

# The records of Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia - similarities and differences

**1788-1949**

INTENTION



decrees &  
regulations

RECORDS



content &  
structure

plus

historic and geographic background



AVAILABILITY today

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## Short historic preview ~ DECREES

1734 a rescript on marriages (age of bride and groom)

1766 circumcision books

1783 birth records of girls

**1784 Joseph II.'s decree on vital records**

- preprinted format, records keepers, etc.

1874 a decree to keep the duplicates 

**1949 the agenda transferred to the state**

# Historic preview and the records

Joseph II.

CSSR

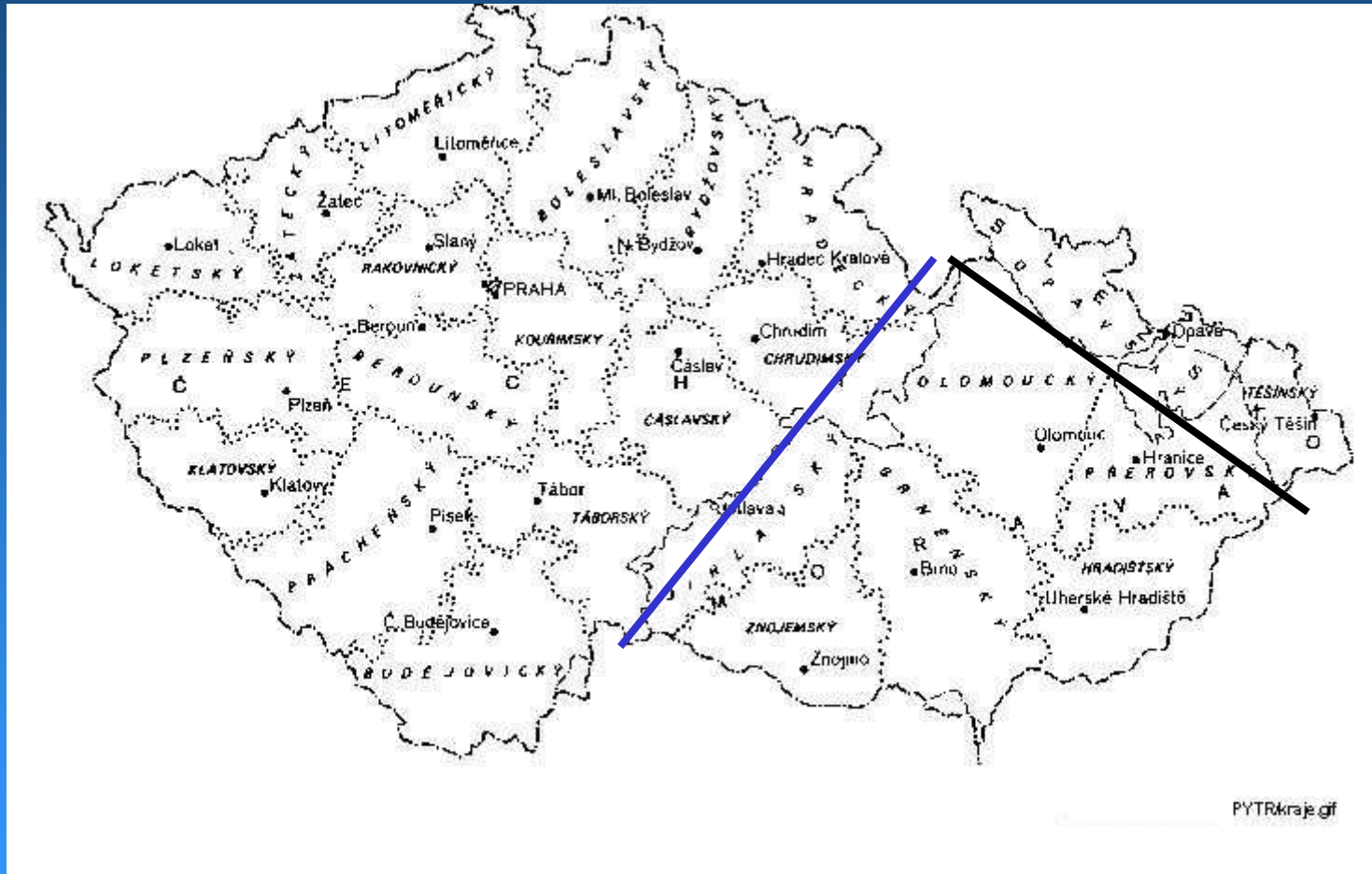
1784			1938/1939	1949
	1874		1938	
1797	1838	1868 (1890)		

1797 Systemal Patent issued by Franz I.

1838 Decree enforcing the control duplicates led by nearby catholic church

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## 18./19. century - country administration



