

# Why Did our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like the Pale?

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Presentation to to the  
Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles  
14 November 2010

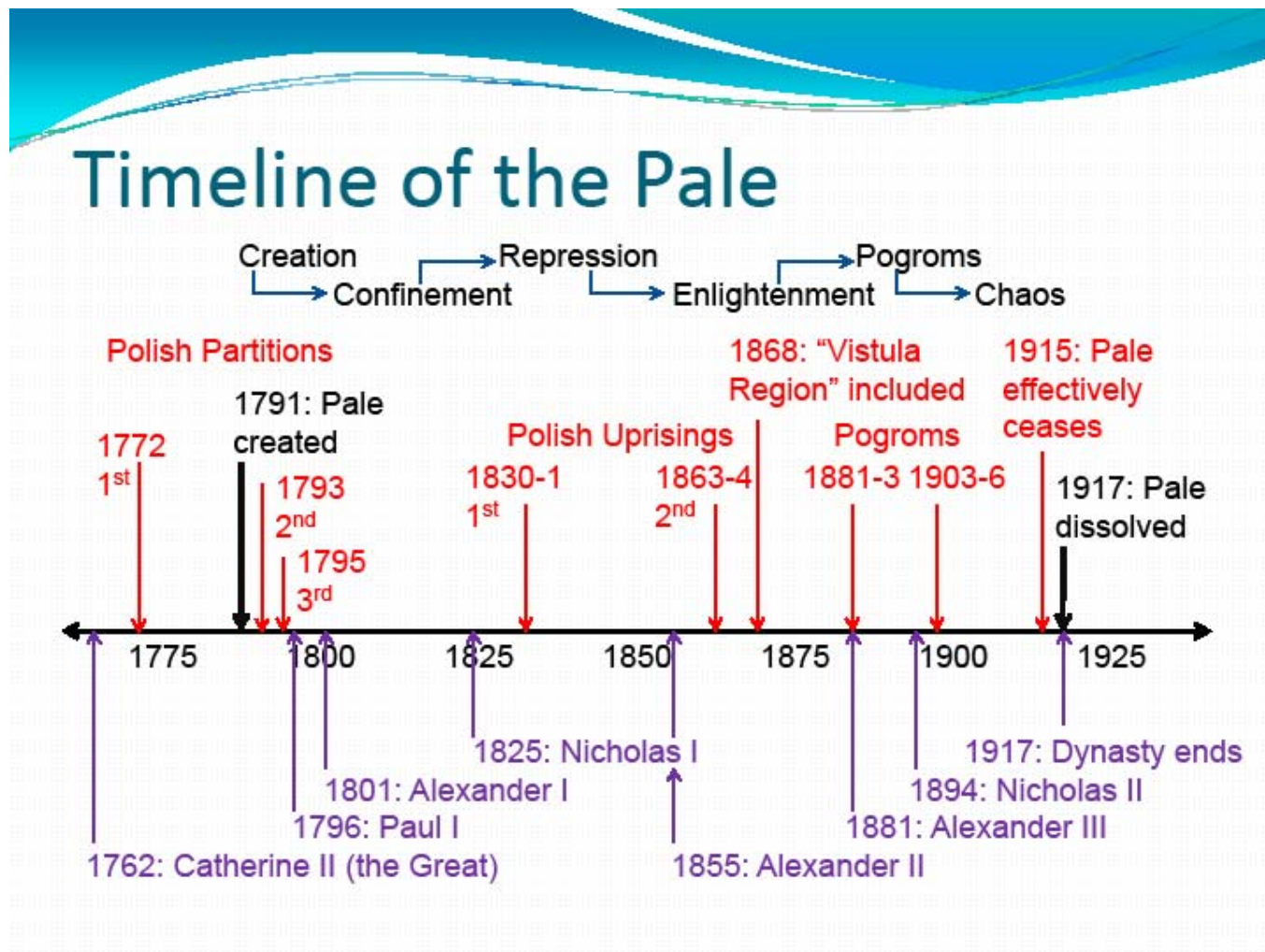


## Timeline of the Pale

The history of the Pale can be thought of as going through six stages,

- Creation,
- Confinement,
- Repression,
- Enlightenment,
- Pogroms and
- Chaos.

The presentation discusses these stages and their impact on the Jewish population of the Pale.



