

## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this study is to present the development of the railway in the Polish lands in the years 1839-1914 and to show its impact on socio-economic changes. The starting caesura is the year 1839, when the Administrative Council of the Polish Kingdom approved the Statute of the Warsaw-Vienna Railway Society and the construction of the railway began. The closing caesura is the year of the outbreak of the First World War. Descriptive analytical and synthetic methods were used to explore the topic.

The study consists of six chapters. The first chapter deals with the social and political situation of the Kingdom of Poland. The second and third chapters describe the construction of the railway, the designs of the route, the formation of the Warsaw-Vienna Iron Road Society, the process of its construction up to the commissioning of the entire route. The fourth chapter describes the railway workers at different hierarchical levels. The next, fifth chapter shows the rolling stock available at the time, both steam locomotives and passenger and freight wagons. The last chapter presents the impact of rail traffic on aspects of economic and socio-cultural life, and describes selected towns along the railway route whose development was most influenced by the route.

The history of the Viennese Railway, as the Warsaw-Vienna Railway was commonly called, in the Russian partition is difficult to assess unequivocally, but one thing is certain - the result of its creation was an economic and social revival, inspiring people to action.