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JEWISH COMMUNITY LAND ARRANGEMENT IN UKRAINE IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Summary

In the article on the basis of study of the archive documents, monographic ally and periodical literature are analyzed the specific features of the formation of Jewish agricultural resettlement colonies on the South Ukraine and Crimea.

Farming brought Jews a very small profit. In addition, government didn't grant them land for agriculture. Therefore, relocation to the South Ukraine for farming was not an end in itself for the residents of Jewish towns of Ukraine. But, despite unprofitability of agriculture, it was possible for a Jew to escape from a backward town. Some of them wanted to use farming and migration to the South Ukraine to change their social status. Once in that category, the Jewish settlers gradually abandoned farming and moved to the provincial industrial city. Some Jews colonized parts of the Crimean peninsula. Agricultural Jewish settlements in the northern steppe dominated the peninsula.

The First World War and the massacres of the period of Ukrainian national revolution made a painful blow to the Jewish farming. Robbery of the colonies by military formations of the different warring parties has led to the blight , and sometimes to destruction of the colonies. Economic blight, hunger, and desolation gripped the Jewish agricultural settlements of Southern Ukraine in early 1920s. Only at the end of 1920 colonists began to rebuild the economy. However hunger of 1921-1923 made a painful blow on agriculture activity of Jews. In the early 1920s there

was a big economic crisis. Farmsteads of colonists needed a financial and technical assistance, and the most important thing is that there were not enough workers in the colonies. To help the colonists there came the associations that piled up over the heavy burden of creating Jewish agriculture husbandry. During the 1920s the Jewish public associations together with foreign philanthropic societies have managed to create on the territory of the South Ukraine and Crimea number of agricultural cooperatives. Jewish cooperators who developed their own agricultural production, viewed the possible cooperation through the prism of possible emigration to Palestine to create a Jewish state there. Agricultural colonies gave the opportunity for the Jewish community to importune the Communist Party organs for the start of the campaign for involvement of Ukrainian Jewry to agricultural activity and to start the migration movement in the southern Ukrainian regions in mid-1920s.

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