

Annotation

This diploma thesis deals with Jewish institutions in Lower Silesia during the period of 50's and 60's of the 20th century. The area of focus is the Socio-Cultural Association of Jews (*Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne Żydów*), which was historically the only Jewish association in Poland that was allowed to exist. The main aim of this thesis is to track down and analyse relationship of the representatives of the group with the communist party and its ideology in detail, since the party was not particularly inclined towards Jewish culture due to Israel's affinity with the West.

Furthermore, after the introduction and analysis of the main sources and literature, the thesis briefly introduces a topic related to the restoration of life within the Jewish community after the World War II. After that, it concentrates on the formation and development of institutions and it follows the way members were educated in the spirit of socialism as well as how the Jewish culture was formed.

The fundamental sources necessary for the study of this problematic are primarily files that came into existence as a result of certain activities of institutions, such as meetings of their bodies, documents informing about social life (invitations to events), repatriation records of the USSR saved in Archive of The Jewish Historical Institute, The State Archives in Wrocław and The Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław.

To continue, it is also important to take into account further sources, such as magazines of that time period and journals in Yiddish and Polish language (*Fołks Sztyme*, *Nasz Głos*). Last but not least, it is important not to forget about documents stored in the Polin Museum, particularly recordings with witnesses who experienced the events in 1956 and 1968, when under the weight of acute events, people immigrated to Israel. Finally, information obtained through the analysis of these sources is then compared with information contained in available secondary literature.

Keywords

Jews, Lower Silesia, Poland, communism, anti-Semitism, emigration