### Geography of the Pale of Jewish Settlement (excluding Poland)

The Pale of Jewish Settlement consisted of the Vice regencies of Belorussia, Bessarabia, Lithuania, New Russia, and Ukraine (Poland was a separate legal entity). Each vice regency was composed of one or more guberniyas (provinces). Each guberniya was made up of a number of uyezds (districts). Normally, the name of a uyezd was the same as its chief town. When the town had a different name, it is shown as “Uyezd/Town.” The chart below shows these breakdowns. The population figures are from the 1897 Russian census as shown in the [Atlas of Modern Jewish History](#) by Evyatar Friesel. The list of uyezds by guberniya is from the [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#). The contemporary names (in parenthesis) are from [Where Once We Walked](#) by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack.

Vice regency #, % Jews, 1897	Guberniya (year formed) # Jews, 1897	Uyezd (contemporary name) * = Guberniya capital
Belorussia 724,000, 13.6%	Minsk (1793-95, 1796) 345,000, 16% (1906)	Bobruysk, Borisov, Igumen (Cherven), *Minsk, Mozyr, Novogrudok, Pinsk, Rechitsa, Slutsk
	Mogilev (1773-78, 1802) 203,900, 11.9%	Bykhov, Chausy, Cherikov, Gomel, Gorki, Klimovichi, *Mogilev, Mstislavl, Orsha, Rogachev, Senno
	Vitebsk (1802) 175,600, 10.1 % (1906)	Drissa (Verkhnedvinsk), Dvinsk (Daugavpils), Gorodok, Lepel, Liutsin (Ludza), Nevel, Polotsk, Rezhitsa (Rezekne), Sebezh (Sebeza), Velizh, *Vitebsk
Bessarabia 228,500, 11.8%	Bessarabia (1873) 228,500, 11.8%	Akkerman (Belgorod Dbestrovskiy), Beltsy, Bendery, Izmail, Khotin, Kishinev, Orgeyev, Soroki
Lithuania 697,900, 14.7%	Grodno (1801) 280,000, 7.4%	Bialystok, Bielsk, Brest Litovsk (Brest), *Grodno, Kobrin, Pruzhany, Slonim, Sokolka, Volkovysk
	Kovno (1842) 212,700, 13.7%	*Kovno (Kaunas), Novoaleksandrovsk (Zarasai), Panevezys, Raseiniai, Siauliai, Telsiai, Vilkomir (Ukmerge)
	Vilna (1795-97, 1802) 204,700, 12.7%	Disna, Lida, Oshmyany, Svencionys, Trakai, Vileika (Naujoji Vilnia), *Vilna (Vilnius)
New Russia 501,800, 8.0%	Yekaterinoslav (1802) 101,100, 4.7%	Aleksandrovka, Bakhmut (Artemosvk), *Yekaterinoslav (Dnepropetrovsk), Mariupol (Zhdanov), Novomoskovsk, Pavlograd, Slavianskerbsk/Lugansk (Voroshilovgrad), Verkhnedneprovsk
	Kherson (1803) 339,000, 12.4%	Aleksandriya, Ananyev, Elizavetgrad (Kirovograd), *Kherson, Odessa, Tirashpol
	Tavrida (1802) 60,800, 4.2%	Berdiansk, Dnepr/Aleshki (Tsyurupinsk), Feodosiya, Melitopol, Perekop, *Simferopol, Yalta, Yevpatoriya
Ukraine 1,425,500, 9.7%	Chernigov (1796) 114,500, 5.0%	Borzna, *Chernigov, Glukhov, Gorodnya, Konotop, Kozelets, Krolevets, Mglin, Nezhin, Novgorod Severskiy, Novozybkov, Oster, Sosnitsa, Starodub, Surazh
	Kiev (1708-81, 1796) 433,700, 12.2%	Berdichev, Cherkassy, Chigirin, Kanev, *Kiev (Kiyev), Lipovets, Radomyshl, Skvira, Tarashcha, Uman, Vasilkov, Zvenigorodka
	Podolia (1796) 370,600, 12.3%	Balta, Bratslav, Gaysin, *Kamenets Podolskiy, Letichev, Litin, Mogilev Podolskiy, Novaya Ushitsa, Olgopol, Proskurov (Khmelnitskiy), Vinnitsa, Yampol
	Poltava (1802) 110,900, 4%	Gadyach, Khorol, Konstantinograd (Krasnograd), Kovelyaki, Kremenchug, Lokhvitsa, Lubny, Mirgorod, Pereyaslav (Pereyaslav Khmelnitskiy), Piryatin, *Poltava, Priluki, Romny, Zenkov, Zolotonosha
	Volhynia (1796) 395,800, 13.2%	Dubno, Izyaslav, Kovel, Kremenets, Lutsk, Novograd Volynskiy, Ostrog, Ovruch, Rovno, Starokonstantinov, Vladimir Volynskiy, *Zhitomir

## Geography of Poland

In 1815, the Kingdom of Poland was reconstituted at the Congress of Vienna, with the Russian Tsar as its King. The resultant entity was referred to as Congress Poland (“Kongresowka”). Congress Poland was divided into provinces referred to as palatinates or voivodships (“Wajewodztwa” in Polish). These voivodships included Cracow, Sandomier, Lublin, Podlachia, Kalisz, Plock, Warsaw, and Augustowo. The first four covered Polish lands that had been occupied by the Austrian Empire as Western Galicia. The latter four covered Polish lands that had been occupied by Prussia.

