

Students of schools in Białystok fighting against russification (1807–1915)
Summary

The aim of this article is show how schools fought against Russification in Białystok (1807–1915). The Russification in Białystok was peculiar; because of the geopolitical, social and economic situation they were different than other Polish land under territory annexed by the Russians. There were not any Polish schools, but only two Russian schools: A secondary school for boys and the Institute of Young Girls from the Gentries (Polish name: Instytut Panien Szlacheckich). At these schools, Tsarism led to strong politics of the Russification to the Polish of pupils. However, in spite of the policy aimed at the unification of Białystok with the Russian Empire, pupils never lost the Polish spirit and remained faithful to national tradition and values. They participated in national fights, conducted the clandestine teaching, and promoted the Polish culture amongst the lowest social groups in Białystok. They comprised the intelligentsia of Białystok and boore on their shoulders the burthen of fighting for a Polish cause.

Keywords: Białystok, Poland, Russian seizure, russification, pupils, clandestine teaching, fight for the Polish national identity.