

Jewish Farmers In Belarus During The 1920s

Smilovitsky, Leonid. "The Jewish Farmers in Belarus During the 1920s." *Jewish Political Studies Review* Jerusalem. Vol. 9, No 1-2. (1997): Pages 59-72.

Available from:

- [JewishGen Belarus Newsletter November 2002](#)

Notes

History

- Jews enter Belarus in late 14th century with permission of Vitovt, Prince of the Great Kingdom of Lithuania.
 - Immigrated from Western Europe, mostly Germany and Poland
- 1917 Russian revolution. Civil war and pogroms take place; result in Jews supporting Bolshevik Party
 - Jews attempt to emigrate. Civil war stopped emigration.
- New Economic Policy
 - abolition of private trade; restrictions on small artisans. Depriving rights (Lishentsy), "persons without any definite kind of occupation"
 - Former Jewish merchants, dealers, tradesmen, shopkeepers, mediators, melameds (teachers), craftsmen, handicraft workers
 - These Jews lived with the help of remittances from abroad
- Soviets try to solve Jewish poverty by allowing them to be farmers
 - Insufficient land in Belarus to add Jewish farmers.
 - Therefore, it was necessary to "evict" all Jews who wanted to be farmers
 - Early Jewish collective farms created naturally between 1918-1920. Founded by groups of workers, craftsmen, petty merchants, dealers and shopkeepers to save themselves from famine
 - In 1921, new Jewish collective farms stopped
 - Between 1924-1925, 80 Jewish collective farms created in BSSR
- Aid for Jewish farming came from
 - American-Jewish United Agricultural Corporation (Agrojoint)
 - Society for Spreading Farming and Handicraft among Jews
 - Jewish Colonial Society
 - Resettlement of one Jewish family cost between 1800-2200 rubles
- Jews were over 20% of the Belarus Communist Party, but never more than 10% of the population.

Commerce

- Jews living in cities and towns interacted with the villare and rural economies
 - trade in the forest industries
 - leather industries
 - Peddling village produce (flax, hemp and bristles) in the city
 - agriculture
- After Revolution, high unemployment
 - Blacksmiths were better off
 - Tanners, dressmakers, tailors, shoemakers and others were jobless

From:
<https://yurevichi.org/> - Yurevichi, Belarus

Permanent link:
https://yurevichi.org/sources/articles/jewish_farmers_in_belarus_during_the_1920s

Last update: **2023/03/05 02:57**

