

S U M M A R Y

Jewish Communities in The Kingdom of Poland in the First Half of the 19TH Century

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The purpose of this dissertation is creation of general characteristics of the Jewish Communities in the First Half of the 19TH Century. It was based on preserved historical records collected in Central Religious Authorities of The Kingdom of Poland (polish: Centralne Władze Wyznaniowe Królestwa Polskiego) in Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (polish: Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie). This historical records was collected during queries, which Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education (polish: Komisja Rządowa Wyznań Religijnych i Oświecenia Publicznego) ordered. The author of this dissertation put some research questions and tried to answer them in subsequent parts of dissertation. The most important problems were legal status of Jewish Communities, legal provisions regarding Jewish Communities, staff in them (maliny rabbis), and from the perspective of government – issue of finance of Jewish Communities and population of Jews.

The first years of existence of The Kingdom of Poland (from 1815) are a beginning of analysed period. At that time government of The Kingdom of Poland took process to reform legal status of Jewish Communities. In fact, this process was continued from The Great Sejm (from 1788 to 1792) and The Duchy of Warsaw (from 1807 to 1815), and main participants of this process were the same people (S. Grabowski, F. Łubieński, T. Mostowski, S. Staszic, J. K. Szaniawski, S. K. Potocki). The First Half of the 19TH Century was determined artificially. Then, political situation of The Kingdom of Poland and legal status of Jews did not change. But then government finished process of reorganization of the division and borders of the Jewish Communities, which became institutions recognized by state.

The dissertation consists of preface, part one (divided into four chapters), conclusions, and part two, integral part of dissertation, being source annex.

The 1ST Chapter includes brief characteristics of Jewish colonization on Polish lands from the first legal regulations such as the Statue of Kalisz (known as the Kalisz Privilege or the General Charter of Jewish Liberties), which was issued by Boleslaus the Pious on the 13TH Century. Next, author described changes of legal status of Jews on Polish lands from the end of the 18TH Century to the Half of the 19TH Century, which were realized by governments of Austria, Prussia and Russia, and by government of The Duchy of Warsaw from 1807 to 1815.

The 2ND Chapter is description of legal status of Jews and attempts to change this situation, realized by government of The Kingdom of Poland from 1815 to the Half of the 19TH Century. Functioning of state administration and local authority is presented. Author raised problem „to civilize” of Jews, so that they would become „useful subjects”. In this part was characterized resolution of the Viceroy of the Kingdom of Poland (polish: Namiestnik) dated 20TH March 1821, which appointed synagogue supervisions, next, resolution of the tsar Alexander I dated 20TH December 1821 / 1ST January 1822, which liquidated qahals, and finalny, resolution of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education dated 7TH September 1830, which transformed traditional Jewish Communities into districts of synagogue supervision and imposed them to carry on vital records, including brith certificates, marriage licenses or certificates, and death certificates.

The 3RD Chapter includes characteristics of organization of the Jewish Communities. Query made in 1816, projects of new organization of Jewish Communities made from 1820s to the end 1830s, list of budget of the Jewish Communities made in 1844, and list of districts of synagogue supervisions made from 1852 to 1853 made it possible. Author took into account information about statistics of Jewish people, finances of the Jewish Communities and buildings in the Jewish Communities (as synagogue and other), but in this cases it was not possible to all territory of The Kingdom of Poland.

In the 4TH Chapter author described some informations about elders (members of qahal) and rabbis. Historical records based on query made in 1816 include informations about rabbis' income, entitlements, age, duration of to be a rabbi, location of origin or arrival and way to establish them. Historical records collected from 1850 to 1852 including informations about only rabbis' income and confirmation them as rabbis.

In the part two of this dissertation author created database of the Jewish Communities, which was existing in The Kingdom of Poland in the First Half of the 19TH Century. There are some informations about rabbis, elders, population of communities, and beginning of Jewish

colonization (if it was possible) and formal confirmation of community by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education.

Summing up, characteristics of number and distribution in territory of The Kingdom of Poland of the Jewish Communities was possible to create by preserved historical records from 1815 to Half of 19TH Century. These historical records regard all territory of The Kingdom of Poland, so it is their advantage, because it is possible to compare situation in 1815 with situation in the Half of the 19TH Century. Also author defined conception of the Jewish Community, as government of The Kingdom of Poland understood it.

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