

Original article

## Deportations and distribution of Polish citizens of the Mosaic faith in the territories of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1939-1943

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### ABSTRACT

The presented article addresses the history of the Second Polish Republic's political relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1939-1943. The study aims to characterize the mass deportations and the distribution of Polish citizens in the territory of the Soviet Union, with emphasis on the population of the Mosaic faith. The statistical method was used to analyze and assess the fundamental issues related to the exploration of the Jewish population against the background of the national structure of Poland in the years 1918-1939, mass deportations of the people of the Eastern Borderlands by the Soviet authorities in 1940-1941, and the areas of the Soviet state where people from the occupied territories of the Second Polish Republic were deployed. The substantive considerations also indicated that mass deportation actions and everyday life on "inhuman land" reached not only Poles but also Polish citizens of the Mosaic faith.

### KEYWORDS

Second Republic of Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,  
ethnic structure, deportations



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## Introduction

The state of research on Polish-Soviet relations at the end of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is relatively wealthy and continues to grow. It is dominated by political and military aspects and economic issues. Many sources also deal with the occupation of the Second Polish Republic eastern territories, or even the Polish population's deportation to the endless areas of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1939-1941. They are distinguished by a vibrant factual and informational layer, based on archival and memorial materials and their proper interpretation [1, p. 151-61; 2, p. 114-36; 3, p. 179-92].

It is also worth emphasizing that the indicated issues constitute one of the most tragic cards in the relations between states and nations. Therefore, the primary purpose of this sketch

is a general description of the deportation and distribution of the Polish population in the territory of the Soviet Union [4, p. 11-25; 5, p. 29-35], with the emphasis on the Mosaic faith. However, in the initial constellation of considerations, the necessary information about Polish citizens of the Mosaic faith of the Second Polish Republic is presented [6, p. 21, 50-79].

## 1. The Polish population of the Mosaic faith in the years 1918-1939

The Second Polish Republic was not a nationally homogeneous country. Among the population inhabiting its territory at that time, 1/3 claimed that they did not belong to the Polish nation. In the interwar period, two general censuses were carried out in Poland: on September 30, 1921 (Table 1) and on December 9, 1931 (Table 2).

**Table 1.** The ethnic structure of Poland based on the results of the 1921 census

Nationality	Number	
	in thousand	in %
Poles	17 789 287	69.23
Ukrainians	3 898 428	15.17
Jews	2 048 878	7.97
Belarusians	1 035 693	4.03
German	769 392	2.99
Russians	48 920	0.19
Czechs	30 628	0.12
Lithuanians	24 044	0.9
“Locals”	38 943	0.15
Others	9856	0.04
Unknown	631	~ 0.002
<b>Total population</b>	<b>25 694 700</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: [7, p. 178].*

When analyzing the statistical data from 1921, it should be emphasized that they did not precisely define the number of national minorities in the Polish state. However, given the census results, 69% of Poles, 14% of Ukrainians, 4% of Belarusians, 4% of Germans, and 8% of Jews lived in Poland. Simultaneously, about 700 thousand people declaring Polish nationality, being also of the Mosaic faith, were recorded.

On the other hand, the 1931 demographic census provided objective and accurate data on Poland's population at the beginning of the 1930s. Moreover, it should be mentioned that the statistical results from that year reflected the actual state of national and religious relations, which then had specific autonomous structures. Some of these groups were, to no small extent, separate societies, with a rich internal organizational form and cohesion [9, p. 54-9].

**Table 2.** The ethnic structure of Poland based on the results of the 1931 census

Nationality	According to official data		According to estimates	
	in thousand	in %	in thousand	in %
Poles	22 122	69.0	20 768	65.0
Ukrainians	4 463	14.0	5 145	16.0
Jews	2 761	9.0	3 133	10.0
Belarusians	995	3.0	1 966	6.0
German	739	2.0	784	2.0
Russians	139	0	140	0
Others	888	3.0	171	1.0
<b>Total population</b>	<b>32 107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32 107</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: [8, p. 16].

