

Dr. Arkadi Zeltser:

Jews of Ukraine in the Context of the Social Life in the USSR in the Interwar Period

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

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This course focuses on the history of the Soviet Jews in the interwar period, with the emphases on the history of Jews in Ukraine. The history of Jews in the Ukraine will be discussed in terms of changes in the general Soviet policy towards ethnic minorities. However, Ukrainian Jews are presented not only as an object of the Soviet policy. The course examines the problem of a choice between traditional and modern values and norms for Jewish society. It also discusses Jewish involvement in the process of urbanization, modernization and acculturation, including the involvement in new areas of employment in science and culture. Thus, this course not only deals with the Soviet policy towards Jews, but also identifies a social, cultural, demographic and educational profile of the Ukrainian Jewry on the eve of the Holocaust.

1. The Bolshevik concept of social modernization and Soviet Jews in Ukraine.
2. Soviet national concept and Jews as an ethnic minority: promotion of the development of the Ukrainian and Yiddish languages and cultures in 1920s, the Soviet program of socialist nation's formation of 1930.
3. Social and demographic changes among Jews of Ukraine and of the Soviet Jewry as a whole. Part one: migration, changes in the social structure of the Jews in Ukraine and of the USSR.
4. Social and demographic changes among the Jews of Ukraine and of the Soviet Jewry as a whole. Part two: the basic demographical structure of the Ukrainian Jewry and the Soviet Jews as a whole in comparison with the Ukrainians and other ethnic groups.
5. Soviet religious policy of the interwar years and the situation of the religious Jews of Ukraine.

6. Ukrainian Jews faced with the choice: Yiddish, Ukrainian or Russian culture.

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