was baptized** and changed from a pagan to a christian country. Zemaitija was baptized later in 1413 http://www.istorikas.lt/konspektai/krevos-sutartis-lietuvos-krikstas/

In the 13th century the Baltic tribes formed the nucleus of the **Lithuanian state**. It **became a state** during the reigning of King Mindaugas, who was crowned on 6 July 1253. King Mindaugas is considered to be a founder of the Lithuanian state. http://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mindaugas

The name of Lithuania **first mentioned in 1009** in written sources http://www.trysmilijonai.lt/temos/istorija/kas-ivyko-1009-aisiais-1119.html