

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Jarosław Kłaczek (ed.), *Ewangelicy w regionie kujawsko-pomorskim na przestrzeni wieków* [Protestants in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian Region Through the Centuries], Toruń, 2020, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 512 pp., ill., bibliog., index of personal names

This joint publication is the conclusion of many years of research by the authors into the history of Protestantism in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region – one of the most important territories for the development of Protestantism (both Lutheranism and Calvinism) in the history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – but it also contains a number of new insights and conclusions by the experts involved in its compilation. Significantly, it was published shortly after the quincentenary of the Reformation in Poland. It is an anthology of thirteen articles, prefaced with an introduction by the editor of the volume, Jarosław Kłaczek. The articles can be described as short, insightful summaries concerning the history of the Protestant communities in various parts of the region and in various periods, from the sixteenth century and the beginning of the Reformation in the early modern age up to the twentieth century. The book is divided into sections on a geographical basis: Cuiavia (diachronic articles by Marek Romaniuk, Tomasz Łaskiewicz and Tomasz Krzemiński on the Protestant communities in Bydgoszcz, Inowrocław, and Eastern Cuiavia respectively, and a contribution on the history of the Protestant community in Włocławek from the end of the eighteenth century to 1939 by Tomasz Dziki); Chełmno Land (the vicissitudes of the Protestants in Grudziądz are described by Jerzy Domaśowski, and an outline of the history of the Protestants in Toruń is given by Jarosław Kłaczek, the editor of the volume); the Dobrzyń Land (Jarosław Anuszewski and Piotr Gałowski have authored two sketches on the Lutheran parishes in Lipno and Rypin); and the Lubawa and Michałowo Lands (an article by Michał Dżimir on Brodnica and Lidzbark, and another by Andrzej Korecki on the Lubawa Land). The penultimate section

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examines archival and statistical data concerning Protestant communities (Mateusz Superczyński researched the parish in Chełmno from this angle, while Agnieszka Zielińska collected data on towns in the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region). The volume closes with a separate chapter on Protestant architecture, in which Piotr Birecki summarises the development of Protestant art and architecture across the Cuiavian-Pomeranian region over the centuries. Each article includes a separate bibliography. A joint index of personal names is included at the end. (MJO)

Żywoty historyczne. Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir, Aleksander Gieysztor w wywiadach z lat 1986–1989 [Their Historical Lives. Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir, and Aleksander Gieysztor interviewed in 1986–1989], questions asked and answers commented by Bronisław Geremek, Jerzy Jedlicki, Henryk Samsonowicz, Ryszard Stemplowski, Henryk Szlajfer, Michał Tymowski, and Tadeusz Wasilewski, with an introduction and notes by Ryszard Stemplowski, Kęty, 2020, Wydawnictwo Marek Derewiecki, 140 pp.

When Ryszard Stemplowski (today, a professor) was made editor-in-chief of the journal *Estudios Latinoamericanos* in the middle of the 1980s, he decided to hold a series of conversations with the doyens of historiography, all of them associated with Warsaw. The project has been accomplished only partly, for he managed to interview only four of these men, all deceased now – namely, Marian Małowist (1909–88), Aleksander Gieysztor (1916–99), Tadeusz Łepkowski (1927–89), and Janusz Tazbir (1927–2016). The interviews were first published in the aforementioned periodical, in a Spanish translation; more than thirty years later, they were published in a (small) book form, entitled *Las vidas históricas. Conversaciones con Tadeusz Łepkowski, Marian Małowist, Janusz Tazbir y Aleksander Gieysztor* (Warszawa, 2019). Finally, they have come out in their original wording. In the introduction, Stemplowski discusses the circumstances in which these conversations were held and then published, introduces the interlocutors, and reflects on their output and the age in which they happened to live. The author's students and professor colleagues, who later on became outstanding scholars themselves, have contributed to these interviews. A few motifs tend to reappear: the interviewees' family background and intellectual formation, the experiences related to the war and communism, and the attitude to the Marxist research methodology. It can be regretted that the latter thread is not highlighted enough in the talk with Gieysztor: as opposed to Małowist or Łepkowski, Gieysztor would not declare himself as a follower of the trend, though he must have sought

certain trade-offs in his creative activity (as the author mentions in the introduction). However, the leitmotiv in these interviews is the similarities between the history of Poland and the history of the Iberian world – the Pyrenean Peninsula, the Lusophonic western Africa and the Hispanophonic America, the question close to the project's initiator. Łepkowski and Małowist were the experts in these issues, but the other two interlocutors had a lot to say in this respect as well. The Tazbir interview is a gem indeed, not only in this particular respect. Though not without editorial flaws, the book is a valuable contribution to the history of Polish historiography and a record of the time when the interviews were made: it shows what, and how much, could be said in the final years of communist Poland about the then-recent past in a scientific journal. In this respect, Gieysztor's confessions related, for instance, to the reconstruction of the Royal Castle in Warsaw appear to be really interesting. (RR)

MIDDLE AGES

Stanisław Turlej, Michał Stachura, Bartosz Jan Kłoczek, and Adam Izdebski (eds), *Byzantina et Slavica. Studies in Honour of Professor Maciej Salamon*, Kraków, 2019, Historia Iagellonica, 464 pp., English sum., ills, maps, separate bibliog. for each article

The book dedicated to Professor Maciej Salamon is worthy of attention. Consisting of thirty-five articles (incl. twenty-nine in English, four in German, and one each in French and Italian), it deals with a variety of issues related to Professor Salamon's research interests. Although the title phrase *Byzantina et Slavica* might suggest that the texts would equally concern both mentioned areas, it is Byzantium that appears to be the main focus. The articles cover aspects of history and archaeology, offering a diverse set of approaches to the subjects concerned.

The texts are rather short, which, in some cases, is to their detriment – as is the case with Marcin Bohm's study on the role of Conrad of Querfurt in Henry VI's politics. While the article mostly describes Conrad's career, its summary style causes the interesting issues to disappear in the superficial presentation of the events. Some texts are not hampered by shortness, though – for instance, Robert Suski's article on Aurelius Victor's career, after Ammianus Marcellinus: here, the author focuses on the selected problem and discusses it extensively. Such is the case also with Mirosław J. Leszka's article on representations of the rulers of the Bulgars in Liudprand of Cremona's works.

However, the anthology lacks an article that would stand out. The editors have not tried to group the studies and arrange them in a sequence – let alone to provide an index. With the diversity of the proposed topics, it would all

largely facilitate the use of this volume. In spite of these deficiencies, the book can prove of interest and use to a number of readers. (AG)

Katarzyna Gołąbek, Marek A. Janicki, Maria Koczerska, Roman Michałowski, Piotr Okniński, Marcin R. Pauk, Aneta Pieniędz, and Piotr Węcowski (eds), *Monarchia, społeczeństwo, tożsamość. Studia z dziejów średniowiecza. Prace ofiarowane Profesorowi Sławomirowi Gawlasowi* [Monarchy, Society, Identity. Studies in the History of the Middle Ages, Offered to Professor Sławomir Gawlas], Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 565 pp., ill., list of abbreviations

An extensive collection of more than thirty studies dedicated to Sławomir Gawlas, Professor Emeritus of the University of Warsaw, whose research focused on ethnic relations and national awareness in medieval Poland, as well as on social and political/systemic changes and transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. The contributors' articles are arranged into three groups according to the three criteria indicated in the title – i.e., monarchy, society, and identity. There are insights into pragmatic literacy (Anna Adamska, Agnieszka Bartoszewicz), the figures of the Dioscuri in the Piast dynastic legend (Roman Michałowski), stories on Margrave Wichman's death (Paweł Żmudzki), the Germans' associations with Cracow's religious orders (Grzegorz Pac), ritual murder legends (Hanna Zaremska), the chronicle by Peter Eschenloer of Breslau (Halina Manikowska), heraldry (Przemysław Mrozowski), vulgarisms in medieval Poland (Marcin Starzyński), ecclesial vogtship (Marcin R. Pauk), numismatics of the Duchy of Cieszyn (Borys Paszkiewicz), or the correspondence of the annalist Jan Długosz (Maria Koczerska). Three studies written by foreign scholars, in German, are worthy of mentioning: Sven Ekdahl's 'Politik, Handel und dynastische Probleme der skandinavischen Königreiche in der ersten Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts'; Thomas Wünsch's 'Transformation durch Kolonisation. "Ostkolonisation" als Paradigma eines kulturellen Wandels von der Germania Slavica bis Sibirien (in Mittelalter und Früher Neuzeit)', and Eduard Mühle's 'Zur romantischen Deutung und politischen Instrumentalisierung altslawischen Geschichte. Das Beispiel Joachim Lelewel'. A biographical note of the jubilarian, a list of his publications, and a *tabula gratulatoria* are included. (RR)

Zofia A. Brzozowska, Mirosław J. Leszka, Kiril Marinow, and Teresa Wolińska (eds), *Widmo Mahometa, cień Samuela. Cesarstwo bizantyńskie w relacji z przedstawicielami innych religii i kultur (VII–XV w.)* [A Phantom of Mahomet, a Shadow of Samuel. The Byzantine Empire's Relations with Representatives of Other Religions and Cultures, 7th to 15th Centuries], Łódź, 2020, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 379 pp., ill., English sum., bibliog., indices of personal, geographical and ethnic names, abstracts in Polish and English; series: *Byzantina Lodziensia*, 39

The book offers considerations on the relations of the Byzantine Empire with the dominions of the Islamic world, on the one hand, and of the Balkans, on the other. As declared by the editors, the volume has resulted from two panels held as part of the 6th Congress of Polish Medievalists that took place on 20–22 August 2018 in Wrocław (most of the speakers submitted their papers for publication).

The fourteen articles (incl. one in English) are arranged into two parts – the first focusing on the Balkans from the seventh until the end of the fourteenth century, the second on Islam within the cultures of European East and West in the Middle Ages. The texts are, for the most part, concise and focused. Piotr Kochanek's article on the Ripoll map stands out, though, with its level of detail and size (almost threefold longer than any of the other contributions). Analysed is the map's history and the form in which it survives, with a series of pictures of the map's elements added. The author perceives this map as an expression of the idea of Byzantium resuming its role as the major power within the Mediterranean at the beginning of the eleventh century.

Not all of the articles are convincing, as is exemplified by Tsetelin Stepanov's text on two 'Easts' and two 'Wests' and their influences on Bulgaria between the seventh and the twelfth centuries. The northern East would have been the Khazars, Magyars (before their arrival in Pannonia), and, consecutively, the nomadic tribes of Pechenegs, Oghuz Turks, and Cumans; the southern East would have consisted of Byzantium and the remains of the Sassanid state. The West would have consisted of the Avars, Franks, Magyars – as its northern part (or segment), the southern one having been the Papacy. Yet, what sort of benefit comes from such a categorisation, with so different organisms gathered within one group, whose only shared trait is the geography, remains unclear.

The book is nonetheless as a coherent collection of articles worthy of the readers' attention. It moreover testifies, once again, to the dynamism of the Łódź-based circle Byzantinists. (AG)

Beda Czcigodny [Beda Venerabilis], *Dzieje Kościoła Anglów. Historia Ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*, transl. and ed. by Iwonna Salamonowicz-Górska, Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Stefana Wyszyńskiego, 325 pp., map of Britain, letters of early medieval Anglo-Saxon rulers and bishops, name index; series: Pisma Starochrześcijańskich Pisarzy, 74

This first complete Polish translation of the fundamental work of early mediaeval historiography has been made by Iwonna Salamonowicz-Górska, a merited academic teacher of Latin. A few years earlier, she had her translation of the first few chapters of *Historia Ecclesiastica's* Book I published [Beda Wielebny, 'Brytania – położenie, jej podbój i nawrócenie', *Vox Patrum*, 57 (2012), 929–38]. The translation is based on the J.E. King edition of 1930. The Polish version is linguistically correct and nice to read. The publication certainly fills a major gap in Polish publishing market, and an important step toward popularisation of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. However, certain reservations need to be made. The introduction and content-related notes, though helpful to the reader, should have been consulted by an expert mediaevalist (for instance, the name 'Great Britain' applied to the sixth- or seventh-century realities is glaringly anachronous). The reference literature and the listed bibliography is fairly poor, as it ignores the studies by Walter Goffart (among others), nor does it mention all the important editions of the *Historia* – including the major one: it is B. Colgrave and R.A.B. Mynors's 1969 edition that should have been used as the basis for the translation. (RR)

Mirosław Michalak, *Konteksty kulturowe średniowiecznego eposu irańskiego Garšāspnāme i ich źródła* [The Cultural Contexts of the Medieval Iranian Epic *Garšāspnāme* and Their Sources], Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 456 pp., geographical and personal indices, mythological and literary characters, bibliog.

As the author himself declares, this is the first monograph of the Iranian (Persian) epic written by Asadi Tusi in the eleventh century, seeking to present the narrative of *Garšāspnāme* in a cultural context. Though the proposed approach is interesting, naming it innovative is somewhat exaggerative.

Michalak divides the narrative orders into two planes, which enables further analysis. Asadi's story is alternately analysed along the lines of the heroic/mythical order and the relational/descriptive order. Thus, the story's structural patterns and mechanisms are examined from two deferent perspectives. The purpose is to identify the sources and the reasons for why the individual stories have been included in the epic.

The book has four parts with detailed further division into chapters and subchapters. The first part is an introduction containing editorial and terminological remarks, introducing the methodology employed, discussing the present state of research, and presenting the main assumptions behind the monograph.

Part two deals with the epic and its author, analyses the form, language, and structure of the work, and discusses its content. The epic's narrative orders – heroic/mythical order and relational/descriptive – are presented. Discussed are the historical realities, the relation between the language and the style, the work's narrative order, and finally its lexis.

The third (and longest) part presents the cultural contexts of *Garšāspnāme*. Its two chapters (of roughly 120 and 130 pages, respectively) discuss the cultural contexts under the heroic/mythical order and the relational/descriptive order. Part four summarises the discussion and suggests the perspective of further research on the epic.

The book is undoubtedly interesting, its topic innovative, the literary work in question rarely researched. Still, the author's technical language, when it comes to a niche topic like this one (for the Polish reader), makes the reading and full understanding of the book difficult. All in all, the book is worthy of attention in respect of the issue it deals with and the research methodology proposed by the author. (AG)

Marta Rey-Radlińska, *Ku poetyce þáttir* [Towards the Poetics of þáttir], Kraków, 2020, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 281 pp.

