

## Summary

The main goal of the PhD thesis is to present the conditions of life in Łódź in 1945-1948 and to compare them to the situation before 1939.

The thesis describes not only the precise number of cinemas, theatres, etc., but the atmosphere of the city and its elements like inhabitants' mood, changes in their mentality different social processes. The analysis includes various spheres of everyday life of Łódź residents (housing, education, social care, access to health care, culture).

The most difficult task was to study the conditions of life on the basis of sources created by various institutions and ordinary people who were dependent on institutions. The reason was the shortage of materials created by "ordinary people", official documents do not always give the answer to different questions. The currently popular microhistorical research could not be fully used in case of the research referring to the conditions of life in Łódź in 1945-1948 on the basis of the available material.

The day January 19th 1945 was not only the day of the end of Nazi occupation and the Red Army entry to the city but the beginning of new reality. Łódź was reviving, operation of factories, schools or hospitals were resumed, cultural life was flourishing. However, the city inhabitants struggled with numerous existential problems, like participating in complicated political and social events. Years 1945-1948 are also the time when the relative political pluralism was existing. These delusions were dispelled already at the time of "Polish people's referendum" (1946) or elections to the "legislative sejm" (1947).

Issues such as everyday life and living conditions are an important element in the research of historians. Due to this type of research it can be easily stated that not only the fate of outstanding individuals is worth knowing, but also entire social groups.

The most important sources were the documents of the Archiwum Państwowe in Łódź, Archiwum Akt Nowych in Warszawa or the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. A lot of information could be found in the local press: „Dziennik Łódzki”, „Express Ilustrowany”, „Wolna Łódź” and „Głos Robotniczy”. The memoirs of people who participated in that history were used.

The statistical materials were also important e.g. “Rocznik Statystyczny Miasta Łodzi 1945-1947”.

The PhD thesis consists of 10 chapters, of problem-chronological construction. The first one contains an outline of the city history up to the outbreak of World War II and the political life of the city in 1945-1948. The second chapter describes the demographic and territorial changes in the city. The third chapter includes the issue of employment, the struggle for better working conditions, the creation of trade unions and strikes in the city, and the problem of unemployment. The fourth chapter describes the housing situation in Łódź - flats, their number, accessibility, equipment, methods of granting, as well as access to running water, sewage or electricity. The fifth chapter focuses on issues related to provisioning of the city in difficult post-war years, because food supplies were the most important elements that influenced quality and standard of living. The sixth chapter analyses the question of public transport in Łódź in 1945-1948. The seventh chapter presents access to education: kindergartens, nurseries, schools and studies. The eighth Chapter describes the health and social welfare in the city in the first post-war years. The ninth chapter presents the forms of spending free time, which, according to the vision of the new authorities, were to be directed to all social groups. The last chapter is the characterization of criminality and selected pathological behaviours in the city in 1945-1948.

The analysis of available sources provide us with many important conclusions. The life of Łódź inhabitants at that time was, as difficult as in other cities. The revival of the city, the resumption of the activity of factories, enterprises, schools, hospitals, public utilities, or the opening of universities could be realised with the active participation of the local society. Everyday life problems were not resolved in the first post-war years, but undoubtedly the improvement of the conditions of life in many aspects were visible in comparison to the interwar period.

*Ewa Kaczmylek*