

Contents

<i>Preface: Pinsk: A Novelist in the Blottes</i>	xvii
Mark Jay Mirsky	
<i>Preface: Introduction to Pinsk Translation</i>	xxxiii
Moshe Rosman	
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xlvii
Introduction by Mordechai Nadav	i
The Political History of Pinsk up to the Mid-Sixteenth Century	6
From Principality to Royal Domain	10
I. From the Founding of the Community Until the Union of Lublin (1506–1569)	13
The Founding of the Community:	
The Basic Privilege of Pinsk Jewry	13
The Jewish Quarter and the Direction of Its Expansion	18
Population Growth Estimate Based on the 1552–1555 and 1561–1566 Lustracje	23
Communal Organization	26
The Basic Privilege	31
Transition from Private Holding to Royal Domain	35
Adjudication	36
Taxes	37
Economic Life During the Era of Prince Feodor	38
Loans	40
Leases of Customs, Liquor, and Salt Monopoly Rights	43
Agricultural Properties and Other Real Estate	48
Commerce	51
Intensification of Economic Activity	55
Artisanry	58

2.	From the Union of Lublin Until the 1648–1649 Chmielnicki Persecutions (1569–1648)	59
	Development of the Community: Population Growth	59
	Topography of Jewish Settlement	62
	Expansion of Settlements in the Pinsk Vicinity	63
	Legal Status: General Privileges	67
	Pinsk's Magdeburg Privilege	71
	The Pinsk Jews' Privileges	73
	Jurydyki	75
	Jewish Status in Practice	76
	The Jews of Pinsk Within the Christian Environment	79
	Economic Life	86
	Latifundia Leasing: The Olewsk Leasehold	86
	Arendy as a Source of Livelihood for Pinsk's Jews	98
	Tax and Customs Leases	99
	Liquor and Mill Leases	102
	Commerce	103
	The Timber and Grain Trade	107
	Trade and the Status of the Pinsk Jewish Community	108
	Large-Scale Commerce	111
	Middling and Petty Commerce	112
	Loans	113
	Handicrafts and Hired Employees	115
	The Kahal Organization: The Structure and Competence of the Kahal	116
	The Rabbi, Chairman of the Court	119
	Adjudication	122
	Taxes	124
	Special Taxes and Levies	130
	How Did the Kahal Finance Its Budget?	131
	Relations Between Pinsk and the Surrounding Communities	134
	Pinsk's Place Among the Chief Communities	138
3.	From the Chmielnicki Persecutions of 1648–1649 Until the Peace of Andruszow	141
	The 1648–1649 Persecutions in Pinsk	141
	The Penetration of the Cossacks into the Pinsk Region	142
	The Capture of Pinsk	144

The Jews of Pinsk During the 1648–1649 Persecutions	146
The Testimony of Jacob Rubinowicz	146
The Testimonies of the Hebrew Chronicles	148
The Townspeople and the Jewish Community	150
The Flight of the Jews of Pinsk I	152
Loss of Life	152
Renewal and Rehabilitation of Communal Life:	
Continuity of the Activities of the Kahal Leadership	156
Economic Life	161
Commerce and Credit	161
Arendy	163
Pinsk During the Polish-Muscovite War (1655–1659)	163
War Preparations	164
The Attack on Pinsk and Its Capture	166
The Occupiers and the Urban Population	167
The Flight of the Jews of Pinsk II	168
The Effect of the Events on the Townspeople and the Jews	171
1656–1659: Pinsk at the Center of Political Activity	173
The Controversy over the Liquor Business	175
Credit	176
1660	178
The Capture of Pinsk by Mikhail Kurhan	178
The Second Muscovite Occupation	179
1660–1667: Polish Rule Restored	180
The Life of the Jews of Pinsk in the 1660s:	
Demographic Changes	183
The Spread of Bartending	185
The Middle Class and the Wealthy	185
Commerce	187
Pinsk's Hinterland	189
The Change for the Worse in Christian-Jewish Relations	190
Religious Hatred and Attacks Against Jews	191
4. From the Peace of Andruszow Until the Conquest of Pinsk by the Swedes (1667–1706)	193
The Development of the Jewish Community: Demographic Growth and Geographic Expansion	193
The Surrounding Vicinity	194

x Contents

	Economic Life	197
	Commerce	197
	The Affluent Class	198
	Customs	201
	Leasing of Estates, Liquor Rights, and Villages	205
	Moneylending	209
	Jews Lending to Christians	209
	Kahal Loans	210
	Loans to Individuals	217
	Organization of the Kahal	219
	Internal Problems of the Kahal Leadership	219
	Pinsk as a Chief Community and the Dispute Between the Chief Communities	222
	Internal Life	226
	Education of Children	226
	The Yeshiva	228
	Study of Torah	229
	The Synagogue	230
	Daily Life	231
	The Rabbis of Pinsk	232
	The Image of the Rabbinate	235
	Summary: The Pinsk Jewish Community's First Two Hundred Years	236
5.	From the Conquest of Pinsk by the Swedes Until the Second Partition of Poland (1706–1793)	242
	The Jews of Pinsk at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century	242
	Population Growth	243
	Jewish Population in Pinsk According to the 1766 and 1784 Censuses	244
	The Pinsk Vicinity	251
	The First Dispute with the Subordinate Communities	253
	Renewed Conflict with the Subordinate Communities	257
	Karlín and Its Ties to Pinsk	262
	Debts	264
	Debts of the Pinsk Community	271
	Personal Debts	278
	Economic Life	279