The term *þættir* (*þáttir* in singular; lit., 'a fibre') refers to brief narrative forms in vernacular Icelandic literature, preserved in larger collections where they functioned as digressions within a larger whole. The author, a Jagiellonian University philologist and translator of Old Icelandic literature, has previously dealt with *þættir* – in a more popular fashion – in a collective monograph on the sagas [*Þættir – krótkie formy narracyjne*], in Jakub Morawiec and Łukasz Neubauer (eds), *Sagi islandzkie. Zarys dziejów literatury staronordyckiej* (Warszawa, 2015), 40–61], and subsequently, in a PhD thesis written under the supervision of Piotr de Bończa Bukowski. The book under review, which is pioneering in Polish literature, is based precisely on that dissertation (submitted in 2017). Consisting of eight chapters plus indices, a bibliography, and an English summary, it summarises the knowledge on the literary genre in question, with a focus on the seven works composing *Morkinskinna*, the Old Norse chronicle of Norwegian kings. Rey-Radlińska discusses their plots and narrative structure, looks closer at their humoristic elements and the border between truth and fiction. In methodological terms, she draws upon the

literary communication theory, referring to scholars such as Roland Barthes, Umberto Eco, Michał Głowiński, Paul Ricoeur, or Paul Zumthor. Written in a vivid style, the book displays a light, 'pedagogical' manner of arguing and the author's knack for popularisation. (RR)

Andrzej Radziwiński, *Kontakty duchownych ze stolicą apostolską. Obrazy z życia średniowiecznego kleru w dokumentach penitencjarii apostolskiej* [Clergymen's Contacts with the Apostolic See. Pictures from the Life of Medieval Clergy in the Apostolic Penitentiary Documents], Toruń, 2020, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UMK, 244 pp., ills, bibliog., English sum., index of names; series: *Ecclesia clerusque temporibus medii aevi*

The book is a popular-science study furnished with notes. It is mainly based on the Apostolic Penitentiary documents collected in the *Bullarium Poloniae* and complemented by a few other editions of the Penitentiary's documents. Of the three chapters, the first describes the Apostolic Penitentiary, its history, organisation, and the way it operated. Chapter two describes the records used in the study. The third chapter shows pictures from the clergy's life; its sections include 'Schools', 'Inns', 'Women', 'Wars and armed conflicts', and 'Other daily events'. Two addenda quoting the relevant records complement the book. One includes extracts of exemplary dispensations given by the Penitentiary, in the original and with translations into Polish. Most of the texts are taken from the *Bullarium Poloniae*, a few come from other printed sources. The other is the bestowal of the provision (office) of provostry at the Cathedral Chapter of Varmia upon Arnold Klunder by Pole Callixtus II.

The popular-science character of the book is especially manifested in the selection of illustrations and the way in which they are used. Attached to the subchapter on war is a graphical representation of the use of Greek fire and the Battle of Azincourt, which embellish the text rather than adding to the content. Such illustrations can be misleading, though, when pictures from very different periods and referring to the events from different places across Europe (rather than at least geographically close to the argument) are juxtaposed without a comment or explanation. One can have serious doubts as to the sources of these illustrations and, certainly, to their much imprecise descriptions in their attached list (especially with respect to those taken from 'the internet (in a broad sense)').

Rather than an in-depth analysis, this book is a collection of anecdotes and stories. Although the reader might find them interesting, they do not contribute to the most recent state of research on the contacts between the clergy and the Apostolic See. (AG)

Marek Cetwiński, *Śląski mikrokosmos. Studia nad Księgą Henrykowską* [A Silesian Microcosm. Studies on the Book of Henryków], Częstochowa, 2020, Uniwersytet Humanistyczno-Przyrodniczy im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie, 295 pp.; series: Biblioteka Długosza, 2

The book is a new collection of studies by the Częstochowa-based scholar, this time focused on the Henrician Book (*Księga Henrykowska*) – the unique Polish chronicle dating to the thirteenth century and shedding light on the beginnings and history of the Cistercian monastery in Henryków, Silesia, useful today primarily as a record of aspects of the socioeconomic history. The chronicle is also known as the work that contains the first sentence ever written down in the Polish language, reportedly uttered by a peasant named Boguchwał (Bogwalus) to his wife: *day ut ia pobrusa, a ti poziwai* (“now let me grind for a while, so that you can repose”). The twenty-odd texts initially published as autonomous articles have now formed a sort of colourful mosaic, rather than a coherent monograph of the record concerned. As is typical with this author, these texts are written lightly and brilliantly but conveying an important methodological message. Willingly referring to the research of Roman Grodecki, Józef Matuszewski and Piotr Gorecki, the author is interested in the chronicler’s language and style as well as his views of the secular power and religious authority, everyday life and miraculous phenomena and, finally, ethnic relations. There is no index attached. Nor are the dates and places of the articles’ original publication given, but this seems to be the author’s deliberate measure. The publication in question has been complemented with a booklet (published in parallel) which in a popular form explains the circumstances of the afore-quoted sentence [M. Cetwiński, *Day, ut ia pobrusa... Ze świata Księgi Henrykowskiej*, Wrocław 2020, Wydawnictwo Chronicon, 68 pp., ill.; series: Forum Kultury Historycznej, 3.] (RR)

Wojciech Michalski, *Robert Bruce i jego kompania w eposie pióra Johna Barboura. (The Bruce około 1376 roku)* [Robert Bruce and His Company in the Epic Penned by John Barbour. (*The Bruce* around 1376)], Lublin, 2020, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 259 pp., 4 ill., bibliog., English sum.

A work of the Lublin mediaevalist, the book is based on his doctoral dissertation written under the supervision of Jacek Banaszekiewicz and submitted at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in 2014. It is a monograph of the fourteenth-century poem *The Bruce* authored by John Barbour and praising the deeds of the Scottish king Robert Bruce and his companions. The study is

composed of three chapters, dealing with the adventures of King Robert, the poem's deuteragonist James Douglas, and the background characters – plus an introduction giving the basic information on the work and its author. Michalski traces the epical threads in the poem, referring to the immense and interesting comparative material. The book's most interesting moment is the analysis of the story on the prophecy related to the pulling of the ships through the mooring pipe in the island of Kintyre (a parallel to Werner Herzog's motion picture *Fitzcarraldo* comes to one's mind at this point). Let us mention that the author's ambition was to find traces of authentic oral tradition in the epic, whose appearance he does not manage to prove in every single case. An English *Summary* and a bibliography round off the book, but no index is appended. (RR)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Dorota Gregorowicz, *Tiara w grze o koronę. Stolica Apostolska wobec wolnych elekcji w Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów w drugiej połowie XVI wieku* [The Papal Tiara in the Game for the Crown. The Holy See and the Free Royal Elections in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Second Half of the Sixteenth Century], Kraków, 2019, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 495 pp., list of acronyms/abbreviations, bibliog., 16 ills and list thereof (colour and portraits), Italian and English sum., index of personal names

The author of this monograph chose as the subject of her research the elections of kings in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the second half of the sixteenth century, which were key political events not only for domestic politics but also – and, she proposes, perhaps above all – in the international arena. The interest of the Holy See in the elections of the Polish-Lithuanian rulers was due to the special status enjoyed by the Commonwealth, which was regarded as the 'Bulwark of Christian Europe' (*Antemurale Christianitatis*). The election of a Catholic monarch was treated as a matter of utmost importance by the popes of the second half of the sixteenth century: Pius V, Gregory XIII, and Sixtus V, who were indirectly involved in the political struggles surrounding the elections and *interregnum* periods through their diplomatic corps. The chronological framework adopted by the author, the period 1572–89, which covers the first three *interregna*, is consistent both with regard to the internal development of the Commonwealth and the formation of its political system, and in respect of the relatively stable pontificates of the abovementioned popes. The study sets out above all to chart the activities of the papal diplomatic personnel in connection with elections of rulers in

the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and encompasses the full breadth of diplomatic relations across early modern Europe, as well as the complex system of interactions at play both within the network of the papal nunciatures and among the diplomatic services of secular states. For this reason, the perspective of the courts in Vienna (and Prague), Madrid, and Paris is also taken into account, which lifts the work above and beyond the historiographically established bilateral vision of political and diplomatic relations towards a study of interdependent networks of selected actors in early modern diplomacy that analyses their mutual interactions and impacts – an interesting and insightful approach. The source base consists primarily of diplomatic correspondence, including official correspondence between the popes, various monarchs, and the Apostolic Nunciature to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The extensive research drew on holdings in institutions including the Vatican Archives and Library, the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, the Spanish Court Archives [Archivo General de Simancas], and the Scientific Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow. In addition to Polish literature, the author makes good use of a wide selection of foreign literature, primarily in Italian, English, and German. She argues that the diplomatic and political activities of the Holy See in the Commonwealth were motivated mainly by religious factors. Despite some favouritism towards Habsburg candidacies, popes were quick to offer their support to elected rulers, which confirms the thesis that the priority was to see a Catholic ruler elected, not specifically a Habsburg one. The effectiveness of papal policy depended on the arsenal of political arguments at the pope's disposal, and on the abilities and authority of papal diplomats themselves. The efforts of papal envoys in the periods of *interregna* and elections put the principle of neutrality of the head of the Catholic Church to the test: papal diplomats were not merely observers, but capable and active actors on the political scene. The monograph is based on the author's doctoral dissertation, defended in 2017 at the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale. (MJO)

Katarzyna Wagner, *Mieszczanie i podatki. Nierówności majątkowe w wybranych miastach Korony w XVII wieku* [Burghers and Taxes. Wealth Inequalities in Selected Cities of the Polish Crown in the 17th Century], Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 300 pp., colour ill., list of acronyms/abbreviations, bibliog., annex containing tables, list of tables, list of graphs, list of cartographic materials, index of personal names

The monograph in question consists of an introduction and seven chapters, which are divided into two parts. The first, which comprises two chapters, includes a statistical analysis and general comparative outline

of selected cities. The second contains the remaining five chapters, each one devoted to a socio-topographical analysis of one of those cities: Cracow, Warsaw, Lwów (Lviv), Poznań, and Lublin. The structure of each chapter is identical, and includes identification of taxpayers (i.e. who paid taxes in a given city), analysis of the zones of wealth and poverty and the middle-income zone, a separate analysis of the situation of women, and a summary. The book ends with a general conclusion, which recapitulates on the results from each chapter.

The main thrust of the study is a socio-topographical analysis of the spatial features of five selected major cities of the Polish Crown in the seventeenth century, undertaken in order to measure wealth inequalities among their citizens, and for comparative purposes (the author compares statistical findings on each city in the first chapter, but despite her declarations it lacks a comparison with larger urban centres of Western Europe). The author sets out to answer two questions: whether we can speak of the emergence of large urban centres in the early modern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and what factors determined the emergence and development of a major city. For the purposes of the study, the author adopts her own definition of what constitutes a major urban centre, which she examines alongside the material status and degree of wealth of each city's residents [p. 8]. In order to determine the state of development of a given urban centre, she took the following factors into account: type of urban development, degree of property concentration and wealth differentiation, number of tenants, and occupational structure of the urban population. On this basis, she delineates zones of wealth and poverty, as well as intermediate, middle-wealth zones, as mentioned in the outline of the structure of the chapters above. The publication contains a number of tables and charts which illustrate the conclusions drawn from the extensive quantitative statistical research, which is based primarily on tax sources (tax registers). The study is based on the author's doctoral dissertation, which she defended at the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw, in 2017. (MJO)

Korespondencja wojskowa hetmana Janusza Radziwiłła w latach 1646–1655. Część 2: Listy [The Military Correspondence of Hetman Janusz Radziwiłł 1646–1655. Part 2: Letters], ed. by Konrad Bobiatyński, Przemysław Gawron, Krzysztof Kossarzewski, Piotr Kroll, Andrzej Adam Majewski, Dariusz Milewski, and Mirosław Nagielski, Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 301 pp., list of acronyms/abbreviations, indices of personal and geographical names

This volume is a continuation of the work on the military correspondence of Hetman Janusz Radziwiłł conducted by a group of specialists in early modern military history (volume one, published in 2019 by the same team of historians,

contains a source edition of the ‘chancellery journal’; in the introductory section it also includes a biography of Radziwiłł). This, the second volume, is a critical source edition of 220 letters, prefaced with an introduction and a list of abbreviations. The team of editors gathered correspondence from and to Hetman Janusz Radziwiłł scattered across Polish and foreign archives (the extensive research took in Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Russian, Latvian, German, Austrian, and Swedish archives). Some of the source material had already been published in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but those editions naturally no longer meet contemporary publishing and scholarly standards, so this material was also included, as were some letters from the first volume of this edition. In the introduction the editors also restated the principles according to which the source edition was compiled (from the first volume). The collected epistolary materials are arranged in chronological order. The critical apparatus of each letter follows the same pattern: information on sender and recipient, place of writing and date of dispatch (if known), and information on the source base of the edition (including information on the original material, previous editions, and copies). This volume introduces into the scientific literature and wider circulation valuable source material, relevant to research not only into the history of the Radziwiłł family itself (and its network of associates, friends, and allies), but also – together with the first volume – into the military, political, and social history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the mid-seventeenth century. (MJO)

Andrzej Klonder, *Prowincjusze i detaliści. Drobny handel i rzemiosło w Rzeczypospolitej w XVII – początku XVIII wieku* [Provincials and Retailers. Petty Trade and Craft in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries], Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 162 pp., annexes, bibliog., English sum.

This study sets out to fill a gap in the economic historiography of the productive and commercial potential of small and medium-sized towns, which constituted the vast majority of the urban centres in the pre-partition Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and which have to date not been given due attention in historical studies. Research interest has tended to focus on the circulation of larger capital and on consumer behaviour on a more mass scale. However, as the author of this work argues, it is also worth examining issues of the history and material culture of small towns, such as the condition of urban buildings, both private and public; the size, layout and functions of the typical burgher household, and its furnishings; and the physical condition and health of the townspeople themselves, all of which are still of significance today. The author also identifies significant deficiencies in

identification of the goods and services (crafts and trade) that were on offer in small towns, the structure of this assortment, and the quality of those goods and services, in both the statistical and cross-sectional perspectives. The book is divided into two parts. The first is devoted to an analysis of the structure of the provincial craft market that developed in smaller towns in five selected western provinces (the voivodeships of Kalisz, Sieradz, Łęczyca, Brześć Kujawski, and Inowrocław), and compares the results with the situation in other parts of the country. In the second part the author describes and compares the range of wares offered by merchants in smaller and medium-size towns of the Polish Crown in the seventeenth century. The author draws attention to the usefulness for this type of research of tax sources, which facilitate a comparative examination of towns in various provinces and regions of the Polish Crown. The fiscal materials are supplemented with municipal and public records. The author also makes use of less frequently accessed sources, primarily information on fixed tax rates for goods and services ordained in Poland and other European countries (e.g. Germany), which also provides a good starting point and basis for broader comparative reflection. After analysing the material on trade and goods for small towns in the seventeenth century, the author comes to the interesting conclusion that the great wars which swept through Poland and Europe in this century (up to the beginning of the eighteenth century) did not significantly affect provincial small-town markets, and neither did they have a lasting negative impact on demand or supply, or on trade and consumer relations in general. (MJO)

Tomasz Wiślicz, *Zelman Wolfowicz i jego rządy w starostwie drohobyckim w połowie XVIII wieku* [Zelman Wolfowicz and His Rule in the Drohobych Starostwo in the Mid-Eighteenth Century], Kraków–Warszawa, 2020, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych ‘Universitas’, Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 263 pp., colour ills [6], source appendix, list of acronyms/abbreviations, indices of personal and geographical names, bibliog.

