

When Jewish Families in Europe took surnames:

Laws requiring Jews to take surnames were passed at different times by different countries. The following dates are when these changes took place in different parts of Central and Eastern Europe:

Baden, Germany (1790).

French Empire, including Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Italy, Westphalia, the Confederation of the Rhine, Duchy of Warsaw (1808).

Prussia (1812), now Germany and parts of Poland. As Prussia acquired additional territory, it was necessary to restate this requirement. The family name requirement was extended to Posen in 1833 and to all other parts of the Prussian state in 1845.

Bavaria, Germany (1813).

Mecklenburg, Germany (1813).

Kingdom of Poland under Russian administration (1821);
A decree requiring family names was issued in 1821, but it was not enforced. Polish law again required surnames in 1833, but it was only in accordance with the Imperial Russian statutes of 1835 and 1844 that all Polish Jews adopted permanent family names.

Wurttemberg, Germany (1828).

Saxony, Germany (1834).

Russia (1844);
Statutes of 1804 and 1835 decreed that Jews were not permitted to alter their family names, but these statutes did not require them to adopt fixed names.

Oldenburg, Germany (1852).

Switzerland (1863).