

Popular science project summary

The issue of socio-economic conflicts about easements in the second half of the nineteenth century in Galicia is a significant problem in difficult relations between peasants and landowners, and fits perfectly with the theme of socio-economic reforms undertaken only fragmentary or from a general point of view so far. Mass conflicts about easement or right to collection of wood and forest litter of forests and the use of meadows and pastures which belong to the manor came after the reform of enfranchisement and the abolition of serfdom in Galicia in the second half of the nineteenth century. Tensions resulting from the perspective of peasants, who wanted to maintain the easements rights on old rules and opposing activities of manor caused conflict of interest. The real process of adjustment and purchase easements occurred in the late 60s the nineteenth century and was to lead to the abolition of easements with compensation for village. The solution of problem turned out to be much more difficult to achieve than expected. Amicable agreements were a rarity. Most often occurred to the dispute and the subject of conflicts were estimates of the value of easements, the persons entitled to collect raw materials from forests and the amount of compensation or the type and area of transferred forest equivalent. Numerous and lengthy disputes caused the number of court cases about easements and of peasants, forcing to enforce their rights. In the second half of the nineteenth century in Galicia were about 32,000 lawsuits between municipalities and rural landowners and several hundred instances of peasant.

The research project provides a comprehensive analysis of the problem of conflicts about easements and the process of adjustment and redemption of the easements of Galicia Central in the second half of the XIX century. The territorial scope refers to the twelve counties from 1867, while the time frames are dictated by specific historical events (the imperial patents related to economic reforms) and with rich source database. Among the determinants of the subject of this project are mostly modest elaboration of the problem showing the issue of conflicts about easements in Galicia with general or fragmented point of view and at the same time a wealth of sources. No less importance it was also the desire to fill the gaps in research. The project will carry out extensive and in-depth research mainly outside the Polish borders, mainly in the Central State Archive of Historical Ukraine in Lviv and Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Library of Ukraine in Lviv. The study also requires additional queries in archival units in Poland - the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, the National Archives in Cracow and the State Archives in Rzeszow and Przemysl. A crucial role in the project meet the manuscripts from the nineteenth century, produced by different bodies of state administration, courts and local commissions easements.

Set goals and research issues will be realized on the basis of criticism and analysis of manuscripts, using the classic and innovative methods. Among the traditional methods, characteristic for the work of the historian, the most important role will be direct and descriptive method of determining the facts, as well as internal criticism and hermeneutics. Equally important will be the analytical method, inductive, deductive and statistical. Undoubtedly, an innovative solution will be working with the use of Geographical Information Systems, which will show the process of adjustment and redemption of easements in a modern way, the largest causes of conflict and the places where arisen the forest communities of land. Some of which have survived to modern times. The results of the research will be presented in several areas. In addition the results will also be presented with the use of modern tools by creating a website with the current progress of research and a database containing crucial information about the regulation of easements in each of the municipality. The research project also provides for the exploration of the area, which will determine the contemporary community forest land, as the residue after economic reforms in Galicia.

Research undertaken in this project will contribute primarily to bring new and expanding already possessed knowledge, including issues of easements in Galicia in the second half of the nineteenth century, which will give a theoretical basis for further research.