

The Pale

(April 2023)

1. In the Russian Tsarist Empire Jews were allowed to reside legally **only** in what was called the "*Pale of Settlement*" (grey areas in the map next page).
2. The Pale of Settlement was located **entirely within** present day Lithuania, Poland, the Ukraine, and Moldova.
3. The Pale of Settlement was located **entirely without** present day Russia.
4. There were seven significant historic pogroms in the Russian Empire and in the Soviet Union. Pogroms were violent **local** mob attacks against Jewish communities, often carried out with the support or complicity of **local** authorities.
5. Of the seven significant pogroms, four occurred in the Ukraine, two in Poland, and one in Moldova, which makes seven. None occurred in present day Russia.
6. Still, if Western commentators are to be trusted, it seems that the official responsibility for all pogroms has come to rest solely on the shoulders of the distant Russian Tsars, the Soviet Union, and all distant Russians in general, while **local** Ukrainians, **local** Poles, and **local** Moldovans are somehow absent from the picture.

It appears that between 1881 and 1919 pogroms killed between 2,000 and 3,000 Jews in the Pale of Settlement.

For historical and religious reference, and to put the Pale of Settlement in perspective, along the centuries Protestants were not allowed to reside in various parts of Europe, under penalty of death, and Catholics were not allowed to reside in other parts of Europe, under penalty of death.

In France alone, it is estimated that the wars of religion between 1562 and 1598 resulted in the death of between 2 and 4 million people. In Germany, the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), which was also a religious conflict, is estimated to have caused the deaths of between 4 and 12 million people.

The Spanish Inquisition could also come to mind.

And one could muse that one of the Five Original Reasons for the American Revolution was the unspeakable presence of French Papists in recently acquired Canada.

For the sake of proportions and taking into account that Europe was much more populous in the first half of the 20th century than in the 16th and 17th, even after the WW I carnage, in terms of constant population Christians would have killed 70 million Christians of slightly different persuasions, whereas the Nazi killed 6 million Jews, and 3,000 were killed by Christians in the Pale of Settlement, most of said Christians being apparently Ukrainian, Polish, and Moldovan, although at the time of Russian citizenship..

The two constants of history seem to be bad memory and bad faith.

MAP OF THE PALE OF SETTLEMENT (the red circles show the cradles of my ancestors)