The starting point for this monograph was the author’s journey into the past in search of historical sources to support the legend of the ‘evil Jew Zelman’, who ruled over the Drohobych community despotically and was believed to haunt it and torture its citizens as a phantom even after his death. Apart from the history of the real historical figure behind the legend, which was undoubtedly Zelman Wolfowicz, the author is also interested in the history of the legend itself, which was arrested with the Second World War, after which the historical and fictional memory about Zelman Wolfowicz and his

story faded away. Yet in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this legend had been a part of the history of the local community and an element of its collective identity (or, perhaps more accurately, its local communities and identities) – the Polish, the Ukrainian, and the Jewish. This story about an individual, embedded in folklore and myth, is used as the basis for more wide-ranging reflections on the local (including Jewish) communities of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the pre-partition period. The study takes up a position at the intersection of microhistory and biography; on the basis of individual and semi-legendary accounts, the author draws conclusions concerning the collective mentality and social and cultural phenomena on a larger scale. The book consists of three chapters prefaced by an introduction. The first chapter sets out to reconstruct the biography of the eponymous character, Zelman Wolfowicz, the second deals with the legend that arose around Zelman, and the third is devoted to the history of the Drohobych community and, more broadly, to the model of functioning of local communities in the eighteenth-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The publication is enriched by a source appendix containing editions of five archival holdings on the history of Zelman Wolfowicz stored in two Lviv institutions: the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, and the Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine, where most of the sources for the history of Drohobych and its community can be found. (MJO)

Jacek Kordel, *Królestwo anarchii. W poszukiwaniu nowożytnych wyobrażeń o Rzeczypospolitej i jej mieszkańcach* [Kingdom of Anarchy. In Search of Early Modern Notions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Its Inhabitants], Warszawa, 2020, Narodowe Centrum Kultury, 354 pp., ills and their list, bibliog., index of personal names; series: *Wojny Kulturowe przeciw Polsce*

Jacek Kordel's publication inaugurates the National Centre for Culture's new book series, entitled 'Culture Wars against Poland', with an analysis of the Age of Enlightenment and the eighteenth century, when the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth lost its sovereignty and was subsequently erased from the maps of Europe altogether. The series sets out to examine whether it is possible to speak of an organised policy of defamation and denigration on the part of foreign powers, at various stages from the eighteenth century onwards, targeting the inhabitants of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and, later, Poland. In his monograph, the author gathers perceptions, notions, and sources of negative stereotypes pertaining to the nobility and other inhabitants of the Polish-Lithuanian state, which functioned widely in

French- and German-speaking cultural circles. He finds them expressed by figures including some of the greatest thinkers of the Enlightenment (including philosophers such as Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Montesquieu, Voltaire, and the *Encyclopédistes*), voyagers and scientists who travelled through Polish-Lithuanian territory (e.g. Georg Forster), and eminent rulers (among them Frederick the Great). The second main theme of this book is the propaganda produced by states neighbouring the Commonwealth with the aim of justifying their annexation of Polish territories. The author analyses the justifications and claims advanced by Austria, Prussia, and Russia, who effected the first partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1772. Another issue he discusses is leverage of religious conflicts to fuel aggressive policy towards the Polish-Lithuanian state and to strengthen the image that intolerance and religious fanaticism prevailed there (see the chapter on the Tumult or Blood-Bath of Toruń of 1724, during which Lutheran participants in the tumult were sentenced to death). Aside from accusations of religious fanaticism, two further thrusts in the propaganda tarnishing the inhabitants of the Commonwealth can be distinguished: anarchy and inertia in public and political life, and socio-economic backwardness. The author focuses primarily (but not exclusively) on analysis of printed political writings and propaganda which were disseminated across the Europe of the day and consumed by members of a range of influential circles: rulers, courtiers, politicians, diplomats, military figures, and others. The work can be classified as popular science (though it does contain a scientific apparatus and a bibliography), and does not pretend to a synthetic, comprehensive treatment of the issue of information policy regarding the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the Enlightenment. The author's aim was to fill in certain gaps in the literature, including previous and current studies on the propaganda concerning Poland purveyed by its neighbours in the eighteenth century. (MJO)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Agnieszka Więckiewicz, *Obrazy czarności. Wyobraźnia imperialna i różnica rasowa w niemieckiej kulturze XIX i XX wieku. Siedem szkiców z antropologii wrogości* [The Images of Blackness. Imperial Imagination and Racial Difference in German 19th- and 20th-Century Culture. Seven Sketches in the Anthropology of Enmity], Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 208 pp., bibliog., name index, ill. and list thereof

An ambitious study at the intersection of the history of mentality, history of ideas, and cultural anthropology by a scholar associated with the University of Warsaw and the Sorbonne University of Paris, the book is composed

of seven extensive essays that seek, in a synthetic and critical fashion, to trace the influences of colonialism and racism on German-language culture, and identify in the given context the ambiguous figure of ‘enemy’. Described are cultural mechanisms of social exclusion prevalent between the late nineteenth and the latter half of the twentieth century. The central argument is, apparently, the ascertainment that the ‘images of blackness’, being instances of racism per se that affects all those who are approached as ‘aliens’ or ‘inimical’ within their own communities, are sustainable and universal at the same time, which enables to analyse them in diversified social and cultural contexts. The study goes beyond the ‘fixed’ set of authors crucial to the German culture of the time – Nietzsche, Freud, Benjamin, Mann brothers, etc. – as it analyses aspects popular culture as well, incl. the *Simplicissimus* periodical or photomontages of Hannah Höch. The striking sections of the book remind how ‘blackness’ functioned in the Third Reich’s cinema – the phenomenon of Carl Peters being addressed in detail.

A very interesting idea is the investigation, in the second part of the study (entitled ‘Counter-histories’), of how the German-speaking culture and, basically, those who created it, affected by the stigma of exclusion and discrimination, tried to cope with the stigma of racism in public discourse. The author has written it out into a series of writing strategies (the roles of the literary forms of short story and autobiography, among other aspects) and forms of presence in public life. Although mainly targeted at literary scholars and cultural historians, it is worthy of reading by anyone dealing with the ‘long nineteenth century’ and, to use Eric Hobsbawm’s phrase, the ‘age of extremisms’. (GK)

Piotr Kuligowski, *Zniszczyć wszelkie państwo! Idee wędrowne Ludwika Królikowskiego* [Destroy all States! The Wandering Ideas of Ludwik Królikowski], Poznań, 2020, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, 194 pp., personal index, bibliog., list of abbreviations, English sum.; series: Historia, 241

The book is an intellectual biography of Ludwik Królikowski (1799–1879), an eccentric Polish émigré, political thinker, and activist, whose political philosophy eludes simple classification. Born into a peasant family, Królikowski graduated from the University of Warsaw. He left Congress Poland for Paris, where he became fascinated with the political programme of Henri de Saint-Simon. However, he returned to Warsaw during the insurrection of 1830–31 and published extensively in the revolutionary press, calling in language heavily laden with Christian phraseology and morality for a moral transformation of the nation in the spirit of Saint-Simonianism. After the suppression of the insurrection, Królikowski moved to the Republic of Cracow, where he became

involved with several clandestine organisations and continued publishing in the spirit of Mickiewicz's teachings, which precipitated his expulsion from Cracow. He then settled in Paris once again, this time for almost forty years, becoming a close collaborator of Étienne Cabet, a leading French early socialist thinker and activist. He began publishing in French, and when Cabet left France for America, Królikowski replaced him as the editor of *La Populaire* and the leader of the Icarian movement. This resulted in an acerbic conflict with Cabet, who accused him of obscuring the Icarian ideals. Nonetheless, Królikowski remained an important figure in both the Polish and French radical left up to 1877, when he left for America. In his publications he combined the ideas of anarchism, communism, Christianity, and Slavdom.

This book, in addition to revisiting the figure of its main protagonist, offers a comparative contextual analysis of his ideas, which elude simplistic classifications and yet remain typical for the radical left of their time. The 'wandering ideas' in the context of Królikowski's legacy are viewed as products of the intellectual transfer between East and West, France and Poland, and their author as a product of the confrontation of the two national traditions and several intellectual trends. Kuligowski argues that what was unique about his protagonist was his ability to pursue two different authorial strategies and skillfully differentiate between the messages he offered his Polish and French readerships. Thus, it is the rhetorical aspect of Królikowski's writings that is emphasised in this analysis, quite in contrast to the tradition of regarding him as a stubborn, if not fanatical advocate of anarchic radicalism. (AK)

Radosław Paweł Żurawski vel Grajewski, *Ostatnie polskie miasto. Rzeczpospolita Krakowska w "dyplomacji" Hotelu Lambert wobec Wielkiej Brytanii (1831–1845)* [The Last Polish City: the Republic of Cracow in the "Diplomacy" of the Hôtel Lambert towards Britain, 1831–1845], Łódź–Kraków, 2018, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego and Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, 400 pp., bibliog. and personal index

This study addresses the political activities of the Polish exiles after the November Uprising as orchestrated by Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski and his liberal-conservative collaborators (collectively known as the Hôtel Lambert, after the Prince's residence on the Île-St. Louis in Paris). The "Great Emigration" and Prince Czartoryski, the most influential Polish politician of the earlier nineteenth century, have been studied by a number of distinguished historians, including Marceli Handelsmann, Hans Hennig Hahn, and Antoni Cetnarowicz. Żurawski vel Grajewski, who is also an expert in contemporary

international politics, has been publishing on this subject since the 1990s. This time his focus is the history of diplomatic relations surrounding the ephemeral Republic of Cracow.

The Republic was established by the anti-Napoleonic great powers of Europe at the Congress of Vienna as a result of the compromise reached between the Russian tsar Alexander and the other contractors over the future of Poland. It was designed as a buffer zone between the three partitioning powers, particularly Russia and Austria, whose envoys to the Republic served as supervisors of its limited sovereignty. The tiny Republic, which encompassed little more than the decidedly non-metropolitan ancient Polish capital, attracted some international attention after 1831 as the last piece of formally Polish territory and a place where some Polish insurgents and conspirators sought refuge. This attention proved to be a poisoned chalice, however, for Austria, galvanised by the tsar, responded with the military occupation of Cracow between 1836 and 1841.

This study reconstructs the efforts of the Polish exiles to put the republic's fate on the Western – particularly the British – diplomatic agenda, above all by alarming British public opinion about the violation by Russia and Austria of the Poles' rights and of the treaties enshrining them that Britain had guaranteed. The crucial strand in this story was the struggle to establish a British consulate in Cracow (an idea advocated, briefly, by Lord Palmerston). Ultimately, this history is but a minor element in Czartoryski's larger scheme to attract the attention of Britain and France to the Polish cause and his efforts to persuade those powers to intervene against the abolition of Congress Poland by Russia; it is also an even less significant aspect in British-Russian rivalry over what was known as the Eastern Question.

The book narrates all the diplomatic developments in the most minute detail, so that one may suppose that the author has not left a single document, nor any other relevant piece of evidence, without comment. It is based on research conducted in Polish and British archives, on the published correspondence of the public figures involved, and on articles from selected contemporary English and French press titles. It consists of five, chronologically organised chapters (with chapter one presenting the pre-history of the problem, that is, the history of the Republic of Cracow before the uprising of 1830–31). (AK)

Radosław Paweł Żurawski vel Grajewski, *Ognisko permanentnej insurekcji. Powstanie 1846 roku i likwidacja Rzeczypospolitej Krakowskiej w “dyplomacji” Hotelu Lambert wobec mocarstw europejskich (1846–1847)* [A Seat of Permanent Insurrection: the Uprising of 1846 and the Liquidation of the Republic of Cracow in the “Diplomacy” of the Hôtel Lambert Targeting the Great Powers of Europe, 1846–7], Łódź–Kraków, 2018, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego and Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, 496 pp., bibliog. and index

The year 1846 witnessed a failed attempt to organise a Polish national uprising in all three parts of the partitioned Poland. Ultimately, the insurgents only managed to gain control of the tiny Republic of Cracow and a few localities in neighbouring regions of Austrian Galicia. What followed was the annexation of Cracow and the liquidation of the Republic by the Habsburg Empire.

The subject of this book is the efforts of the Polish émigré community, led by Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski, to attract the attention of British and French politicians to the Polish independence cause, symbolised by the last formally independent scrap of Polish territory – the Republic of Cracow. These efforts were not entirely fruitless, as the annexations did actually arouse some sympathy and spark protests in the West, particularly in Britain and France. The book is organised chronologically, and the most interesting chapters focus on the events of 1847 and the debates in both chambers of the French parliament and in the House of Commons during which the annexation of the Republic was discussed.

In both thematic and methodological terms, the book is a direct continuation of its author’s previous publication, *Ostatnie polskie miasto. Rzeczypospolita Krakowska w “dyplomacji” Hotelu Lambert wobec Wielkiej Brytanii*. Żurawski has published extensively on Czartoryski’s émigré diplomacy before, and his last two books together form a coherent whole. They are essentially based on the same body of evidence, with the addition in the second book of some memoirs, accessible online, of prominent political figures such as Prince Metternich. Thus the only immediately discernible reason why they have been published separately, aside from their size, seems to have been the desire to have two books rather than one. This is also evident from the author’s conclusions (p. 419), in which he articulates his wariness of repeating claims formulated ‘elsewhere’.

Given the book’s exceptional accuracy and minuteness, one can hardly imagine that there could be any further discoveries to add to its findings in the future. (AK)

Lenny A. Ureña Valerio, *Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840–1920*, Athens–Ohio, 2019, Ohio University Press, XXI + 295 pp., ills; series: Polish and Polish-American Studies

A researcher associated with the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, the author proposes an innovative approach towards Polish-German relations and nineteenth-century colonial projects. The study joins the scholarship trend of trans-national research, practiced for a decade now. The essential methodological operations proposed to include the intertwining of trans-national and colonial history of the Prussian 'East' with the German imperialism in East Africa and, more importantly perhaps, demonstrate the ways in which the victims of the discriminatory discourses and practices began practicing them themselves. The framework of this original book is defined by migrations and medical discourses. Throughout her argument, the author places an emphasis on circulation of ideas and transfer of information and knowledge, as well as on the mutual, indeed almost organic, entwining of medical, scientific, and national narratives.

The first two chapters deal with debates of German and Polish medical doctors in the period when a modern model of the physician was taking shape in Europe; one of the central figures in this respect is Robert Koch. This outstanding researcher, discoverer, and physician, who was active in the 'German Africa' and 'Prussian Poland', becomes a symbol of transfer of the German colonial knowledge between the two areas. Chapter three, entitled 'Intersecting roads', analyses the medical policy in the 'German Africa' and the Prussian partition. The author shows how the ideas and phobias with respect to migrants underlay the formation of concentration camps in Africa and medical centres in the Prussian partition lands. The researcher argues that the brutality of the experiences of Africans in concentration camps much exceeded the experiences of the Slavic and Jewish migrants subjected to quarantine due to typhoid fever. Chapter four dwells on the topic of Polish colonial discourses. Analysed is, chiefly, Polish travel literature, incl. the writings of Stefan Szolc-Rogoziński, as well as the output of the novelists Henryk Sienkiewicz and Bolesław Prus. These canonical examples from Polish literature (*W pustyni i w puszczy* [In Desert and Wilderness]), and a series of other texts analysed in the book, show that exponents of Polish educated middle class supported European racist discourses and accepted the eugenic concepts of preserving racial purity and interdicting the mixing of bloods and cultures between Poles and African or Brazilian locals. The last, fifth, chapter discusses in detail the Polish emigration to Brazil. The motif of a 'new Poland' in Paraná is not new to historiography, but the approach proposed by the author highlights several new elements, of which the most interesting

seems to be the coupling of the antagonisms between Polish nationalism, which promoted Polish colonies as a symbol of civilisational superiority, the Germans' aspirations to take over those areas as a part of their own colonial heritage, and the frustrations and resentments of the native population.

