

David I. Bernstein, Ph.D.

900 Years of Polish Jewish History

Kuzari

Ashkenaz

First Crusade (1096)

Boleslav the Pious (1264)

Casimir the Great (1344)

1648 – est. 500,000 Jews in Poland

Kehilla structure/ Va'ad 4 Aratzot (Lublin, shtadlanim)

Rav Yaakov Pollak – first yeshiva in Poland, Lublin (1518), Rav Shalom Shachne

Rav Moshe Isserles (Rama) – Cracow (1530-1572)

Maharshal – Lublin (1510-1574)

Maharasha – Lublin (1555-1631)

Rav Yoel Sirkes (Bach) – Cracow (1561-1640)

Rav Natan Shapira (Megaleh Amukot) – Cracow (1585-1633)

Rav Yomtov Lipman Heller (Tosfot Yom Tov) – Cracow (1579-1654)

Chmelnicki Revolt (1648-9)

R. Yisrael Baal Shem Tov (Besht) – d. 1760

R. Elimelech of Lizensk (1717-1787)

Partitions of Poland (1772, 1793, 1795)

European Nationalism/ Zionism

Socialism/ The Bund

Agudat Yisrael

1918 – Poland re-constituted; 10% Jewish

Warsaw: 30%, Lodz: 33%, Lvov: 32%, Lublin: 35%, Cracow 26%