

JEWISH AGRARIAN SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE: ORIGIN AND CHANGE OF TOPONYMS UNDER THE IMPACT OF STATE POLICY

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Abstract. *The article discusses the history of the creation of Jewish agrarian settlements in the south of Ukraine during XIX–XX centuries. For the first time, as part of a special study, attention is focused on the origin and change of place names under the influence of state policy.*

A set of data sources was involved in the study, in particular the work of historians and sociologists, oral history materials, official documents of state authorities, and so on. To process the data, historical-comparative, microhistorical and system analyses were used.

It is noted that the semantics of toponyms and their renaming depended on the policy of the government in relation to the Jewish population. In the Russian Empire, Jewish settlers in the south of modern Ukraine had the opportunity to choose the names of new settlements themselves. The Soviet period was marked by another wave of resettlement of Jews in the rural areas of southern Ukraine, which led to the emergence of new settlements and renaming of previously created ones. The policy of the Soviet government towards Jews in the countryside at the beginning of World War II, when most of them were wiped out during the Holocaust, is given a detailed description. It is shown, that in the postwar years, most former Jewish settlements retained politically and ethnically neutral names or were renamed in the spirit of the communist tradition.

It is outlined how during the period of independence of Ukraine a new wave of renaming occurred due to the policy of decommunization. This process was based on the principles defined by the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory taking into account the positions of local communities. It is stressed, that in some cases of renaming, the local history was not taken into account and the names of most of the former Jewish settlements were not restored.

Key words: *Jewish agrarian settlements, toponyms, south of Ukraine, Holocaust, renaming, decommunization*

The full version of this article is available in Ukrainian.

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