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German Occupation

Ostland

The German occupation of the Baltic states, portions of Eastern Poland, and White Russia (Belarus) in 1941 created the German Reichskommissariat Ostland, or the Reich Commissariat of the Eastern Land.

This territory, after an initial period of military occupation, was that of a civil administration, nominally under the authority of the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories. The main political objectives, which the ministry laid out in the framework of National Socialist policies for the East, were the complete annihilation of the Jewish population, the settlement of ethnic Germans in the territory, and the expulsion of the native population.

Throughout 1943 and 1944, the Soviet army gradually recaptured most of the territory, in their advance on Germany, but Wehrmacht forces held out in the Courland Area. With the end of the war in Europe, the Reichskommissariat ceased to exist completely, and these occupied states again became part of the Soviet Union.






After November 1941, German stamps, overprinted "OSTLAND" were used in the territory. The set is shown in the scan above.

The same booklets and booklet panes made for the regular German postage stamps of this issue also exist with the "OSTLAND" overprint.

[Return to German Occupation Stamps from Ostland](#)

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