

## JEWISH COUNCILS IN NAZI OCCUPIED CRIMEA

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The article is devoted to the history of the Jewish Councils, established in most Crimean cities: Simferopol, Evpatoria, Sebastopol, and Yalta, during the Nazi occupation of the Peninsula from 1941 till 1944. The author bases his analysis on Soviet and German sources, mostly documents from the Extraordinary State Commission on Investigation of the Crimes of the German-Fascist Invaders, as well as diaries, memoirs and testimonies.

The article examines the social composition of the Jewish Councils; the ways the Jewish administration in the Crimea was created by the Germans and how the Jews in these areas viewed these Councils. It describes the main phases of the Councils' activities: registration of the Jews, Germans' looting of Jewish property, mobilization of Jews for forced labor, and their role in collecting Jews for "resettlement". These activities are examined together with the role the Councils were forced to play during the Final Solution in the Crimea, and their response to Nazi policy.

This article also compares the activities of the Jewish administrative Councils in the Crimea to those in the ghettos of Poland, Western Ukraine and Belarus. Due to the limited extent of the available archival materials, a complete history of the Jewish Councils in this area is not possible. Alternative directions for future research are outlined.