Nowa Sól District is located in the middle of the Odra river basin in the southern part of the Lubuskie Province. The crux of the geographical landscape is the river Oder, which divides the area of the district into two parts. The western part of the area lies within Nowa Sól depressions; to the north-western reaches of Zielona Góra; to the south adjacent to the Dalkowskich Hills. The eastern areas of the county include the forest area between the valley of the Oder and the Lake District Slawskim.

The lands of the current Nowa Sól County is entirely located within the historic Lower Silesia and its history has been associated and linked with the past.

The earliest traces of settlement in this area date back to the Stone Age (Paleolithic – 10-12,000 years ago). Traces of camps from the middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) are represented by the discovery of stone tools in this region, while the discovery of tools and pottery fragments in (modern) Bytom Odrzańskie Lasocinie, New Żabno, Studzieniec, and Solnikach confirm the existence of compact settlement in the final period of the Stone Age (Neolithic - 2500 to 1700 BC). Additionally, in the Bronze Age (1700 - 700 BC) the area of the district of Nowa Sól was a significantly inhabited area, confirmed by findings related to the so-called unietycka culture (Bytom Odrzański, Solniki, Nieciecz, Nowa Sól ... i.e. unietycka culture is an archaeological culture of the early Bronze Age). The last millennium before the birth of Christ establishes the presence of the Lusatian culture, whose formation is attributed to pre-Slavic population (1200 - 1300 BC). The development of this culture has coincided with the Iron Age and from this period rose a number of settlements represented mainly by vast cemetery discoveries. Their eventual collapse of the Lusatian culture probably was caused by raids by Iranian Scythians (7th - 6th century BC), who ravaged the lands of Silesia. In this area, immediately after the Scythian raids, began the influences of the Pomeranian culture, known by their box-culture graves - graves of those discovered in Kożuchów, Nowa Sól, Sokolow, Nowe Miasteczko (New Town), Polish Borowie, Lasocinie, Słocinie and Broniszowie. The Celtic influences Period (250 BC - the beginning of the present era) is represented in this area by the discoveries of brown treasures in Siedliski and Kożuchów and burial sites in Golaszyń, New Villages (Nowego Miasteczka) and Old Żabno (Starego Żabna). In the first centuries of the present era, people living in the Oder and Vistula river basin remained in wide trade contact with the Roman Empire. From this period settlement in Old Żabno, Zielona Gora, and nearby communities, were found treasures of Roman coins. The fall of the Roman Empire at the end of the 5th century was associated with large ethnic changes in Europe. They spared no lands on the Odra, which attracted new waves of Slavic people. It is probable that the Slavic people created in the late 5th century the village in Drogomilu, and certainly in the 7th and 8th century the castle in Popęszycach. In the 8th century, the castle fortification in Solnikach was built, which functioned for several centuries (the latest findings suggest the city prospered even in the 12th century).

The early history of this area is extremely vague. Here clashed the three organisms of influence: the state of Germany, the Czech state, and the Polish State. In light of modern research, it can be assumed that some land areas (on the left bank of the Oder), current Nowa Sól county, was included in the tribal territories of Dziadoszans who, according to the so-called Bavarian geographer had 20 castles (9th century - Solniki, probably Kożuchów). The area on the right bank of the river was inhabited by other tribes, probably by the Central Obrzańskie (contractual term for a small tribal group of unknown original name).

At the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries, this area was probably under the control of the state of Great Moravia. In the mid-10th century Silesia wielded power over the Czechs. The borders of the early Piast monarchy were found only after the year 990. Probably during the struggle for land, most
During the reign of the first Piasts, the lands became the scene of violent Polish-German conflicts: Boleslaw the Brave’s war with Emperor Henry II (1002 - 1018) ... and Boleslaw the Wrymouthed with Emperor Henry V (in these struggles, the towns of Bytom Odrzanskie and Glogów played an important role – primarily in year 1109). After the death of Mieszko II and the invasion of Silesia by the Czechs these towns again came under their dominion. About year 1050, a quarter of this region was regained by Casimir the Restorer.