The presented statistical analysis also proves that in the national mosaic of the Second Polish Republic, the most numerous group – apart from Poles and Ukrainians – were Jews. Thus, the Jewish minority was ranked second in terms of numbers. In this ethnic group, it should be mentioned that at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, no European country was inhabited by such a large Jewish community as Poland. Similarly, nowhere did it constitute such a high percentage of the state's total population, and the Second Polish Republic was the third-largest group in the world after the United States of America and the Soviet Union [10, p. 27-43].

As has already been emphasized, the 1921 census results identified 2.8 million followers of the Mosaic religion living in Poland, which constituted 10.8% of the population. In the following years, the Polish national minority population grew, and in 1931 it amounted to 3.114 million. Table 3 illustrates the distribution of this ethnic group in individual provinces of the Polish state.

The general analysis of the above table leads to the first reflection that the Jewish population did not prevail in any region of the country. They were scattered all over Poland and concentrated primarily in urban centers and towns. The largest number of them lived in the former Congress Poland and in Galicia, where every third inhabitant of the cities was Jewish, and every second in the north-eastern territories. They constituted 15.5% and 10.6% of the population in these areas, in Małopolska – 9.7%, and 1.7% of Jews lived in the former Prussian partition. Almost a quarter of the Jewish population lived in five great cities of the Republic of Poland: Warszawa, Łódź, Lviv, Kraków, and Vilnius. This is presented in more detail in Table 4.

The second reflection is contained in the statement that the number of Jews decreased in relation to the total population to 9.8% compared to 1921, and this downward trend continued until the outbreak of World War II. The main reasons for this phenomenon were, among other things, the decline in the population growth among Jews and their emigration.

In the context of this issue, it should be noted that after regaining independence only in the period 1921-1925, over 180,000 Jews left Poland. However, in the following years, there was a decline in emigration due to the tremendous economic crisis, to reach the lowest level

**Table 3.** Jewish population in the Second Polish Republic based on the results of the 1931 census

Voivodships	Total population (in thousands)	Population of the Mosaic faith		Population speaking Yiddish and Hebrew	
		in thousand	in % of total population	in thousand	in % of total population
Warszawa City	1 172	353	30.1	333	28.4
Warszawskie	2 529	219	8.7	215	8.5
Łódzkie	2 632	379	14.4	359	13.6
Kieleckie	2 936	317	10.8	305	10.4
Lubelskie	2 465	314	12.7	260	10.5
Białostockie	1 644	197	12.0	195	11.9
Wileńskie	1 276	111	8.7	109	8.5
Nowogródzkie	1 057	83	7.9	77	7.3
Poleskie	1 132	114	10.1	113	10.0
Wołyńskie	2 086	208	10.0	206	9.9
Poznańskie	2 107	7	0.3	3	0.1
Pomorskie	1 080	3	0.3	2	0.2
Śląskie	1 295	19	1.5	7	0.5
Krakowskie	2 298	174	7.6	128	5.6
Lwowskie	3 127	342	10.9	233	7.5
Stanisławowskie	1 480	140	9.5	109	7.4
Tarnopolskie	1 600	134	8.4	79	4.9
<b>Second Polish Republic</b>	<b>31 916</b>	<b>3 114</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>2 733</b>	<b>8.6</b>

Source: [11, p. 52-5].

before the outbreak of the second world military conflict. In the entire interwar period, the degree of Jewish emigration was incomparably lower than before the Great War, when an average of 55,000 people emigrated annually. Table 5 presents a more extensive scale of Jewish emigration in the interwar period.

The statistical values of the above list also emphasize that the most crucial reason for the emigration of people of the Mosaic faith was economic issues, especially the possibility of economic emigration to the United States of America. However, Palestine turned out to be the most critical emigration and settlement area for Jews from Poland [14, p. 20-1].

At the stage of the considerations carried out so far, it should be stated that the Jewish minority in the analyzed period lived its own separate socio-economic, religious, and intellectual life.

