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## The First Demographic Transition in Galicia as an element of modernization – Rzeszów against the background of the largest cities in Galicia: Lviv and Kraków

The article concerns selected aspects of the modernization of Galician society as illustrated by demographic changes in Rzeszów in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The subject of the study is the first demographic transition consisting in the reduction of the value of the birth and death rates. In the case of smaller cities, such as Rzeszów, the use of nineteenth-century statistical data raises doubts among historians. The re-analysis, taking into account the current state of research, provides the premises for the conclusion that in Rzeszów at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the symptoms of the first demographic transition were noticeable.

**Keywords:** demography, Galicia, the first demographic transition, Rzeszów, modernization

According to Andrzej Chwalba, rustic civilization, present in Europe throughout the ages, in 19<sup>th</sup> century began to be replaced by industrial civilization. Industrialisation processes, which changed economic and social relationships, went together with modernization of many spheres of life. Subjects were becoming citizens who were more and more involved in making decisions about political and social life, for example by taking part in elections. The countries were modernizing rules of their functioning, to maintain control of social processes initiated by radical reform in the economy.<sup>1</sup> Julian Dybiec pointed out areas of change, which proved the process of modernization going on in Galicia: growth in literacy, formulation of economic development strategies (works of

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<sup>1</sup> A. Chwalba, *Czy Galicji sukces był pisany? Cywilizacja przemysłowa 1880–1914* [w:] *Kraków i Galicja wobec przemian cywilizacyjnych (1866–1914)*. *Studia i szkice*, red. K. Fiołek, M. Stala, Kraków 2011, s. 25–29.

Józef Supiński and Stanisław Szczepanowski) and attempts at their implementation, arranging social life in various forms of organizations and associations, economic exhibitions proving changes and spreading new ideas, modernization of infrastructure improving comfort of life, science development, growth in national consciousness of the whole Polish community.<sup>2</sup> Krzysztof Broński and Piotr Franaszek also indicated the modernization processes in Galicia.<sup>3</sup> They both emphasize that modernization did occur in Galicia, but in many areas was not finally accomplished.

Modernization also concerned demographic processes. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries there were visible symptoms of the first demographic transition in Galicia, which significantly changed the model of reproduction of population. Starting from the ancient times, theses about demographic development were presented in the reflections of philosophers and economists, with time being given more considerable attention. The basic problem was the question of the number of population and possible limits of its increase. Answers were connected with three trends: populationism (preferred high procreation), anti-populationism (recommended the control of the increase in population because of adverse consequences), and “the optimum of population” (the balance between the population and the resources it possesses). In 1789 Tomasz Robert Malthus published “An Essay on the Principle of Population”.<sup>4</sup> He recommended limiting population increase because the population grew faster than the supply of food. Restrictions concerned poor people and were connected with the right to get married and to receive help from the state. This opinion was greeted with wide and critical response of contemporary scientists.<sup>5</sup>

Fears of Malthus and his contemporaries resulted from the lack of knowledge about the demographic transition which had just taken place (now it is known as the first transition). Statistical material gathered by demographers

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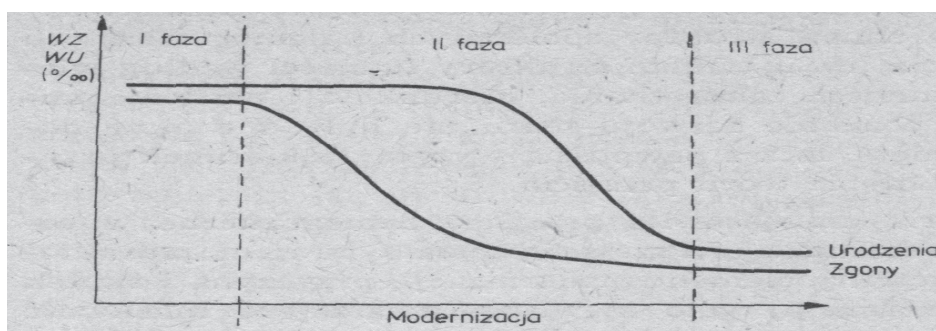
<sup>2</sup> J. Dybiec, *Galicja na drodze do wielkiej przemiany* [w:] *Kraków i Galicja wobec przemian cywilizacyjnych...*, s. 31–42. Zob. również tegoż, *Nauka a modernizacja społeczna w Galicji w epoce autonomii* [w:] *Galicja i jej dziedzictwo*, t. 20: *Historia wychowania, misja i edukacja*, red. K. Szmyd, J. Dybiec, Rzeszów 2008, s. 58–65.

<sup>3</sup> K. Broński, *Galicja w dobie autonomii wobec wyzwań nowoczesności* [w:] *Między zacofaniem a modernizacją. Społeczno-gospodarcze problemy ziem polskich na przestrzeni wieków*, red. E. Kościak, T. Głowiński, Wrocław 2009, s. 395–412; J. Dybiec, *Galicja na drodze do wielkiej przemiany* [w:] *Kraków i Galicja wobec przemian cywilizacyjnych...*, s. 31–42; P. Franaszek, *Między nowoczesnością a zacofaniem. Rola przemysłu naftowego w modernizacji gospodarki i społeczeństwa Galicji na przełomie XIX i XX wieku* [w:] *Między zacofaniem a modernizacją...*, s. 413–428.

