

Summary

Author of the thesis focuses on the Jewish associations and organizations in Slovakia, particularly Bratislava, in the period 1919 to 1939.

Jewish associations existed already in Austria-Hungary. In 1867, resulting from the approval of the Austrian constitution in February 1861, a federal law was adopted that developed and clarified some of the general constitutional principles. In Hungary, after the Austria – Hungarian Settlement, Law of 2 May 1875 No 1508/1875 was in force – with minor adjustments – until the end of 1951.

Activities of Jewish societies further developed during the first Czechoslovak Republic. The majority of societies existed in Prague, Brno and Bratislava. Being university cities, their activities attracted number of students, particularly lawyers and medics. The volume of voluntary activities multiplied during 1920's. Bratislava had registered 676 organization and societies in 1931, which was nearly tenfold compared to 1900. In years 1919 – 1939 there were about 30 to 40 Jewish associations in the city.

With regard to their activities the Jewish organizations were divided as follows: religious organizations, charitable societies, mutual help and burial assistance societies, student and community based organizations, gymnastics and sporting clubs, professional associations and trade unions.

Author observes religious classification to orthodox Jews, Neology followers (Hungarian version of Reform Judaism) and status quoante; as well as political – national classification to assimilated Jews and Zionists. This classification is used in thematic and chronologic ordering of the chapters. Associations and organizations are described in subchapters. Specific topics of Freemasonry and Jewish minority political parties are described in separate chapters. Author aimed to cover

links and relations of associations and highlight the migration of their members. In the conclusion part, the author describes the period from the beginning of autonomy until dissolution of Jewish associations in September 1940. Jewish Party and socialist Poale Zion activities were banned by National Office in November 1938, and were finally dissolved in January 1939. As consequence Jews we completely excluded from politics and partly also form general social life. The majority of Jewish associations either voluntarily dissolved or did not display any or only limited activity until September 1940. After this date Jewish Headquarters was established as the only organization to represent interests of Jewish citizens.