The history of Płock goes back to the eleventh century, when its location on the crossroads of two major trade routes determined its strategic, political and economic importance. In 1237, Płock was the first town in the Mazovia region to receive a municipal charter. The Płock Jewish community, dating to the early thirteenth century, was one of the oldest in Poland. The Jews were initially engaged in money-lending; but, after King Zygmunt August granted them economic rights in 1555 equal to those of other citizens, they became involved in trade and crafts.

The first synagogue was established in 1534 and served a community of 600 strong. After the partitions of the Polish Commonwealth, Płock passed first under Prussian and then Russian rule. By the beginning of the twentieth century, Jews were employed in commerce, clothing and metal industries, food processing and printing. Płock was a stronghold of the Jewish socialist Bund, the Zionist Socialists and the Po'alei Zion (workers of Zion) movements. Płock’s prominent Jewish citizens included the Yiddish writer Sholem Asch and two important Zionist leaders, Nahum Sokolow and Yitzhak Gruenbaum; the latter, who served in the Polish Parliament, was the most popular Jewish political leader in interwar Poland.

Soon after the Germans occupied the city on September 9, 1939, they imposed a ghetto. Two major deportations, on February 20 and February 28, 1941, nearly wiped out the Jewish community. Only some 100 Jews survived. A handful of Jews settled briefly in Płock after the war.

**Location**

104 km N of Łódź  
52°33'/19°42'  
Voivodship: Płock

**General Population, 1939**

30,000 (33% Jewish)

**General Population, 1994**

126,325
JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. 3 Maja 3
Cemetery, dating from the 1700s.
Completely destroyed.
Current site use: high school.

ul. Mickiewicza (formerly ul. Sportowa)
Cemetery (dating from 1845) was heavily damaged;
several tombstones remain, and additional fragments are
encased in a memorial wall.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

ul. Mickiewicza (Jewish cemetery)
Memorial to Holocaust victims from Płock who were
killed in the camps.

DEPORTATIONS

Działdowo, Treblinka, Sobibór, Auschwitz-Birkenau,
Biełżec.

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