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The reality of war. Lublin during the First World War

The years of The Great War were a time of significant transformations in almost every sphere of life for all Europeans, including the residents of Lublin. The evacuation of the Russians in the summer of 1915, followed by taking the power by the armies of the Central Powers, caused major changes in the functioning of the city and its local population. The occupiers striving to, quickly and efficiently, subordinate the population in the newly created General Military Government, introduced a number of regulations. However, at the same time, the plundering activities of the German and Austrian armies caused the deterioration of living conditions of the residents, problems with provisions, limited production and craft activities, leading to an increase in the discontent of the population.

The main goal of the doctoral dissertation was a try to reconstruct the image of everyday life in Lublin during World War I to depict the city in the period of a great change, which was the war, as well as its character and dynamics. In order to achieve these, it was necessary to look at the different areas of the city's functioning during the war, e.g. authorities, people (residents and visitors), urban space, as well as economic, educational and cultural issues.

The paper consists of the introduction, prologue, 8 chapters arranged chronologically and problem-wise, and the conclusion. The prologue is introductory and shows the life of Lubliners under the Russian rule in the first year of the war. The chapters, on the other hand, deal with specific issues from the period of the Austro-Hungarian occupation in the spheres of: power, space, housing conditions, medical, social and spiritual care, urban economy, education and culture. The last chapter presents the life of the soldiers of the occupation forces and the Polish Legions in Lublin. In addition, this chapter discusses the activities of social and paramilitary organizations that helped wounded, disabled soldiers and prisoners of war.

The paper is based on sources taken from archival, press and diary materials.

Anna Jakimowicz