There are certainly threads or motifs that call for a more detailed approach and in-depth study – such as the associations between Polish colonial fantasies, racism, and diverse anti-Semitic discourses; this great topic has been indicated but not elaborated on. Yet, the study in question, important and relevant as it is, primarily shows a cultural dynamism in the history of medicine, colonialism, and migration(s). The argument intertwines the history of the Second Reich's elites, Polish intelligentsia in the Prussian partition, and the colonial worlds of Africa and Latin America. As a secondary aspect, the study expressly demonstrates the ways in which Poles in the German Empire, primarily the Polish intelligentsia and socio-cultural elites, were building their identity in respect of the Germans and the indigenous inhabitants of overseas colonies. It moreover demonstrates that not only Germans but also Poles, although themselves colonised by the former, elaborated their own colonial concepts – not merely as a compensational fantasy but as put into practice in German African colonies and colonies of the migrants in Brazil. The book was awarded the prestigious Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies for 2020 and was given a honourable mention for the Heldt Prize in the Slavic/East European/Eurasian Studies by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. (GK)

Agata Barzycka-Paździor, *Ojcostwo w drugiej połowie XIX wieku i na początku XX wieku. Szkice z dziejów rodziny galicyjskiej* [Fatherhood in the Second Half of the Nineteenth and the Early Twentieth Centuries. Sketches from the History of the Galician Family], Kraków, 2019, Universitas, 304 pp., bibliog. and personal index

This book explores a subject at the intersection of social history, the history of ideas, and gender studies, one that appears popular but has in fact been understudied. It examines fatherhood as a legal concept, an ideal, a burden, and a practice. Remarkably, the book is relatively free of social sciences jargon, as it is of any moralising or conceptualisation of nineteenth-century behaviours according to twenty-first century standards. One might argue, therefore, that all it does is reconstruct categories of the past rather than deconstructing them or analysing according to any particular theory; in fact, however, this epistemological modesty seems refreshing in the context of today's social sciences. Still, the book does seem a little superficial, as it addresses a number of bold issues without eventually focusing on any of them. One might also wonder if the body of evidence analysed – press, pedagogical literature, and popular compendia, as well as 55 published and 32 unpublished memoirs – is

sufficient to cover all of them. The final caveat is that the author focuses exclusively on sources which reference the mentality of the urban intelligentsia and bourgeoisie of Western Galicia, above all from Cracow, and makes little or no recourse to materials addressing other estates or social classes, or the situation in other regions of Galicia.

Chapter one addresses the ideal of manhood and the position of the man within the family in light of the contemporary press and pedagogy, moving on to the methods of educating boys and the position of single males in society as depicted in the contemporary literature. Chapter two looks at paternal rights and obligations as defined in law and as viewed by journalists and essayists, and particularly suffragist activists. Chapters three and four attempt to reconstruct the realities of fathers' functioning within the family, and their relationships with their children – infants, adolescent, and adult – on the basis of the 87 memoirs analysed. (AK)

Clara Maddalena Frysztacka, *Zeit-Schriften der Moderne. Zeitkonstruktion und temporale Selbstverortung in der polnischen Presse (1880–1914)*, Oldenbourg, 2020, De Gruyter, 433 pp., indices; series: Spatio Temporality/Raum Zeitlichkeit, 7

Historiography of temporality/historical time is a narrow field explored by specialists and not-quite-frequently an object of fierce historical debates. As a matter of fact, though, temporal regimes prevalently shape social self-reflection and constitute points-of-reference in the building of identity in respect of '(the) Others'. Historical time, is, therefore, a power. These findings are the point-of-departure for the author, a scholar presently associated with the Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder); her dissertation under review deals with 'temporal structures and self-placements' in Polish lands from 1880 to 1914 in the Polish-speaking territory which was split at that time into areas of the Prussian, Russian, and Austrian rule, and the national discourses revolved not so much around the peculiarity or singularity of the Polish cause, but frequently around the broken Polish historical period, Frysztacka argues.

The extensive introductory chapter combines the state of research on modern history with the classical studies in the conceptual origins of individual regions of Eastern, Central Eastern, and South Eastern Europe. Introduced, or perhaps, authorised in scientific terms, is the term of 'journals for everybody', denoting the periodicals meant to be read by wide regular audiences rather than limited circles of subscribers. This sort of journalism serves as a basis for, primarily, an intellectual history. Fundamental for the proposed argument is the statement that 'Polish national idea' was spread, among other aspects, through the specific subject-matters pursued by the periodicals, such as

celebrations of anniversaries, current historical feuilletons, serial novels, and the like. This is how the 'journals for several' structured the historical time (the basic material for the author being: from the Russian partition – *Tygodnik Ilustrowany*, *Biesiada Literacka*, *Bluszcz*, *Gazeta Świąteczna*, and *Świat*; from the Austrian partition – *Ognisko Domowe*, *Tydzień*, *Ilustracja Polska*, *Nowości Ilustrowane*, *Nasz Kraj*, *Wieniec-Pszczółka*, and *Rola*; and, from the Prussian partition – *Gwiazda*, *Praca*, and *Piast*).

This ambitious study is composed of three parts, each of which dealing with a different temporal configuration. The part entitled 'Time and nation' reconstructs the developmental lines of Polish history, as they were shown in the popular press. Instead of events, though, analysed are narrative moments of intensified reflection on time. The part entitled 'Time and the Other' reconstructs the narrative of semi-peripherality of Polish history in relation to other state units and nations – primarily, the diverse forms of a German state, incl. the Holy Roman Empire, the State of the Teutonic Order, up to the Prussian state. Lastly, the part entitled 'Modern times' deals with perception of the present and the variants of making modernity part of a temporal regime. Of importance are the events that were condensed in the 'journals for several' into historic phrases such as 'the year 1900' or 'the Revolution of 1905'.

Frysztacka has definitely managed to combine, in an impressive manner, the historical material with its innovative interpretation. This analysis is closely based on the sources whilst never departing from the historical context, let alone ignoring the rules of theoretical argument. Such a micro-depiction enables the reader to grasp a discordant polyphony of the journals under study, which were issued in three different imperial contexts, with entirely different religious, political, and regional backgrounds behind them. Hence, the study in question helps to decentralise (the) modernity as a universal regime of time and to decipher its hegemonic origins in the ideas of temporality. (GK)

Kamil Piskała and Marta Sikorska-Kowalska (eds), *Kobiety niepodległości. Wspomnienia z lat 1910–1918* [Independence Women. Recollections from the Years 1910–1918], Warszawa, 2019, Muzeum Historii Polski, 484 pp.; series: 100-lecie Niepodległości. Wspomnienia i pamiętniki

This collection of memoirs of eleven female participants of the national independence movement, edited by two experienced editors and historians associated with the University of Łódź, offers recollections mostly unknown to a broader public (those by Hanna Rzepecka and Zofia Szturm de Sztrem have been published before). This is a peculiar group of activists, seemingly not fully representative of the women's movement which was diverse, also in political

terms. The activists represented in this book were involved in the independence movement with formations associated with the left or centre of Polish political spectrum, such as the Rifle Teams [Drużyny Strzeleckie], Women's League, Supreme National Committee [Naczelny Komitet Narodowy], the Legions, or the Polish Military Organisation. The social background of most of the memoirists was intelligentsia, which well reflects the character of women's involvement in that period: apart from the women organisers and officials of the reborn state, the reader comes across former distributors of illegal independence-related publications, couriers, subversives, and intelligencers on warfronts, who, dressed as men, served as legionaries. The testimonies selected for this publication aptly and reliably render a collective portrait of female independence activists, and show the group's specific problems, which have escaped the attention of many scholars. They offer the attentive reader a series of clues explaining why this particular segment of the independence movement has been ousted from public discourses of the Second Republic. These accounts form, as it were, an introduction to the two monumental volumes published in the late 1920s by the editorial committee headed by Aleksandra Piłsudska, also formerly a weapons smuggler and revolutionary, better known as Józef Piłsudski's second wife. This collection of records, valuable not only for the historians specialising in the period, has been published within a Polish History Museum [Muzeum Historii Polski] series designed on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of reinstatement of Poland. (GK)

Kai-Achim Klare, *Imperium ante portas: die deutsche Expansion in Mittel- und Osteuropa zwischen Weltpolitik und Lebensraum (1914–1918)*, Wiesbaden, 2020, Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, 588 pp., ill.; series: Veröffentlichungen des Nordost-Instituts, 27

The study refers to a popular – certainly, hotly debated, especially among the German scholars – statement whereby the Ober-Ost area, being the East European territory occupied by Germany between 1915 and 1918 – was a laboratory of German colonial projects. This argument, expressed directly by Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, an American scholar of Lithuanian origin, has gained numerous comments and reflexes in historical studies of the recent decades. In his PhD thesis submitted at the University of Freiburg in 2018, and then in the book published based on it, Kai-Achim Klare calls into question this line of reasoning and its far-reaching consequences, including the recognition of the Ober-Ost as 'merely a prelude' to the Holocaust.

The dissertation is composed of nine extensive chapters, the first is a theoretical and methodological introduction; the sixth offers a comprehensive discussion of the political and social effects of the Ober-Ost's policies; the seventh presents the relevant records, in a body. The author skilfully mutually

balances the projects and visions that tender to reappear among the German elite (chapters two and four) and the practice of ruling (chapters three, five, and six).

A definite strong point of this detailed study is not only an elaborate analysis of the sources but also quite a versatile review of the literature – though it has to be remarked that the studies of East European (incl. Polish) historiographers have been treated by the author somewhat unfairly. Even more poignant is the lack of a perspective of the local residents, whereas the logic of the argument would suggest that impulses from the centre tend to trigger a feedback in the peripheries. In this sense, the impact of the occupational power seems to have remained without resonance in the local people's attitudes and their political representations. However, the study's most severe tender spot is seemingly a conservative approach that largely ignores the tools and methodology of post-colonial studies.

In sum, the book's strongest point is the presentation of the dynamism of activity of decision-makers – basically, the decision-making process – in a comprehensive manner, possibly the most complete one available in the existing literature. In this sense, the author, excellently versed in the records, tries to act as a sort of arbiter that endeavours to resolve the disputes over the Ober-Ost based on his broad reading of the sources. He is consistent in avoiding the error of retrograde (and thus, ahistorical) analysis, in the way he tackles the knowledge and findings from after 1945. The weak points include a conservative research catalogue which ignores the research queries other than directly stemming from the sources. As regards the First World War in the East of Europe, the role and significance of the German authority in the Eastern territories, this will certainly become one of the most valuable elaborations of the topic. (GK)

Bartosz Ogórek, *Niezatarte piętno? Wpływ I wojny światowej na ludność miasta Krakowa* [An Indelible Stigma? The Impact of the First World War on the Population of Cracow], Kraków, 2018, Universitas, 620 pp., bibliog., index of personal names, statistical annex, list of tables and diagrams; series: *Historia życia*

This book, though it opens with an enigmatic quotation from Ludwig Wittgenstein, who was stationed in Cracow during the Great War, is an almost purely demographic study. It is based on an impressive amount of documents from Cracow archives (concerning the structure of the city's population, its income, and a large number of everyday issues) and anthropocentric data from Cracow's hospitals and military records centres. This evidence is only randomly supplemented with information from the contemporary press and just five personal diaries (which, however, seem remarkably detailed).

The book's main achievement, perhaps, lies in the variety and complexity of the statistical methods employed in the analysis of the archival data.

Chapter one looks at the long-term demographic trends discernible in Cracow from 1869 to 1931, above all the rise in life expectancy and decline in fertility, both of which reached their extreme values, the author argues, in the first decade of the twentieth century. Chapter two discusses the immediate impact of the Great War on Cracow, rapidly rising prices of food and its insufficient rationing being two factors contributing to a decline in the city's population and to serious health and mental problems among its inhabitants. Chapter three analyses the long-term consequences of the war on the city's population, specifically those resulting from the insufficient nutrition, actual deaths, and reconfiguration of marriage patterns. Notably, the author employs the methodology devised by Amartya Sen to estimate the extent to which the community's potential growth patterns were shattered. Another, painfully current consequence of the war that he notices is its long-term impact on the physical condition and health of males who were boys aged between 7 and 13 during the war, whom he identifies as the cohort most evidently affected by the war. (AK)

INTERWAR PERIOD

Marian Marek Drozdowski, *Piotr Drzewiecki*, with contributions from Elżbieta Wodzyńska and Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz, Radom, 2020, Łukasiewicz – Instytut Technologii Eksploatacji, 520 pp., ills; series: Biblioteka Polskiej Nauki i Techniki

This political biography of Piotr Drzewiecki (1865–1943), engineer and first Mayor of Warsaw in the revived Poland (22 March 1918 to 28 November 1921), certainly ought not to pass unnoticed. M.M. Drozdowski, a scholar who has been associated for decades with the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and has made a name for himself as an experienced and prolific biographer and expert in the history of Warsaw, focuses in this monograph (apparently reasonably) on the aspects of Drzewiecki's activity related to organic work.

Drzewiecki, whose activity dates since the late 1890s, was an organiser and local government activist – burgomeister (deputy mayor) of Warsaw and member of the municipal council in 1916–17 – was markedly active in the life of Poland's capital city until the late 1930s. His approach to management manifested itself, for instance, in his involvement in aiding the most indigent residents of the capital city, which, coupled with his right-oriented political sympathies, was not an obvious thing at the time. A polymath technocrat (graduate of the St. Petersburg Institute of Technology and the Institute of Civil Engineering Petersburg, both being the elitist technological

schools whose fame reached beyond the tsarist empire), Drzewiecki stood out in the fields of entrepreneurship and innovativeness. He believed that technological development contributes to the citizens' well-being. He practiced civic virtues himself through labour and devotion to public affairs as well as through care about the culture of public life. As Drozdowski shows, he was a fertile populariser of technology (with over 1,000 articles to his credit, published between the end of the 19th century and the late 1930s); he moreover addressed town-planning and industrial issues, as well as social and cultural problems of the capital city (and not only).

Drzewiecki began his career as a public activist during the Revolution of 1905, organising the Educational Society [Macierz Szkolna]; he was affiliated then with the moderate faction of the National Democracy (after 1907, with the so-called *Fronde*), he skilfully cooperated with people of diverse political views. In the late 1920s and the 1930s, he was involved in organisational work, his most eminent 'child' in this respect probably being the Supreme Technical Organisation [Naczelna Organizacja Techniczna, NOT]. The life of this outstanding man, filled with work and versatile activities (most of the accounts quoted by the biographer deservedly perceive Drzewiecki as a 'Renaissance man') came to a sudden end as he was detained by the Nazi Germans in mid-1942: the former mayor of Warsaw was killed in 1943 at the Moabit prison in Berlin.

While the set of research issues addressed by this study seems rather traditional, it reliably presents the dilemmas of a considerable group of Polish technological intelligentsia – a group that has definitely been underrepresented and underestimated by research scholars. The book in question is carefully edited, including in terms of the records processed, should certainly be read by anyone interested in the Polish *fin-de siècle* and the tempestuous beginnings of the Second Republic of Poland. (GK)

Justyna Budzińska-Tylicka, *Przyczynek do biografii* [Justyna Budzińska-Tylicka. A Contribution to Her Biography], ed. by Urszula Kozłowska, Szczecin, 2020, Uniwersytet Szczeciński, 169 pp., ill., index of persons; series: Genealogia Niepodległości

A selection of writings of Justyna Budzińska-Tylicka (1867–1936), the noted physician, social activist, and suffragist active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the book is worthy of note for a number of reasons. In the first place, the Polish women's emancipation movement – the 'first feminist wave', according to the terms and chronology accepted in the modern literature – has not yet been adequately expressed in Polish historiography or social research. The existing literature tends to evoke the movement's outstanding representatives in a fragmentary way or limits itself to a discursive

analysis of a few most significant trends. In fact, no dedicated monograph has yet been published on any of the most eminent foreground (female) creators of the women's movement; the texts by the best-known activists and contributors are known superficially or incompletely. Although the transition breakthrough after the fall of communism implied the emergence of a dynamic current of gender studies, primarily in academic circles, the origins of Polish feminism still remain known to a handful of specialists. Therefore, the re-statement of the memory owed to this movement, with its heterogeneity and importance to the understanding of Poland's twentieth-century history, is by all means legitimate.

