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978-1-107-03666-6 - Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–48

Anna Cichopek-Gajraj

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Beyond Violence

This book tells a story of Polish and Slovak Holocaust survivors returning to homes that no longer existed in the aftermath of the Second World War. It focuses on their daily efforts to rebuild their lives in the radically changed political and social landscape of postwar Eastern Europe. Such an analysis shifts the perspective from postwar violence and emigration to postwar reconstruction. Using a comparative approach, Anna Cichopek-Gajraj discusses survivors' journeys home, their struggles to retain citizenship and repossess property, their coping with antisemitism, and their efforts to return to "normality." She emphasizes the everyday communal and personal experiences of survivors in the context of their relationships with non-Jews. In essence, by focusing on the daily efforts of Polish and Slovak Jews to rebuild their lives, the author investigates the limits of belonging in Eastern Europe after the Holocaust.

ANNA CICHOPÉK-GAJRAJ is an assistant professor of East European Jewish History at Arizona State University.

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107036666

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Cichopek-Gajraj, Anna, 1974– author.

Beyond violence: Jewish survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–48 / Anna Cichopek-Gajraj.

pages cm – (New studies in European history)

ISBN 978-1-107-03666-6 (hardback)

1. Holocaust survivors – Poland. 2. Holocaust survivors – Slovakia.

3. Jews – Poland – History – 20th century. 4. Jews – Slovakia – History – 20th century. 5. Poland – Ethnic relations. 6. Slovakia – Ethnic relations. I. Title.

DS134.55.C53 2014

940.53'1814094373 – dc23 2013050038

ISBN 978-1-107-03666-6 Hardback

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Acknowledgments

This project started more than ten years ago as a doctoral dissertation in the History Department of the University of Michigan where I have been incredibly fortunate to study with the most prominent scholars in the field. I am deeply indebted to my mentors Todd M. Endelman, Zvi Y. Gitelman, and Brian A. Porter-Szűcs for their wisdom, generosity, and unwavering support throughout the years. Todd M. Endelman introduced me to social history, inspired and guided my research, and made me feel at home in modern Jewish history. His editorial work on my dissertation taught me more about English syntax than any writing guidebook. It was Zvi Y. Gitelman who encouraged me to apply to the University of Michigan graduate program and who has supported me in my scholarly endeavors ever since. His unmatched knowledge of East European, Russian, and Soviet Jewish history and politics set the standard to which I shall always aspire. Last but not least, I am deeply indebted to my primary advisor, Brian A. Porter-Szűcs, who generously guided a fresh student from Poland through American academia. He also repeatedly challenged my understanding of East European and Polish modern history for which I am immensely grateful. His intellectual curiosity and theoretical sophistication have inspired me ever since.

A few trusted colleagues and friends have offered invaluable critiques of my text. I am grateful to Piotr J. Wróbel from the University of Toronto, who caught factual errors and suggested necessary additions while serving as the external reader on my dissertation committee. Many thanks to Philipp Ther, my mentor at the Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme at the European University Institute in Florence, who read selected chapters of my dissertation and suggested useful revisions. I am particularly indebted to my colleague Eli Nathans from the University of Western Ontario in London for his vital revisions of my chapter on citizenship. I am also grateful to Yeshayahu A. Jelinek for his in-depth reading and important critique of the Slovak sections of my dissertation and to Henryk Grynberg for his excellent suggestions for the chapter on the journey home. Special thanks must go to Eugene Avrutin, my friend from the

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for his careful reading of the entire manuscript and invaluable critique.