After two unsuccessful attempts at revolution, the army and legislature of Congress Poland were disbanded and it was consolidated into the Russian empire as “Vistulaland”, the “governments on the Vistula” or the “territory on the Vistula”, though it continued to be referred to as Congress Poland or the Kingdom of Poland. Its provinces were redrawn into ten guberniya, administered in the Russian fashion. Kielce was created out of Cracow. Radom was fashioned out of Sandomier. Podlachia was renamed Siedlce. Augustowo was divided into Suwalki in the north and Lomza in the south. Piotrkow was formed from portions of Cracow, Sandomier, Kalisz, and Warsaw. The other voivodships retained their names as they were converted to guberniya.

Russian Poland was bounded on the north by the Prussian provinces of West and East Prussia, on the west by those of Posen and Prussian Silesia, on the south by the Austrian crownland of Galicia, and on the east by the Russian governments of Volhynia, Vilna, Grodno, and Kovno.

In the census of 1897, Congress Poland contained 1,321,100 Jews, who constituted 14.0% of the population. Jews tended to live in cities and other urban areas, where they often constituted more than half of the population of the urban area. The chart below lists the ten Congress Poland guberniyas and some significant communities in each at the turn of the century. The communities shown are those on the map of Russia in the 1900 edition of The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia.

Guberniya #, % Jews, 1897	Major communities, 1900 (identified by their contemporary names)
Kalisz 71,700, 8.5%	Dzialoszyn, Kalisz, Kleczew, Kolo, Konin, Leczyca, Ozorkow, Sieradz, Slupca, Turek, Warta, Wielun, Wieruszow, Zdunska Wola
Warsaw 351,900, 18.2%	Aleksandrow Kujawski, Blonie, Gabin, Gora Kalwaria, Gostynin, Grochow, Grojec, Kowal, Kutno, Lowicz, Lubien Kujawski, Minsk Mazowiecki, Mszczonow, Nasielsk, Nowy Dwor Mazowiecki, Plonsk, Praga, Pultusk, Radziejow, Radzymin, Skierniewice, Warszawa, Wloclawek, Wolomin
Plock 51,500, 9.2%	Biezun, Chorzele, Ciechanow, Lipno, Mlawa, Osada Lubicz, Plock, Przasnysz, Rypin, Sierpc, Wyszogrod
Lomza 91,400, 15.6%	Grajewo, Kolno, Lomza, Makow Mazowiecki, Wysokie Mazowieckie, Myszyniec, Nur, Ostroleka, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Szczuczyn, Tykocin
Suwalki 59,200, 9.7%	Augustow, Kalvarija, Kudirkos Naumiestis, Marijampole, Prienai, Seirijai, Sejny, Suwalki, Szakiai, Vilkaviskis, Virbalis
Piotrkow 222,600, 15.8%	Bedzin, Brzeziny, Czestochowa, Koluszki, Lask, Lodz, Myszkow, Pabianice, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Radomsko, Rawa Mazowiecka, Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Warta, Wolborz, Zarki, Zgierz
Radom 112,300, 13.7%	Ilza, Konskie, Kozenice, Radom, Rakow, Opatow, Opoczno, Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, Przedborz, Sandomierz, Solec, Staszow, Szydlowiec, Zwolen
Siedlce 121,100, 15.6%	Biala Podlaska, Garwolin, Janow Podlaski, Laskarzew, Losice, Maciejowice, Ostrow Lubelski, Parczew, Siedlce, Sokolow Podlaski, Stoczek, Wegrow, Zelechow
Kielce 83,200, 10/9%	Busko Zdroj, Checiny, Chmielnik, Dzialoszyce, Jedrzejow, Kielce, Nowy Korczyn, Lukow, Miechow, Olkusz, Pilica, Pinczow, Stopnica, Wloszczowa
Lublin 156,200, 13.4%	Bilgoraj, Biskupice Lubelskie, Bychawa, Chelm, Hrubieszow, Janow Lubelski, Kazimierz Dolny, Krasnik, Krasnystaw, Lubartow, Lublin, Pulawy, Szczepieszyn, Tarnograd, Tomaszow Lubelski, Uchanie, Zamosc