**Table 4.** Percentage share of the Jewish population in five major cities of the Republic of Poland in 1931

City	Total	of the Mosaic faith	
		in thousand	% of the total
Warszawa	1 171.9	352.7	30.1
Łódź	604.6	202.5	33.5
Lviv	312.2	99.6	31.9
Kraków	219.3	56.5	25.8
Wilno	195.1	55.0	28.2

Source: [12, p. 71].

**Table 5.** Emigration of people of the Mosaic faith from Poland in the years 1921-1937

Years	Continental emigration		Labor emigration		Total
1921-1925	–	–	–	–	184 500
1926-1929	11 703	14.3	70 366	85.7	82 069
1930-1937	8 790	6.4	128 799	93.6	137 589
<b>Years 1921-1937 in total</b>	<b>20 493</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>199 165</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>404 158</b>

Source: [13, p. 7-8].

They clearly articulated the economic, ethnic, and religious needs conditioning coexistence in the international society of the Second Polish Republic [15, p. 40-2].

Poland's military defeat in the 1939 campaign caused the division of its territories between the two aggressors – the Third German Reich and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet-German agreements decided about the fate of this vast territory. According to the first of these arrangements, concluded on August 23, 1939, the Polish lands were divided into two parts. The planned demarcation line ran along the San River to the Vistula, then along the Vistula River to Bugo-Narew, then along the Narew River to the Pisa River and further to the border of East Prussia. That project was changed after the new Soviet-German pact concluded on September 28, 1939, in Moscow. The area of the Polish state was finally divided in such a way that 201,000 km fell to the Soviet Union, and 188.7 thousand km was under German occupation (Table 6).

According to estimates, Poland's population, as of August 31, 1939, was 35,339,000 inhabitants. In the territories occupied by the Third German Reich, there were 22,140,000 people, and in the Soviet zone, from 13,021,300 to 13,402,000 [17, p. 5]. In the western part, the nationality and the Polish language dominated, while in the zone controlled by the Soviet Union, the ethnic structure was extremely complex. Even though the total population was non-Polish, many Poles played a critical demographic, social, and economic role.

**Table 6.** The division of the territory of Poland between the USSR and Germany in the period 1939-1941

Occupied areas. Division on January 1, 1941.	Area		Population in 1939	
	in thousand km <sup>2</sup>	in%	in thousand	in%
Poland	389.7	100.0	35 339	100.0
Territories occupied by Germany, broken down into:	188.7	48.4	22 140	62.7
Reich	92.5	23.7	10 568	30.0
General Government	95.5	24.5	11 542	32.6
Slovakia	0.7	0.2	30	0.1
Territories occupied by the USSR, broken down into:	201.0	51.6	13 199	37.3
Lithuania	8.3	2.1	537	1.5
Belarus	103.0	26.5	4 733	13.4
Ukraine	89.7	23.0	7 929	22.4

Source: [16, p. 6-7].

At the same time, it should be mentioned that the number of people under Soviet control who spoke Polish was, respectively, from 5,199,000 to 5,597,000. Ukrainians were to be around 4,529,000, Belarusians 1,123,000, Jews 1,109,000, Poleszuks 803,000, Russians 134,000, Germans 89,000, Lithuanians 84,000, Czechs 35,000, and other nationalities 19,000. However, as for Polish citizens of the Mosaic faith, there are statistical discrepancies in the subject literature. The data provided by Daniel Boćkowski, who gives the number 1,121,000 as the average, can be accepted for further considerations [18, p. 17-8].

## 2. Soviet deportations of Poles in 1939-1941

Immediately after taking control of eastern Poland, the Soviet authorities launched an action aimed at depolonizing these areas. Intensive social, political, and economic changes took place in the occupied areas. Terror played a considerable role in the occupation authorities' activities, with the help of which attempts were made to eliminate any conditions for potential resistance.

