Summary

In the dissertation entitled “The Question of the Crimea and Crimean Tatars in Polish political literature until World War II” the author analyses the holistic literature written in Poland about the Crimea and the Crimean Tatars – both descend from Polish writers and politicians and from the foreign cogitators connected with Poland, like members of the Tatar’s diaspora in Warsaw between the WW I and WW II. In the dissertation, the author puts a thesis, that the whole literature about the Tatars in Poland has undergone the dynamical changes. These changes depended on the political and religious situation during the centuries, on the political coalitions and even on the influence of fashion.

The author starts his analysis from the firs: known Polish description of the Mongolians written by the monk Benedykt Polak during his journey to the court of the khan Gujuk together with the pope’s envoy Plano di Carpino. Next comes the analysis of the fifteenth’s and sixteenth’s centuries texts about the Crimean Tatars including Polish historians, like Jan Długosz and texts of Ppolish envoys to the khan’s court in Bachczyseraj. In the seventeen and eighteen centuries texts the author describes the large amount of missives written by Polish politicians. Those missives, called “turcyki”, were touching the relationships between the Polish kingdom, the Turkey and the Crimean khanate.

In the nineteenth century, where both Poland and the Crimean khanate were captured by the neighboring countries, some polish tourists started to travel to the Crimea Peninsula. Some of them left their memories with interesting descriptions of the Tatars under the Russian occupation. The author analyses those texts beating the drum for russification of Tatars and their political and cultural renascence in the middle of that century. The most interesting period in Polish writing about the Crimea and the Crimean Tatars was during the interwar period. Independent Poland, after 123 years of annexation, according to the ideas of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, enlarged on the theory of Prometeizm. That theory postulated encouragement of the non-Russians nations of the Soviet Union, including the Tatars for their fight for freedom. Author analyses primarily the magazines like “Wschod-Orient”, “Życie Tatarskie”, edited in
Poland redacted by the Polish politicians connected to the Polish intelligence service, the Polish-Lithuanian Tatars and the members of the Tatar diaspora in Poland. As an individual case the author treated the Karaites – a small, Turkish nation who were living in Troki near Vilnius and edited their own magazines like “Myśl Karaimska”. The chronologically the dissertation ends with the beginning of the WW II. Both the Nazis and the Bolsheviks have killed most of the members of the Prometeizm movement finishing the scientific and political discourse about the Crimea in Poland. After the war and the deportation and extermination of the Crimean Tatars, in the communist Poland, writing about Tatars was prohibited.