I am also immensely grateful to Bożena Szaynok who suggested important corrections to the final version of the manuscript. I had the privilege of working with her thanks to Andrzej Kamiński from Georgetown University and Eulalia Łazarska from the Łazarski Institute – the organizers of the 10th annual conference of “Recovering forgotten history: The image of east-central Europe in the Anglo-Saxon textbooks.” Andrzej and Eulalia’s continuous efforts to help junior scholars and first-time authors in Polish studies must be lauded. The conference organizers also solicited comments from Piotr Bajda and Jakub Tyszkiewicz to whom I remain thankful. Finally, my heartfelt gratitude goes to my friends and colleagues from my home department in Arizona State University. Rachel Fuchs and Mark von Hagen took precious time to comment on my entire manuscript; together with Hava Samuelson, Laurie Manchester, and Steve Batalden, they offered me invaluable encouragement and support. For their kindness and collegiality, I remain profoundly grateful.

During my years of research in Poland, Slovakia, Israel, and the United States, I met many gracious archivists, librarians, students, and scholars whose knowledge and kindness greatly aided my work. First and foremost, I want to thank Anita Norich, Vera Szabó, and Doron Lamm at the University of Michigan as well as the staff and scholars of the Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture at the YIVO Institute in New York for their generous efforts to teach me Yiddish and Hebrew. I express my thanks to the staff and scholars at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, especially Michlean Amir, Lisa Zaid, Lisa Yavnai, Claire Rosenson, Martin Dean, and Avinoam J. Patt. I am also grateful to my co-fellows Diana Dumitru, Daniel Magilow, James Ward, and Susanne Wiedemann for many inspiring conversations and helpful suggestions during our fellowship at the Center. I owe special thanks to Gideon Frieder for sharing his time and knowledge with me and for introducing me to Malvina and Miriam Burstein. I also remain greatly indebted to Paul Glasser, Leo Greenbaum, and the entire staff at the library and the archives of the YIVO Institute as well as to Misha Mitsel for his informed and kind guidance in the Archives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in New York. In Slovakia, I am grateful to the archivists in the State Archives in Bratislava and Nitra as well as to Daniela Ostatnikova, Pavol Traubner, Pavol Mešťan, and Peter Salner for all their help. Dusan Hudec, the director of the documentary *Love Thy Neighbor . . . : Anti-Jewish Pogrom in the Slovak Town of Topolčany in*

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September 1945, also has my sincere gratitude. In Poland, I wish to express my thanks to my MA advisor Andrzej Link-Lenczowski and my first doctoral advisor Andrzej Chwalba at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Many thanks must go to the archivists in the State Archives in Kraków, the State Archives in Wrocław, the Archives of Modern Records, and the Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. I am also grateful to Józefa Kostek and the National Museum in Przemyśl for allowing the use of a photograph of postwar Przemyśl on the cover of this book. In Israel, I owe special thanks to Witold Medykowski from the Yad Vashem as well as the archivists in the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem and in the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa.

Financial and institutional support enabled me to travel all over the US, Europe, and Israel in search of archival material. Special thanks for generous funding go to the Department of History, the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, the Center of Russian and East European Studies (CREES), the Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment, the Ronald and Eileen Weiser Foundation, and the Esther and Louis LaMed Fund for Yiddish Studies at the University of Michigan. I am particularly grateful to Marysia Ostafin and Roberta Nerison-Low from the CREES for their professional competence, personal grace, and generosity. I also want to thank the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture in New York, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC for their generous grants. I am grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Brandt, Sheldon Hamburger and Eva Jankelowitz, and Marshall M. Weinberg for their financial support. I am particularly indebted to Ramon Marimon, Karin Tilmans, Susan Garvin, Lotte Holm, Sarah Simonsen, and Alyson Price at the Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme at the European University Institute in Florence, for creating an excellent environment to begin work on this manuscript. I wish to express my thanks to the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków, the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews and the Society of Arts and Sciences in New York, and to the Institute for Humanities Research at Arizona State University for the opportunity to present and discuss my work at a larger forum. I am also extremely grateful to my new home institution, the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; the Center for Jewish Studies; and the Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies at Arizona State University in Tempe for their support.

