

Abstract

The dissertation focuses on the fates of some 5 000 men, women and children of mostly Jewish descent who were deported by German Nazi authorities from the occupied Slovak State into the Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt concentration camps in the period ranging from November 1944 to the end of March 1945. The main objectives of the dissertation include the establishment of the number and identity of the deportees, the circumstances of their arrest, deportation, imprisonment and liberation as well as the causes of survival, or death, of the victims of racial persecution during the German occupation of Slovakia. Based on a comparative and content analysis of the available archival sources, oral and written testimonies by survivors and, to a limited extent, of secondary literature, the writer attempts to explain the conduct of the perpetrators and victims as well as the general historical context of the deportation and imprisonment of Slovak Jews by the Nazi regime. Based on an analysis of documents related to the anti-Jewish measures taken by the Nazi security apparatus in Slovakia with the assistance of local collaborators, more general conclusions are made with regard to the development of the Nazi „Final Solution of the Jewish Question“ in the German Reich and the countries under its control during the final stage of the war. The writer also aims to widen the focus by singling out the peculiarities of the experience of survivors who were deported from Slovakia in the relevant period. Therefore, the comparatively numerous yet insufficiently known testimonies by former inmates are analysed and interpreted in the dissertation.