One of the components of that terror, and at the same time the most tragic consequences, was the repression of the Polish civilian population. It was a planned and implemented large-scale deportation action aimed at clearing the areas occupied by the USSR of all the so-called counter-revolutionary and politically uncertain elements. Mass deportations covered all social and national strata of the Second Polish Republic [19, p. 85-126; 20, p. 27-9].

They took place in February, April, and June 1940, and in May-June 1941. As Professor Cie-sielski states, it particularly affected *the environment and people strongly associated with the Polish state, active in social life, revealing aversion or distrust towards the Soviet authorities*

(...). *It was to eliminate groups that could be the source of and base for social resistance, disintegrating and intimidating society. From the point of view of the Soviet authorities, the deportations also had an economic advantage, consisting in the possibility of redirecting cheap labor to regions with a labor shortage* [21].

In February, the first deportation took place on the night of February 9-10, 1940. Its victims were mainly military settlers, forest workers, PKP employees, and lower-ranking government officials. During this action to the oblasts of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic: Chelyabinsk, Molotov, Arkhangelsk, Irkutsk, Kirov, Jaroslaw, Ivanov, Novosibirsk, Omsk, as well as to the Komi Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, Bashkir and Yakutsk ASSR, and around 140 thousand Polish citizens (including 114.2 thousand Poles, 12.3 thousand Ukrainians, and 11.3 thousand Belarusians).

The second deportation – in April – was carried out on the night of April 12-13, 1940. During this operation, mainly the families of policemen, military, high-ranking officials, prison service employees, teachers, social activists, merchants, and industrialists suffered. The places of forced settlement were the northern districts of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic: Aktiubin, Akmolinska, Kustanajski, Petropavlovsky, Semipalatinsk, Pavlodar and North Kazakhstan, as well as the Chelyabinsk oblast in the RSFSR. The April deportation in its scope touched a little over 60 thousand (including around 42,000 Poles, almost 8,000 Belarusians, over 7,000 Ukrainians and 2,400 Jews), of which 80% of the total transports were women and children.

The third deportation covered the period from May to July 1940. The Soviet authorities finally solved the problem of the war refugees (most Jews), who arrived in the Eastern Borderlands in 1939. They were settled in Arkhangelsk, Chelyabinsk, Vologda, Irkutsk, Molotov, Novosibirsk, Gorky Oblast of the RSFSR, the Altai and Krasnoyarsk Krai, and in the Komi, Mari, and Yakutian ASSR. The deportation began on the night of May 28-29 and lasted until the end of July 1940. The number of deportees reached 76,000-78,000. people (including 63.8-65.5 thousand Jews, 8.3-8.5 thousand Poles, and 3.8-3.9 thousand other nationalities – mainly Belarusians and Ukrainians).

The fourth deportation action took place in several stages, from May 22 to June 20, 1941. During the last massive deportation of people to the Kazakh SSR, Krasnoyarsk and Altai Krai and the Novosibirsk oblast of the RSFSR, as well as to the Ob basin, about 34-38 thousand people were resettled (including, among other things, 20,000 Poles and 11,000 Ukrainians), mainly residents of Lithuania and the Baltic Republics, as well as the Białystok, Vilnius, and Grodno regions and the western regions of Ukraine and Belarus [22, p. 297-8].

It should be mentioned here that apart from the massive deportation actions of 1940-1941, there were also Polish citizens' movements of a completely different nature. As shown in the latest research, it referred to smaller resettlement actions: *war refugees from central and western Poland (mostly Jews) deported deep into Belarus and Ukraine in the fall of 1939; Polish and Ukrainian peasants, who were forcibly displaced in the winter of 1940 from the south-eastern voivodeships of the Second Polish Republic to Bessarabia and Bukovina or exiled for attempts to cross the border illegally. These actions covered no less than 125 thousand people* [18, p. 297-8].

