

Saved by Stalin?

Polish Jews in the Soviet Union and their Postwar Return to Poland

Presented by Rita Nash

With the 1939 Nazi Germany invasion of Poland, hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews fled into the Soviet-occupied Eastern Borderlands of Poland. Before long, most were declared 'enemies of the people' and deported to labour camps to work in appalling and harsh conditions in Siberia and Central Asia.

The post-war redrawing of the Polish borders resulted in a major repatriation program where Polish citizens in the Soviet Union were sent to populate the newly acquired Western Borderlands 'Recovered Territories'.

For less than five years, the surviving remnant of Polish Jews created a viable and vibrant life. However, the onset of Stalinisation coupled with the continued ancient hatred of antisemitism, meant once more, these few remaining Polish Jews had to flee.

Although forming the bulk of the surviving remnant of the Jews of Poland, until relatively recently, this has been a largely unexplored chapter of the Holocaust narrative.



Rita Nash holds a Masters degree in Librarianship and extensive experience in tertiary, secondary and primary education. Rita also managed an independent bookshop for 13 years and was a volunteer guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum for ten years.

Webinar 1:

**Polish Jews flight to the
Soviet Union 1939-1945**

6 May 2025 at 7.30 pm

<https://polaron-au.zoom.us/j/87849335257?pwd=NbrQqAHfAzvLSyvojZX6CQVtScyuTt.1>

Webinar 2:

**Polish Jews return to
Poland 1945-1950**

13 May 2025 at 7.30 pm

<https://polaron-au.zoom.us/j/84500427468?pwd=JvSY92edEb43E5O8bv3j7xE15pa5v0.1>



Australian Society of Polish Jews
and their Descendants

For more information: info@polishjews.org.au