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Jewish emigration to Palestine during the II Polish Republic - in the light of the Zionist daily „Chwila”.

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„Chwila” was a journal published in 1919-1939 in Lwów. Due to its central Zionist nature, the editors consciously focused on providing readers with information on the Jewish diaspora around the world, with particular emphasis on Palestine and providing information related to the life of Jews in Poland. The editors of the magazine did not forget about the realization of the main goal of Zionism, which was its own homeland in Palestine. Therefore, the issue of emigration and life on Palestinian soil were one of the main topics appearing in the newspaper. The supplements dedicated to these issues also served to familiarize readers with Palestine and the issue of emigration.

Due to the central Zionist nature of the journal, its editors promoted organizations with this profile. In the first place, the readers were provided with information related to the Zionist Organization of Eastern Lesser Poland. The editors of „Chwila” devoted a lot of space to the presentation of party activities in the emigration and Palestinian realms. The editorial office described extensively, rallies and meetings at which party activists promoted emigration to Palestine. In a slightly narrower form, the activity of the Jewish National Fund and the Foundation Fund were presented in the pages of the journal. Both societies were of interest to the editorial office of the daily for two reasons. First, both funds raised money to buy and develop land in Palestine. Secondly, throughout the interwar period, these societies closely cooperated with the activists of the Eastern Lesser Poland Zionist Organization, with which the editorial office of the journal was associated.

„Chwila” being a periodical with a central Zionist profile, created a pro-emigration narrative throughout the interwar period thanks to its editors and collaborators. This was achieved primarily by numerous letters, descriptions and reports, the common element of which was their reportage nature. These forms of expression were intended to perpetuate in the recipient an idealized image of Palestine and its people, which was to encourage readers to emigrate to Palestinian soil. The editors and collaborators of the journal, wishing to create a Jewish homeland in the future, also presented the readers with the image of a Jew which Palestine need. These descriptions described in detail what positive qualities the future inhabitant of the Jewish homeland should have. This type of narrative was intended to promote the concept of „creating a new type of Jew”; mentally and physically strong, ready to

make sacrifices in the name of his own nation and the emerging state of the Jewish citizen. The editorial office of the daily promoted various campaigns and fundraisers for Palestinian purposes on its pages. Their presentation was to, on the one hand, activate the readers, and on the other, inform them about the activities undertaken for the creation of a Jewish national headquarters in Palestine.

The pages of the journal also presented reasons that could motivate the Jewish population to leave Poland. The narrative conducted by the editorial office of the journal shows the increasing economic and social discrimination against Jews since the 1930s. Proportionally to the deteriorating situation of the Jewish population, the growing pro-Jewish rhetoric of the journal's editors is noticeable. Thus, it should be assumed that, in their opinion, emigration was to be the only remedy to improve the nation's well-being. At the same time, it should be noted that the emigration of Jews to Palestine would not have been possible had it not been for the friendly attitude of the Polish authorities towards this issue. This postulate began to be dealt with relatively late, only from the mid-1930s. During this period, Polish authorities, also on the international arena, promoted the idea of the necessity of mass Jewish emigration from the country. These factors could have contributed to the fact that in the years 1922–1937 at least 10,350 people emigrated from Eastern Lesser Poland to Palestine.

Armedum Sothya