In 1138, a period of disintegration began in Poland, according to the testament of Boleslaw the Wrymouthed. The hereditary senior Władysław II received the district of Silesia. After his exile from the country, Boleslaw the Curly took over as the supreme power. In the case of the exiled senior, emperor Frederick Barbarossa intervened, which forced the return of Bolesław Curly’s Silesia to Władysław, and after his death, to his sons (during the invasion of the imperial army in 1157, the Poles burned the towns of Bytom Odrzanskie and Glogów).

The sons of Władysław took over the borders of Silesia in 1146. Shortly thereafter the first division of the district occurred. The lands of the middle Oder fell to Boleslaw the High. After his death (1201), his son Henry the Bearded (1201-1238) took over its government and simultaneously tried to acquire other Polish lands into his hands. During his reign Silesia underwent a period of vigorous economic growth, mainly due to shares acquired by acts of colonization. A number of villages in the district Nowa Sól were created by this action and, for example, in the area Solnik, about 1220, a new parish was formed.

Death of Henry the Bearded’s successor, Henry the Pious, in the region of Legnica (1241), the growing fragmentation of the feudal period was launched in Silesia. During this period, Silesia was divided into Castellans, being the territorial districts of the country’s administrative board. The available castellans seat sources included: Bytom Odrzańskie, Głogów, Tarnów Jeziory, and Kożuchów. At the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries, a new administrative unit was formed - districts - which replaced the existing castellan organization. At the head of the district stood the new prince – land mayor, who had broad judicial powers.

Henry the Pious left five sons. Initially, the oldest brother Boleslaw Rogatka took over, but the younger brothers soon reclaimed their share of the patrimony. A subsequent war between brothers divided the territory of Silesia. As a result of these divisions a separate principality of Glogów (1251) was formed. Its ruler was Konrad I. Since then, the fate of the lands of the present district was connected with the history of this principality.

The first prince of Glogów continued the policy of his predecessors of colonization: new villages were founded and he supported the development of cities. During his reign Glogów and Kożuchów realized legal translocations (the cities received new privileges based on the Magdeburg law).
After the death of Konrad I of Głogów (1273) there was a brief split the duchy. However, successive rulers tried to maintain the unity of the district. One of them was Henry III of Głogów, who was involved in the struggle for the unification of the Polish lands. Defeated by Wenceslas II, and later by Władysław the Short, he had to resign from the Polish crown. However, in the course of the struggle he expanded his property of Wielkopolska (Greater Poland). After Henry's death (1309), his sons were unable to maintain earlier gains (in 1314 Władysław the Short received Wielkopolska (Greater Poland)), and there was a subdivision of the Duchies (separation of duchies of Żagań and Ścinawa). Fragmentation of Silesia was the handiwork of Czech king John of Luxemburg, who in turn received tributes from the vassal princes of Silesia. In 1331, Głogów became part of the Czech crown. The attempt to throw off the dependence on Czechs' was undertaken by Głogów's Henry V, who beat back from the hands of the Czech the capital of the duchy (1342). The conflict of Głogów with the Luxembourg Prince was used by the Polish king Casimir the Great, who in 1343 sent troops against Henry V. The result of this war was the detachment of eastern Głogów and, consequently, weakening its position in the game with the Czechs, who were forced to make homage. In 1360, the principality of Głogów was split between Prince Henry V and Charles IV. Henry has retained half of Głogów, Bytom Odrzański, Żagań, and half of Ścinawa and the mountains. In his honor, the emperor gave in fief the principality of Świdnica and several families of knights. Taken at the time, the decisions were very complicated due to the relations of the principality, the division into two cities slowed their development and led to numerous conflicts (the subject of disputes included the meadows, mills, ponds – a long arduous processes, mainly because party to these conflicts were local nobility and knighthood, who had good grants and title of liens).

Conducted by the Silesian princes, managing their lands entailed an influx of colonists, mostly German, who in a short time become the dominant force in the cities, and sometimes also in the countryside. With the influx of the German population (peasants and townspeople), which in Silesia was a favorable settlement term, there are also the German knights. The first arrivals came mainly from poor
families of knights, who were looking for opportunities to enrich themselves in Silesia. Immigration of the duchy also occurred in the early 18th century. Immigration of the duchy also occurred in the early 18th century.

