

SUMMARY OF PhD THESIS

by mgr Sławomir Mrozek

entitled: "Social and Political Life in Gorlice County ("powiat") in the Years 1918-1939".

The main driving force behind this doctoral thesis was interest in local history of the region. The thesis is arranged in chronological order and consists of five chapters. The first chapter covers the period from the sixties in 19th century until the restoration of Poland's independence. At the time, the social and economic life of the county was under a profound influence of the newly established and fast developing oil industry. The period was also marked with intensive development of popular and workers' movements within the county area.

Chapters two and three focus on social and economic transformations. The county of Gorlice was inhabited by Polish, Jewish and Lemko populations. Chapters four and five focus on the activities of political parties against the backdrop of elections held in Gorlice county in the years 1918-1939, and on the activities of associations and unions.

The local community of Gorlice always expressed keen interest in the events taking place in Poland. In these difficult years of political crisis, unemployment, redundancies, natural disasters, the society of Gorlice managed to organise itself in numerous associations and to provide solidary assistance to the ones in need. Jews accounted for 40-50% of the population of Gorlice.

Lemko population did not express much interest in politics. Most members of Lemko population focused mainly on their own historical and cultural traditions.

The society of Gorlice was actively engaged in cultural and sports activities.