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Poland's eastern frontiers – the borderland of various cultures

Poland's eastern frontiers constitute a borderland where one can observe the clash of Latin and Greek Orthodox cultures and the influence of the ancient cultures of the Baltic peoples which existed there in the past. In the course of history, the changing lot of the inhabitants of those areas was shaped by the frequently shifting political borders, as a result of which there arose different forms of economy and of cultural, ethnic and religious awareness. The border between the two disparate areas within the European civilization was essentially established already in the middle of the 11th century, although there have been later significant changes in the shape of this border, largely dependent on the changes of political frontiers, wars, invasions, demographic changes, displacement, and purposeful interventions in the religious sphere causing specific social effects.