

Summary

Środa: The history of a royal and self-government town in Greater Poland in the eighteenth century.

This doctoral dissertation is an attempt to show the overview of the history of 18th-century Środa. This was a destination town for the self-government of the Poznań and Kalisz provinces. The city council books are the main sources, which were used during the research. All of them contain a lot of information related to the Urban activities and responsibilities. Moreover, the church archives were also used, which are including parish register. These materials make possible a demographic analysis of the city. The narrative is supplemented by the records of the regional assemblies, which show the nobility's influence on the city's functioning.

The chronology of the dissertation covers the years 1697-1793 and designates two important events in the history of Środa. The study begins with the Great Fire of 1697, which devastated the more than half of the city, destroying the rebuilt buildings after the destruction caused by the so-called 'Swedish Deluge'. The end of this era was marked by the Second Partition of Poland and the entry of Prussian troops into Środa.

The analyzed issues are discussed in five chapters. The first chapter contains a general overview of the city. The analysis included geographic and administrative location of the town, a description of the beginnings of the city's founding, a reconstruction of the city's topography and a description of the main city's objects.

The second chapter focuses on the city's political system. It contains the analysis of the city's establishment, the structure of city government, the functioning of city courts (both non-contentious and contentious), the city's finances, and the guild system.

The next part of the dissertation is related to the city community. This section is devoted to Środa's population changes, which resulted from natural increase and migrations. It also contains an analysis of the townspeople's stratification, the family relations and attempt at sociotopographic analysis.

The fourth chapter focuses on the city's economy. Three subsections are connected with agriculture and animal husbandry, crafts, and trade issues.

The final, fifth chapter is related to the culture. The analysis includes the principles of a religious life of Środa's inhabitants, the intellectual culture and the influence of the self-government on the city's life.

The concluding part contains a summary, observations and suggestions relating to this dissertation and the postulates for the future research. An extensive bibliography is also included. The dissertation is supplemented with an annex, containing nine parts include the list of Maorys, councilors, voyts and jurors from the years 1697-1793, the list of Środa's guildmasters from the years 1697-1793, the list of prelates and canons of the collegiate chapter in Środa from the 18th century, the charters of some reconstructed Środa's families. It also contains the source editions of the content of the town's confiscation notification in 1697, ten selected wills of townspeople, the inspections of the Środa's landed estate in 1765 and of the town in 1756, as well as the list of persons admitted to municipal law in Środa in the years 1729-1793.