

## JEWS OF BESSARABIA ON THE EVE OF THE WAR



Until 1941, Bessarabia was part of the Russian Empire/Soviet Union. The murder of 49 Jews during the Kishinev Pogrom of 1903 had led to protest demonstrations in London, Paris and New York, and a letter of rebuke from Theodore Roosevelt to the tsar. In 1918, the region became part of Romania but remained strongly anti-Semitic. The city of Kishinev was a focal point of Jewish culture and political life, while Jewish agricultural communities thrived throughout the province.

Map and text credits:

*Atlas of the Holocaust*, rev. ed. by Sir Martin Gilbert (New York: William Morrow, 1993).

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