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## **Lithuania: land of sorrow and misery. [1914-1918]**

Chicago: Chicago Central Committee for the Relief of the  
Lithuanian War Sufferers, [1914-1918]

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**Lithuania**

**Land of Sorrow  
and Misery**

No nation today is suffering as great misery, as great want, as great destitution as the Lithuanian.

Nowhere has the present European cataclysm left such rampant desolation, such untold distress, such severe calamity.

About four million of Lithuanians, the oldest and purest Aryan race, dwelling along the shores of the Baltic sea, from Memel, in Prussia, to Riga in Russia—and from the Baltic eastward to Vilna, their old historic capital, are practically without shelter, food, and the most primitive necessities.

The greater number of the Lithuanian cities and villages are razed. Sections where once rich fields and prosperous farms were supporting a peaceful and industrious Lithuanian nation—are today a mass of ruin and desolation.

Although neutral and absolutely unguilty Lithuania has borne and is bearing the heaviest burden in the fearful struggle of two giant nations. Her men have unwillingly been forced into both the German and Russian armies.

The first shot of the war was fired in Shirvinta, Lithuania. It was in Lithuania that the German field marshal, von Hindenburg, struck the heaviest blow upon the Russians. Vast Russian and German armies have crossed and recrossed Lithuania four times, fiercely struggling with each other requisitioning, destroying and devastating the entire country.

Practically all children up to five years are dead from lack of food and care.

The starving population which is left is being fearfully decimated by disease and epidemic.

## ***Urgent help is needed to save the remainder of the Lithuanians.***

The Russian and German governments for the purpose of assimilation have so jealously kept Lithuania in the background that the country has neither appeared in print nor on maps.

That is why Lithuania is known so little and why Lithuanians are being taken for Germans, Russians or Poles, although they do not belong either to the Slavic nor German race, but constitute a distinct Baltic race, different in language and customs.

Up to the present time none have extended a helping hand toward desolated Lithuania, while unfortunate Belgium, Poland, and other nations have been succored.

President Wilson has set aside November 1, 1916, as "Lithuanian Day", and the council of the city of Chicago for that date has issued a permit for "Tag Day" to be devoted to the solicitation of contributions for the Lithuanian war sufferers.

In her agony, hungry and destitute Lithuania appeals to peaceful and generous America.

Will you not extend to your less fortunate brother across the sea American sympathy, American courage and American appreciation of his distress?

Checks should be made payable to The Central Committee for the Relief of the Lithuanian War Sufferers, and forwarded to the State Bank of Chicago, Depository for the funds collected in and around Chicago.

All contributions will be forwarded at once to Lithuania through the American Red Cross Society, Washington, D. C.

**Chicago Central Committee**  
for the  
**Relief of the Lithuanian**  
**War Sufferers**

**1109 Stock Exchange Bldg.**

**Tel. Franklin 1178**

**Chicago**