In 1741, the order of the Habsburg rule was transformed into a Kingdom of Silesia. First World War. In 1741, the order of the Habsburg rule was transformed into a Kingdom of Silesia. First World War. In 1741, the order of the Habsburg rule was transformed into a Kingdom of Silesia. First World War. In 1741, the order of the Habsburg rule was transformed into a Kingdom of Silesia. First World War.

After the death of Henry V (1369) the governing of the principality was taken over by his sons - Henry VI the Elder, Henry VII Rumpbold, and Henry VIII Wróbel, who made patrimonial divisions. Division of the lands of the duchy also occurred in the early 15th century - the principality Żagań to John I and Głogów to Henry IX. The latter, in spite of its division as the capital Głogów, resided continuously in Kożuchów, which served as the unofficial capital of the duchy.

In 1476 died the last ruler of the Piast line of Głogów, Henry XI. After his death there was a devastating war on the lands of the duchy. Family relationships, wills, and advanced political systems meant that the battle was joined by Żagań Duke John II, Elector of Brandenburg Albrecht, and the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus. In 1477, the authority over most of the conquered principality lands fell to Żagań's John II. But already in 1488 as a result of losing the war against Matthias Corvinus, he lost the principality. In the years 1489-1490 it belonged to his son Matthias, John Corvinus. In 1491, Jagiellończyk took authority over the principality. Władysław Jagiellończyk, king of Bohemia, positioned his brother John Albert in Głogów. After him, the youngest of the Jagiellonian dynasty, Zygmunt (1499) took over the government in the Duchy, who in 1504 received the title of governor of Silesia. Residing in Głogów, Zygmunt conducted many reforms in the principality: suppressed piracy, reformed the judiciary, carried out monetary reform, and redeveloped failed agriculture. In 1506, after the death of his brother Alexander, Sigismund became King of Poland, and the principality Głogów again returned to the Czechs. In 1526, after the death of Czech king Ludwika Jagiellończyka in the Battle of Mohács, Silesia and the Czechs came under Habsburg rule.

The boundaries of the territorial principality of Głogów formed in the late 15th century, survived without major changes to the 18th century. But there have been changes in the principality. Apart from small knight properties (witness the scale of its divisions including the village in two or three separate lands – e.g. Mirocin, Styjulów, Podbrzezie, Borów, Popezyce) it formed a great family property. At the beginning of the 16th century, the property was titled to Rechenbergow, actually Hans von Rechenberg, who additionally possessed the hamlet of Sława, Bytom Odrzański, as well as new towns of Otyń, Kożuchów (a pledge), and a dozen surrounding villages. After his death in 1537, the property was divided among family members who founded the lateral lines of families (Otyń, Borów, Sława, Siedlisko-Bytom). In the early 17th century, when the local lines of these estates families became extinct the property was obtained by other noble families and the Jesuit order. Already in 1561 part of the property of Rechenbergów (Siedlisko and Bytom) was purchased by Fabian von Schönaich. His successor Georg von Schönaich expanded the family estate to another property, which in the early 18th century, was given the status of a major landholding, and by end of the century Schönaich transformed their estate into Siedlisko - Bytom (Carolath - Beuthen). Free “kingdom states” were knightly estates complexes which, by special privileges are excluded from the jurisdiction of local authorities and their owners as vassals of the emperor or directly subject to their power. In 1741, Schönaichów obtained the status of a small state principality, which survived to the First World War.
During the time of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) lands of the duchy hosted long-term struggles of war. Troop incursions, accompanied by looting, fires and epidemics have led to the destruction of huge tracts of the duchy. During the war the cities suffered ... particularly Kożuchów, Nowe Miasteczko (New Town), Nowa Sól, Otyń, and Bytom Odrzański. After the war, many locations in this region could not recover from this conflict.

