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Policy of the Third Reich towards the Jews in Krakow. From discrimination to extermination (1939-1943)

Summary

The paper presents an analysis of the most important events and political phenomena relating to the history of Jews in Krakow in 1939-1943. The history of Krakow's Jews in this period, their legal and political situation was recreated based on an archival research,. The author focused on the following issues: anti-Jewish legislation and the legal status of the Jews of Krakow, resettlement policy, forced labor, Krakow's Judenrat, the Krakow's Ghetto, deportation to the death camps, conspiracy and resistance in the Krakow's ghetto.

The above named issues as well as ways of the implementation of the anti-Jewish policy in Krakow are shown in comparison with the anti-Jewish policy of the Third Reich. Third Reich legislation and policies against the Jews in Germany became the basis of anti-Jewish legal system, introduced by the Germans in occupied Polish territories. The monograph presents the process of the implementation of Nazi legislation and policies, describing all modifications impacted by geographic, demographic and social structure differences between Jews from Third Reich and Krakow's Jews.

The monograph covers the period from 1933 in Germany when the Nazis introduced the first anti-Jewish regulations, which were initiated in Krakow in 1939, until the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto in 1943. During this period Nazis introduced the vast majority of acts relating to the Jews; specifically the radicalisation of anti-Jewish policy framework, which evolved from the concept of expulsion of Jews to their total annihilation.