Justyna Budzińska-Tylicka was part of the leftist/socialist current of Polish suffragettes. Since the outset of her public activity, she was associated with Polish socialists: in 1895, she joined the Foreign Socialists' Union, in 1922 – the Polish Socialist Party [PPS], in 1926 – the Central Female Section within the latter, was appointed its chairwoman in 1930. In the 1930s, she was President of the Workers' Societies for Social Service, a PPS-affiliated organisation, where she promoted birth control. She was an activist with PPS till her death. In the first decades, the aforementioned left-oriented socialist trend was the most dynamic and, in fact, dominant tendency, apart from the radical liberal one; subsequently, in the thirties, its position and role in Polish public life began weakening.

Budzińska-Tylicka's animated activity dates back to the end of the 1910s, when it revolved around hygiene and maternity issues. These topics systematically reappeared in the subsequent years, as is apparent in the texts once discussed in the press and now republished in the book concerned, incl. 'The hygiene of the mature woman and the need for a reform of her physical upbringing' (1909); 'The hygiene of marriage' (1909); 'Aspects of the hygiene of marriage' (1912); and, no less intensely, in the first dozen years after Poland's regained independence – primarily, 'Guarding the rights of women. A diary of the Political Club of Progressive Women' (1930); 'Termination of pregnancy and the penal code' (1930). All these texts revolve around the functioning of women in society, the conditions of their material existence and their social roles, the emancipation potential, the ideas about women prevalent among men and attempts at contravening or violating them. The journalistic pieces by Budzińska-Tylicka show, moreover, that the weaker the democratic liberal order gets whilst an authoritarian and nationalistic ambience grows, the lower the level of public debate, and postulates to restrict women's rights tend to grow in the public space. Significantly, the topics and problems of the 1930s are not quite different from those articulated at the beginning of the twentieth century – Budzińska-Tylicka's most representative enunciations from the former period being 'The Issue of Birth Regulation in Practice' (1932); 'A Harangue to Women on Conscious Maternity' (1934); 'Conscious Maternity' (1935); 'The Mother and the Child in the Harmful

Capitalist System' (1937); 'The Formation and Activity of Poland's 1st Conscious Maternity Clinic' (1936). It might be stated that the history of the movement in question has come full circle.

The texts quoted in this monograph are preceded by an extensive biographical essay (by Urszula Kozłowska, the editor), possibly foreshadowing a larger study. A helpful bibliography of the women's movement literature and an index of names are attached. (GK)

Henryk Gruber, *Wspomnienia i uwagi* [Memoirs and Remarks], Part 1–2, prefaced and ed. by Włodzimierz Suleja, Warszawa, 2019/2020, Muzeum Historii Polski, 448 + 402 pp.; series: 100-lecie Niepodległości. Wspomnienia i pamiątki

These memoirs of Henryk Gruber (1892–1965), an eminent banker and economic activist, first published in the 1960s in London, in a modest number of copies, are an important contribution to the history of the elites of the Second Republic of Poland. Gruber was a Polish and, importantly, Austrian-Galician Jew, politically socialised in a manner analogous to that experienced by a part of his generation. Although his education in the grammar schools (*gymnasiums*) of Lwów (Lviv) and then Żółkiew was discontinued, it was later on completed with extramural secondary-school finals and did not obstruct his career in business. Yet, the First World War dramatically withheld his professional plans. Many of his age peers from Polonised Galician Jewish families joined the Polish Legions, and this step largely determined Gruber's life too. He became a hero of the struggle for independence and not much later was a serviceman in the Polish-Bolshevik War, for which he was decorated with the Virtuti Militari Cross and, thrice, the Cross of Valour.

In spite of the anti-Semitic wave of the first post-war years, the reinstated Poland opened huge opportunities for this particular social stratum. In the independent country, Gruber completed his studies in law and was granted a doctoral degree by the Jagiellonian University. In spite of the stormy political changes, he was promoted as a ministerial official – in as early as 1922, he was appointed Director of the Office of Supervision of Insurance Companies within the Ministry of Treasury.

The book is largely an extensive commentary to Gruber's career in the Second Republic's administration, which was spectacular, considering his Jewish descent. The close cooperation with Józef Piłsudski and, primarily, the latter's personal trust toward his associate, certainly had a say in Gruber's promotions. His professional success list is pretty long, featuring, among others, the co-formation of the Postal Savings Bank [Pocztowa Kasa Oszczędności, PKO] and developing it into a model financial institution; the

threads are widely described in the memoirs and certainly deserve special attention. In the 1930s, Gruber was not only a prominent banking and economic activist but also member of the Financial Committee affiliated to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, ran the Polish Institute for Foreign Co-operation, which shaped the image of Poland abroad – to point to his major activities. The latter mentioned episode can be deemed symbolical, given the aggressive anti-Semitism increasing at the time in the Second Republic's internal policy and the country's progressive fascisation. This glittering career was not cut short by the Second World War, though Gruber himself, a loyal Piłsudski-ite, conflicted with the Polish Government in exile, exercised no more foreground functions. His further fortunes (the extensive memoirs reach the year 1942), including the management of the largest insurance enterprise in South America, confirm the argument that this businessman of genius and exquisite organiser could succeed under any geographic dimension.

This testimony is not only a record of the author's uncommon talents (he moreover wrote poems, among his numerous activities), but is one of the key accounts of the tempestuous beginnings and development of the reinstated Poland. Gruber's recollections are also a report on the costs of assimilation Polish Jews had to bear. Both volumes have been compiled, edited, and provided with a brief biographical introduction by Włodzimierz Suleja, a Wrocław-based historian, author of a Józef Piłsudski biography and several other studies. (GK)

Eva Reder, *Antijüdische Pogrome in Polen im 20. Jahrhundert. Gewaltsaubrüche im Schatten der Staatsbildung 1918–1920 und 1945–1946*, Marburg, 2019, Verlag Herder-Institut, 266 pp., bibliog., indices, English and Polish sum.; series: Studien zu Ostmitteleuropaforschung, 47

An extended version of a doctoral dissertation submitted in Vienna in 2017, the study analyses the relations between the processes of emergence or reinstatement of statehood and anti-Semitic violence in Poland. To this end, the author juxtaposes two waves of anti-Jewish violence after the two twentieth-century world wars. This concept differs from most of the existing ones, since the said violence is analysed mainly from the standpoint of Polish perpetrators.

The study is composed of eight chapters arranged by subject and chronology. As the author remarks in the introduction, her project is meant to create an own theory of pogroms, on the fringes of the state upheavals and new frontiers. This approach is not entirely new, the correlation between the presence of the state and the scale of violence, particularly in the context of the extermination of Jews, has been evoked (among others) by Timothy Snyder,

who followed in this respect the studies of German historians; given such a systematic approach, this is worth special attention. Chapters one and two describe the conditions in which violent acts occurred, along with the political and economic factors that favoured the outbreaks of the pogroms. Chapter three analyses in detail the structuring of Jewish images of the enemy; on this very basis, chapter four discusses the performative aspects of violence against the Jewish minority in the aforementioned two waves of violence. Chapter five is certainly central to these considerations as it dwells on the role and place of the Polish state and its institutions in the unleashing of anti-Jewish persecutions. Chapter six demonstrates the course of the pogrom, its internal dynamism, the chief actors, and so on. Chapters seven and eight complement and complete the research project in question; Chapter eight contains brief summaries informing the reader of the state of research.

In contrast to, for instance, William W. Hagen's study *Anti-Jewish Violence in Poland, 1914–1920* (2018), Eva Reder's study is basically descriptive and refers to the already-known findings based on the research in the history of Polish anti-Semitism. Let us make it clear that not all findings prove convincing. As regards Kielce, for example, where anti-Jewish violence first appeared in 1918 and then again in 1946, the impact of the interwar period is almost completely ignored. It may seem at times that the author does not explore the differences appearing in the records, so the grasping of the convergences between Polish nationalism of the years 1918 and 1945–6 and anti-Semitism seems to be more than intuitive. In spite of these doubts, the study is an important contribution to the research into the tangle of nationalism and the emergence of statehood and anti-Semitism in the history of Poland, since it sheds a new light on the enmity and violence unleashed into pogroms – unlike in Hagen, or Jochen Böhler – as constitutive elements of Polish statehood. An extensive discussion of the sources, summaries in Polish and in English, and a personal name and subject indices are attached. (GK)

Justyna Maguś, *“Słowo Polskie” w latach 1918–1928. Organ prasowy Narodowej Demokracji* [*Słowo Polskie*, the National Democracy's Press Organ, in 1918–1928], Lublin, 2019, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 410 pp., ills, tables, bibliog., index

The daily *Słowo Polskie* issued in 1895–1934 in Lwów (Lviv) was certainly one of the most important periodicals published in Polish lands in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Originally set up and run by Galician liberals, the daily was taken over in 1902 by National Democracy activists (1902) and turned into a flagship of their propaganda – initially in Galicia and

then all over Poland, and a forerunner of numerous changes that were to take place in Polish journalism and in the world of political media. The study by a scholar associated with Maria Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin focuses on the last period of the newspaper's life, in the Second Republic of Poland.

This thorough dissertation consists of five extensive chapters, divided into subchapters. The introduction and chapter one present the basics of the origins and the early years of the daily (in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century); the other chapters basically analyse the sets of ideological and political problems around which the ideology of Polish nationalism developed in the period defined in the title. While such an arrangement might be subject to discussion, taking into account the author's focus on showing the daily as a political organ, a periodical subjected to a superior vision, this method of demonstrating and analysing the material seems legitimate. A systematic study of the periodical's source base, founded on a broad archival research – primarily, into Polish and Ukrainian collections and a representative selection of the period's printed records, incl. diaries, memoirs, and journalistic commentaries – is worthy of note.

The study confirms the opinions on *Słowo Polskie* already present in the literature – incl. Stanisław Grabski's key role in the paper's specified format, the journalist team's precursory media practices in the political press market, the creation and extension of a unique network of correspondents. It also proposes a few important hypotheses, such as the assumption that it was anti-Semitism (rather than Ukrainophobia, for instance) basically formed the periodical's ideological framework, combining the National Democratic xenophobia mobilising the readers against all the ethnic minorities with instrumentalisation of the enmity against the political opponents.

The study substantially complements and, in many aspects, enriches a number of factual findings known in the literature, referring to the *Słowo Polskie* editorial team as well as the activities of the National Democracy and its particular political formulas in Western Galicia (to mention the studies by Ewa Maj, Bohdan Halczak, Urszula Jakubowska, Adam Wątor and, in the first place, Wiktor Pepliński). It supplies an enormous material illustrating the systematic nationalisation of the Polish intelligentsia and intellectual classes. Moreover, it is an important guide to how Polish nationalism was formed and to its crucial topoi in a region that was tense in ethnic/national and religious terms. In this respect, the monograph can be of use not only to experts on the topic. A bibliography, list of tables, an annex and name index have been attached. (GK)

Antykomunizm socjalistów: Polska Partia Socjalistyczna wobec Komunistycznej Partii Robotniczej Polski/Komunistycznej Partii Polski. Wypisy z prasy i dokumentów (1918–1938) [Anticommunist Socialists: The Polish Socialist Party Facing the Communist Workers' Party of Poland/Communist Party of Poland. Extracts from the Press and Documents (1918–1938)], prefaced and ed. by Karol Sacewicz, Olsztyn–Białystok–Warszawa, 2019, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Oddział w Białymstoku, Delegatura w Olsztynie, 519 pp.; series: Seria Wydawnicza Oddziału Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej w Białymstoku, 47

This extensive volume of documents, prepared by Karol Sacewicz, a contemporary history researcher associated with the University of Białystok, comprises an abundant selection of articles from Polish socialist press and documents of the Polish Socialist Party [PPS] from the years 1918–38, i.e. between the emergence of independent Poland till the dissolution of the Communist Party of Poland [KPP]. The anthology consists of several dozen texts and enunciations illustrating the multi-aspect and multi-level attitude of the circles associated with independence-oriented socialists towards the communist organisations that operated in the lands of interwar Poland.

The dispute and, oftentimes, outright a fervent antagonism, fed the Polish historiography for many years, especially in the post-war communist period; however, strangely enough, no fundamental study has been published on this subject-matter. To recapitulate the point: on the one side, there was the PPS – a formation for which integrity of Poland as a state was thoroughly fundamental, and which opted for (often far-reaching) social and economic reforms to be carried out within the existing parliamentary system and capitalistic framework. On the other side, there was the Communist Workers' Party of Poland [KPRP], later renamed as the Communist Party of Poland, together with a number of affiliated organisations and milieus – an illegal formation within the Polish legal framework since the very outset (except for some short periods). As it is apparent today, the Polish communist organisations – regardless of the incentives of their activists – were largely subjected to the Soviet Union.

As is explicitly shown by the anthology under review, the struggle was waged in several aspects: from verbal disputes at party meetings, reprehensions, actions related to political programmes carried out in the press and partisan journalistic commentaries, through to bloody force-involving clashes taking place in the streets of Polish towns. While, however, this picture – with some simplifications – was basically true still in the second half of the 1920s, the social and economic crisis of the decades' end and the subsequent Great Depression of the thirties verified those divisions quite thoroughly.

As Sacewicz convincingly argues, anticommunism – one of the major points in the agenda of Polish socialists – went through essential modifications. As the editor remarks in the preface, the ‘people’s front’ concepts and the new tactic of the Comintern (beginning with the organisation’s 7th Congress of 1935), basically proved to be episodic, whereas the ‘non-aggression pact’ between the two groups was actually nothing more than an armistice. The subsequent political occurrences, including the 24th Congress of the Socialists in Radom (31 January to 2 February 1937) and the resolution of the PPS’s Supreme Council of November 1937 regarding the negative attitude to the Comintern, seem to have confirmed this line of action. The dispute, so express in the documents as well as in numerous press and public pronouncements, eclipses the essential actual rapprochement of the two circles, which was visible particularly on the parties’ grassroots level, local government policies, and among youth circles. The rapprochement appeared because of the threat of international and local fascism; this thread is also identifiable, though not resonant enough, in this indisputably useful anthology. The latter, altogether, fairly accurately renders the line of thought, mentality, and ideological horizons of a considerable group of independence-oriented elites. This meticulously edited study is equipped with a helpful bibliography and name index. (GK)

Ewa Bukowska-Marczak, *Przyjaciele, koledzy, wrogowie? Relacje pomiędzy polskimi, żydowskimi i ukraińskimi studentami Uniwersytetu Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie w okresie międzywojennym (1918–1939)* [Friends, Colleagues, or Enemies? The Relationships between Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian Students at the John Casimir University in Lwów/Lviv in the Interwar Period (1918–1939)], Warszawa, 2019, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 304 pp., ill., bibliog., index of persons

Written by a younger-generation scholar associated with the Centre for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv, Ukraine, the book is a story on the students and, to a lesser degree, the academic staff of the John Casimir University [Uniwersytet Jana Kazimierza, UJK] in the interwar Lwów: it is people, rather than organisations, that come to the fore in this story. This five-chapter book has a clear thematic structure, of which chapters one and two introduce the reader into the life of the multinational capital city of Western Galicia and the academic life of Lwów, including in the institutional dimension. Chapters three and four throw the reader into the whirl of student life – primarily, the tense ethnic/national relations. Chapter five describes the position of the faculty, including the Lwów professors, with respect to these issues.