From the middle Ages onward, the territory of Silesia saw an influx of ethnic Germans and a simultaneous outflow of the indigenous population of Poland (Polish descendants) which meant that, after the Thirty Years’ War, the ethnic population of the lands of the Oder underwent significant changes. Lands on the left bank of the Oder were inhabited primarily by the Germans. Poles were a minority, concentrated in small enclaves - in the late 17th century these villages were Bobrowniki and Niedoradz. On the right bank of the Oder, the Polish population lived in the vicinity Kolska and Konotopu. In the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, however, these villages have lost their Polish character (re-influx of people of Polish descent into the area took place in the second half of the 19th century - seasonal work at the beginning of the 20th century – and small Polish settlements, mainly in border areas).

As a result of the victory over Austria in 1740, Silesia was acquired by Prussian king Frederick II. The two Silesian wars have failed to challenge the domination of Prussia over this area. Prussian authorities carried out new areas of administrative reform. They abolished the traditional division of the duchy of Silesia and created two departments. The military-dominated department in Głogów took the territories of former principalities Głogów, Żagań, Legnica, state of Wołów and two member states. That Department consisted of 16 newly formed districts, which replaced the medieval city precincts. To the area of the current county of Nowa Sól the districts that were annexed were Kożuchów, Głogów, and Zielona Góra.

During the Napoleonic campaigns in Silesia (1806-1813), the region was traversed by the French, Prussian and Russian armies. Major battles did not occur in the area, however, forced contributions and requisitions seriously impacted the economic condition of the region. In the years 1815-1820 a new administrative division of Prussia was established. The state was divided into provinces, regency, districts, counties, and municipality and village units. The lands of the modern county of Nowa Sól were in the province of Lower Silesia, Legnica regency - within its borders the districts of Kożuchów, Głogów, Zielona Góra and Miłaków. This state survived with minor changes until 1938, when changes were made to the county boundaries of Głogów and Kożuchów (Nowogród Bobrzański included).
After the German reunification (1871), this area was on the periphery of the new German state. The role it played in the State of Lower Silesia in Prussia declined rapidly due to dynamically developing western provinces. The result was the outflow of population and changes in the economic structure of cities (after 1850, private property was abolished in cities). Old urban centers (Kożuchów, New Town (Nowe Miasteczko), Bytom Odrzański), due to changes in the ways of production, experienced a period of stagnation and impoverishment. Craft-based economy of these cities could not withstand the competition from rapidly developing industrial centers - Nowa Sól, Głogów, and Zielona Góra. In the mid-19th century many changes occurred in the villages. As a result of decreased enfranchisement processes on the lands of noble estates (lowering their surface area), arose a new class of ownership by the peasant (farmstead). Parts of the noble properties were parceled out, in others, large-scale modernization was carried out (construction of new farms specializing in breeding and cultivation, establishment of distilleries, breweries), but such actions were only undertaken by wealthier owners such Schönaich of Siedliska, who established on their lands several new estates - Karlsberg, Katherinenhof.

After Hitler took power in Germany the district began preparing for a war with Poland. A system of solid fortifications was built on the left bank of the Oder River. The work also included fortification sites on the right bank of river as well. Since 1937, a fight against Slavic and Polish culture of these lands began, the German authorities carried out the renaming of place names (e.g. Królikowice → Krolkwitz → Weissfurt; Bielawy → Bielawe → Lindenkranz).

Fighting in 1945, fortunately, spared the lands of the county. There were only local skirmishes of Soviet troops with retreating Germans. This situation meant that the destruction of the town due to the war was relatively small. Greater damage was made by
the Soviet troops of occupation, who, until the Potsdam resolution, treated these lands as spoils of war and systematically pillaged former German possessions.

As a result of the defeat of Nazi Germany and the decision to shift Polish borders to the Oder and Neisse, these lands became part of the new Polish state. In 1945, the so-called Ziemiach Odzyskanych (Recovered Territories) allowed the establishment of a Polish administration. The southern part of today’s Lubuskie province found itself in the Silesia region, based in Legnica. In May 1945, the province was transformed into another district. As a result of this change part of the county became part of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw province. With the creation of the Polish administration arrived Polish settlers, many from central Poland, repatriates from the East, re-emigrants from Western Europe and a large group of former forced laborers. The influx of Polish people was accompanied by the deportation of ethnic Germans.