The statistical analysis of mass deportations carried out by the Soviet authorities allows the statement that in the years 1939-1941, they included 307.8 to 313.8 citizens of the Second Polish Republic. At least 184.7 thousand Poles constituted the majority. The second largest group were Jews – about 45,000 from the resettlement action in October 1939 and about

65 thousand deported in June 1940, in total, 110,000 people [23, p. 148-150]. According to Professor Boćkowski, the statistical data should *also include Jewish nationality people deported in February and April 1940, but the total number of those repressed will probably increase slightly, by at most 2,000-3,000 people. Most of the deported Jews were immigrants. Only those deported in February and April 1940 could permanently live in the area from which they had been taken* [18, p. 89-90]. The next groups were Ukrainians, about 40-50 thousand, and Belarusians – about 25,000. The remaining part was made up of, among others, the German, Czech, Russian, Lithuanian and Hungarian minorities. Given the statistical analysis, it should be emphasized that the actual number of people deported deep into the USSR in the years 1939-1941 is not fully verified. Making full estimates will be possible in the case of access to all documents in the archives of the republics of the former Soviet Union [20, p. 28].

### **3. Deportation areas of the Polish population of the Mosaic faith in 1939-1943 in the territory of the USSR**

The situation of the deported Polish citizens in the endless areas of the Soviet Union was similar, because all of them, regardless of their nationality, worked in extremely difficult conditions. They were primarily exposed to numerous diseases resulting from malnutrition and the deadly climate in the areas of exile.

In July 1941, a light of hope shone for thousands of deportees. Under the Sikorski-Majski Pact of July 30 that year, the Polish Armed Forces were to be established in the Soviet Union. Simultaneously, the additional protocol contained a provision on amnesty for the Second Polish Republic citizens – especially political prisoners and exiles from all 1939-1941 deportations. From that moment, a mass exodus of exiles to the places where Polish military units were organized began.

To coordinate diplomatic undertakings, the Polish Government-in-Exile established a structure of local delegations of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuibyshev, which were located in the capitals of individual republics, oblasts, or regions of the Soviet state. *The delegations developed best in the south of the country, where the largest number of Polish refugees concentrated after the amnesty. They were very well organized (...) with the help of (...) units of the Polish Armed Forces that were being formed in these areas* [24, p. 280-1].

It should also be mentioned that due to the specific situation in which the Polish embassy in the USSR was to operate, the activity was carried out by the consular section – in the field of population registration, citizenship matters, providing Polish documents, matters of civil status, and visa records; a care department providing material aid, and an intervention department dealing with the defense of the interests of Polish citizens.

It is precisely on the basis of the analysis of statistical studies of the consular section of the Polish embassy in Kujbyshev that we can indicate that from the autumn of 1941, 271,325 deported citizens of the Second Republic of Poland were detained in the territory of the Soviet Union, 106,602 of whom were Poles of the Mosaic faith, which made 39.4% of the total population. On the other hand, the areas and regions of their distribution included the European and southern part of the Soviet empire, Kazakhstan, and Siberia [25, p. 4].

As many as 46,817 people were located in the European part of the country, including 15,520 Jewish people, which constituted 33.4% (Table 7).



In the southern regions of the Soviet empire, there were 90,249 Poles, including 69,289 people of the Mosaic faith, which made 76.7% of all Polish citizens (Table 8).

There were 56,991 Poles in the territory of Kazakhstan, including 7,606 Jews, which constituted 13.3% of the Jewish population (Table 9).

