

Contents

List of Abbreviations — XI

Foreword — XIV

Acknowledgements — XV

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 The Topicality of Studying the Polish-Lithuanian Karaites as an Ethnoreligious Minority and Introduction to the History of Karaism — **1**
- 1.2 Structure and Objectives of the Study — **8**
- 1.3 Methodological Difficulties — **11**
- 1.4 Survey of Sources — **14**
 - 1.4.1 Unpublished Sources — **14**
 - 1.4.2 Published Sources: Publications of Karaite Authors — **16**
 - 1.4.3 Published Sources: Publications of Non-Karaite Authors — **18**
 - 1.4.4 Other Sources — **19**
- 1.5 Historiography of the Problem — **20**
 - 1.5.1 General and Epigraphic Studies — **20**
 - 1.5.2 Language Studies — **26**
 - 1.5.3 Anthropological Studies — **27**

2 Between the Israelites and the Khazars: 1900–1918 — 34

- 2.1 A Short Survey of the General State of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaite Community on the Verge of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries — **34**
- 2.2 Halicz — **41**
 - 2.2.1 Outline of the History of the Community Prior to 1900 — **41**
 - 2.2.2 General State of the Community — **43**
 - 2.2.3 Historical Monuments — **46**
 - 2.2.4 Legends and Proverbs — **54**
 - 2.2.5 Personalia — **59**
 - 2.2.6 Relations with Rabbanite Neighbours — **64**
- 2.3 Łuck — **69**
 - 2.3.1 Short Survey of the History Before 1900 — **69**
 - 2.3.2 General State of the Community from 1900 to 1918 — **70**
 - 2.3.3 “Kenas, Kineza, Kanza” – a Local House of Prayer — **72**
 - 2.3.4 Publishing Activity: Periodical “Sabakh” (GVKar. “Morning”) — **76**
- 2.4 Troki — **79**
 - 2.4.1 Short Survey of the History Before 1900 — **79**
 - 2.4.2 General State of the Community from 1900 to 1918 — **80**
 - 2.4.3 Personalia — **82**
- 2.5 Wilno — **87**

- 2.5.1 Short Survey of the History Before 1900 — **87**
- 2.5.2 Rav Pinachas Malecki and the General State of the Community from 1900 to 1918 — **88**
- 2.5.3 Publishing Activity: Periodical “Karaimskoe Slovo” — **90**
- 2.6 The Role of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaites in the All-Karaite Events of the 1910s — **93**
- 2.7 Beginnings of Dejudaization: Kenesa/Kenasa – an Official Name for a Karaite Synagogue — **96**
- 2.8 The Problem of Mixed Marriages and Conversion from Karaism to Rabbanite Judaism (and Vice Versa) — **100**

- 3 Interwar Period (1919-1939): the Victory of the Khazar Theory — 109**
- 3.1 General State of the Karaite Communities in Poland and Lithuania in the Interwar Period — **109**
- 3.2 Halicz — **115**
- 3.2.1 General State of the Community During the Interwar Period — **115**
- 3.2.2 Interwar *ḥazzanim*, Izaak Abrahamowicz, and the Conflicts of the 1920s and Early 1930s — **123**
- 3.2.3 The Halicz Karaites, the Poles, and the Ukrainians — **129**
- 3.3 Łuck — **133**
- 3.3.1 General State of the Community — **133**
- 3.3.2 Al-Mar: Poet, Writer, Journalist, Editor and Translator Aleksander Mardkowicz (1875–1944) — **137**
- 3.3.3 Karaj Awazy: The Voice of a Karaite — **144**
- 3.3.4 Sergiusz Rudkowski (1873–1944) — **146**
- 3.4 Troki — **149**
- 3.4.1 General State of the Community — **149**
- 3.4.2 Poet, Farmer and Religious Authority: *ullu ḥazzan* Szemaja ben Abraham Firkowicz (1897–1982) — **150**
- 3.4.3 Poetess Lidia Poziemska (Łobanos) (20.01.1886–2.01.1952) — **155**
- 3.4.4 A Periodical of Karaite Teenagers: “Friend of the Karaites” – “Przyjaciel Karaimów” (“Dostu Karajнын”) — **156**
- 3.4.5 Monuments of History — **157**
- 3.4.6 The Karaites and the Troki Cucumbers — **163**
- 3.5 Wilno — **166**
- 3.5.1 General State of the Community — **166**
- 3.5.2 Publishing Activity: the ‘Jednodniówka’ *Sahyszymyz/Nasza Myśl* (“Our Thought”) — **167**
- 3.5.3 The *ḥazzan*, Poet, and Translator Józef Łobanos (1880-1947) — **169**
- 3.5.4 Abraham Szyszman, a Military Engineer and Collector of Karaite Folklore — **171**
- 3.5.5 Kenesa — **174**