Focusing on the relationships between the Lwów students of diverse ethnicities/nationalities and religions, the author shows their daily life and the socio-political events in which they participated. This study on UJK students is, essentially, a cross-section of the most essential – and, definitely, the most dramatic – ethnic/national problems of the interwar Poland. The Lwów tertiary schools (incl. the University of Technology) were the hotbed of nationalist agitation – to mention the struggle about the *numerus clausus*, commenced in Lwów in 1921, and the death of Jan Grodkowski, which form the important points-of-reference for the nationwide nationalist agitation – and the permanent flashpoints of social conflicts. The book describes the choices made by the young people, whether imbued with a militant anti-Semitism or a social solidarity that overcame the differences and divides. (To give an example, Jacek Kuroń, whose role for the understanding of the Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation is not to be underestimated, received his formation in the working-class and socialist interwar Lwów, which was not merely accidental.) The Polish-Jewish relations and the anti-Semitism amongst the students are extensively dealt with in this study (specifically, in chapter three). A strong point of this book is, definitely, the underlying multithread and multilingual research done in the documentation centres of Lwów/Lviv, and a number of detailed historical sources and findings (at times, rectifications) being made part of the argument and thus contributing to the literature. The research questionnaire is rather conservative, for a change. A meticulous bibliography, list of illustrations, and index of persons round off the publication. The study was awarded (on a joint basis) the prestigious *Polityka* weekly Historical Prize for a year-2020 debut. (GK)

Agnes Laba, *Die Grenze im Blick: Der Ostgrenzendiskurs der Weimarer Republik*, Marburg, 2019, Verlag Herder-Institut, 479 pp.; series: Studien zur Ostmitteleuropaforschung, 45

Agnes Laba has been researching into the issue of border and border identity in national discourses (the study in question is a reworked version of her PhD thesis submitted at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen). Her methodological approach primarily focuses around analysis of historical discourse. To this end, the author uses a broad array of sources, including articles from German national press, independent thematic publications, Reichstag debates, maps and postcards, or geography textbooks.

The study's structure is clear, enabling to present the thematic and methodological framework of the argument, discuss in detail the social importance of frontiers, and the special role of maps in spatial discourses; the first two chapters mainly cover these issues. The third describes in detail the tradition of German imagination of the East and eastern border, which, clearly enough,

began long before the year 1919. Chapter four introduces the main contributors to the discourse and discusses the relevant means of communication. The fifth, and last, chapter shows the origin and course of the eastern border discourse against the different other topoi.

The author accurately, reliably and extensively discusses the centres and figures of the dominant border discourse. In this respect, the study provides meticulous chronology and information whilst also enabling to easily identify the most important discussions, reconstruct their dramaturgy and individual stages. It may be of interest, especially, to the non-German reader how the numerous circles elaborated on the topic, what the turns in the German foreign policy (such as the Locarno effect) meant for the border discourse, what positions were assumed by the German Left, and, how the diverse rightist/conservative and nationalist currents presented themselves against this background.

This richly documented and chronologically condensed study clearly and readably presents the origins and development of the eastern-border discourse in the Weimar Republic, exceeding the framework of ideas shaped by scholars (incl. geographers) or by the German Right of all shades – that is, the circles where the border discourse primarily developed. The passages regarding trans-national reflexes of this thinking are perhaps not as excellent, since most of the exponents were internationally associated, often creating their ideas in confrontation with their foreign colleagues; for instance, the famous *Ostforschung* conceived its ideas in opposition to, and often in confrontation with, Polish western thought. (For comparison, the books by Maciej Górny and Steven Seegel are worthy of note.) Although the book is basically a specialist study, it should appear in libraries of university institutions dealing with Polish-German relations and cultural studies on space. (GK)

Wiktor Sukiennicki, *Pisma sowietologiczne* [Sovietological Writings], selected, with an introduction and ed. by Marek Kornat, Kraków, 2020, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, Wydział Studiów Międzynarodowych i Politycznych Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 728 pp.; series: Biblioteka Klasyki Polskiej Myśli Politycznej, 77

Wiktor Sukiennicki (1901-83) was one of the most eminent Polish Sovietologists. This widely educated lawyer (PhD in International Law from the University of Paris) and theoretician of law was a professor at the Stefan Batory University [USB] in Wilno (Vilnius) and co-founder of the Eastern Europe Scientific Research Institute in Wilno (1930), where he ran the Legal Section and lectured at USB's School of Political Sciences. It was

one of the world's first research institutes specialising in the Soviet Union in all its aspects.

Deported deep inside the USSR and subsequently released based on the Sikorski-Maiski pact, he made his way to Great Britain where he spent his first post-war years, and then settled down in the United States, where he was associated for years with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace in Stanford. Sukiennicki gained international recognition and renown as an outstanding analyst; his studies, known in the circles of Russian studies and historians dealing with Russia and the Soviet Union, were not as frequently read or used by political scientists and scholars exploring authoritarian/totalitarian systems. The present edition brings back to our attention several classical texts by this author, along with a few less-known studies. The segment containing texts on the Soviet Union in its totalitarian phase is certainly worthy of note (incl. 'The Soviet political system and the Stalinist Constitution'; 'The Marxian-Leninist theory of law'; 'The theory and methods of 'world revolution''; 'The Party, its role and importance in the USSR'; 'The state system of the USSR'; 'The social system of the USSR'; 'Fifty years of the Soviet 'revolution'', and more). Significantly, only one of these texts deals with Polish affairs ('Stalin and Poland'). All of them form a coherent research and analytic design that was pursued over the years, producing an image of organic relatedness between an ideological project and political practices inside the country and abroad.

This extensive selection, equipped with notes and an essay by Marek Kornat on 'Sukiennicki as a Sovietologist', will certainly gain respect not only among specialised researchers. An index and a bibliographical note have been appended. (GK)

Anna Wilk, *Łemkowie. Między integracją a rozproszeniem (1918–1989)* [The Lemkos. Between Integration and Dispersion (1918–1989)], Warszawa, 2019, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 422 pp., 15 ill

The author, a young-generation historian, has graduated from the Faculty of Humanities at the 'John Paul II' Catholic University of Lublin, where in 2011 she submitted her doctoral thesis that forms the basis of the study under review. She had some minor studies published, among others, in the semi-annual *Pamięć i Sprawiedliwość*, the annuals *Biuletyn Ukrainoznawczy* and *Aparat Represji w Polsce Ludowej 1944-1989*, and contributed to several multi-author studies. Her research interests focus on the history of ethnic/national minorities and the national policies of the Republic of Poland. The book largely deals with aspects of the political history of the Lemko people in the 'short' twentieth century. The history of the Lemko community

is shown against the process of emergence of their distinct group identity; in a longer design, there appears the search for a collective identity in the situation of Ukrainian-Polish rivalry and, in fact, conflict over inclusion of the local peoples in the existing national or civic communities of either ethnicity. The study consists of five chapters which analyse these topics in vast amounts of detail, in a chronological and thematic order.

The dissertation analyses the issues being crucial to the community in question, such as the disintegration of the Lemkos resulting from the displacements of 1945–7 and the progressing acculturation in the conditions of a communist country, particularly in the lands of western and northern Poland. Research inquisitiveness, versatility in the region's culture and social history, and skilful use of the source material led to the book's nomination for the 8th edition of the 'The Rev. Prof. Bolesław Kumor' Award literary contest, as a 'Book on the Nowy Sącz Land' and to 'Tomasz Strzembosz' Award (2020), a prestigious prize awarded to historiographic debut-makers. (GK)

Janusz Żarnowski, *Inteligencja polska jako elita kulturalna i społeczna w ostatnich stu latach (od 1918 r. do współczesności)* [The Polish Intelligentsia as a Cultural and Social Elite in the Last Hundred Years (1918 to Date)], ed. by Włodzimierz Mędrzecki, Warszawa, 2019, Instytut Historii PAN, 163 pp., name index, list of studies authored by Prof. Janusz Żarnowski (publ. since 2002), list of publications in the series *Metamorfozy Społeczne*; series: *Metamorfozy Społeczne*, 24

A selection of texts by the late Janusz Żarnowski (1932–2019), the book appears in a moment when the interest in social history is evidently getting revived in Polish historiography and social sciences in general, in a number of fields. A research historian, Żarnowski was associated throughout his career with the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences [IH PAN]; he was the major founder of the Institute's Department of Social History of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and ran it for a number of years. An important initiator of the social history of twentieth-century Poland, he instructed several generations of scholars in this field. The texts published in this volume form altogether a summarised presentation of the history of the intelligentsia from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century until the present. To a degree, this book follows up the three-volume history of Polish intelligentsia before 1918 (*Dzieje inteligencji polskiej do roku 1918*), edited and coauthored by the late Jerzy Jedlicki.

As befits a social history scholar, Żarnowski is interested more in the new groups' taking root in the legacy social structures than in the history of ideas.

Thus, rather than ideological dilemmas, the studies represent the position, demography, social descent, the role of the sex/gender and socialisation of the social class that emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century. The role of political history has an essential place there, emphasised here and there by means of dedicated chapters, but it still seems secondary to the social – and, partly, economic – history of the Polish lands. The book moreover comprises important passages exploring the development of the vernacular cultural canon, discussing the phenomenon of modernity and its concepts, the issues of Polish modernism and the Western influences on it, the generational turns and, lastly, the information-technology revolution of the last decades of the twentieth century.

A definite advantage of the study is its synthetic approach, with the research queries condensed into short, almost textbook-like, chapters. The author does not avoid difficult and even sensitive topics, such as anti-Semitism, ethnicity/nationality problems in the Second Republic of Poland, the intellectual elite's attitudes toward communism, or mechanisms of adaptation to the authorities, but he does his best to contextualise them, usually escaping untouched from the binary understanding of the world and the easy generalisations stemming from the world of politics.

Some of the arguments proposed by the author may prove controversial – one of them being that the interwar Poland was an apogee of social and cultural influences of the intelligentsia – or disputable for scholars. Perhaps, the major disadvantage of this collection is no proposition for a broader regional embedding of Polish intelligentsia against the analogous groups in Central and Eastern Europe. For the readers who seek such synthetic concepts, such a positioning of the stratum in question in juxtaposition with the neighbour peer groups would have certainly offered a broader perspective and help to understand the uniqueness of the Polish intelligentsia in the region's history. Attached is a breakdown of studies by Janusz Żarnowski published since 2002 and an index of persons. The volume's editor is Włodzimierz Mędrzecki, the successor and creative continuator of Żarnowski's research. The valuable 'Metamorfozy społeczne' series is published by IH PAN. (GK)

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Nancy Sinkoff, *From Left to Right. Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History*, Detroit, 2020, Wayne State University Press, 518 pp., ill

There is a number of reasons for reading this biography of Lucy S. Dawidowicz (1915–90), a historian and intellectual, penned by the noted historian and feminist Nancy Sinkoff. Settled mainly in twentieth-century Manhattan, among

New York Jewry, Dawidowicz was one of the very few outstanding women in that picturesque, though strongly paternalistic world, along with Hannah Arendt or Diana Trilling. The biographer reminds her typical American Jewish childhood, including her education in the Hunter College High School, the only U.S. public school for intellectually talented girls, and her instruction in Yiddish at the secular and non-political Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute. In 1936, Lucy, then surnamed Schildkret, graduated from the Hunter College and started her master's studies in English literature at Columbia University, but quit a fortnight later and eventually received her M.A. (but not PhD) in history. It was only in 1967 that Dawidowicz, then aged fifty-two, had her first book published – a primary source anthology entitled *The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe* and joined the faculty of the Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, where she developed a then-pioneering research project described today as Holocaust studies.

Sinkoff, a respected Rutgers University scholar, has authored an interesting biography of an important and original intellectual and one of the first-ever Holocaust scholars, which however virtually neglects or understates her Jewish threads. Lucy's fascination with the Yiddish language and the history of Eastern European Jews has been ignored; the author would not delve into the details of East European Jewish descent of the Schildkret family, nor does she consider why in 1938 the twenty-three-year-old Miss Schildkret became one of the few Jews travelling to Poland, rather than in the opposite direction; or, why she finally joined the Wilno-based Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut (Yiddish Scientific Institute, YIVO) as a graduate student. Also, the historian's post-war contacts with Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe are unclear. All these identity-related threads in the biography of one of the pioneers of Holocaust research basically fade out. Without these aspects, is it possible to understand Dawidowicz's later neo-conservative attitude, her militant anticommunism, and her complicated attitude towards Eastern Europe and Poland? Let us remind that 1975 saw the publication of her main book, *The War Against the Jews* – to date, a 'bible' of the intentional trend in Holocaust studies.

The extensive biography of Lucy S. Dawidowicz, consisting of several dozen chapters, is invaluable in that it gathers a body of essential documents (the author refers to as many as forty-five archives), based on which its character, the fascinating historian, is saved from oblivion. Still, it remains not quite clear whether this task has been fulfilled in a complete manner, worthy of this original figure. (GK)

Tomasz Szarota, *Tajemnica śmierci Stefana Starzyńskiego* [The Mystery of Stefan Starzyński's Death], Warszawa, 2020, Wydawnictwo Bellona, 279 pp., ills, bibliog., name index

The book focuses on the wartime fortunes of Stefan Starzyński, Mayor of Warsaw in 1934–9. After Poland's capital city capitulated, he continued as mayor until arrested by the Gestapo on 27 October 1939. It is ascertained that he was kept at Warsaw's Pawiak prison until December 1939; ever since, his lot has remained unknown. Based on diverse sources – including accounts, recollections and memoirs, press and archive material – Tomasz Szarota attempts to establish whether Starzyński was executed by a firing squad, as the Institute of National Remembrance's investigation would suggest, or died as a special-status inmate in the Dachau Nazi concentration camp. What happened to this man after his detention has twice been subject to inquiry by Polish investigators. Szarota confronts the findings of both investigations while pursuing his own. His extensive contacts have led him to a number of witnesses who had happened to come across Starzyński while a German POW. The daily press from Australia has appeared to be another important source; as it appears, the Western public opinion compared the brave mayor of Warsaw to Adolphe Max, the legendary ruler of Brussels during the First World War. Szarota finally considers plausible the version whereby Starzyński died or was killed on 17 October 1943 in Dachau. This option first appeared in a private inquiry carried out after the war by Stanisław Sachnowski, a journalist of the *Zycie Warszawy* daily. Starzyński was probably proposed by the Germans to co-form a common anti-Bolshevik front – as was General Stefan Rowecki, nom-de-guerre Grot, another Third Reich prisoner. Their refusal of the German offer led to the final sealing of their fate. (HW)

Maximilian Becker, *Sądownictwo niemieckie i jego rola w polityce okupacyjnej na ziemiach polskich wcielonych do Rzeszy 1939–1945* [The German Judiciary and Its Role in the Occupiers' Policy in the Polish Territory Incorporated into the Third Reich, 1939–1945], transl. Wieńczysław Niemirowski, Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 384 pp., bibliog., name index

The study deals with the organisation and activities of the German judiciary in the Polish lands, which were incorporated in the Third Reich as part of the hostilities. The underlying sources are documents produced by the courts-of-law, the public prosecutor's office and the penitentiaries which during the Second World War operated in the Gdańsk Pomerania [Pomorze Gdańskie], Greater

Poland [Wielkopolska], Kuyavia, Łódź region, and Upper Silesia. As Becker notices, the German judiciary became an essential element of repression, perpetrating the German Nazi nationalistic policy and Germanisation action. Importantly, he has established over a thousand names of public prosecutors and judges who put forth indictments and pronounced sentences in the Polish territory incorporated into the Reich. This has allowed to show the career paths of the group which had an important function in the totalitarian machinery, and whose one of the major tasks was to intimidate and spread terror. The author emphasises that Poles in the incorporated lands tended to be much more often sentenced to death or long terms in prison compared to the other residents. Poles were victims of discriminatory practices also when serving time. Any manifestation of breaking the discipline by the prisoners were punished by additional verdicts imposed by the courts. (HW)

Krzysztof Kaczmarek, *Nie tylko Rothesay: oficerskie obozy izolacyjne oraz obóz dyscyplinarny dla żołnierzy Polskich Sił Zbrojnych w Wielkiej Brytanii (1940–1943)* [Rothesay Was not the Only One. Isolation Camps for Army Officers and a Disciplinary Camp for Soldiers of Polish Armed Forces in Britain (1940–1943)], Rzeszów, 2020, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu. Oddział w Rzeszowie, 320 pp., tables; series: Seria Wydawnicza IPN Oddział w Rzeszowie

The study deals with the history of the ill-famed ‘General Sikorski’s camps’ operating in the British Isles in 1940–3 – certainly, one of the most shameful episodes of Polish wartime emigration in Britain. The book has three extensive subject-based chapters, the first discussing the Grouping of Unaffiliated Officers, Autonomous Officer Camp, Officers’ Muster Station in Rothesay, and Isle of Bute – the notorious ‘Scottish Bereza Kartuska’. Chapter two describes the history of the Sub-Camp and Officer Camp in Tighnabruaich; Chapter three, the disciplinary camp for Polish Armed Forces [Polskie Siły Zbrojne] soldiers initially arranged in Kingledoors (September 1940), then moved to Shinafoot (November 1940), and finally to Abernethy (end May 1941 until wound up five months later).

