

Abstract

mgr Dariusz Piotr Kruk

In the process of transforming Polish lands into industrial areas in the 19th century, Galicia played a modest role, which has impacted contemporary research on its industrial sector, indicating significant gaps in understanding its evolution. The chronological framework of the analysis in the study covers the period from 1867 to 1914, during which Galicia underwent transformations from a feudal system to a capitalist one. Before gaining autonomy, Galicia, treated as an agricultural province with underdeveloped industry, became a target for economic exploitation by Austria, which hindered industrial development. Significant reforms were made, such as the emancipation of peasants in 1848, which allowed for greater economic freedom and better utilization of the workforce for industrial needs. The introduction of a new customs policy favored industrial development. The establishment of chambers of commerce and industry strengthened the local industrial sector, providing it with representation and support in the form of opinions and industrial cadastre management. The Industrial Act of 1859 abolished the guild compulsion, paving the way for free industrial activity. Granting autonomy to Galicia in 1867 enabled its authorities to have greater independence in managing the economy, which was evident in the activities of the Provincial Sejm and the Provincial Department, influencing the region's industrial policy. The increased importance of transport, especially railways, as well as the actions of banks and industrial associations, contributed to further industrial development. However, despite these efforts, Galicia still lagged behind other Austrian provinces, partly due to an internal protection system favoring other regions. The growth of social awareness and associations supporting the industry, such as the Central Union of Galician Industrial Factories and the Industrial Assistance League, influenced further actions towards industrialization. Studies on the industry in Galicia reveal its gradual development but also highlight the need for further, deeper studies, especially in the context of the role of the nobility and social capital in the industrialization process. Actions taken by various institutions, including regional authorities, organizations, and industrial associations, brought visible results - the industry in Galicia developed during the period under study. The processing industry was characterized by considerable dynamism, and at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, there was noticeable development of heavy industry: machinery, metalworking, and oil. There was significant public approval for the industrialization of Galicia.