- 3.5.6 Cemetery — **175**
- 3.6 Poniewież — **177**
- 3.6.1 Outline of the History — **177**
- 3.6.2 Periodical “Onarmach” – “Success” and “Development” of the North Lithuanian Karaites — **179**
- 3.7 The Polish-Lithuanian Karaites in Other Communities of the World — **183**
- 3.7.1 Warsaw — **183**
- 3.7.2 Latvia and Estonia — **185**
- 3.7.3 Germany, France, Italy and Holland — **186**
- 3.7.4 Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia — **188**
- 3.7.5 China (Manchuria) — **189**
- 3.7.6 United States — **190**
- 3.8 General Trends in the Life of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaites in the Interwar Period — **191**
- 3.8.1 The Karaite Periodical “Myśl Karaimska” (Pol. “Karaite Thought”) and Its Role in Shaping Historical Views and Self-Identification of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaites — **191**
- 3.8.2 Relations with the Rabbanite Jews — **193**
- 3.8.3 The Problem of Mixed Marriages — **200**
- 3.9 The Visit of Corrado Gini’s Anthropological Expedition to the Karaite Community in Poland and Lithuania — **203**

- 4** ***Ḥakham (Ḥakhan) Seraja Szapszał (1873–1961) and His Role in Shaping of the Turkic Identity of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaite Community*** — **216**
- 4.1 Seraja Szapszał’s Biography Before the Arrival in Poland (1873–1927) — **216**
- 4.2 Seraja Szapszał’s Life, Public and Academic Activity from 1927 to 1939 — **230**
- 4.2.1 Election and Arrival in Poland — **230**
- 4.2.2 Public Activity, Private Travels, Official Visits, and Meetings with Important Persons — **233**
- 4.2.3 Academic and Publishing Activity — **237**
- 4.3 Seraja Szapszał’s Reformist Activity from 1928 to 1939 — **245**
- 4.3.1 Influence of Kemal Atatürk’s Reformist Activity and Pan-Turkic Doctrine on Szapszał — **245**
- 4.3.2 *Ḥakhan*: the New Naming for the Head of the Community — **250**
- 4.3.3 Language Politics — **254**
- 4.3.4 New Turkic Calendar and Names of Religious Holidays — **264**
- 4.3.5 “Ecumenisation” of the Karaite Religious Creed — **270**
- 4.3.6 Changes in Traditional Symbolism and Invention of the Karaite “Coat of Arms” — **275**
- 4.3.7 Turkicization (Dejudaization) of the Karaites’ Historical Views and Cultural and Ethnic Identity — **279**

- 4.3.8 Ways of Implementing Szapszal's Turkic Doctrine in Interwar Poland — **280**
- 4.4 Outcome of Szapszal's Reforms — **283**