Taxes, Income, and Expenditures of the Kahal	288
Head Tax	288
Other Taxes	289
The “Skhum”	291
The Kahal Budget	293
Pinsk and Karlin—Hasidim and Mitnaggedim	294
Rabbi Rafael Ha-Kohen (Hamburger) and Hasidism	295
Rabbi Eliezer Ha-Levi	298
The Maggid’s Letter to Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Hayyim	299
Rabbi Levi Yitzhak ben Meir of Berdichev	301
Rabbi Avigdor ben Hayyim (1785–1795)	304
6. From the Russian Annexation of Pinsk Until Tsar Alexander III and the Bilu Movement (1793–1880)	312
Rabbi Avigdor’s Battle with the Hasidim of Pinsk and Lithuania	312
Rabbi Avigdor’s Renewed Battle with the Hasidim and the Kahal	322
Saul Levin Karliner and the History of Pinsk-Karlin Jewry (1793–1834)	329
Saul of Karlin	330
Karlin’s Role in the Battle Between Hasidim and Mitnaggedim	331
Economic Life	335
The 1820s and the Beginning of Economic Revival	337
The Economic Activity of Saul Levin Karliner	339
Saul Levin’s Activities as a Community Leader	340
Emigration to Eretz Israel and Aid to the Ashkenazic Community	344
Saul Levin of Karlin: The Culmination of One Era and the Beginning of Another	345
Growth of the Jewish Population	346
Legal and Political Status	350
The Kahal	354
Taxes	355
Military Recruitment	359
Economic Life After 1835	366
Agents of Pinsk Merchants in Ukraine	374
The Timber Trade	376

Industry	379
The Beginnings of Jewish Industry	380
Trades	381
Iwaniki	385
Pinsk's Economic Profile and the Changes of the 1860s	388
Migration to Ukraine	392
Economic Crisis	394
Welfare	396
The Haskalah	400
Rabbi Uziel the Judge	403
Reuben Holdhor and His Divrei Shalom Ve-Emet	404
Perushim	407
The Turning Point	410
Knowledge of Russian	411
Clerks	412
The Intelligentsia	414
The Circles of Maskil Writers	417
The Circle of Shomer	418
Newspaper Articles	419
Reading	421
Enlightened Members of Wealthy Families	422
Fundamentalist Circles	425
Educational Institutions	428
The Government School	429
Girls' Schools	435
Rosenberg's Private School	436
Secondary Education	437
The Gymnasium	439
Commercial School	441
Talmud Torah	441
The Pinsk Talmud Torah	442
The Karlin Talmud Torah	446
Hadarim, Melamdin	451
Societies and Benevolent Institutions	454
Pinsk Hevrah Kaddisha (Burial Society) and Hevrah Ketanah (Small Society)	455
Pinsk Bikkur Holim (Society for Visiting the Sick)	455
Pinsk Hevrat Linah (Assistance to the Sick)	455
Pinsk Hevrot Limud Torah (Torah Study Societies)	455

Pinsk Hevrot Gemilut Hasadim (Free Loan Societies)	456
Karlin Hevrah Kaddisha and Hevrah Ketanah	456
Karlin Hevrah Shas (Talmud Society)	457
Karlin Hevrot Gemilut Hasadim	457
Karlin Somekh Noflim Society	458
Karlin Bikkur Holim	458
Karlin Hevrah Lomdei Shas	458
Other Societies	458
Hospitals	459
The Pinsk Hospital	459
The Karlin Hospital	460
Synagogues and Study Houses	462
The Great Synagogue of Pinsk	463
The Karlin Synagogue	465
Rabbis of Pinsk and Karlin	465
Rabbi Hayyim ben Peretz Ha-Kohen	466
The Court	468
Appeals	469
The Scholars' Circle (Asefat Ha-Lomdim)	469
Crisis in the Rabbinate: Rabbi Joseph ben Benjamin	470
Rabbi Aaron of Krotingen	470
Rabbi Mordecai Zakheim	471
Rabbi Elazar Moses Horowitz	471
The Rabbis of Karlin	477
Rabbi Samuel, Rabbi of Karlin and Antopol	477
Rabbi Jacob ben Aaron Barukhin	478
Rabbi Isaac ben Aaron Minkovsky	481
Rabbi Samuel Avigdor Tosfa'a	482
State-Appointed Rabbis	485
Hasidism in the Second Third of the Nineteenth Century	489
Pinsk and Karlin	493
Summary of the History of the Pinsk Jewish Community (1706–1880)	495
<i>Notes</i>	505
<i>Bibliography</i>	585
<i>Index</i>	595