The town of Zamość dates back to the late sixteenth century, when Prince Jan Zamotyński imported Italian architects to build a town in the Renaissance style. Even in a world of shifting borders, the fate of Zamość was particularly complex. In the nineteenth century, it belonged first to Austria and then to Russia. Sephardic Jews were the first Jews to settle in Zamość at the end of the sixteenth century; they were followed by a larger decisive settlement of Ashkenazic Jews. Haskalah, the Jewish Enlightenment movement, flourished in Zamość in the nineteenth century. It was the birthplace of both Róża Luxemburg, a fiery radical active in the founding of the Communist parties of Russia, Germany and Poland, and of I. L. Peretz, known as the father of modern Yiddish literature. Peretz modeled the setting of his famous play, Night at the Old Marketplace, after the magnificent Zamość marketplace. World War I devastated Zamość, but by 1939, Jewish life had revived and about 12,000 Jews were living there.

When the Germans invaded Poland, Zamość came under Soviet occupation; about 5,000 Jews retreated with the Red Army. In the spring of 1942, the Germans established a ghetto in Zamość to which they shipped Jews from other cities in occupied Poland as well as from Germany and Czechoslovakia; about 9,000 Jews passed through the ghetto. Successive deportations, primarily to the Belżec death camp, emptied the ghetto; it was liquidated in October 1942.

**Location**
89 km SE of Lublin
50°43’/23°16’
Voivodship: Zamość

**General Population, 1939**
24,000 (50% Jewish)

**General Population, 1994**
65,955

**Synagogues**
ul. Gminna 32
Constructed in 1872; destroyed in 1939; reconstructed after the Holocaust.
Current use: nursery school.

**Other Sites**
ul. Zamenhofa 9
Mikveh constructed in 1877.
Current use: jazz club.
JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. Partyzantów
Old cemetery destroyed during Holocaust.
Current use: cultural center.

ul. Prosta
New cemetery founded in 1906.
About 50 tombstones remain.
Current use: lapidarium.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Prosta (former Jewish cemetery)
Monument (obelisk) constructed in 1950 from tombstone fragments.

ul. Męczenników Rotundy
The Museum of Martyrology (in Rotunda)
Constructed on the site of mass executions.

DEPORTATIONS

Izbica, Belzec.
SELECTED READING


Tamari, Moshe, ed. Zamoshtsh bi-genonah uve-shivrah (Zamość at Its Height and Its Destruction). Tel Aviv: Former Residents of Zamość in Israel, 1953. (H, P)

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