**Table 7.** Distribution of the Polish population in the European part of the USSR at the end of 1941

Province, country or republic	The number of Poles	The number and percentage of Jews	Men	Women	Children
Arkhangelsk Oblast	7619	702 – 10%	2032	2320	3267
Vologda Oblast	3179	158 – 5%	792	1059	1328
Autonomous Republic of Komi	11661	5830 – 50%	4271	3764	3626
Gorky Oblast (now Nizhny Novgorod)	797	358 – 45%	331	223	243
Kirov Oblast	3432	615 – 18%	1406	918	1108
Mariinsky Autonomous Republic	1584	683 – 43%	615	715	254
Molotov Oblast (now Perm)	4091	1274 – 26%	1783	1582	1536
Udmurt Autonomous Republic	162	16 – 10%	80	51	31
Bashkir Autonomous Republic	1238	720 – 58%	535	384	319
Chkalov Oblast	6151	1970 – 32%	3645	1650	856
Ivanovo Oblast	389	20 – 5%	117	107	165
Autonomous Republic of Tatar	520	364 – 70%	228	189	103
Autonomous Republic of Chuvashia	443	305 – 69%	240	142	61
Autonomous Republic of Mordvinia	199	123 – 62%	85	68	46
Kuybyshevsky Oblast	2685	1422 – 53%	1373	913	399
Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic	655	524 – 80%	413	130	112
Ulyanov Oblast	765	436 – 57%	332	250	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>46 817</b>	<b>15 520 – 33%</b>			

Source: [3, p. 184].

As many as 71,444 citizens of the Second Polish Republic were deployed in the region of Siberia, including 12,187 Jews, which constituted 17.2% of their population (Table 10).

The process of organizing the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR – as already mentioned – caused the vast majority of Polish citizens' movement after they had been released from prisons, forced labor camps, or other places of isolation. At the end of 1941 and the beginning of 1942, they headed mainly towards the south of the Soviet Union, especially to the region of Central Asia, where new military units were created. According to the subject literature,

**Table 8.** Distribution of the Polish population in the southern part of the USSR at the end of 1941

Province, country or republic	The number of Poles	The number and percentage of Jews	Men	Women	Children
Kyzylordansky Oblast	2759	2370 – 86%	1329	1030	400
South Kazakhstan Oblast (and Chymken)	11315	6450 – 58%	4370	4342	2063
Jambyl Oblast	15817	11090 – 70 %	7315	5430	3072
Jalalabad Oblast	3667	2899 – 79%	2074	1047	546
Osh Oblast	4778	3640 – 76%	2105	1655	1018
Fruznob Oblast	4910	3585 – 73%	2505	1326	1079
Almaty Oblast	5450	4360 – 80%	2756	1899	895
Mariinsky Autonomous Republic	1700	1124 – 66%	1103	457	140
Autonomous Karakalpakstan Republic within the borders of Uzbekistan	1396	488- 35%	589	387	420
Khorezmiya Oblast	1765	617 – 35%	653	690	422
Bukharin Oblast	8029	7200 – 90%	3722	2717	1590
Samarkand Oblast	11512	10350 – 90%	5939	3370	2203
Tashkent Oblast	4387	3810 – 86%	1929	1491	967
Stalinabad Oblast (now Dushanbe)	897	744 – 83%	415	281	201
Leninabad Oblast	2013	1693 – 84%	1053	635	325
Fergana Oblast	5601	5041 – 90%	3170	1609	822
Namangan Oblast	1931	1738 – 90%	876	574	481
Andijan Oblast	2322	2090- 90%	1074	888	360
<b>Total</b>	<b>90249</b>	<b>69289 – 76.7%</b>			

Source: [25, p. 5].

**Table 9.** Distribution of the Polish population in Kazakhstan at the end of 1941

Province, country or republic	The number of Poles	The number and percentage of Jews	Men	Women	Children
East Kazakhstan	649	32 – 5%	128	259	262
Aktyubinsk Oblast	8177	2866 – 35%	1750	3621	2806
Kostanay Oblast	7582	757 – 10 %	1321	3662	2599
Akmola Oblast	12224	733 – 6%	2396	5522	4306
Pavlodar Oblast	9437	753 – 8%	1400	4553	3484
Semipalatinsk Oblast	6083	2077 – 34%	1306	2903	1874
North Kazakhstan	12839	386 – 3%	2285	5422	5132
<b>Total</b>	<b>56991</b>	<b>7604 – 13.3%</b>			

Source: [18, p. 79-82].

