

**Summary of the doctoral thesis by Sandra Tomczak,
"Political Activity of Jewish Women in the Warsaw Voivodeship
and the Capital City of Warsaw between 1918-1939"**

The aim of the dissertation is to present the political activity of Jewish women in the Warsaw Voivodeship and the capital city of Warsaw between 1918 and 1939. Political activity refers to participation in activities undertaken by political parties and various pressure groups, aimed at consciously transforming the existing political and social reality. With the granting of full political rights to women, regardless of their religion, in the reborn Polish state, there was a significant increase in public activity among Jewish women. However, the development of this phenomenon was also associated with various other factors, such as increased access to education and female literacy, unionization, and the flourishing of modern Jewish political groups. In the first elections to the Legislative Sejm, female Jewish candidates appeared on Jewish party lists, and in 1922, the first Jewish female deputy, Róża Melcerowa, a Zionist from Eastern Galicia, was elected to the Sejm. The thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter discusses basic data on the Jewish population in the researched area, the genesis of political activity among Jewish women, as well as the conditions, paths, and motivations of women involved in public activity. The second chapter examines the presence of women on Jewish party lists in elections to the Polish Sejm and Senate, as well as municipal councils in the capital city of Warsaw and the Warsaw Voivodeship. It also presents the profiles of selected Jewish female city councilors, including Ewa Kirszbaum-Landau from Kutno, Perla Gluzman from Włocławek, and Estera Alter-Iwińska from Warsaw. The position of women in Jewish political parties and their activity in the communist party become the main topics of the third chapter. It also discusses the non-party activities of Jewish women within women's organizations, trade unions, economic organizations, libraries, sports organizations, paramilitary formations, and charitable organizations. In the final, fourth chapter, the focus is on the role of women in Jewish politics, taking into account the leading political currents (Orthodox, Zionists, Bundists), as well as the discrepancies between women's perceptions of their role and place in the Jewish world and the reality in which they functioned. The chapter also addresses the issue of women's access to decision-making processes in Jewish communities and their collaboration with Polish women's organizations.