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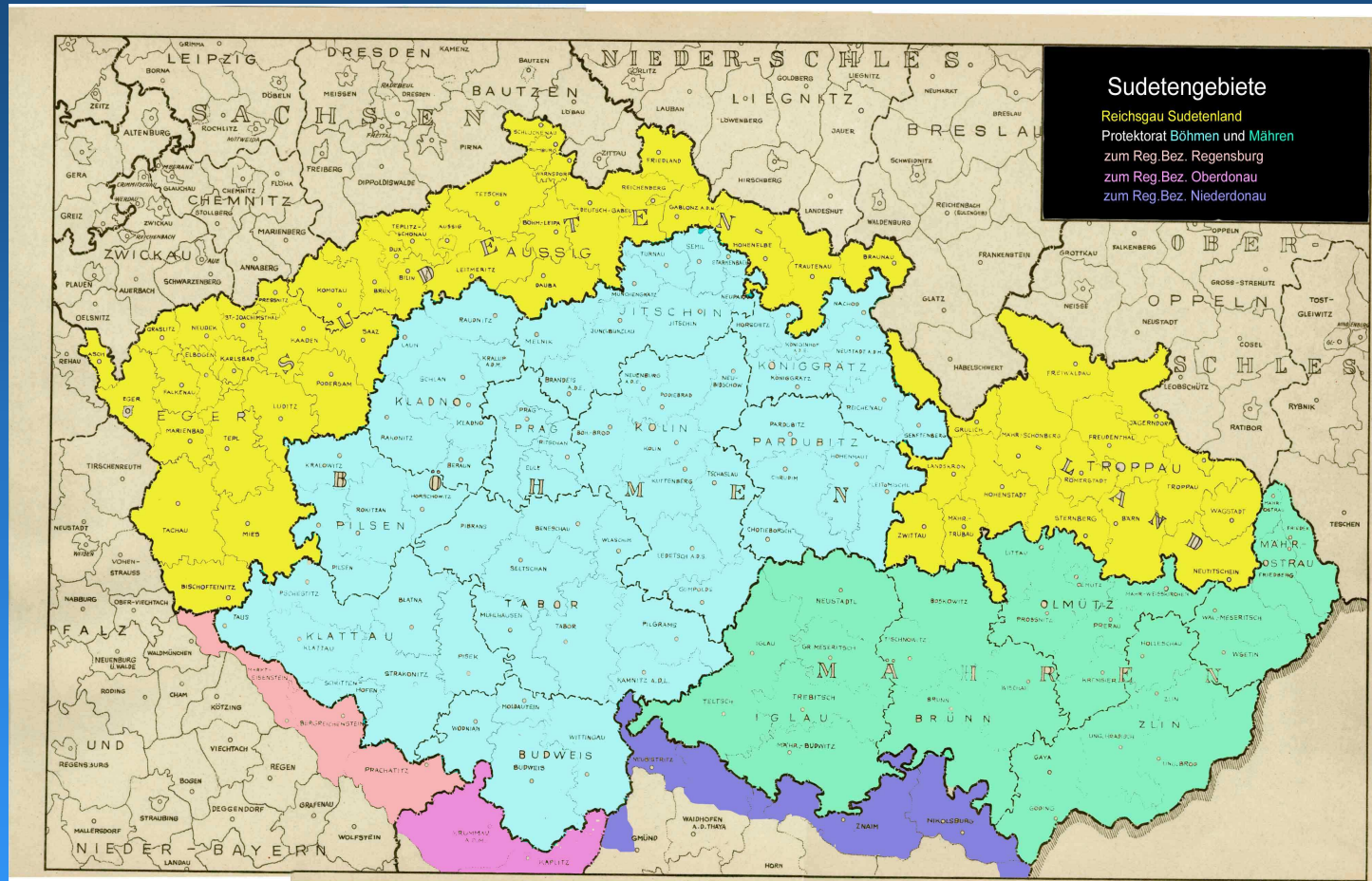
In Moravia, Jews were expelled from „royal“ town in abt.1440 (earlier than in Bohemia) and the families settled in small towns but did not scattered to small villages like in Bohemia. There were 52 rather large Jewish communities in Moravia. The restriction on number of families (5400) was lifted in 1849.

genealogy



In Silesia, there were not large communities until abt. 1860. Individual families were coming from Moravian communities (Singers from Ivančice to Těšín, many Jews from Jevičko to Osoblaha, etc.). The restriction on number of families (119) was lifted as early as in 1794.

As always - accesibilty is heavily influenced by historic events...



Sudetenland in 1939

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Three major sources of Jewish records today :

1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM
2. Jewish Museum Prague
3. Local state archives - network of regional a district archives





1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM  
= dupl. = cath.dupl.