- 5 Between Scylla and Charybdis: Polish-Lithuanian Karaites between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union (1939-1945) — 293**
- 5.1 The Karaites During the Second World War: Introduction to the Problem — **293**
- 5.2 Historical Development of the Karaite Case: the Karaites in the Eyes of the Nazi Officialdom — **296**
- 5.3 General State of the Karaite Communities During the Second World War — **311**
- 5.3.1 The Fate of the Karaites from 1939 to 1941 — **311**
- 5.3.2 Karaite Participation in the War and the Problem of the Armed Collaboration with the Nazis — **313**
- 5.3.3 Every Day Life of the Community in the Nazi-Occupied Territories — **316**
- 5.4 Nazi Methodology in Investigating the Karaite Case and "Scholarly" Discussion on the Subject — **321**
- 5.4.1 Nazi Approaches to the "Karaite Question" — **321**
- 5.4.2 "Aryan" and "Non-Aryan" Scholars Express Their Views on the Karaites' Racial Origin — **323**
- 5.4.3 The Nazis Are Doing Anthropological Examination of the Karaites — **332**
- 5.4.4 The Role of Translations in the Nazi "Solution" of "the Karaite Question" — **334**
- 5.4.5 The Role of Encyclopaedias — **336**
- 5.5 Seraja Szapszal's Life and Activity from 1939 to 1945 – Real and Imagined — **337**
- 5.5.1 Life Real — **337**
- 5.5.2 Life Imagined and Belletrized — **342**
- 5.6 "Mit Dem Deutschen Grüss" from the Karaite Mikhail-Mussa (Moses) Kovshanly — **344**
- 5.7 Relations between the Karaites and Rabbanites During the Holocaust — **349**
- 5.7.1 The Complexity of the Problem and Mutual Accusations — **349**
- 5.7.2 The Role of Jewish Scholars in Saving the Karaites — **356**
- 5.7.3 The Karaites Are Coming to Rescue the Ashkenazim — **359**
- 5.7.4 Fake "Sons of Scripture": the Rabbanite Jews Save Themselves by Using Forged Karaite Identity Cards or Presenting Themselves as Karaites — **362**

- 5.8 The Impact of the Second World War and the Holocaust on the State of the East European Karaite Community — **366**

- 6 From the Soviet Stagnation to the Post-Soviet Renaissance (1945-2014) — 369**
 - 6.1 General State of the Karaite Community in Poland and Lithuania Until the Time of “Velvet” Revolutions and the Disintegration of the Soviet Union — **369**
 - 6.1.1 General Tendencies in the History of the Karaite Community After 1945 — **369**
 - 6.1.2 The Karaite Community in Socialist Poland: the First Secular Karaite Community in Eastern Europe — **373**
 - 6.1.3 Halicz — **378**
 - 6.1.4 Łuck — **384**
 - 6.1.5 Lithuania: Troki, Wilno, and Poniewież — **385**
 - 6.2 Most Important Karaite Religious Authorities of the Postwar Period — **389**
 - 6.2.1 Autumn of the Patriarch: Seraja Szapszał After the War — **389**
 - 6.2.2 Szemaja Firkowicz’s Biography from 1939 to 1982 — **396**
 - 6.3 Poland’s Most Famous Orientalists: Post-War Karaite Scholars — **398**
 - 6.3.1 Ananjasz/Ananiasz Zajączkowski (1903–1970) — **400**
 - 6.3.2 Włodzimierz Zajączkowski (1914–1982) — **408**
 - 6.3.3 Józef (Mieczek) Sulimowicz (1913-1973) — **410**
 - 6.3.4 Zygmunt Abrahamowicz (1923-1990) — **411**
 - 6.3.5 Aleksander Dubiński (1924–2002) — **413**
 - 6.3.6 Zofia Dubińska (1915-2008) — **415**
 - 6.3.7 “A Scholar Not Connected to the Karaites:” Szymon Szyszman (1909–1993) — **416**
 - 6.4 The Polish-Lithuanian Karaite Community After the Disintegration of the Soviet Union — **434**
 - 6.5 The Polish-Lithuanian Karaites in the Twenty First Century — **441**

- 7 Conclusion — 449**
 - 7.1 Paradoxes of the Ethnic History of the Polish-Lithuanian Karaites in the Twentieth and Twenty First Century — **449**
 - 7.2 Discussing the Future of the Community — **455**
 - 7.2.1 Demographic Situation — **455**
 - 7.2.2 The Possibility of Return to Judeo-Karaite Cultural Heritage and Ethnic Identity — **458**
 - 7.3 What Can One Learn from the Karaite Case? — **460**

Glossary — 463

Bibliography — 465

List of Illustrations — 513

Name Index — 514

Geographic Index — 524