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As a consequence of the edict of Potsdam of 1685, which had been prompted by the edict of Nantes, a large number of Huguenots arrived in Potsdam, where they formed a community (colony) of their own, which existed until 1809.

In the context of Prussian municipal reforms, these separate communities were integrated by Potsdam's elected Lord Mayor.

Similar colonies existed in Pasewalk, Stettin and Frankfurt. It should be pointed out that the edict of Potsdam marked no exception in Prussian politics, rather the rule.

Similarly, Bohemian weavers were wooed, Polish knitters from Polish-Lissa or Dutch carpenters in their traditional velvet outfits.

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