



Bessarabian Maps from 18th century: from Military Topographic maps to town and shteitle maps

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www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia

www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/files/conferences/2016/BessarabianMaps.pdf

Bessarabia on a map of Europe



Bessarabian Maps from 18th century: from Military Topographic maps to town and shteitle maps

- Maps available:
 - Physical and Political maps
 - Historical maps
 - Topographical maps
 - Town maps
 - Cadastral map
 - Google maps
- Jewish content at the maps
- Sources and where you can get the maps

Type of maps

- **A physical map** focuses on the geography of the area and will often have shaded relief to show the deserts, mountains and valleys.
- **A political map** focuses on governmental boundaries between entities, like countries, states or counties. They can also indicate the location of major cities, and they usually include significant bodies of water.

Many such maps exist on the internet, some of them you can find at our Bessarabia SIG website. One of the best examples:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bessarabia_map_BE.JPG

Bessarabia map of Encyclopedia Brockhaus and Efron, 1890-1906

Type of maps

- **Historical maps** are a great resource to help learn about a place at a particular point in time. They can be used to locate exactly where someone's ancestors lived and to learn quite a bit about the neighborhood or surrounding area.
- **A topographic map** characterized by large-scale detail and quantitative representation of relief. They usually show both natural and man-made features.

Examples will follow...

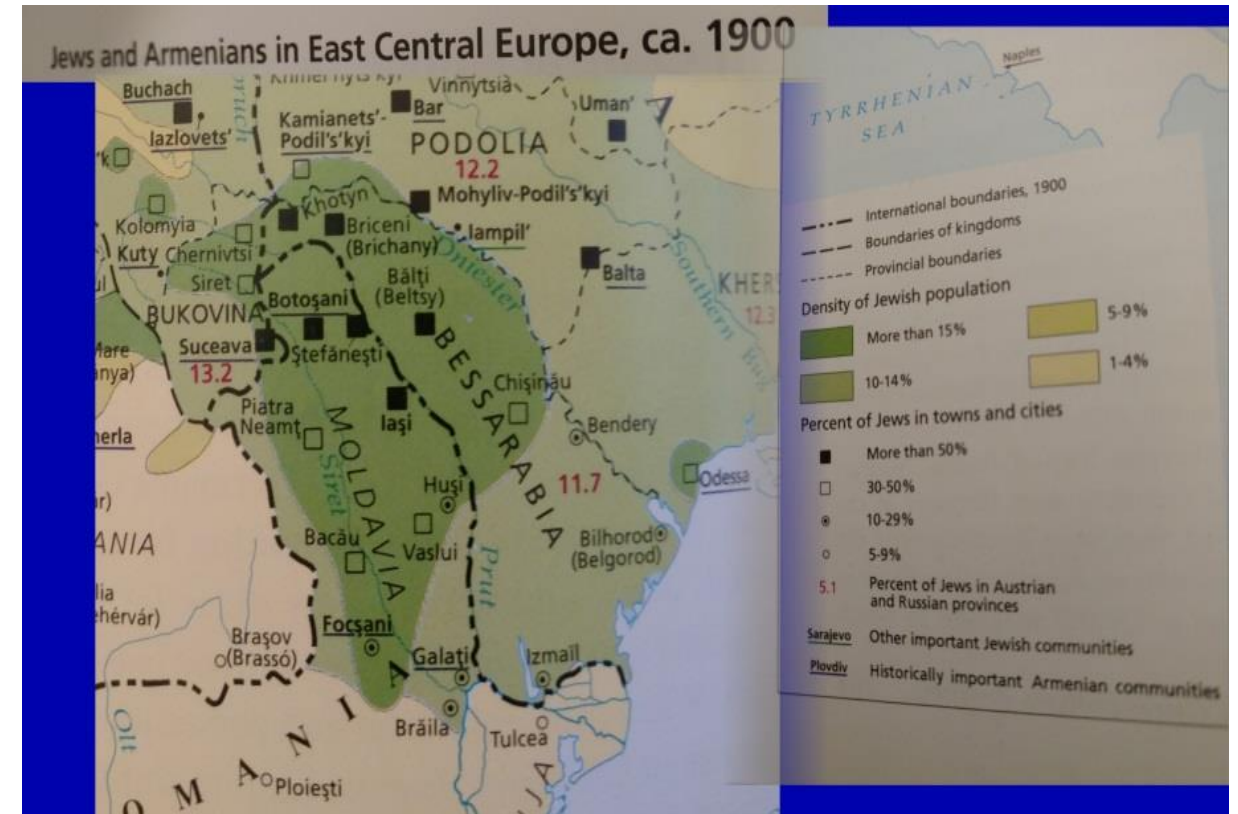
Type of maps

- **Cadastral maps** are legal maps for recording ownership and boundaries of the property.
- **City/Town/Shteitle maps** are maps of a particular locale with streets and main buildings

Examples will follow...