My acknowledgments would not be complete without mentioning the editorial team of Cambridge University Press. Special thanks must go to Michael Watson who first showed interest in my work and was

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978-1-107-03666-6 - Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–48

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extraordinarily patient as he waited for the completed manuscript. I am particularly indebted to Mary Morton (copy-editor) and Gaia Poggio-galli (production editor) for their exceptional dedication and hard work. Also many thanks to assistant editors Chloe Dawson and Kaiya Shang for their help in making this publication possible.

Finally, I would like to mention people who might not have commented on the text, guided my archival research, or supported it financially, but nevertheless made a tremendous difference. I wish to express heartfelt thanks to Zehava Bar-Yosef, Susan Kaplow, Lois Uttley, Eva Derman, and Jozef Polakovič for opening their homes to me in Jerusalem, New York, and Bratislava; Malvina Burstein, Harold Minuskin, and Emanuel Tanay for sharing their difficult life stories with me; Roberta Pergher and Mark Roseman for helping me when I needed help the most; and Emanuela Grama and Kimberly Strozewski for their support and friendship throughout the years. I am especially grateful to John J. Hartman who believed in me, invested in me, and brought me to the United States in the first place. He and his wife, Julie, gave me my first American home away from home. A special debt of gratitude also goes to Lucyna and Zdzisław Leś of the *Źarden* bookshop in Kraków. Without the last twenty years of their friendship and support, none of this would be possible. I am grateful to my mother-in-law Elizabeth Gajraj who, with her flawless English, tirelessly edited parts of my dissertation. My most heartfelt gratitude goes to my parents Barbara and Stefan Cichopek for all their sacrifices, love, and encouragement and to my husband Ari Gajraj for carrying me lightly through the process. I dedicate this book to them.

Abbreviations

AAN	Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw (Archiwum Akt Nowych w Warszawie)
AJC	American Jewish Committee
AK	Home Army (Armia Krajowa)
APKR	State Archives in Kraków (Archiwum Państwowe w Krakowie)
APW	State Archives in Wrocław (Archiwum Państwowe we Wrocławiu)
AŻIH	Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (Archiwum Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego w Warszawie)
CAW	Central Military Archives in Warsaw (Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe w Warszawie)
CKŻP	Central Committee of Polish Jews (Centralny Komitet Żydów w Polsce)
DS	Democratic Party (Demokratická Strana)
HSES	Hlinka Slovak People’s Party (Hlinkova Slovenská Ľudová Strana)
HVNB	Commander-in-chief of National Security (Hlavné Veliteľstvo Národnej Bezpečnosti)
IPN	Institute of National Memory in Kraków (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej w Krakowie)
JOINT	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
KBW	Internal Security Corps (Korpus Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego)
KSS	Slovak Communist Party (Komunistická Strana Slovenska)
KWŻ	Provincial Jewish Committee in Kraków (Komitet Wojewódzki Żydów w Krakowie)
MNV	Local National Committee (Miestný Národný Výbor)
NA	National Archives in Washington DC

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NKVD	People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs (Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del)	
ONV	District National Committee (Okresný Národný Výbor)	
PKWN	Polish Committee of National Liberation (Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego)	
PPR	Polish Workers’ Party (Polska Partia Robotnicza)	
PUR	State Repatriation Office (Państwowy Urząd Repatriacyjny)	
SAN	State Archives in Nitra (Štátny Archív v Nitre)	
SIHS	Strochlitz Institute of Holocaust Studies in Haifa	
SNA	Slovak National Archives in Bratislava (Slovenský Národný Archív v Bratislave)	
SNR	Slovak National Council (Slovenská Národná Rada)	
SRP	Organization of Victims of Racial Persecution at The Hands of the Fascist Regime in Bratislava (Sdruženie Fašistickým Režimom Rasove Prenasledovaných v Bratislave)	
UB	Security Office (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa)	
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration	
ÚSZNO	Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia (Ústredný Sväz Židovských Náboženských Obcí na Slovensku)	
USHMM	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC	
YIVO	Archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York	
ZP	Board of Commissioners (Zbor Povereníkov)	