

After I World War Poland and Czechoslovakia were in conflict over Teschen Silesia. In 1920 this region was divided between both countries. Czechoslovakia obtained territory that was strategically and economically very important, yet largely inhabited by Polish and Germans. Czechoslovakia confronted the problem of integration of this territory with the rest of the state. Views of Polish and Czech historians on the matter of methods used in policy towards national minorities in Teschen Silesia are still very incompatible. Many Polish researchers claim that Czechoslovak administration pursued a policy of czechization. In Czech historiography there is a dominant opinion that First Czechoslovak Republic guaranteed its minorities full possibilities of development and prospective acts of discrimination were only incidental. The latter view was shared officially by Czechoslovak state bureaucracy in interwar period.

The aim of the project is to research thoroughly the policy of Czechoslovak state administration on central and regional level towards Polish and German inhabitants of Czechoslovak Teschen Silesia in the years 1920-1938 on the basis of mostly unexplored archival fonds left by these state institutions. Policy towards national minorities will be considered in the broad sense. It included questions related in fact with all segments of political, social and economical life in the region.

The reason for undertaking of this topic is that there still exists disagreement between researchers while wide archival fonds are uncredited. My foregoing research on Czech nationalist organizations of interwar period has shown that reality was very different than theory and that Czechoslovak state had devoted the policy towards national minorities in Teschen Silesia much more attention that it was expected before. The subject is a universal one and the results of research and range of archival survey will be an inspiration for researchers of other multicultural territories and state policies towards national minorities.