

Summary

Wieluń district in interwar period (1918–1939)

The topic of my doctoral thesis is “Wieluń district in interwar period (1918–1939)”. I have described history of Wieluń district between the First and the Second World War. This area was very big, because it took over three towns and twenty five agricultural communities. The area of Wieluń district was 2106,9 km² and the population was 181 000 people in 1921, and within eighteen years increased to 234 000 people.

My doctoral thesis has nine chapters. In the first one I wrote about the area and borders. I have also described the population, religion, different languages that people here used to speak and the places of working. The second chapter of my doctoral thesis took over business administration. The next chapter, I described about the police, courts and criminals. The fourth and the fifth chapters of my doctoral thesis I dedicated on economy: agriculture, industry, craft and trafficking. In the next part of my work I have described people who went abroad to work, so to Germany, France and another countries and daily life in the neighborhood of border. I have also described the phenomenon of smuggling across border between Poland and Germany. The seventh chapter my doctoral thesis was dedicated on living conditions (social service, charity, joblessness and the ways of helping people who lost a job, communication roads, railways and activity post office. The next-to-last chapter described local political life in Wieluń district, and the last chapter my doctoral thesis includes description of the religion life, social life, cultural and the school system.

My conclusions about Wieluń district interwar period are:

1) Wieluń district was a very big organization unit with population which was increasing.

2) People who lived in Wieluń district, were mostly Catholic (about 90 per cent), Jew (about several per cent) and another creed (under two per cent).

3) Dominated part of people used to live in countryside (88,80 per cent on 1921 r.; 89,07 per cent on 1939) and worked in agriculture (about 80 per cent), and just several per cent of people worked industry and trafficking. Different feature Wieluń district of Poland was percentage people who life in countryside increased, when all county decreased.

4) The within period twenty years condition of work in agriculture made worse (especially during Great Depression).

5) The biggest factory employed only 50–700 people. It used to produce sugar. Wieluń district hadn't developed industry, but most factories were connected with agriculture and food.

6) The most important organization Wieluń district was: Catholic church, Jewish community, sugar refinery in Niedzielsko, dairy "Wielunianka" in Wieluń.

7) The most important person was: district head, parish priests (especially priest dean Wincenty Przygocki, who wasn't only the priest, but he was local social activist and politic), Member of Parliament from Wieluń district, some person who was mayor of Wieluń, Praszka and Wieruszów, supervisor of Hospital All Saints` in Wieluń, the supervisor of Komunalna Kasa Oszczędności (Jan Matej) and Felicja Włodzimiera Rymarkiewiczowa – local social activist.

8) In this area used to lived about 40 000 people who could work only abroad, especially in Germany. Thereby Wieluń district was the biggest polish supplier workers to Germany in scale district in interwar period.

9) In interwar period people who used to live in Wieluń district didn't have plenty of doctors, nurses, dentists and midwife, and people used to visit charlatan and especially "grandmother" who used to help women giving birth their children.

10) Between the First and Second World War there was development of railway communication – there was built rail line between Kalety and Podzamcze and Śląsk – docks Gdynia. There weren't many new roads because people had only about 70 cars, trucks, motorcycles and buss (about 1936) here. Almost people used to travel on foot or horse wagons.

11) The biggest advantage was that Poland had independence and freedom of political life (especially to 1926) and could assumed local organization or association. There were many organizations and associations, but they had often a little money and several or a dozen members.

12) The next big advantage was building new schools and growing number of teachers and pupils, but conditions of learning were very difficult in Wieluń district in interwar period.

Although there were some positive things in Wieluń district in interwar period, but also there was a big stagnancy there.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. W. G. M.' followed by a large flourish and the name 'Wieluń'.