<sup>4</sup> Ł. Gołębiowski, *Robert Malthus – pierwszy demograf* [w:] T.R. Malthus, *Prawo ludności*, Warszawa 2007, s. 7–10.

<sup>5</sup> M. Okólski, *Demografia. Podstawowe pojęcia, procesy i teorie w encyklopedycznym zarysie*, Warszawa 2005, s. 193–212.

from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries allowed them to prepare the results, published in 1940s (works of F. Notestein – 1945, as well as K. Davis, D. Kirk from the University of Princeton). In the following years that theory was empirically tested and modified.<sup>6</sup> The classic diagram of demographic transition is composed of three phases. In the first the rate of births and deaths are high; they temporarily fluctuated, giving small population growth in times of natural disasters with negative values (wasteful reproduction of population). In the second phase the rate of deaths decreases because of civilizational progress. Next, the rate of births decreases as a consequence of social behavior and birth control. As a result, population growth increases – temporarily and violently (demographic explosion). The third phase has a low and stable rate of deaths and births and the population growth is low (economical reproduction of population).



[Urodzenia – Births, Zgony – Deaths, Faza – Phase, Modernizacja – Modernization, WZ (współczynnik zgonów) – death rate, WU (współczynnik urodzeń) – birth rate]

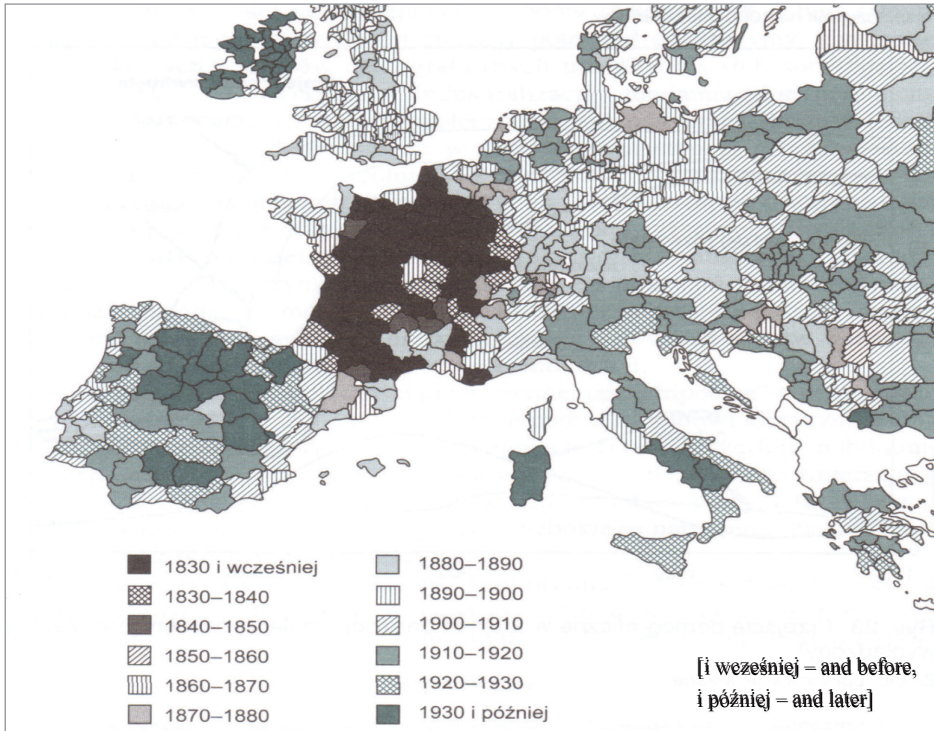
### Diagram 1. Model of the first demographic transition – three phases

Source: A. Maksimowicz, B. Pułaska-Turyńska, M. Rószkiewicz, *Rodowód i ewolucja teorii przejścia demograficznego* [w:] *Teoria przejścia demograficznego*, praca zbiorowa pod redakcją M. Okólskiego, Warszawa 1990, s. 51.

The first demographic transition started in the well developed countries of West and North Europe between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century by decreasing the death rate (death rate dropped to 30‰, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 19<sup>th</sup> century sometimes was even below 20‰). In the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century these changes were seen in the Czech Republic, Great Poland, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half – in Ireland, Russia, Romania, Serbia. Next the birth rate

<sup>6</sup> A. Maksimowicz, B. Pułaska-Turyńska, M. Rószkiewicz, *Rodowód i ewolucja teorii przejścia demograficznego* [w:] *Teoria przejścia demograficznego*, red. M. Okólski, Warszawa 1990, s. 41–68; B. Ogórek, *Niezatarte piętno? Wpływ I wojny światowej na ludność miasta Krakowa*, Kraków 2018, s. 63–78; M. Okólski, *Demografia. Podstawowe pojęcia...*, s. 212–220.

