

REIGN of THE SOVEREIGN EMPRESS ELIZAVETA PETROVNA

1743 yr.

24. -- December 16th. **The Supreme resolution upon the Senate's report.** --
About the interdict for the Jews to live in Russia.

The Report. By the Supreme Named decree of Your Imperial Majesty (of the December 2nd of the last year of 742 **) it was ordered, that from all the Russian Empire,

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both from the Great Russia's, and from the Little Russia's cities all the Jews of male and female gender, no matter of what their rank and status may be, with all their possessions, should be immediately send abroad and should not be allowed to return to Russia for any reason and under any pretext, except those who want to be baptized into the Christian faith of Greek confession. Those baptized in Your Majesty's Empire shall be allowed to live, but should no longer be allowed to go out of the Russian State.

In order to finally discharge the Jews from all the places of the Russian Empire and in the pursuance of this Your Imperial Majesty's Supreme decree - the Senate had published it throughout the State; and moreover in the current year of 1743, by Your Imperial Majesty's behest, the Senate's very strong orders had been sent to all Provinces and cities in the Little Russia and Riga. — And Now the Senate is receiving the following dispatches (reports):

1. From the Little Russia's Principal Chancellery (General Branch Office), the orders were sent out to all the Little Russia's regiments, and 42 male and female Jews were deported. Although from the Little Russia (Russia Minor) the **Greeks-Exactors**¹ of import duties [inductive collections/taxes] (which are at the disposition of the Nizhyn's² *Wójt*³, Peter Ternaviot with comrades for 27,000 rubles per year) report to us, that Jews from the Polish region since olden times come not to settle, but just for a short time for market-fairs with goods for the merchants; and after the implementation of their bargain-sales they return abroad, and they pay for the import and export of the goods they pay proper custom fees (*Inducta*)⁴ to the treasury of Your Imperial Majesty. Furthermore, some of the Jews accidentally were not aware about Your Imperial Majesty's aforesaid Supreme Imperial decree about their expulsion abroad, and many from different Countries brought into the Russian Empire merchandise on a great sum of money, which has not yet been sold. Also they, the Jews, owe money to various Great Russia's and Little Russia's merchants, and the merchants owe to the Jews and have to pay money for the exchange bills (*Wechsels*) from different time-terms. And therefore the **Exactors**⁵ petition for the Jews who are merchants and have goods for the Russian market-fairs – as it was allowed by the prior/ previous Decrees - so those Jews could be permitted to pass to the Little Russia in order to avoid (due to their non-admission) deficiencies for the state treasury (tax collections for the state), and their losses and devastation.

2. The Governorate of Livonia⁶ and Regierung-Chancellery⁷, as well as the General-Field Marshal Reichs-Count and Cavalier von Lacy⁸, and the Riga Magistrate [report]:
 Ostensibly, when the aforesaid decree of expulsion of the Jews was published in Riga, the Magistrate thereof firmly suggested the Jews to move out and evict Riga and the city outskirts within 6 weeks. And since the position of this place is a border-town and market-place, therefore such is the nature of trading there and such are the circumstances, that the prohibition for the Jews' coming for the trade and departing, perhaps is not quite possible without compromising Your Imperial Majesty's interests and devastating the trading suburbanites; thereof, the Magistrate presented the following:

1) Many and barely not all the Polish Great Pans⁹ (lords) and merchants use Jews as their factors¹⁰ and administrators of their commodities/merchandise, by virtue of them contracts with the local merchants are conducted, money exchanged, goods delivered and products for the needs of Riga purchased – thus all this business ought to be suppressed (if the Jews are to be banned from coming to Riga).

