

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

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From the 1790s until World War I, Jews in the Russian Empire were for the most part restricted to Poland and the Pale of Jewish Settlement. The Pale consisted of the Vice regencies of Belorussia, Bessarabia, Lithuania, New Russia, and Ukraine. Poland was a separate entity which was merged into the Pale by the early 1870s. Each vice regency was composed of one or more guberniyas (provinces) which were further subdivided into uyezds (districts).



Map source: Atlas of Modern Jewish History by Evyatar Friesel

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.