was reduced. It was a consequence of delaying the age of marriage, increased popularity of celibacy and control of births. The changes of the birth rate were less regular and interrupted by periods of stability or periodical increase. Next, these processes moved to East and South Europe. In Western and Northern Europe birth rate dropped significantly between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and the 30s of 20<sup>th</sup> century (from 30–35‰ to 15–20‰).<sup>7</sup>



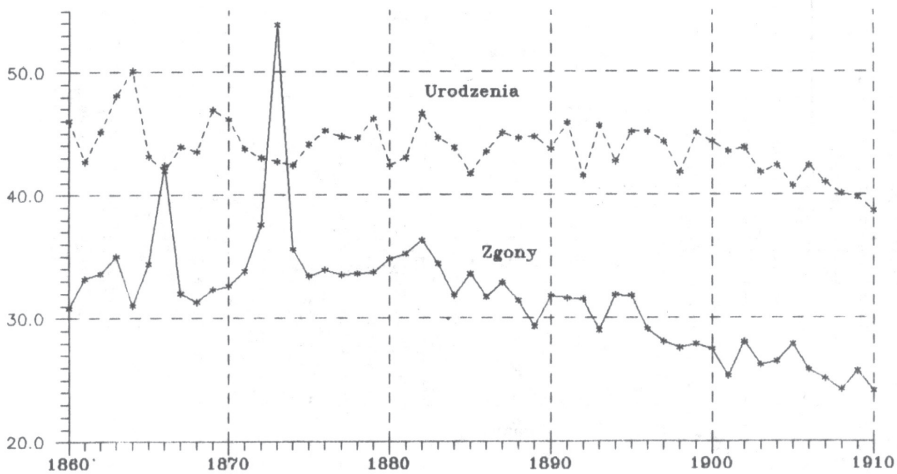
**Diagram 2. Regions of Europe according to the date of the beginning of the permanent fertility decrease because of birth control**

Source: M. Okólski, *Demografia. Podstawowe pojęcia, procesy i teorie w encyklopedycznym zarysie*, Warszawa 2005, s. 133; za: A. J. Coale, S. C. Watkins (red.), *The Decline of Fertility in Europe*, Princeton University Press, Princeton 1986.

Bartosz Ogórek summarizing the statements of Polish scientists about the demographic transition in Poland takes 1870–1880 as the beginning of the drop in the death rate in Galicia, and 1900–1910 for the birth rate, which corresponds with Krzysztof Zamorski's conclusion in his pioneering work *Transformac-*

<sup>7</sup> M. Okólski, *Demografia. Podstawowe pojęcia...*, s. 127–130.

ja demograficzna w Galicji na tle przemian ludnościowych innych obszarów Europy Środkowej w drugiej połowie XIX i na początku XX w. [Demographic transformation in Galicia against the background of population transformations in other areas of Central Europe in the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries] published in 1991.<sup>8</sup> In this work he states that population growth in Galicia begins in 1857, but intensifies from 1880, when the death rate significantly drops due to gradual elimination of infectious diseases whereas the drop of birth rate occurred in the first decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century. He also points out that the demographic transition in Galicia was preceded by a short initial phase that happened after series of demographic crises from 19<sup>th</sup> century and the compensatory growth in the birth rate after that.<sup>9</sup>



[Urodzenia – Births, Zgony – Deaths]

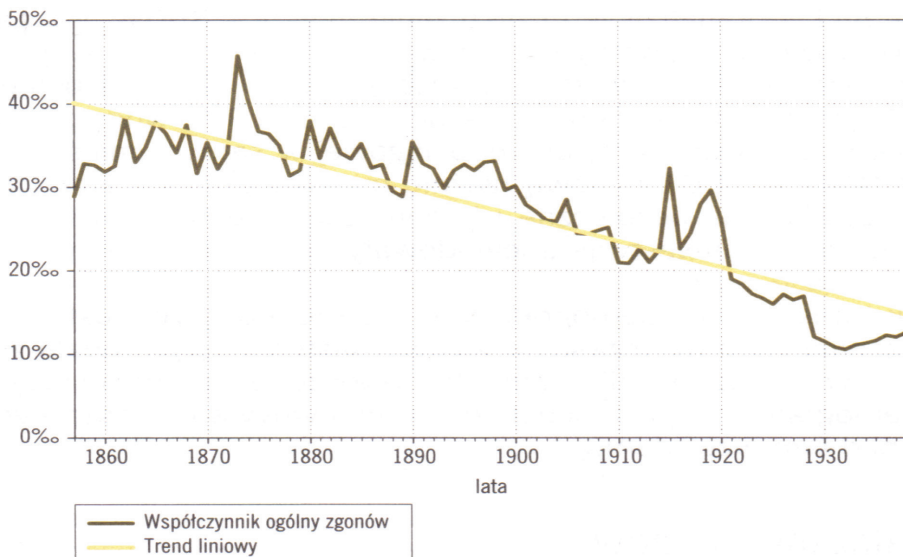
**Diagram 3. The first demographic transition in Galicia according to Krzysztof Zamorski – the death rate and birth rate in Galicia in the years 1860–1910 per 1000 people**

Source: K. Zamorski, *Transformacja demograficzna w Galicji na tle przemian ludnościowych innych obszarów Europy Środkowej w drugiej połowie XIX i na początku XX w.*, Kraków 1991, s. 112.

