

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis deals with the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague, whose existence is defined in the years 1943–1945. The administrative body, which was formally established by renaming the wartime Jewish Community of Prague in February 1943, was obliged to carry out orders from superior authorities and act as an intermediary between the Nazi leadership and the persecuted Jewish population. Earlier emigration, retraining and care activities were replaced by the liquidation tasks and the management of other activities, which in consequence were to lead to the complete destruction of Jewish life in the occupied Bohemia and Moravia. The diploma thesis focuses on the historical and organizational development of the above-mentioned Jewish council from its inception to liquidation in the post-war period, as well as on the activities of departments and the fates of some employees. The organization is set in the context of the final phase of Jewish persecution, which in the period under review focused mainly on so-called Mischlinge and Jews from mixed marriages, and the Nazi policy of liquidation of Jewish communities and establish of Jewish councils. The thesis is based on the use and comparison of archival sources, periodicals, source editions or memories of contemporary witnesses. The main part of the primary sources is gained from the Archives of the Jewish Museum in Prague and the documentary collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague. An important source of information is secondary literature of Czech and foreign provenance.