The author, a scholar associated with the Rzeszów Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance, has managed to determine a series of basic data for studying these events. For each of the Scottish centres, he has meticulously reconstructed the descriptions of the conditions in which the Polish officers lived. The study largely demystifies the circulating legends. The repeated attempts to reorganise the camps are described quite in detail, as are the

methods of coping with the inmates, including certain drastic cases and episodes. The study confirms the diarists' communications – one example being that the disciplinary camp in Kingledoors and then in Shinafoot and Abernethy was deservedly famed as the most drastic of the camps. On the other hand, none of the aforementioned centres might be described as a concentration camp, though such opinions have appeared in the literature. Appended are twenty documents comprised in the annex – mainly, orders, plans, and reports regarding the functioning of the camps, a list of names of 705 officers due to be relocated into the Rothesay camp, compiled by the author and probably incomplete, and a breakdown of the officers who were detained at the camp in Tighnabruaich in 1940–2. Targeted at experts, the study provides a considerable resource of documentation which may prove of interest also to other historians of twentieth-century Poland. (GK)

“O tym nie wolno mówić...” *Zagłada Żydów w opowieściach wspomnieniowych ze zbiorów Dionizjusza Czubali* [‘You’re not Supposed to Talk About It...’]. The Extermination of Jews in Testimonies from the Collection of Dionizjusz Czubała], ed. by Piotr Grochowski, Toruń, 2019, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UMK, 236 pp., indices, sum.; series: Paralele: Folklor – Literatura – Kultura

The book is a specific ‘selection of sources’ from the *collection of* Dionizjusz Czubała, a Silesian folklorist, urban myths and legends researcher (author of, *inter alia*, *Współczesne legendy miejskie*, Katowice 1993) encompassing accounts, testimonies, and interviews arranged chronologically into three groups: ‘Before the war’; ‘The war and occupation time’; and, ‘After the war’. The wartime material is prevalent, not only in quantity. The reader is primarily offered a micro-catalogue of linguistic images of the world – records of concrete, dramatic events in which human lives, survival, and death were happening. The events, being stories told in the form of compact historiographic narrative, describe the cases from the region of Dąbrowa Coal Basin (Zagłębie Dąbrowskie) and the southern part of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, this basically forming a complete spectrum of Polish ‘bearing witness to’ the Holocaust. It also forms a ‘Polish’ experience of the Holocaust in terms of history of emotion: from satisfaction, indifference, curiosity, inquisitiveness, dismay, through to compassion and accounts of friendship and love. The editor does not try to enter these stories ‘into accounts’, nor does he build a synthetic picture of ‘what it was like in reality’: instead, he gives the floor to his interlocutors, quoting all the Holocaust-related fragments he has collected over the years of this ethnographic research in the area concerned. Given that the recent decade has abounded in important,

if not fundamental, publications on the process of extermination of Jews in the provincial areas of Poland, the book in question is one of the most important collections of testimonies released into the scholarly literature. (GK)

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Jürgen Matthäus, and Mark W. Hornburg (eds), *Beyond "Ordinary Men". Christopher R. Browning and Holocaust Historiography*, Leiden–Boston–Paderborn, 2019, Ferdinand Schöningh, 335 pp., index, ill., indices, list of publications by Christopher R. Browning

The study by Christopher Browning, associated then with the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, entitled *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, was first published in 1992, has become a classic in the history of the Holocaust historiography and rendered its author famous. The book has been translated into a dozen languages, including Polish (published twice, in 2000 and 2019). Along with Saul Friedländer, Browning is considered nowadays as one of the most influential Holocaust scholars, not only because of his opus magnum. His other books and, above all, essays (plus the works he has edited) have supplied a number of important impulses for the research into the process of persecution of the European Jews by Nazi Germany – from the expulsion policy to physical examination of, initially, the Soviet and Polish Jews and subsequently, all the European Jews within the German-occupied area.

On the occasion of Browning's seventy-fifth anniversary, his colleagues, mostly the most outstanding Holocaust scholars, held a conference in October 2019 in Münster and edited a commemorative publication which forms a possibly excellent introduction to Browning's output and its influence on international historiography. Significantly enough, though Browning is not specifically an expert in Polish issues, his output – as is apparent based on the publication – largely concerns the course of the Holocaust in the Polish territory.

The book consists of five extensive parts, which may serve as an instruction book in the most recent trends in Holocaust studies. Part 1 – 'Ordinary Men, Ordinary Women. Perpetrator Research Reconsidered' (essays by, *inter alia*, Doris L. Bergen, Robert P. Ericksen, Alan E. Steinweis) deals with aspects of sex/gender and religion in research on the extermination of Jews; the last two decades have seen a clear revival in this respect. Part 2 – 'Contexts of Agency and the Holocaust' (Francis R. Nicosia, Michael R. Marrus, and other contributors) concerns the lifesaving strategies and (self-)agency of Jews: from active forms of escape to physical resistance against the Nazis. Part 3 – 'Interpreting Ideology and Social Practice' (Karl A. Schleunes, Michael Meng,

Peter Hayes, and others) discusses theoretical problems related to Holocaust research. Part 4 – ‘The Historian and the Public’ (Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Konrad H. Jarausch, Deborah E. Lipstadt, and others) covers historiographic aspects and mostly refers to the works and public activities of Browning and his inspirations. Lastly, Part 5 – ‘Sources and Their Readings’ (Jürgen Matthäus, Waitman Wade Beorn, Dan Michman, and others) concerns new (re)interpretations in Holocaust studies, including the old dispute between the functionalists and the intentionalists, and deals with the question of new sources, including photographs. Included in this part is a text by Browning himself, being a reflection on his own output and the present-day state of Holocaust historiography. The book is indisputably one of the most important publications summarising the latter issue, covering the main trends and fashions, research spaces and queries around which the international debate is taking place. A helpful list of C. Browning’s publications is attached, along with brief bios of the contributors as well as a name and subject indices. (GK)

Lidia Zessin-Jurek and Katharina Friedla (eds), *Syberiada Żydów polskich: losy uchodźców z Zagłady* [The Siberian Odyssey of the Polish Jews: The Fate of Fugitives from the Holocaust], Warszawa, 2020, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny im. Emanuela Ringelbluma, 695 pp., ill., index of persons

An extensive collection of texts on the fates of Polish Jews after 1939, edited by Lidia Zessin-Jurek of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague and Katharina Friedla, a historian from Hamburg, presently associated with the Mémorial de la Shoah, shows the diversity of this long-untold and unprocessed experience of many Polish Jews who managed to survive the Second World War. To put it in a somewhat abridged manner, they survived it in Siberia. Some 300,000 endured the war and eventually left the Soviet Union. Apart from a small group, most of those survivors went their separate ways, for diverse reasons. To make it utterly clear, they were not waited for with much anticipation. The wave of anti-Semitic violence, culminating in the Kielce pogrom of 1946, complemented the sense of solitude, bitterness, and everyday fear.

The collection is composed of sixteen studies, varying in tone and style; they are arranged into three parts, entitled, respectively, ‘Yesterday’, ‘Today’, and ‘Then’. The studies have been written by an international team of outstanding scholars specialising in the subject, describing the experience of living in the Soviet Union, with its cultural (incl. literary), often quite traumatic, history, and the vicissitudes of the groups of immigrants dispersed all over the world – in the United States, Israel, Australia, and Upper Silesia. As is shown by the

studies (particularly, Laura Jockusch and Tamar Lewinsky's 'Paradise Lost? Post-war memory of Polish Jewish survival in the Soviet Union'), this experience was identified and responded to in different ways. Albeit most of the survivors experienced this episode in their lives as a salvation from their own annihilation, or from annihilation of their families or a whole community, for many it marked a final parting with communism (the most spectacular case in point being Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, described at least in a few of the studies).

These studies unveil and demystify the memory of 'Judeo-Communism' [*żydokomuna*], still prevalent in Polish 'popular' culture (though kept up by a considerable part of rightist public opinion). In a more general sense, this collection of essays is a historical narrative that copes with the Holocaust as well as with the fates of Poles in the USSR, as it approaches the Polish Jewish community as an integral part of Polish cultural community. For the 'Polish memory', deportations and exile-transportations were repressive measures forming part of the long history of the Siberian martyrdom. For Polish Jews and Poles of Jewish descent, this repression increased their chance to survive during the Second World War. These two types of experience remained disjunctive over the decades.

The book under review should, beyond any doubt, become part of the stock of academic libraries; the experience it describes ought to be integrated into the history of not only Poland but the whole region. A foreword by Antony Polonsky and an introduction by the two editors, notes on the authors, and a name index round off the volumes. (GK)

Markus Nesselrodt, *Dem Holocaust entkommen. Polnische Juden in der Sowjetunion, 1939–1946*, Berlin–Boston, 2019, De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 390 pp., indices; series: Europäisch-jüdische Studien. Beiträge, 44

The study addresses the vicissitudes of some 300,000 Polish Jews who found themselves in the territory of the Soviet Union after the breakout of the Second World War. A vast majority of this group, approximately 230,000 people, survived the war and thus, the Holocaust. Markus Nesselrodt, a young German scholar associated with scientific institutes in Berlin and the Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder), proposes a comprehensive analysis of the group.

This important and clearly laid out study, composed of ten chapters split into smaller units, brings back from partial oblivion the fortunes of those Polish Jews who spent the war in the Soviet exile but most of them lost in the Holocaust their whole families and all their relatives, not to mention their 'small homelands'. The floor is given to the refugees and deportees who have processed their experiences employing diverse artistic strategies, such as

poetry, for instance. Exile is described as an important place in the history of Jewish twentieth-century experience.

A whole lot of problems of different nature are addressed and analysed in detail, including the relations between the Jewish and Polish refugees and, in the long term, also between the consecutive Polish representations (the Government in exile or the communist-dominated Union of Polish Patriots), the Jews' attitude to the collapse of Poland and their reactions to the country's Sovietisation. The Jewish peregrinations deep inside the Soviet Union and everyday life of the refugees in the Asian part of the USSR are analysed comprehensively and in detail. Nesselrodt has found an interesting documentation related to the aid provided to refugees by organisations of American Jews (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee). He shows, in a cross-sectional manner, the returns home of Jews, which often basically proved to be temporary 'ports of call', demonstrates the Jews' attitude toward the new post-war reality. Furthermore, he proposes a comprehensive analysis of this group in demographic as well as prosopographic terms, and clearly shows why the attitude to the 'new' Poland among this group was so ambivalent, despite the great expectations attached to it.

The study combines a few innovative research perspectives (incl. the history of everyday life, trans-national studies, and cultural anthropology) with a traditional source-based analysis of source material dispersed across a few countries; a combination, so to speak, of great breadth with meticulous and painstaking labour on difficult multilingual sources.

A great merit of this study is the 'empowerment' of Polish Jews, who were forced by the external circumstances to escape or were deported: throughout the book's narrative, they appear as actors, originators, able to estimate new situations and know their way around them, respond to them and try anew to organise their lives, over and over again. They are *not* portrayed as objects of a passive history. The study is certainly worthy of attention and careful reading, not only by those versed in these complicated issues. (GK)

Krzysztof Kosiński, *"Ekonomia krwi". Konspiracja narodowa w walczącej Warszawie: 1939–1944–1990* [An 'Economy of Blood'. Nationalist Conspiracy in Warsaw-at-fight, 1939–1944–1990], Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Historii PAN, 1119 pp., ills and list thereof, bibliog., list of abbreviations, name index

This extensive, and extremely interesting, study deals with the history of the National Party [Stronniectwo Narodowe, SN] in Warsaw. The impulse for the author to tackle the task was the bloodstains visible in the stairwell of the Staszic Palace in Warsaw's Krakowskie Przedmieście Street, dating to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 – probably left by the insurgents of the Gustaw

battalion, operating within the National Military Organisation [NOW], who defended the building. This episode of uprising fight provided the pretext to reconstruct the fortunes of the group and the entire milieu associated with the SN in Warsaw – before, during, and after the Second World War. The study is very well documented, based on a variety of records. The central character is Tadeusz Maciński, whose activity contributed to a significant increase in the membership of the national conspiracy in Warsaw. Maciński was a key figure to the SN, both during the German Nazi occupation and in post-war communist Poland. The author excellently combines a micro-historical perspective (the vicissitudes of Maciński himself and other members of the battalion) with a macro-historical one (the history of national thought in Poland viewed against the ‘great history’ of the twentieth century). The book is composed of five parts, dealing with the following issues: (i) the organisation of Warsaw national conspiracy structures; (ii) the national(istic) ideas; (iii) the discussion on the uprising being prepared; (iv) the uprising actions and operations; and, (v) the fortunes of NOW members in post-war Poland. Of particular interest is the fragment on the ‘Berg affair’, with Wanda Macińska, Tadeusz’s wife, as one of the key figures. The story ends with a reflection on the lot of the SN, which – resulting from the uprising and the post-war policies of the communist authorities, alongside the quarrels and disputes inside the nationalist war veterans’ milieu – played virtually no significant role in Poland after 1989. (HW)

Patryk Pleskot, *Sądy bezprawia. Wokół pokazowych procesów politycznych organizowanych w Warszawie (1944–1989)* [Courts of Lawlessness. Around the Political Show Trials Held in Warsaw, 1944–1989], Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 719 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations, name index

This extensive historical study describes the most important show trials held in Warsaw between 1944 and 1989. Based on archival and audiovisual sources, the press, diaries and memoirs, and extensive reference literature, the author analyses a dozen-or-so court proceedings in terms of their propagandist purport. The book has two parts and seven chapters altogether. Part one deals with the period 1944–56, part two covers the years 1956–89. The last chapter is, in a way, a separate case study focused on the cases of Grzegorz Przemysk (a student beaten to death by the Militia) and the Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko (killed by the communist secret police). Pleskot emphasises the significance of show trials whose most important function was not the gravity of the punishment but to create and communicate the desirable message. The latter changed over

the forty-five years and primarily depended on the current political and social situation. The appropriate communication was reinforced by the meticulously prepared ideological and propagandist spectacle, which was an extremely important component of show trials. The mass media had an enormous role to play. Whereas in the first period (before 1956), the heaviest burden fell on the shoulders of the press, with the dissemination of radio and television sets the media campaigns tended to be taken over by the Polish Radio and Polish Television information broadcasts. The author points to significant similarities between individual trials, regardless of the period in which they occurred: in certain respects, the events related to the cases of the 'Army Generals' or Bishop Czesław Kaczmarek overlapped in many respects with the later cases such as the 'meat scandal' or the 'mountaineers trial' [*proces taterników*]. The trend of 'putting out fires' with use of lawsuits has been approached as a separate category. The Przymyk and Rev. Popiełuszko murder trials sought to distract the public's attention of the directly guilty (as in the former case) or to calm the public opinion down (as in the latter). (HW)

Marian Muszkiewicz, *Rzemieślnicy, kupcy, przemysłowcy na Dolnym Śląsku w latach 1945–1950* [Craftsmen, Traders, Industrialists in Lower Silesia, 1945–1950], Wrocław, 2020, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu, 228 pp., bibliog., tables, diagrams, photographs

The book describes members of the private 'non-agricultural' economic sector in Lower Silesia in the first five years after the conclusion of the Second World War. The chronology has been chosen due to the specific socioeconomic and political transition that took place at that very time. The study is composed of three problem-related chapters, the first being an introduction zooming in on artisans, traders, and petty businessmen in the two decades between the World Wars, the wartime occupation, and the first years of the communist (Polish Workers' Party [PPR]/Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR]) rule. The ideological dimension of the policy of the team ruling Poland after 1945 with respect to the private sector is discussed quite extensively. Chapter two discusses the role that fell to the lot of private industry, trade and crafts in Lower Silesia's economic activities in the period concerned. The author points out to the fact that it was representatives of this particular sector who were among the first newcomers to the territories annexed to Poland. The demand for their products and services was considerable indeed. However, the dynamic development was interrupted resulting from the 'battle for trade'. The statistics are very telling: of the 1,323 private enterprises functioning in Lower Silesia early in 1948, merely 155 remained by the end of 1950. Chapter three deals with political representatives of the private sector of economy.