<sup>8</sup> K. Zamorski, *Transformacja demograficzna w Galicji na tle przemian ludnościowych innych obszarów Europy Środkowej w drugiej połowie XIX i na początku XX w.*, Kraków 1991. Other works by this author: tenże, *Początki przejścia demograficznego w Polsce*, „Studia Demograficzne” 1993, 2 (112), s. 15–22; tenże, *Transformacja demograficzna w Europie Środkowej w XIX wieku. Wewnętrzne podobieństwa i różnice*, „Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski” 1994, t. 19, s. 27–45; tenże, *Zasadnicze linie przemian demograficznych Galicji w drugiej połowie XIX i na początku XX wieku [w:] Galicja i jej dziedzictwo*, t. 2: *Spółczesność i gospodarka*, red. J. Chłopecki, H. Madurowicz-Urbańska, Rzeszów 1995, s. 95–110.

<sup>9</sup> B. Ogórek, *Niezatarte piętno?...*, s. 79–82.

The first demographic transition in Galicia was described precisely for Lviv by Konrad Wnęk and Kraków by Bartosz Ogórek. As Konrad Wnęk points out in Lwów 1870–1913 is the time of intensive economic development, which is proved by the growing city budgets. Finances allowed the modernization of urban infrastructure: city channels were renovated and extended, Peltew and Pasięka rivers were covered, the waterwork was extended, a new slaughterhouse with a cold room was built, which increased sanitary conditions of food storage. These investments caused the decrease of the death rate. The death rate oscillated between 30–40‰ in 1857–1899 as the consequences of epidemics were easily seen. In the years 1900–1913 the rate decreased to 20–30‰. This trend was interrupted by the first world war, which increased the death rate due to military actions and lower resistance caused by war conditions (malnutrition, starvation, bad living conditions, difficult access to medical treatment, infectious diseases including Spanish flu). Death rate went up to more than 30‰. Starting from 1920 the death rate decreased again till 10‰.<sup>10</sup>



[Współczynnik ogólny zgonów – the total death rate, trend liniowy – linear trend]

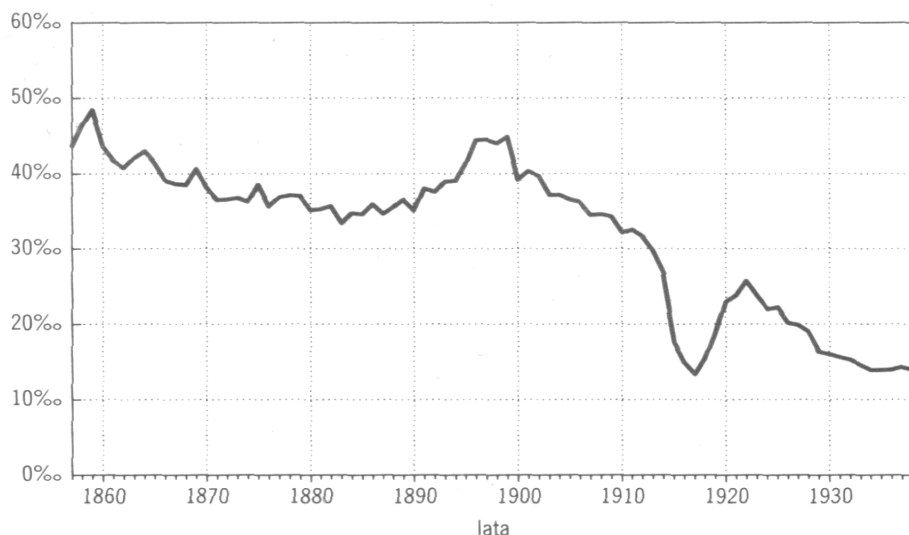
**Diagram 4. The first demographic transition in Lviv according to Konrad Wnęk – the total death rate in Lviv in the years 1857–1938 (per 1000 people)**

Source: K. Wnęk, L. A. Zyblikiewicz, E. Callahan. *Ludność nowoczesnego Lwowa w latach 1857–1938*, Kraków 2006, s. 172.

<sup>10</sup> K. Wnęk, L.A. Zyblikiewicz, E. Callahan, *Ludność nowoczesnego Lwowa w latach 1857–1938*, Kraków 2006, s. 170–177.



