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Anti-Semitic Laws, Holocaust and Pharmacy in Hungary, 1938-1945

/OP-21/

42ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

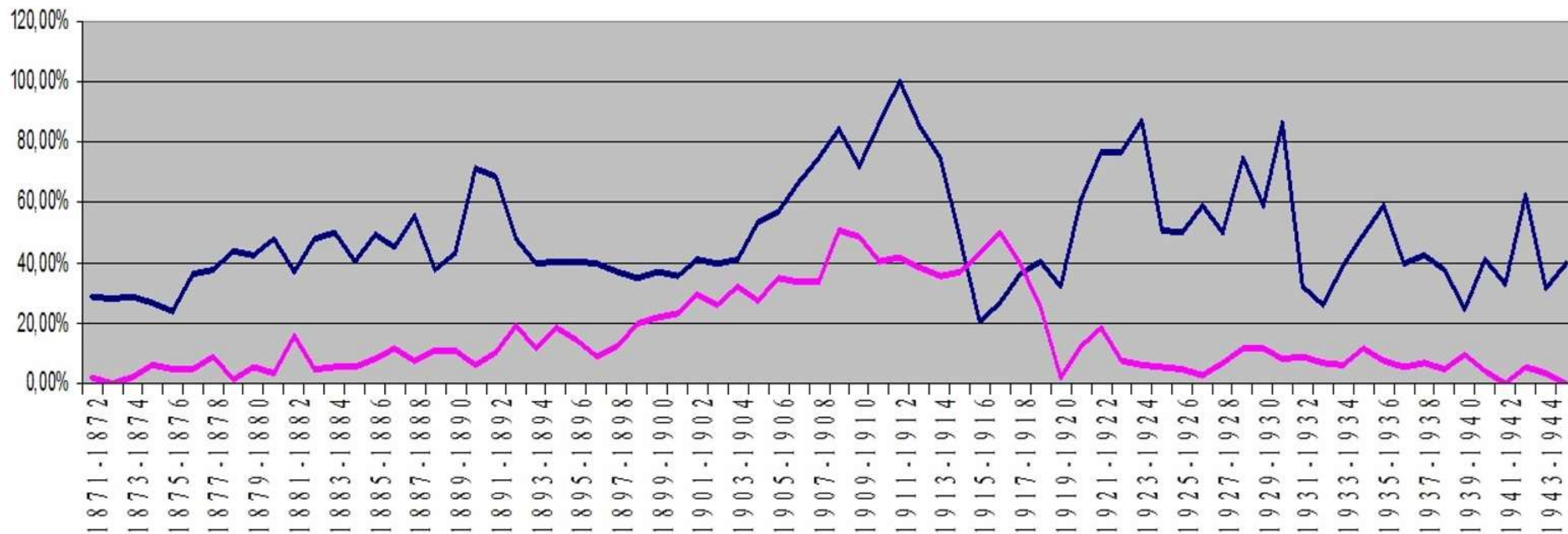
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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Milestones in the history of Hungarian Jews in pharmacy, up to the end of the 19th century

- ▶ **1644:** Lex Sanitaria Ferdinandina (Law on Public Health of Ferdinand III., Holy Roman Emperor): the pharmacist should be male, born in lawful matrimony and a member of the catholic church
- ▶ **27th December, 1867:** Law XVII of 1867 on the emancipation of Jews
- ▶ **1872:** *Adolf Glázer* – first Jewish pharmacist graduating at the Budapest University of Sciences
- ▶ *Centres of pharmacist education in Hungary from 1872 to 1945:* Budapest (capital), Kolozsvár and Szeged.