Neither the Labour Faction [Stronnictwo Pracy] nor the Democratic Party [Stronnictwo Demokratyczne], being a 'political' background for traders, craftsmen, and entrepreneurs, could offer any support once the policies tightened up. (HW)

Mariusz Mazur, *Antykomunistycznego podziemia portret zbiorowy 1945–1956. Aspekty mentalno-psychologiczne* [The Anticomunist Underground: A Group Portrait, 1945–1956. Mental and Psychological Aspects], Warszawa–Lublin, 2019, Bellona, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 496 pp., bibliog., ill., name index

The post-war fortunes of the armed anti-communist underground are shown in this study with the use of methods that have not been broadly employed by historians to date. In his description of the so-called 'second underground', the author has decided to explore the mentalities and psychological aspects of its members' actions and behaviours. The phenomenon of the so-called 'Cursed Soldiers' [*żołnierze wyklęci*] has hitherto been described in terms of classical, facts-based historiography; Mazur's study definitely exceeds this framework, and refrains from formulating simple and extreme judgments. The description of attitudes makes use of the existing literature on psychology of wars and of the military. Of the seven topic-based chapters, the first tells us about the descent of the individuals who joined the ranks of anti-communist underground troops, their education, the reasons why they joined in. There are considerations on the participation of women in post-war partisan warfare. Chapter two deals with the ideas and illusions that accompanied the 'forest men', which mostly focused on the impending (in their view) outbreak of another international conflict and on the troops' potential and presumptive combat value. Chapter three deals with the axiology of the soldiers concerned. Chapter four discusses the psychical condition of this particular group, and the reasons behind it. The chapter's respective sections deal with emotions such as respect, joy, sadness, fear, apprehension, or death. The fifth chapter, entitled 'Attitudes and conducts', describes the discipline inside the troops, the rank-and-file soldiers' with their commanders as well as yoke-fellows. The troops' relations with the society are also discussed. The penultimate chapter focuses on the measures employed to reduce the soldiers' stress: alcohol was at work, along with leaves or contacts with their families. The last chapter, entitled 'Toward the end', describes the increasingly difficult situation of members of the troops, who – the more time passed since the war's end – were losing hope for a victorious outcome of their cause. Their dominant feeling was a sense of defeat and increasing besetment and loneliness. Along with the consolidation

of the new power and the decreasing probability of a global conflict with the USSR, the soldiers of the independence-oriented underground were losing support from the society which approached their activities with increasing scepticism. This affected the economic support for the 'forest men'. All in all, the 'second underground' soldiers found themselves in a stalemate. (HW)

Jerzy Giedroyc and Stefan Kisielewski, *Listy 1946–1991* [Letters, 1946–1991], ed. and with notes by Łukasz Garbal, foreword by Adam Michnik, afterword by Rafał Habielski, Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Dokumentacji i Studiów nad Literaturą Polską – Oddział Muzeum Literatury im. Adama Mickiewicza, Association Institut Littéraire *Kultura*, Towarzystwo "Więź", 388 pp., index of persons; series: *Archiwum Kultury*, 22

Since 1993, a great editorial project – the last one conceived by Jerzy Giedroyc (1906–2000, Editor-in-Chief of the Paris-based *Kultura* monthly) – has been implemented. The series 'Archiwum *Kultury*' publishes Giedroyc's letters exchanged with the leading Polish intellectuals and writers, mainly émigré ones. Giedroyc's correspondents include hundreds of people from a number of countries (running the *Kultura* editorial office, he wrote approx. 50,000 letters himself); the hitherto published volumes covering the essential figures, such as the poet Czesław Miłosz, the novelists Witold Gombrowicz and Teodor Parnicki, and the political commentator Juliusz Mieroszewski, are a chronicle of cultural and political life of Poland and Polish emigration after 1945. The series editors usually furnish the letters with a number of detailed notes (biographical references and notes, other necessary explanations), but the edition under review, prepared by Łukasz Garbal, is outright unique as regards its meticulousness and precision. Garbal's comments are so exhaustive that the reader may delve into these letters almost without a background knowledge on the history of post-war communist Poland. The indispensable knowledge is provided in the notes. The musician Stefan Kisielewski (*alias* Kisiel) and the politician and editor Jerzy Giedroyc made an acquaintance in mid-1930s. After the Second World War, Kisielewski became known as a permanent contributor and commentator with the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny* of Cracow. Giedroyc, on his part, began in 1946 to publish a periodical entitled *Kultura*, which with time became the most interesting journal of Polish emigrants. In 1957, Kisielewski agreed to become a Sejm deputy as a representative of 'open Catholicism' circles; ever since, he was active not only as a man-of-letters but also as a politician, in a sense. He gained the possibility to travel abroad, visited émigré milieus in London and Paris, had his texts published in *Kultura*, all this coupled with giving evidence of his political loyalty to the government in Warsaw (whereas he bluntly declared that he personally opposed

communism as an economic system). All this makes his correspondence with Giedroyc full of tension; disagreement occurred between them in a number of tactical matters. Both considered communism a disaster for Poland and a threat to the whole of Europe. Kisielewski believed that communism was undergoing a progressive liberalisation of internal relations, a process that should not be disturbed by incautious political actions; Giedroyc was of the opinion that this process ought to be reinforced, accelerated, and rectified, wherever possible. Kisielewski was reluctant toward the idea of tearing out of the Soviet Union the prospective nation-states (Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, etc.), whilst Giedroyc's view was just the opposite. In spite of the differences, the two gentlemen collaborated with each other for a long time, never severing their relationship. Now, what are their letters about? Giedroyc commissions texts from Kisiel, requests his opinion on a number of individuals, political events and hearsays, organises aid for those persecuted in Poland, mediates in handling private matters (e.g. purchase of quality clothes otherwise unavailable in communist Poland). Kisielewski's son Waław – the outstanding pianist, pursuing his international career since the late 1960s – is at times involved in the contacts over the Iron Curtain. All in all, these letters form a set of records possibly useful in studying a variety of, not only political, topics. (BK)

Szczepan Kowalik and Arkadiusz Kutkowski, *Śmierć nieosądzona. Sprawa księdza Romana Kotlarza* [An Untried Death. The Case of Fr. Roman Kotlarz], Lublin and Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 400 pp., bibliog., list of abbreviations, geographical and name indices, appendix, illis

The book offers a record of the investigation carried out by the authors to shed light on the mysterious death of the Catholic priest Roman Kotlarz. Born 1928, he served as the parish priest at Pelagów near Radom, central Poland. Since the earliest days of his ministry, he became known for his uncompromising attitude towards the communist authorities as well as the Church hierarchy, which did not win him much sympathy among the superiors. As shown in this book, the history of his priesthood is an interesting study of the Catholic Church in a provincial area of Poland. Kotlarz became an unwitting participant of the workers' protest in Radom in June 1976. A few days after the riots, in the parish he was the parson of, he delivered a sermon condemning the measures taken by the authorities against the rioters. Repeatedly called by the Militia (police) and the Security Service [SB, the secret police] to report in, he was subsequently battered by 'unknown perpetrators'. An extremely

emotional person, Kotlarz was finally taken to a hospital, with symptoms of neurosis. His condition was deteriorating dramatically ever since, and the clergyman eventually died on 18 August 1976. The officially given reason for his demise was bilateral hemorrhagic pneumonia. However, doubts about the reasons of the priest's death were expressed from the very beginning, especially among his parishioners. The consecutive official investigations and trials did not dissipate these doubts, which triggered more and more new questions. The actions conducted in this respect by the public prosecutor's office after 1989 did not contribute to the solving of the mystery in question. What the authors have established is that Zenon Płatek, an SB colonel who ran the Autonomous Group 'D' within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was responsible for the killing of the Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko in 1984 (to recall but the most spectacular occurrence), had been interested in the victimised clergyman. Excellently documented, the book comprises an extremely interesting source appendix and iconography. (HW)

Jan Olszek, *Podziemna sieć społeczna. Casus z dziejów konspiracji solidarnościowej* [Underground Social Networking. A Case in the History of 'Solidarity' Underground], Warszawa, 2020, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 224 pp., list of abbreviations, name index, bibliog., photographs

Known so far primarily for his studies on underground publications in Poland, Jan Olszek seeks in his most recent book to combine the traits of a classical historical monograph and the perspective of social network, the latter being originally a sociological concept. This combination has produced an excellent study merging two equivalent humanistic approaches and focusing on one of the influential milieus of the oppositional Warsaw: the Inter-Factory Coordinating Committee, the underground periodical *Wola*, the 'Wola' Political Group, and the Working People's Chaplaincy Centre [i.e. Catholic ministry] 'Wola'. The argument is based on the assumption that the opposition in Poland was a social movement – with individuals, groups of people and organisations that developed (on a grassroots basis) and mutually negotiated forms of actions functioning within its framework, along with the leaders created in order to mobilise the others, on a top-down basis, to implement the set objectives. The down-top and top-down approaches, both characteristic of the social network(ing) perspective, have enabled a completely novel perception of the Polish opposition of the 1970s and 1980s. The heterogeneity of the 'Wola'/*Wola* circles is quite thought-provoking: these associated organisations attracted workers from large and small establishments, intelligentsia,

church organisations' activists, individuals of conservative or leftist views. The imposition of the martial law gave added momentum to their actions: it was then, Olaszek remarks, that a consolidation occurred whose common denominator was anticommunism. Apart from that, the community under discussion was getting internally consolidated based on mutual trust between its members. The author explains this phenomenon with use of Charles Tilly's conception. These two binding factors were decisive for the shaping of the social phenomenon in question. The new perception of the dissident circles of the eighties, as proposed by Olaszek (based on the example of the group concerned), is an extremely fresh and inspiring proposition that boldly points to the possible direction of further research into the recent history of Poland. (HW)

Agata Fijuth-Dudek, *Bez złudzeń i bez maski. Publicystyka Leopolda Ungera w paryskiej "Kulturze" w latach 1970–2000* [No Illusion, No Mask. Leopold Unger's Commentaries in Paris *Kultura* from 1970 to 2000], Lublin–Warszawa, 2019, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciw Narodowi Polskiemu, Oddział w Lublinie, 232 pp., ill., bibliog., indices of persons and geographical names, list of abbreviations

The study primarily attempts to analyse the articles by Leopold Unger, better known in the Polish cultural space by his penname 'Brukselczyk' ['The Bruselian'], published in the Paris-based Polish émigré periodical *Kultura*; hence, it is a press discourse study. The author, a scholar associated with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, has decided to treat this noted publicist as a *sui generis* journalistic medium, a journalist *par excellence*: the complicated Polish twentieth-century history is shown through Unger's texts, along with the recesses of his professional techniques.

Of the six chapters, the first five basically form a dissertation on aspect of press discourse. A Polish Jew and March 1968 émigré, Leopold Unger has positioned himself high in the Polish journalistic circle, primarily as a valued and widely-read journalist and publicist with the *Życie Warszawy* daily. His forced one-way trip abroad – Belgium becoming his destination – did not imply a drastic change in his status: on the contrary, Unger established a foothold as a commentator with the liberal daily *Le Soir* published in Brussels. His area of expertise became international issues and his voice soon became significant in European cabinets and editorial offices.

In this context, the study under discussion attempts at cataloguing the basic problems and topics that Unger tried to introduce into the European debate – and quite efficiently so, as the later events demonstrated. As the author argues, it is not a story of 'our man' in the salons of Europe, but rather,

of topics and, even more, so, one's sensitivity to the specific experience that appeared in this part of Europe. Moreover, the book seeks to answer questions about the role and place of a journalist in the peculiar and somewhat secluded literary and artistic world identified with the Polish-language *Kultura* periodical edited and published in Maisons-Lafitte outside Paris; explored are the relationships between Unger and Editor-in-Chief Jerzy Giedroyc as well as with the other important individuals associated with the monthly, and the visions of the profession of journalist.

The Lublin scientific circle has had significant merits in reminding the importance and significance of this circle and milieu; Agata Fijuth-Dudek has now become part of this excellent tradition. Her study is targeted at experts in modern Polish history, with a focus on researchers of intellectual life and ideas. A helpful bibliography has been provided, along with indices of geographic and personal names and a list of abbreviations. (GK)

Andrzej Sakson, *Nowe społeczeństwo Ziemi Zachodnich i Północnych (1945–2020)* [The New Society of Poland's Western and Northern Lands (1945–2020)], Poznań, 2020, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Nauk Politycznych i Dziennikarstwa Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, 225 pp., bibliog.

The book summarises the existing knowledge on the society residing in the areas that were incorporated into Poland after the Second World War. The five thematic chapters primarily focus on showing the specifics related to the history of the Western and Northern Lands, referred to as the 'Recovered Territories' [*Ziemia Odzyskana*]. The importance is stressed by the fact that the lands in question, when still part of Prussia, had been diversified in terms of the ethnicities inhabiting them. This, in the author's opinion, implied a visible singularity of the social processes occurring in those areas after the war. The historical memory of the 'New Lands' is discussed quite extensively (chapter three): one of the basic purposes of the policy shaping this memory was to create among the residents a sense of 'being at home' and of Polishness which earlier on had apparently been 'suppressed' by the Germanisation pursued across the levels. Educational activities played an enormous part in this respect. Let us stress that the proposed analysis ends in the year 2020. We can therefore take a closer look at the current situation and the directions of today's 'history-driven policy' and the *longue durée* of individual phenomena. The picture of the society dwelling in the Western/Northern Lands emerging from the study is briefly describable in terms of social mobility, tolerance towards different attitudes, or – a particularly topical aspect – refugees. (HW)