The years 1857–1887 were a time of a gradual decrease in the birth rate in Lviv from 40–45 to 35‰. The slow pace indicates that the drop could have been caused by natural changes in the age structure of the population. In the years 1888–1899 the rate increased again – probably because of immigration of people from villages and small towns, who preferred the traditional model of family with many children. In the years 1900–1914 the birth rate decreased to 25‰, during the first war it collapsed (15‰), increased again after the war, to slowly decrease in the years 1922–1938 to 15‰.<sup>11</sup>



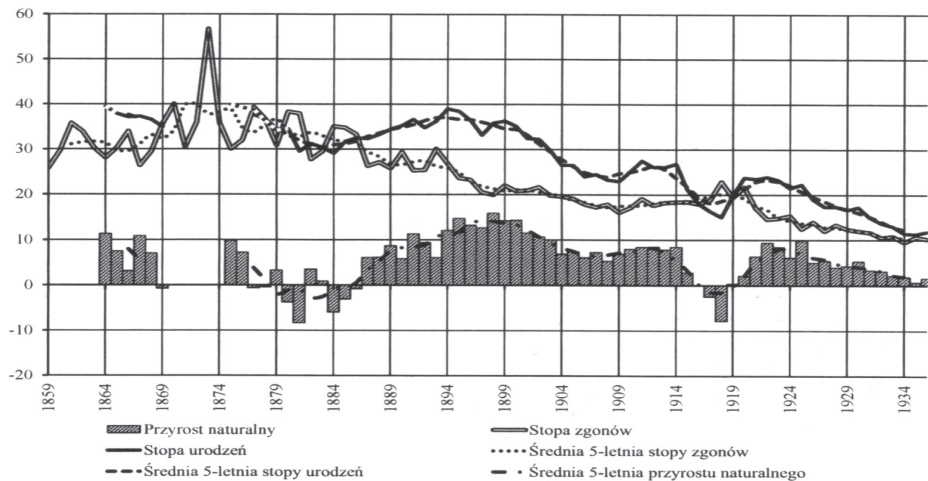
**Diagram 5. The first demographic transition in Lviv according to Konrad Wnęk – an index of the effective birth rate in Lviv in the years 1857–1938**

Source: K. Wnęk, L. A. Zyblikiewicz, E. Callahan. *Ludność nowoczesnego Lwowa w latach 1857–1938*, Kraków 2006, s. 110.

According to Bartosz Ogórek in Kraków in the years 1859–1873 the death rate was changeable (25–40‰) with the maximum value of 57‰ in 1873, when the last cholera epidemic breakout took place. Since 1874 the death rate was decreasing, with interruptions caused by epidemics (1889–1891 flue, 1893 smallpox). This continued to 1910 (in 1906–1910 the death rate reached 17‰) and was stopped most probably due to the fact that new areas with less developed infrastructure were incorporated within the city, which led to worse sanitary conditions. The first world war had a marked impact, leading to a noticeable

<sup>11</sup> Tamże, s. 109–111.

drop. Another decrease in the death rate was seen since 1922: in 1934 its value was the lowest in whole studied period – 9.5%.<sup>12</sup>



[Przyrost naturalny – population growth, Stopa urodzeń – birth rate, Średnia 5-letnia stopy urodzeń – 5 years average of birth rate, Stopa zgonów – death rate, Średnia 5-letnia stopy zgonów – 5 years average of death rate, Średnia 5-letnia przyrostu naturalnego – 5 years average of population growth]

Warning: the dotted line in case of the birth rate means that calculations have been made based on rough estimation.

#### Diagram 6. The first demographic transition in Kraków according to Bartosz Ogórek

Source: B. Ogórek, *Niezatarte piętno. Wpływ I wojny światowej na ludność miasta Krakowa*, Kraków 2018, s. 83

The birth rate in the years 1865–1900 ranged between 30–40‰ with the maximum in 1866 (41‰). Years 1890–1900 were the last period of high birth rate, which, according to Bartosz Ogórek, was connected with migration to the city (other factors not excluded). In the years 1900–1910 the birth rate started to decrease, which was interrupted by the change of administrative limits (which caused growth) and the war (which caused a decrease). The post-war compensation was small and, starting from 1920, the birth rate decreased again (minimum 11‰ in 1935).<sup>13</sup>

Comparing the demographic data for Kraków and Galicia (after 1918 for southern provinces of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic of Poland), Bartosz Ogórek concludes that the decrease in death rate for the city and Galicia occurs at the similar time (first 5 years of the 80s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), being more dynamic in the city.

<sup>12</sup> B. Ogórek, *Niezatarte piętno? ...*, s. 81–83.

<sup>13</sup> Tamże, s. 82–84.



Bigger differences are in the birth rate: in Kraków it is smaller and less stable. A decrease in the birth rate in Kraków began in the first half of 90s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in Galicia about 10 years later (the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century).<sup>14</sup>

Studying the first demographic transition in Lviv and Kraków both authors point out the disruption caused by different factors. Expanding city borders due to the incorporation of suburban areas, characteristic for this period, also had demographic consequences in terms of birth and death rate. Living conditions in the areas incorporated to city were worse than these in cities with modernized infrastructure (electric lightning, sewers, water supplies, slaughterhouses and coolers, market places, accessibility to medical treatment), which stopped the trend of decreasing the death rate in the city or even a temporary growth. The traditional family model, common in the rural population, stopped the decreasing trend of the birth rate and even led to a temporary increase. The first world war caused rapid growth in the death rate and a collapse in the birth rate not only due to war casualties, but also to the aggravation of living conditions, which led to higher susceptibility to diseases and deaths resulting from weaker bodies and a lower reproductive potential. What is more, war conditions made starting a family more difficult. Both authors point out the characteristic feature of a small compensation in the post-war birth rate. Not all deaths that took place in the city concerned its citizens. Some of them concerned people coming to hospitals for medical treatment, and not all operations and treatments were successful as in many cases doctors were helpless. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the operations performed specifically on the citizens which could make the death rate higher than the actual one.

