SSUNS 2017: Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic Wars

**Committee Description:**

Witam!

In the year 1401, the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania have just ended the bloodshed between their two lands. They have proclaimed peace through the pact of Vilnius and Radom (1401). Not only has the war ended, but the personal union has been restored in which both the Kingdom of Poland and the Grandy Duchy of Lithuania are to be ruled by one King, Wladyslaw II Jagellio (aka Jogaila). The personal union dates back from the year 1385, where the two countries first signed the union of Krewo uniting both lands into one United Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania. Now that the war has ended, an old enemy still threatens their newly joined border; The Knights of the Teutonic Order. Like the monastic orders of the Holy Land, the Knights of the Teutonic Order were tasked to establish a Catholic crusader state in Eastern Europe in the 13th century. They were specifically tasked to wage wars against the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to convert the Pagan Duchy into Catholicism. Since then, the Teutonic Order has been a constant threat. Located along the Baltic regions in Eastern-Central Europe, it has become a menace that has waged non-religious orientated wars against both the Catholic Kingdom of Poland and the newly Catholicized Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Now that the two lands have been united into one Catholic Kingdom, one task remains to be fulfilled: the banishment of the Teutonic Knights from Eastern Europe. The newly assembled Crown Council of Poland and Lithuania, headed by King Wladyslaw II of Poland and his cousin Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania have been given an opportunity to do just that. The threats to this United Kingdom are numerous. Not only is there a constant Teutonic threat, but the Kingdom of Hungary headed by the Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund has always proved to a constant threat. Internally, this kingdom faces ethnic tension because of the mix of Lithuanian and Polish peoples who still have the memories of war between their two lands. The idea of a union is not the most popular in all corners of the Kingdom’s realm. Additionally, religious tensions still exist between the Catholic and Orthodox people of the Kingdom which even cut through ethnic lines. With dangers at every corner, King Wladyslaw has been given the role of leading this united council, where the council is to combat against all potential dangers surrounding the Kingdom and finally put an end to the menace that is the Teutonic Knights. With this feat, the Kingdom has the potential of establishing itself as a regional hegemon for the first time ever. The task is up to you now - will you rewrite history? Will this United Kingdom fall like others have in the past, or will you lead this country into a new age of Polish-Lithuanian regional dominance? The choice is yours. DLA POLSKA I LITWA!