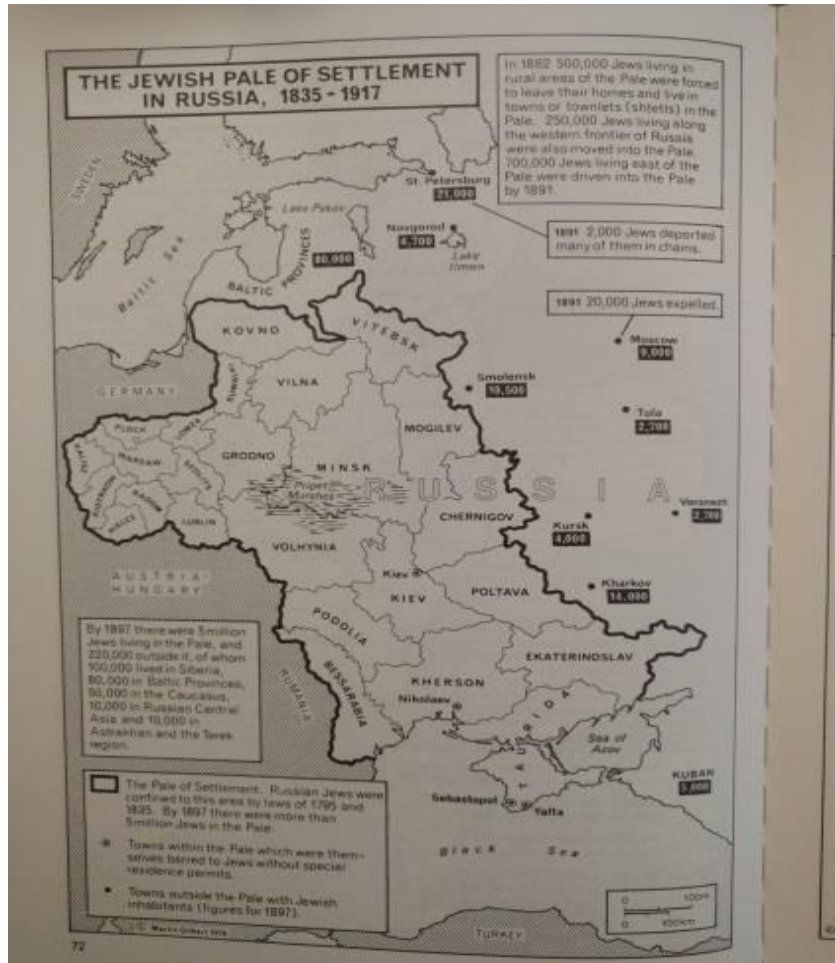
Historical Maps

Historical Atlas of Central Europe by Paul Robert Magocsi, University of Washington Press, 1993,2002



Historical Maps

The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History by Martin Gilbert, 1965, 1995



Historical Maps

- Military-Topographical Maps of Russian Empire, Shubert F., 1846-1863, available at Bessarabia website:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/General.html>
- All Bessarabia/Moldova covers by 26 maps, each map is up to 28MgB
- Major towns are listed in each map header
- Scale is 2 miles in 1 inch
- There are specific Jewish places on these maps: Jewish Cemeteries, Jewish Agricultural colonies

Historical Topographical maps

- Military-Topographical Maps of Russian Empire created in 1846-1863



A small piece of the section 29-7 with town of Dubossary. There is a Jewish Cemetery (*Ев.Кл.*) at the map

Historical Topographical maps

Military-Topographical Maps of Russian Empire created in 1846-1863



Jewish Colony Dombroveni, with the Cemetery

Historical map

- General Map of Bessarabia Gubernia, 1821, S. Petersburg

<https://www.wdl.org/en/item/664/>

Map has existing roads, stations and distances between them. It has on the map towns, villages ('selo', 'derevnya'), shteitle ('mestechko')

Town maps

- Kishinev (Chişinău)

Maps and Architecture of Historical Center of town:

<http://www.monument.sit.md/>

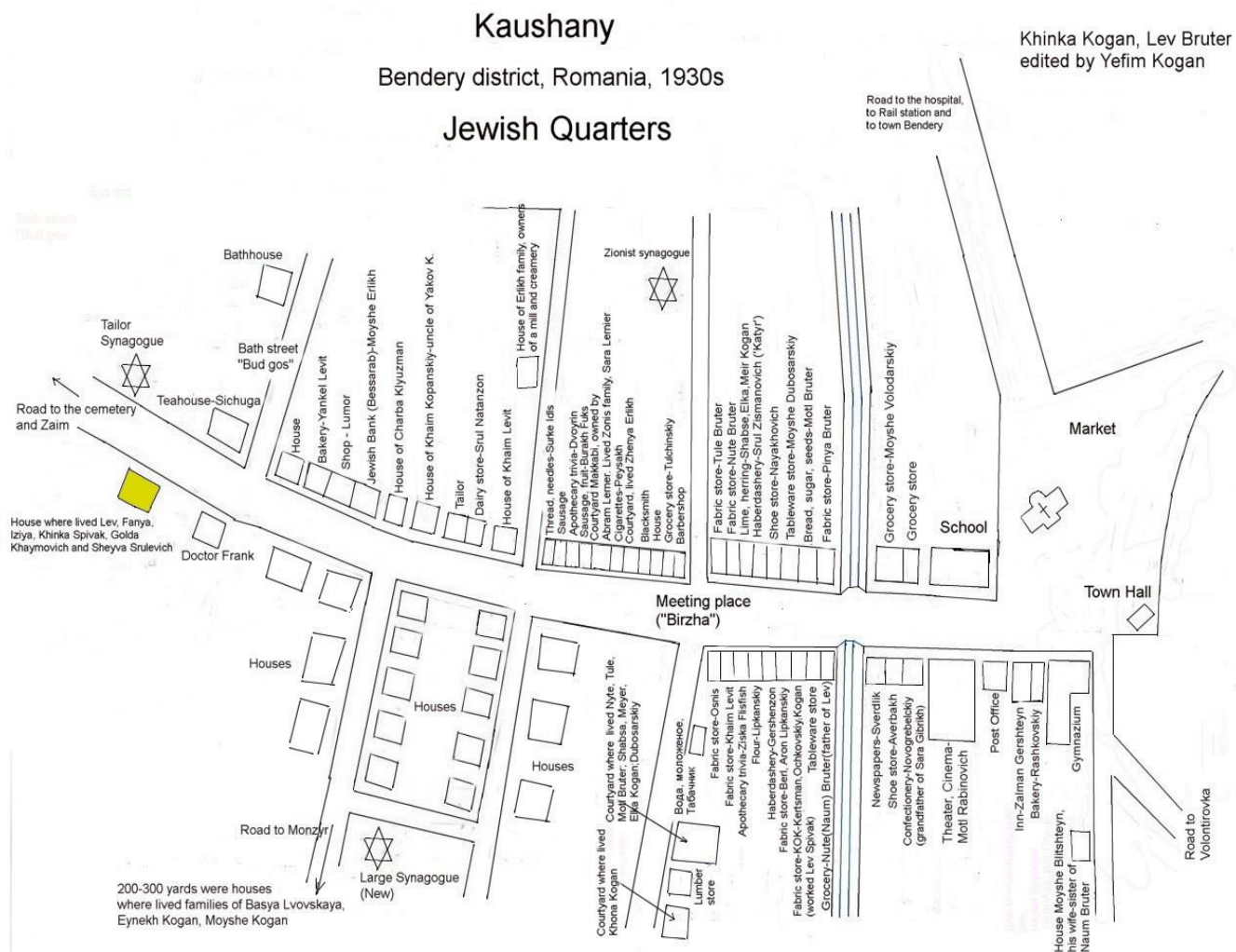
- See main streets on the maps with many buildings on the streets

Example: Cahul street, Tsirelson street, Habat street with buildings

[Cahul, 20.html](#)

To find out old names of the street, use <http://oldchisinau.com/>

Town maps, Causeni (Kaushany)



Maps might also be drawn from the memories of people who lived there. Here is an example of a map created from memories of my mother, Khinka Kogan (Spivak) resident of shteitle Kaushany, Bendery district.

Cadastral maps

- These are the register of the real estate in town. Such maps were not found yet at the Moldova State Archives, hopefully they exist, but not discovered yet. There are cadastral maps done for several localities in Bessarabia which at the beginning of 18 century were established as German colonies.

Tarutino (former Jewish Colony), and at the end of 19c, about 1500 Jews lived in town...