Statistical municipal offices, operated in Lviv (from 1872) and Kraków (from 1884), just like in other European cities. They collected dates about population growth and its conditions.<sup>15</sup> But for many other towns there were no such complete data (to draw conclusions about the level of demographic transition) because there were no such statistical offices. Births and deaths were recorded by the offices of religious communities, related to the area of a parish (the Roman Catholic parish included the town and the adjacent villages). According to the rule adopted by the Austrian state in the metrical reform of 1782 and 1784, records should be separated for each locations in parish and for 3 different types of data: births, weddings and funerals.<sup>16</sup> Because of the manner in which they are recorded, it is not always possible to distinguish which location of the parish specific data come from. Stillbirths are another problem: they were written in the records of births or deaths and now they have to be separated as a dis-

<sup>14</sup> Tamże, s. 87–90.

<sup>15</sup> Zob. K. Wnęk, L. A. Zyblikiewicz, E. Callahan, *Ludność nowoczesnego Lwowa...*, s. 23. Zob. też: *Rozwój myśli i instytucji statystycznych na ziemiach polskich...*

<sup>16</sup> C. Kuklo, *Demografia Rzeczypospolitej przedrozbiorowej*, Warszawa 2009, s. 98.

tinct class. The data concerning population number seem to be rather accurate, but only for the census year and whole locations, only covering the structure of religion. The population for each year was recorded by diocesan yearbooks in a rather imprecise manner. The same numbers of population repeated year by year lead to their replacement with values replenished with the interpolation method. Moreover, the schematic data provide general information about military garrisons in towns and women who worked as domestic help.<sup>17</sup> These population groups only partially participated in the life of the parish, also in the demographic aspect, which was mainly reflected in the death statistics, but these records also probably concern only a part of the whole phenomenon.

In spite of these problems an attempt has been made to describe the death rate in Roman Catholic parish named Fara in Rzeszów (Przemysł diocese) in the years 1876–1913. Rzeszów was included to the biggest towns in Galicia by the communal act of 1889. The parish consisted of Rzeszów and seven suburban villages (Ruska Wieś, Rudki, Pobitno, Załęże, Staroniwa, Wilkowyja, Zwińczyca). Deaths were registered in the records *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej w Rzeszowie* [Files of martial status of the Roman Catholic Parish in Rzeszów], kept by the State Archives in Rzeszów (complex 1132).<sup>18</sup>

In the years 1876–1881 the death rate reached high levels (25–32%), typical of the first phase. In the years 1882–1893 the death rate was changeable, but it showed a downward trend (20–32%). Starting from 1894 the death rate decreased – slowly but systematically (from 22‰ in 1894 to 15‰ in 1901 and the next years). There were two exceptions: in the years 1904–1905 and 1912–1913 when values exceeded 20‰ and in 1903 and 1906 with values about 18‰. This period seems to be the third phase of demographic transition.<sup>19</sup>

The birth rate due to gaps in data does not indicate continuity and therefore cannot be analysed. The basis to draw conclusions about the demographic transition might be the changes in the mortality rate by age, reason of death and sex.

According to Alicja Maksimowicz, *age is the basic factor for differentiating the chances of survival irrespective of the demographic cycle stage*.<sup>20</sup> Curves

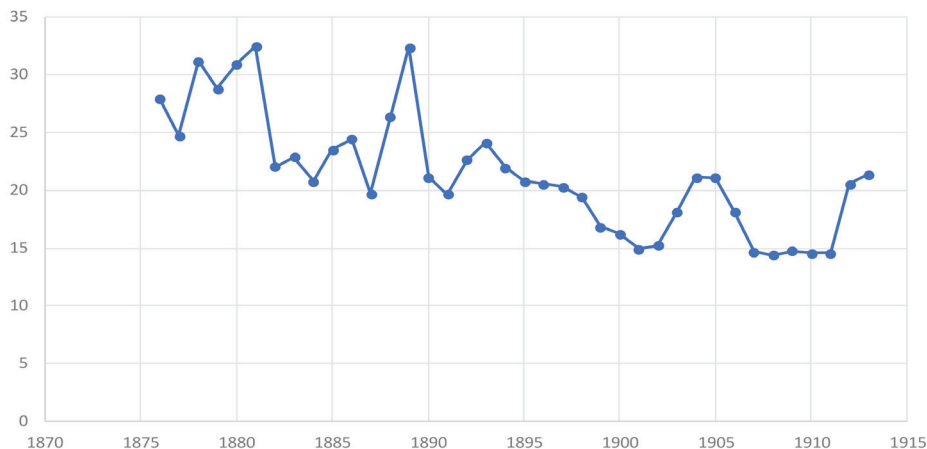
<sup>17</sup> G. Zamoyski, *Schematyzmy diecezji przemyskiej ob. lac. jako źródło statystyczno-kartograficzne*, „Rocznik Przemyski” 2005, t. 41, z. 4 „Historia”, s. 127–142.

