

Religiöse Kulturen im Europa der Neuzeit Band 005

## Tod in der Stadt

Religion, Alltag und Festkultur in Krakau 1869–1914

von  
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## **Leseprobe**

Death remains a mystery. Since death and along with it the question of a life thereafter is at the heart of most religions, it is good starting point for a comparative religious study. During the 19th century both the notion and the handling of death and dying went through significant changes in Europe. It was no longer only the religious communities and close relatives who were responsible for dealing with the dying and the deceased. My book examines the role that religious communities – above all the Catholic Church and the Jewish community – played in these changes. What was the role of religious authorities? How did laypeople react? A case study taking a closer look at 19th-century Cracow shall help to answer these questions. Especially in cities it was common that different religious groups and people with different worldviews lived close to each other. Such a coexistence was typical of the religious landscape in Poland. Nevertheless, comparative studies of religious life in Poland are still rare. One of the cities where Catholics and Jews lived together was Cracow. For both groups, the city had an additional symbolic meaning: Cracow was not only an important religious place, but a reference point for Polish nationalism through the 19th century. Cracow as a site of Polish historical heritage was a significant point for a national pathos which expressed itself among others as a political cult of the dead. Be it the political cult of the dead or death in everyday life, they both have in common that they raise questions both for secular and religious authorities. It is this interplay my book examines thereby analysing the religious content of modernity.>