**Table 10.** Distribution of the Polish population in Siberia at the end of 1941

Province, country or republic	The number of Poles	The number and percentage of Jews	Men	Women	Children
Yakutsk Autonomous Soviet Republic	1712	1544 – 90%	742	617	353
Irkutsk Oblast	8052	1850 – 23 %	2551	2670	2831
Krasnoyarsk Oblast	12684	888 – 7%	3726	4412	4546
Khakassia Autonomous Oblast	3288	329 – 10%	828	1219	1241
Novosibirsk Oblast	7723	846 – 11%	2198	2986	2539
Altai Autonomous Soviet Republic	17429	2794 – 16%	4926	6811	5692
Omsk Oblast	9165	2291 – 25%	2561	3374	3230
Sverdlovsk Oblast	7573	606 – 8%	2309	2465	2799
Chelyabinsk Oblast	956	287 – 30%	471	280	205
Kemerovo Oblast	2101	714 – 34%	669	742	690
Kurgan Oblast	761	38 – 5%	256	292	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>71444</b>	<b>12187 – 17%</b>			

Source: [25, p. 6-7].

*Jews constituted more than half of the Polish population moving from the north to the south of the USSR from September 1941. Thus, they were the first to find themselves in the areas of formation of the Polish Armed Forces [23, p. 151].*

## Conclusion

Regardless of the complexity of Polish-Jewish relations in the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR in 1941-1942, in the general observation of our considerations, it should be highlighted that out of such a large Jewish community residing in the Soviet state territory in the analyzed period, only 4,000 joined the ranks of this army [26, p. 325]. It should also be mentioned that during the evacuation of the Polish Armed Forces, which lasted from March to November 1942, over 115,000 people were sent to Iran, including about 78.5 thousand soldiers (3.5-4 thousand Jews, which constituted 10-13%) and 37 thousand civilian population (2.5-3 thousand Jews, which constituted 4%). Among the evacuees, there were almost 18,000 children, including nearly a thousand Jewish orphans [23, p. 158-9].

However, with the break of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Second Polish Republic on April 23, 1943, the Polish government in exile lost the legal and material protection of the remaining deported Polish citizens from the European and southern territories of the Soviet empire, Kazakhstan, and Siberia.

At the same time, it should be expressed that the Polish soldiers of the Mosaic faith serving in the Polish Armed Forces in the West from 1941 took an active part in the struggles for the Republic's freedom on the fronts of World War II. This statement also applies to the soldiers of the Mosaic faith of the Polish Armed Forces in the East in the years 1943-1945.

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## Conflict of interests

The author declared no conflict of interests.

## Author contributions

The author contributed to the interpretation of results and writing of the paper. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

## Ethical statement

The research complies with all national and international ethical requirements.

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### Deportacje i rozmieszczenie obywateli polskich wyznania mojżeszowego na obszarach Związku Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich w latach 1939-1943

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#### STRESZCZENIE

Prezentowany artykuł ściśle wiąże się z dziejami stosunków politycznych II Rzeczypospolitej ze Związkiem Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich w latach 1939-1943. Charakterystyka masowych deportacji oraz rozmieszczenia obywateli polskich na obszarach Związku Radzieckiego, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem ludności wyznania mojżeszowego stanowią zasadnicze cele opracowania. Przy zastosowaniu metody statystycznej poddano analizie i ocenie kwestie zasadnicze związane z: eksploracją ludności żydowskiej na tle struktury narodowościowej Polski lat 1918-1939; masowymi deportacjami ludności Kresów Wschodni przez władze radzieckie w latach 1940-1941 oraz obszary państwa radzieckiego, na których została rozmieszczona ludność z okupowanych ziem II Rzeczypospolitej. W rozważaniach merytorycznych wskazano jednocześnie, że masowe akcje deportacyjne, a także życie codzienne na „niehumanitarnej ziemi” dosięgły oprócz Polaków, również obywateli polskich wyznania mojżeszowego.

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#### SŁOWA KLUCZOWE

II Rzeczypospolita, Związek Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich, struktura narodowościowa, deportacje

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