Annual proportions of all Hungarian pharmacists /blue line/ and Jewish Hungarian pharmacists /purple line/ graduating at the Budapest University of Sciences from 1872 to 1945 expressed as % of the most populous class of 1911/1912 /= 100%/



Total number of Hungarian pharmacists graduating in Hungary from 1894/1895 to 1945

University	Absolute number (and proportion to the total number) of <u>all</u> pharmacists	Absolute number (and proportion to the total number) of <u>Hungarian Jewish</u> pharmacists
Budapest (1895-1945)	4540 (78.9%)	936 (85.2%)
Kolozsvár (1895-1920)	465* (8.1%)	100** (9.1%)
Szeged (1923-1945)	749 (13.0%)	62 (5.6%)
Total	5754 (100%)	1098 (100%)

* Estimated by extrapolation to 1920 from the n=320 pharmacists graduated from 1889 to 1902

**Estimated from the number of pharmacists graduated in Kolozsvár, by calculation with 21.6% proportion

- ▶ **About 80% of all Hungarian Jewish pharmacists** graduated up to 1920, about 20% from 1921 to 1945
- ▶ **About 60% of all Hungarian non-Jewish pharmacists graduated up to 1920**, about 40% from 1921 to 1945

Number of Hungarian non-Jewish and Jewish pharmacists in 1944

Calculated by a 20% mortality rate, the estimated number of :

- ▶ **Hungarian non-Jewish pharmacists** alive in 1944 is 3661 – **about 80%** of the total number (n=4539)
- ▶ **Hungarian Jewish pharmacists** alive in 1944 is 878 (from about 800 to 900) – **about 20%** of the total number (n=4539)

Anti-Semitic laws and decrees from 1920 to 1944 (1)

- ▶ **1920:** *Law XXV of 1920* – “*numerus clausus /closed number/*” – The proportion of Jewish students in higher education should not exceed 6%.
- ▶ **1938:** *First anti-semitic law (Law XV. of 1938)* on more efficient safeguarding of balance of social and economic life – The proportion of Jews in white collar jobs should not exceed 20%
- ▶ **1939:** *Second anti-semitic law (Law IV. of 1939)* on restriction of public life activities and economic influence of Jews – Personal licenses of all Jewish pharmacists withdrawn. Further limitations on the proportion of Jewish employees.
- ▶ **1941:** *Third anti-semitic law (Law XV of 1941)* on marriage and related racial protection.
- ▶ **1942:** *Fourth anti-semitic law (Law XV. of 1942)* on the agricultural and forestry real estate of Jews.

Anti-Semitic laws and decrees from 1920 to 1944 (2)

- ▶ **Government Decree 1240/1944** – yellow badge mandatory to all Jews, incl. pharmacy employees
- ▶ **Government Decree 1370/1944** – regulation of pharmacy licenses. All “Jewish” licenses withdrawn on 04. May, 1944. New tenders announced for these licenses.
- ▶ **Government Decree 1540/1944** – limitations of the proportion of Jews in white collar jobs.
- ▶ **Government Decree 3840/1944** - on confiscation of properties of Jews.

Economic consequences of the anti-semitic laws

Number of Hungarian pharmacies (31. 12. 1943.)*		Number (and %) of pharmacies with „Jewish” licence
Budapest (capital)	189	51 (27%)
Country side	1774	251 (14.1%)
Total	1963	302 (15.38%)

*Including pharmacies of the re-annexed territories in WWII

Note: in addition, licences of dozens of pharmacies had been sold up to the date of coming into effect of the mandatory withdrawal of licences

Human costs of the Holocaust (1)

First mass deportations started on the 15th May, 1944.

Before this date, Jews had already been drafted into forced labour troops.

Up to the end of military activities and paramilitary terror, random killings of Jews occurred.

Pharmacist victims of the Hungarian Holocaust

- ▶ Number of **dead** persons known by name: 183, including 138 (75%) Jews.
- ▶ Number of **disappeared** (potentially dead) persons known by name: 111. Calculated by a 75% proportion, 83 of them could have been Jewish.

Human costs of the Holocaust (2)

- ▶ Altogether, **294 Hungarian pharmacists died or went missing** in WWII, including an estimated number of **221 Hungarian Jews**.
- ▶ These 221 Hungarian Jewish pharmacists represent 25% of their estimated total number of 878. However, the real number is probably higher, because of the unknown number of further victims. A realistic estimation of Hungarian Jewish pharmacist victims (dead or disappeared) is **30-35%**.
- ▶ The currently known number of **Hungarian non-Jewish pharmacist victims is 74** (i.e. **2%** of their total number)

Thank you for your kind attention!



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