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2) On this occasion the Jews, in whose keeping there are earnest money of Riga's population of the value of more than 100,000 *Efimoks*¹¹, will go with their goods into the neighboring outlandish places and there they will sell these goods and purchase the needed goods for export. And hence the bargaining in Riga will completely vanish, and Riga's merchants will remain with nothing, and thus the great detriment will befall upon Your Imperial Majesty's interests, and the great backlogs of those Jews to the Riga's merchants will be lost, and commerce might collapse completely, for they won't be able to sell the imported overseas goods. Thereof the Magistrate petitions to permit all the Jews, coming from Poland and Lithuania to Riga with their goods and then returning abroad, to pass without detention, and to cause for them no obstruction and barriers. Those Jews who arrive to Riga with goods will not live there and will not be accommodated, and as soon as they sell their products and buy the necessary *returning*¹² products, then without delay they will be released to go back. From the above indications it is clearly seen that, if an admission for the Jews will be completely cut off in these and other frontier areas where the seasonal commerce at the fair-markets between Russia's merchants and the Jews take place, then a great loss in the merchantry will occur not only to the loyal subjects of Your Imperial Majesty, but also Your Imperial Majesty's Supreme interests may suffer a considerable damage. Thus the Senate humbly dares to bring this opinion to Your Imperial Majesty, and asks whether Your Imperial Majesty would deign to most Graciously permit: for the sake of the distribution of commerce and augmentation of Your Imperial Majesty's Supreme interests, and for the sake of the loyal subjects of Your Imperial Majesty, merchants of Riga, and Little Russia, and other frontier territories, on which the trade with Jews takes place – to benefit from them and let them with their merchandise into the Little Russia and the Slobodsky (Suburban Cossack) Regiments, as well as to Riga and other border areas, for the only reason of merchant business during the market-fairs. Most certainly as soon as they sell out their products at the markets and purchase other goods for export - by the force of Your Imperial Majesty's decree of the past year of 1742, of the 2nd day of December – they shall be driven abroad, and dealt with according to that very Supreme decree from Your Imperial Majesty; and by no means shall they be allowed to settle anywhere for any time-period, and nobody shall give them quarters; and the local commanders must strictly watch after and insure that. Inasmuch as by the resolute provisions/points of the Supreme Privy Council¹³, given in the year of **1728** *) to Hetman Apostol, among other things, according to the 14th point - the Jews were allowed access to the market-fairs in the Little Russia, and they were ordered to sell wholesale, but not the retail by elbows¹⁴ and pounds, and to spend the proceeds from the sales to buy more goods, and yet the money, gold and silver, they were prohibited to take out from the Little Russia abroad, and in Russia Minor kopecks and other coins with the Russia's coat of arms they were forbidden to export.

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And the orders were given to look strictly after them. And likewise the Jews were prohibited from settling, and no one was allowed to accommodate them in the Little Russian according to the Named (personal) decree from the year of **740** *), issued by the blessed in memory Empress Anna Ioannovna, though the Jews were allowed to come to the market-fairs for the trading business by the provision of the decree of the year of 728. And upon these matters the Senate is humbly asking Your Imperial Majesty's the most Merciful resolution.

Resolution. [made and signed by the Empress]:

I do not want interest earnings from Christ's enemies.

(P. P. S. Z. m. XI, № 8,840).

1. Duty/Tax collectors
2. Nizhyn – (Polish: Nieżyn) is a city located in the Chernihiv Oblast (province) of northern Ukraine. - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nizhyn>
3. *Wójt* - from Landvogt, German - Vogt, (from vocatus, Lat. - advocatus). Here – the Head of the Magistrate.
4. Индукта - Inductance - fees charged in the Russian Empire for the goods imported to Ukraine.
5. Duty/Tax collectors
6. Лифляндская губерния (нем. Gouvernement Livland)- i.e. The Governorate of Livonia (Russian: Лифляндская губерния, Lifyandskaya guberniya (meaning Livonia province).
7. Регирунгс-канцелярия (немецкая канцелярия) – German Regierung-Office Regierung-Chancellery – was an executive - regulatory and supervisory authority of the local Livonian nobility.
8. Count Peter von Lacy - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lacy
9. Пан - Pan - a feudal lord in Poland, Czech, Belarus and Ukraine; literally means "master".
10. Factors - intermediary sales agents.
11. "Ефимку/Ефимок" (Ефимок/Ефимки) - coins made from silver Thalers - <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefimok>
12. “Ретурные товары” – “returning goods” for export.
13. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Privy_Council
14. Elbow – Локоть – an old measure of length, roughly was corresponding to the distance from the elbow to the end of the elongated middle finger, close to English - half a yard. See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El>

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