[dorfplan tarutino.pdf](#) – it is a very large 25MgB file

Other maps

- Ethnical Maps of 1930, Germany, available at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/General.html>
 - 5 maps cover Bessarabia, several maps are missing
 - Towns and regions are listed in each name header
 - Every ethnic group has a different color. Jews are colored in
 - The size and shape of the circle can tell approximately how many Jews

Google maps

- Current Google maps can be used to understand the borders between countries, towns, in some cases locate Jewish Cemeteries
- Jewish cimitir, Moldova - you will get you 3 cemeteries (Romanian)
- Jewish cemetery, Moldova – will get you 4 cemeteries

Google search

- Search for “Bessarabia map”, and press on Images

You will get many hundreds of maps for Bessarabia – Physical, Political and all others, including maps from our Bessarabia SIG website, from Kishinev, Brichany Kehila Link websites

Russian propaganda map

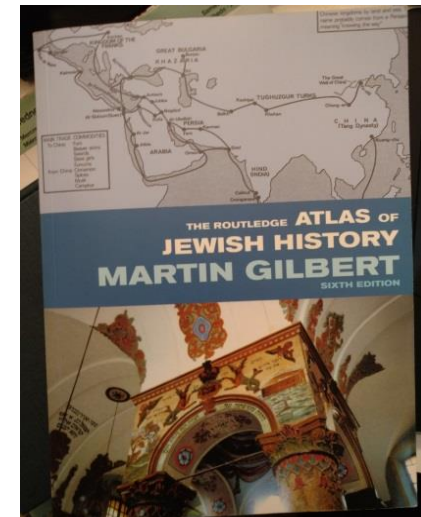
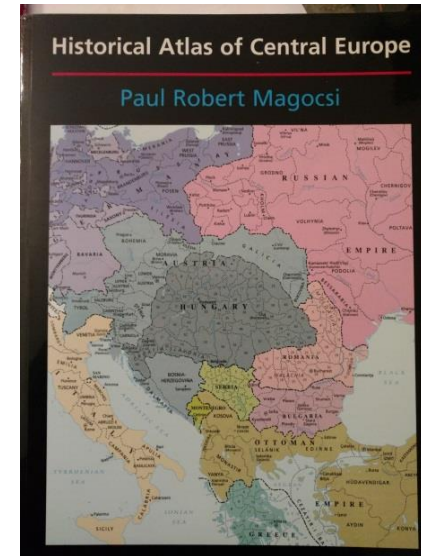
- Find also at Google.
“Bessarabskaya Narodnaya Respublika”... (Russian proxy...)

Not exist and hopefully will not appear on the map.



Sources

- Historical Atlas of Central Europe by Paul Robert Magocsi, University of Washington Press, 1993,2002
- The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History by Martin Gilbert, 1965, 1995



Sources

- map of Bessarabian governorate of Russian Empire from the Brockhaus and Efron encyclopaedia

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bessarabia_map_BE.JPG

- Military-Topographical Maps of Russian Empire, Shubert F., 1846-1863, available at Bessarabia website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/General.html>

- General Map of Bessarabia Gubernia, 1821, S. Peterburg

<https://www.wdl.org/en/item/664/>

Sources

- Maps and Architecture of Historical Center of Kishinev:
<http://www.monument.sit.md/>
- Many Bessarabian town maps and other historical information at
<http://oldchisinau.com/>
- Ethnical Maps of Bessarabia, 1930, Germany, available at
<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/General.html>
- Sample of cadastral map (town of Tarutino, Bessarabia):
http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/tarutyne/Tarutino_files/dorfplan_tarutino.pdf

Internet resources on Jewish Bessarabia

- Bessarabia SIG website: www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia
- Aaron Shneer Gallery: <http://picasaweb.google.com/106995678358404531836>
- Jewish News portal : www.dorledor.info (Russian)
- My town Kishinev: <http://oldchisinau.com/> (Russian)
- Centrul Istoric al Chisinaului: <http://www.monument.sit.md/> (Romanian)
- Jewish Memory: <http://www.jewishmemory.md/eng/> (English, Russian)
- All about Bessarabia: <http://www.bessarabia.ru/> (English, Russian)
- Jewish Encyclopedia: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3185-bessarabia>
- Historical Maps of Moldova:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_of_the_history_of_Moldova
- Caring for the Jewish Cemeteries of Kishinev and Orgeev: <http://www.pavetex.md/>
- Bessarabian Jews: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bessarabian_Jews
- Preserving Jewish memory Centropa: <http://www.centropa.org/>
- Bessarabian Maps: <http://www.wwii-photos-maps.com/bessarabianmaps/index.html>
- Memorial: <http://www.obd-memorial.ru/html/index.html> (Russian)
- Memory Book: <http://www.nekropol.com/Holokost.htm> (Russian)

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Questions?