<sup>18</sup> Archiwum Państwowe w Rzeszowie, zespół nr 1132 *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej w Rzeszowie*: sygn. 1 *Księga zgonów – Ruska Wieś, parafia Rzeszów*, sygn. 11 *Księga zgonów parafia rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów*, sygn. 13 *Księga zgonów Parafia Rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów oraz Pobitno, Staroniwa, Wilkowyja, Załęże, Zwińczyca*.

<sup>19</sup> S. Rejman, *Zgony i ich uwarunkowania w parafii farnej w Rzeszowie w latach 1876–1911 w kontekście pierwszego przejścia demograficznego*, „Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski” 2018, t. 40, s. 245–272, źródło jak w wykresie.

<sup>20</sup> A. Maksimowicz, *Wzorzec umieralności w kolejnych fazach przejścia [w:] Teoria przejścia demograficznego*, red. M. Okólski, Warszawa 1990, s. 132.

presenting the level of mortality in different age categories take the shape of letter “U” – death probability, high after birth, decreases, reaches minimum in childhood then with age grows progressively and reaches maximum in the old age. The decrease in the intensity of deaths as a result of the first demographic transition mainly concerned the youngest years: newborns, infants, younger children, i.e. those age groups in which the proportionally highest mortality was earlier. Among the elderly population, a decrease in the intensity of deaths was also recorded, sometimes significant, but not as spectacular as among children.<sup>21</sup>



**Diagram 7. The death rate in Rzeszów Fara parish in the years 1876–1913 (per 1000 people)**

Source: The State Archives in Rzeszów (complex 1132) [Files of marital status of the Roman Catholic Parish in Rzeszów] *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej w Rzeszowie*, sygn. 1 *Księga zgonów – Ruska Wieś, parafia Rzeszów*, sygn. 11 *Księga zgonów parafia rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów*, sygn. 13 *Księga zgonów Parafia Rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów oraz Pobitno, Staroniwa, Wilkowyja, Zalęże, Zwieńczyca*, own elaboration.

In the Rzeszów parish these regularities have not always been confirmed (Tab. 1). In the year “0” there was a 7 percent increase (from 19 to 26 per cent). The reason could be the previous gap in birth registration (children who died quickly after birth were not recorded). In the people over 65 there was a 3 percent increase (there were more and more old people in population). The biggest decrease (from 38 to 30 per cent) was seen in the bracket of 20–59 years, which resulted from the extension of life expectancy. In the oldest age groups (60 and more), the percentage slightly increased from 18 to over 19%, which indicates a slowly growing share of older people in the population.

<sup>21</sup> Tamże, s. 132–139.

**Tab. 1. Deaths in the Rzeszów parish Fara  
in years 1876–1913 according to age**

Years	Number of deaths	At the age of									
		0	%	1 to 19	%	20 to 59	%	60 and more	%	unspecified/illegible	%
1786–1885	1860	355	19,09	439	23,60	712	38,28	338	18,17	16	0,86
1886–1895	2140	469	21,92	427	19,95	809	37,80	393	18,36	42	1,96
1896–1905	2469	575	23,29	495	20,05	884	35,80	481	19,48	34	1,38
1906–1913	2644	685	25,91	573	21,67	798	30,18	552	20,88	36	1,36
Total 1876–1913	9113	2084	22,87	1934	21,22	3203	35,15	1764	19,36	128	1,40

Source: The State Archives in Rzeszów (complex 1132) [Files of marital status of the Roman Catholic Parish in Rzeszów] *Acta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej w Rzeszowie*, sygn. 1 *Księga zgonów – Ruska Wieś, parafia Rzeszów*, sygn. 11 *Księga zgonów parafia rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów*, sygn. 13 *Księga zgonów Parafia Rzymskokatolicka Rzeszów oraz Pobitno, Staroniwa, Wilkowyja, Załęże, Zwieńczycza*.

The average of age calculated for all population decreases for men (from 31 to 28,5 years) and women (from 31 to 30 years). The reason is probably the increased completeness of registration in the year “0”, which reduced the average value. The average calculated without the year “0” gives different results: it is higher and shows an upward trend. For men it increased from 37 to 38 years, for women from 38 to 39 years. These changes are in line with the first demographic transition.

**Tab. 2. The average age of death in Rzeszów Fara parish  
in the years 1876–1913**

Period	Age average calculated for total deaths in the population		Age average calculated with the exclusion of the year “0”	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1876–1895	30,76	30,96	36,99	38,64
1896–1913	28,51	30,14	38,37	39,69

Source: the same as for Tab. 1.