In 1950, the province of Zielona Góra was created, consisting of five districts of the former Wroclaw region. The area of the modern county of Nowa Sól found within its boundaries Kožuchów, Zielona Góra and Głogów. In 1953, as a result of the reorganization of local administration, Nowa Sól became the county town (seat of government was moved from Kožuchów). The first district of Nowa Sól worked on administrative reforms in 1975. In January 1999, as a result of administrative reforms in the new state, a second district of Nowa Sól was created, including, besides the city of Nowa Sól, 10 municipalities - Bytom Odrzański, Kolsko, Kożuchów, Nowa Sól, Nowe Miasteczko (New Town), Otyń, Siedlisko, Sława, Szlichtyngowa, and Wschowa. 2002 saw another reorganization of the district of Nowa Sól – the communities of Sława, Szlichtyngowa and Wschowa became part of newly created district Wschowa.
References and Further Reading:

The **Bavarian Geographer** (Latin: *Geographus Bavarus*) is a conventional name given by Jan Potocki in 1796 to the author of an anonymous medieval document *Descriptio civitatum et regionum ad septentrionalem plagam Danubii* ("Description of Cities and Lands North of the Danube"). The short document was discovered in 1772 in the Bavarian State Library, Munich by Louis XV's ambassador to the Saxon court, Comte Louis-Gabriel Du Buat-Nançay. The document contains a list of the tribes in Central-Eastern Europe east of the Elbe and north of the Danube to the Volga rivers to the Black and Caspian Sea (most of them of Slavonic origin). The provenance of the document is disputed. Although early commentators suggested that it could have been compiled in Regensburg, the list seems to have been taken from *Codex Reginbertinus II*, recorded in the 9th century in the library of the Reichenau Abbey and named after a local librarian. Based on these findings, Bischoff attributes it to a monk active at Reichenau from the 830s to the 850s. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bavarian_Geographer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bavarian_Geographer)

**Głogów** is one of the oldest towns in Poland. It was founded as a grad by a West Slavic tribe called the *Dziadoszan*. The name of the town derives from *glóg*, the Polish name for *hawthorn*. Of interest: The town was made into a stronghold by the Nazi government in 1945 during World War II. Glogau was besieged for six weeks by the Soviet Red Army and was 95% destroyed. After the Yalta Conference, the city, like the majority of Lower Silesia, was given to Poland and German-speaking inhabitants were expelled. In May 1945 the first Polish settlers came to the renamed city of Głogów to find only ruins; the town has not been fully rebuilt to this day. The town started to develop again only in 1967, after a copper foundry was built there. It is still the largest industrial company in the town. **Source:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C5%82og%C3%B3w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C5%82og%C3%B3w)

**K. Bartkiewicz**, Sources and materials on the history of the Middle Odra, Zielona Góra, 1996.

**Głogów** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C5%82og%C3%B3w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C5%82og%C3%B3w)

**Scinawa** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Acinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Acinawa)

**Świdnica** ... [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Awidnica](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Awidnica)

**Sława** ... [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C5%82awa_%28miasto%29](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C5%82awa_%28miasto%29)

**Siedlisko** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gmina_Siedlisko](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gmina_Siedlisko)

**Frederick the Great** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_the_Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_the_Great)

**Wołów** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wo%C5%82%C3%B3w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wo%C5%82%C3%B3w)

**Miłaków** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mi%C5%82ak%C3%B3w,_Lubusz_Voivodeship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mi%C5%82ak%C3%B3w,_Lubusz_Voivodeship)

**Nowogród Bobrzański** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowogr%C3%B3d_Bobrza%C5%84ski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowogr%C3%B3d_Bobrza%C5%84ski)


**Województwo lubuskie** ... [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lubuskie](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lubuskie)

**Lubuskie Powiat** ... [http://lubuskie.pl/](http://lubuskie.pl/)

**Nowa Sól County** ... [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowa_S%C3%B3l_County](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowa_S%C3%B3l_County)

**T. Andrzejewski, Miejsowości Powiatu Nowolubuskiego** - Localities of the County of Nowa Sól, Muzeum Miejskie w Nowej Soli - City Museum of Nowa Sól

**Wikipedia** and **Wikimapia** images used under permissions granted under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. Cartographic images are of public domain. Other images are as source credited.