Bohemia ~ abt. 770 places ~ today 2 030 duplicate books  
(only 7 of 770 partly missing) plus 701 cath. dupl. books

Moravia ~ 52 communities (77 places) ~ 409 duplicate books  
plus 43 cath. dupl. books

Silesia ~ 14 places ~ 47 duplicate books  
( no historic communities ) plus 4 cath.dupl. books

1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa / HBM  
= dupl. = cath.dupl.

	towns/villages	HBMa	/	HBM
Bohemia	<u>770</u>	2 030	/	<u>701</u>
Moravia	<u>77</u>	409	/	<u>43</u>
Silesia	<u>14</u>	47	/	<u>4</u>



3. Local state archives [www.cesarch.cz](http://www.cesarch.cz)  
Opava archive records : [www.archives.cz](http://www.archives.cz)

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Some of catholic duplicates of Moravia and Silesia  
are still in local parish collections in district archives.



1838-1863

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# 1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

## Central Moravia towns except Brno :

Boskovice, Hranice, Ivanovice, Holešov, Kojetin, Kroměříž,  
Lipník, Loštice, Nový Jičín, Olomouc, Prostějov, Přerov,  
Rousínov, Slavkov, Šumperk, Tovačov, Vyškov

1784-1848      1849-1873      1874-1900      1901-1949

61%

55%

22%

78%

# 1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

## South-East Moravia towns :

Buchlovice, Bzenec, Dambořice, Dolni Kounice, Hodonín,  
Ivančice, Koryčany, Kostel, Kyjov, Lednice, Mikulov,  
Miroslav, Strážnice, Uherský Brod, Valašské Meziříčí,  
Veselí na Moravě, vsetín, Bučovice, Břeclav

1784-1848

1849-1873

1874-1900

1901-1949

70%

55%

40%

55%

# 1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

## South-West Moravia towns :

Batelov, Brtnice, Jihlava, Jemnice, Lömnice, Police, Polná,  
Šafov, Telč, Třebíč, Třešť, Velké Meziříčí, Znojmo

1784-1848      1849-1873      1874-1900      1901-1949

62%

54%

31%

62%

## 2. Jewish Museum Prague [www.jewishmuseum.cz](http://www.jewishmuseum.cz)

Collections of Jewish community incl. family history papers  
- can substitute missing vital records :

Dambořice, Dolní Kounice, Ivančice, Jevíčko, Kojetín,  
Kroměříž, Kyjov, Lomnice, Loštice, Mikulov, Opava,  
Ostrava, Podivín, Pohořelice, Prostějov, Slavkov, Telč,  
Třebíč, Třešť, Uherský Ostroh, Úsov, Znojmo.

Jews in Silesia - historic preview = Opava, Těšín, Krnov:

Jews were expelled from Opava (1535), Krnov (1535) and Hlubcice (1543). They could not settle but could come to markets, collect taxes and rent the distilleries (arendas).

In 1721/1722 the Jews lived in 3 places of Krnov estate and 17 places of Opava estate, 111 people altogether.

In 1723/1725, there were 40-50 families living at Těšín estate.

In 1752, there were 88 families in Těšín area, 23 families in Opava/Krno area, and 8 families in Vidnava.



13 Jewish communities in Silesia / records in Prague Natl. archive:

	HBMa	HBM
Bílovec	1	
Bruntál	1	1
Frydek	3	1
Frydlant		1
Jeseník	1	
Karviná	4	
Krnov	1	
Místek	7	
Opava	9	
Osoblaha	2	
( Ostrava )	14	
Těšín	1	
Vidnava	1	

# 1. Prague Natl. Archive - collections HBMa a HBM

## Silesia towns :

Bílovec, Bruntál, Frýdek, Frýdlant, Jeseník, Karviná,  
Krnov, Místek, Opava, Osoblaha, Ostrava, Těšín, Vidnava

1784-1848      1849-1873      1874-1900      1901-1949

38%

23%

31%

62%

Several databases online :

Jewish cemeteries - by Brno Jewish community [www.zob.cz](http://www.zob.cz)  
Brno, Ivančice, Holešov, Miroslav,

- GenTeam.at

- Grave-pictures.at

and others ...

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## Summary :

Many vital records of Moravia and Silesia are in Prague Natl. Archive. However, some period records are missing due to historic consequences (captured Sudetenland / destruction of records by the nazis in April 1945).

The catholic duplicates are often still in district archive, some of them are online (Opava regional archive).

The collections of Jewish museum archive in Prague can substitute missing vital records.

Silesia communities were mostly formed by Moravian Jews so their family history can be traced in „hometown“ Moravia records.

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