The first demographic transition can be diagnosed by analysing causes of deaths, their structure and changes. The analysis of the Fara parish for the years 1876–1890, 1891–1905, 1906–1913 is the basis for the following conclusions. The death rate decreased due to the elimination of the infectious diseases (tuberculosis, pneumonia, bronchitis) and the digestive system diseases (diarrhoea). The number of deaths connected with birth and childhood diseases was reduced. After the demographic transition, the share of cancers and cardiovascular diseases, which are now better diagnosed and typical of changed living conditions, has increased.<sup>22</sup> In the Rzeszów parish deaths generally defined as the lack of vital forces in relation to newborns and infants remained at the traditional level – 7%; older people died because of senility – 6%. The infectious diseases and the digestive system diseases decreased from 17 to 8% and from 13 to 4%, respectively. The diseases typical of modern civilization became more widespread. The percentage share of the circulatory system diseases increased from 1 to 7%, while the percentage share of cancer diseases increased from 1 to 3%. The percentage share of the respiratory system disease increased from 13 to 18% and that of tuberculosis increased from 8 to 15%, which may have been caused by better medical diagnostics and bigger awareness of these diseases (especially tuberculosis). In case of urinary system diseases there was a noticeable growth (from 3 to 4%), and then a decrease (to 2%). Deaths caused by births and complications decreased slightly (from 0,5 to 0,2%), as well as deaths without the determination of their cause (from 2,5 to 1,5%). The quality of registration and the level of medical diagnostics increased. There were slightly more deaths resulting from accidents and suicides (from 1 to 2,5%).<sup>23</sup>

When studying demographic transition effects on the mortality rate according to sex, Alicja Maksimowicz points out that the length of human life has become longer and longer and women obtain more profits from this fact than men. As a consequence, the percentage share of men in total deaths increased.<sup>24</sup> In the Fara parish in Rzeszów (Tab. 3), the surplus of male deaths occurs (almost 54% of male deaths and 46% of female deaths), but it remains stable throughout the analyzed period (the minimum number of deaths for which sex has not been determined does not change the overall picture). Certainly, the structure of deaths by sex was influenced by additional factors, i.e. the presence of two numerically significant groups in the city – the military garrison (men) and the domestic service (mainly women), but their actual impact is difficult to express in numbers due to difficulties in defining their number (most data is available

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<sup>22</sup> Tamże, s. 139–152.

<sup>23</sup> More zob. S. Rejman, *Zgony i ich uwarunkowania w parafii farnej...*, s. 263.

<sup>24</sup> A. Maksimowicz, *Wzorzec umieralności...*, s. 152–159.

for the army, but they are not always easy to interpret) and the lack of a clear rule as to the place of burial and its registration (whether the Rzeszów parish as a place of residence or the family parish).

**Tab. 3. Deaths in Rzeszów Fara parish in the years 1876–1913 by sex**

Years	Number of deaths	Men	%	Women	%	Unknown sex	%
1876-1895	4000	2137	53,43	1857	46,43	6	0,15
1896–1913	5113	2749	53,76	2361	46,18	3	0,06
Total	9113	4886	53,62	4218	46,29	9	0,10

Source: the same as for Tab. 1.

The first demographic transition in Galicia is relatively well diagnosed for the entire country and the largest cities of Lviv and Kraków. In the case of smaller centers, such as Rzeszów, the problem is to obtain complete data on the parameters for assessing the advancement of the process, i.e. the number of births, deaths and the number of people related to the population living in a given area over a longer period of time, covering the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Other data related to the phenomena studied, such as the characteristics of deaths by age, the mean age of the dead, the structure of causes of death, the structure of deaths by sex, and changes in these areas over time, may be helpful. In the case of Rzeszów, most probably the more accurate registration than before applied to the new borns (the “0 year-old age group”) meant that the picture of the first demographic transition is ambiguous in terms of the structure and average age of the deceased. However, they are indicated by: an increase in the average age of the deceased, calculated excluding the year zero, changes in the structure of diseases that cause death, and a surplus of male deaths over female deaths.

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**Pierwsze przejście demograficzne w Galicji jako element modernizacji  
– Rzeszów na tle największych miast Galicji: Lwowa i Krakowa**

*Streszczenie*

Artykuł dotyczy wybranych aspektów modernizacji społeczeństwa galicyjskiego na przykładzie przemian demograficznych Rzeszowa w XIX w. Tematem jest pierwsze przejście demograficzne polegające na zmniejszeniu wartości współczynników urodzeń i zgonów. W przypadku miast mniejszych, jak Rzeszów, bazowanie na XIX-wiecznych danych statystycznych budzi wątpliwości historyków. Ponowna analiza z uwzględnieniem aktualnego stanu badań dostarcza przesłanek do sformułowania wniosku, iż w Rzeszowie na przełomie XIX i XX w. zauważalne były symptomy pierwszego przejścia demograficznego.

**Słowa kluczowe:** demografia, Galicja, pierwsze przejście demograficzne, Rzeszów, modernizacja