

SHORT NOTES*

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MIDDLE AGES

Marek Wilczyński, *Królestwo Swebów – regnum in extremitate mundi* [The Kingdom of the Svebs – a *regnum in extremitate mundi*], Kraków, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, 396 + 12 pp., bibliog., maps, table, indexes, Portuguese and German sum.; series: Uniwersytet Pedagogiczny im. Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie. Prace monograficzne, 579

This book is the first Polish (and one of the few Europe-wide) study on the history of the Spanish kingdom of Svebs, which existed between 409 and 585. It is based on written sources – works by Paul Orosius, Hydatius of Chaves, John of Biclarum, Isidore of Seville, and Martin of Braga. Since there is scarce source information available dating to the initial and declining period or from the so-called ‘dark period’ (469 – ca. 550), the author refers to a comparative material from other Roman-Empire succession states, particularly, the neighbouring Visigothic Kingdom. The book’s structure reflects the present-day state of sources and research, with the predominant political and military issues and, to a lesser extent, religious aspects. Social, economic problems or those related to territorial divisions occupy the least space. Highlighted is the complex religious structure of the state in question. The Svebs were initially a pagan tribe; they assumed Arianism in the ‘dark period’, replaced, in the period’s late days, by Catholicism. The local Roman people consisted of Catholics, heretic Priscillians, and heathens. Wilczyński has indicated the perspectives for cognition of the history of the Svebs, related to the progressing numismatic and archaeological research; the latter includes paleobotanical research (concerning the relation of the Iberian wheat variety *Triticum spelta* L. with the tribe’s wandering routes). (JA)

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Dariusz Andrzej Sikorski, *Kościół w Polsce za Mieszka I i Bolesława Chrobrego. Rozważania nad granicami poznania historycznego* [The Church in Poland during the Reign of Mieszko I and Boleslav the Brave: Considerations on the Limits of Historical Cognition], Poznań, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza, 571 pp., bibliog., English sum.; series: Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu. Historia, 216

This study in the history of historiography proposes a critical evaluation of the scholarly discussion on the history of the Church in Poland before 1000. The point is that, given a scarcity of source materials, scholars – Polish and German alike – have in most cases formulated their opinions based upon ‘non-source knowledge’, i.e.: analogies (mostly, with other Central/Eastern-European countries); so-called common sense; and, general ideas and images of the Early Middle Ages. Relevant archaeological artefacts, relatively numerous, have for most part been used in a selective fashion – for confirmation of hypotheses produced out of other sources and the said ‘general’ knowledge. Hence, several discussions have proved seeming, in that they confront, as a matter of fact, various visions derived from non-source knowledge. Similarly, an impression that the research has made a progress is only a derivative of altered ideas on the Early Middle Ages which are dominant among the scholars. (JA)

Krzysztof Skwierczyński, *Mury Sodomy. Piotra Damianiego “Księga Gomory” i walka z sodomią wśród kleru* [The Walls of Sodom: Peter Damian’s *Book of Gomorrah* and the Fight against Sodomy among the Clergy], Kraków, 2011, Towarzystwo “Historia Iagellonica”, 389 pp., bibliog., annex, index of persons, English sum.

The book discusses the content and reception of the St Peter Damian treatise of 1049, proposing a polemic against those authors who detect a ‘homophobic’ attitude in Damian. It is emphasised that the saint eradicated with an equal severity other morally reprehensible conducts of the clergy, formulating a programme for a redress of the Church, which was put into practice by the popes from the latter half of eleventh century onwards. The resolute language Damian used reflected this author’s rhetoric education background. Having considered the reasons why the popes started fighting homosexual behaviours among priests at a relatively late moment, Skwierczyński identifies one practi-

cal cause: clergymen's relations with women yielded offspring who were in very many cases bestowed by their priestly fathers with a Church-owned property – a problem that was inexistent with the 'sodomites'. The annex attached (pp. 257–312) contains a Polish translation of the *Liber Gomorrhianus*, by Elwira Buszewicz. (JA)

Marcin Böhm, *Flota i polityka morska Aleksego I Komnena. Kryzys bizantyńskiej floty wojennej w XI wieku i jego przezwyciężenia przez Aleksego I Komnena* [The Fleet in the Naval Policy of Alexios I Komnenos: The Crisis of the Byzantine War Fleet in 11th Century, and How Alexios Overcame It], Kraków, 2012, Wydawnictwo Avalon, 295 pp., tables, annexes, index, English sum.

The book presents with the maritime/naval reforms carried out by emperor Alexios I, in the context of the history of Byzantine fleet in sixth to twelfth century. Composed of imperial forces and of those belonging to individual administrative units and dependent territories, the fleet underwent crises – in seventh to ninth century and in the second half of eleventh c. Apart from the fights fought, with varying outcomes, against the Arabs, Adriatic Slavs, Ruthenians and, later on, Italic Normans and Turks, the reason was the fleet's wasting participation in civil wars. As a result, Alexios had to have the Empire's naval force rebuilt. Based on an agreement dated 1182–92, the emperor acquired assistance from Venice (which was formally dependent on the Empire) against the Normans, in exchange for granting the Venetian merchants freedom of trading and releasing them from customs duties and taxes over the almost entire Byzantium area. (Later on, in an effort to balance the Venetian influence, Alexios made inefficient attempts to cooperate with Pisa and Genoa.) In parallel, this ruler enhanced the rank of navy commanders within the clerical hierarchy, instituted a separate fund for construction and maintenance of the imperial fleet, made a number of pirates his paid soldiers, ordered that new warships be built, and imposed the obligation to build and maintain naval vessels on landed-estate (secular and Church-owned) proprietors. The result was that the Normans and the Turks were defeated, transport of the crusaders from Italy ensured, and supplies provided to the Byzantine army and the crusaders in Asia Minor and the Holy Land. The price borne on this account was an increased economic and political influence of Venice. However, in the author's opinion, it was only the fall of the imperial navy in second half of twelfth century, caused by liquidation of the said fund and the civil wars occurring, that gave Venice a prevalence which enabled it to partly conquer the Empire with use of the Fourth Crusade army. (JA)

Marek Słoń, *Miasta podwójne i wielokrotne w średniowiecznej Europie* [Double and Multiple Towns in Medieval Europe], Wrocław, 2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, 742 pp., bibliog., ills., maps and maps of towns, tables, indexes, English sum.; series: Monografie Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej. Seria Humanistyczna

This book deals with settlement complexes composed of more than one commune, identifiable in the western civilisation area, from the earliest source attestations (12th c.) to the early sixteenth century. Most, over seventy, of such instances have been attested for the Central Europe (Germany – incl. Prussia and Livonia; Poland; Bohemia), another nine being located in what is today the south of France; there is one each for Bascoigne and Hungary as well. In the author's opinion, the reason for why double and multiple towns emerged was the Italian model of commune transferred into trans-Alpine areas where the political position of territorial rulers continued to be strong. In the Central Europe, where a network of urban areas was only in its infancy, rulers willingly tended to incorporate new towns adjacent to the old hubs, not infrequently building them anew, driven to this end by economic reasons (the appearance of a new town accelerated the development of the complex as a whole), along with political (several mutually competing centres debilitated the political and military standing of towns in their relations with the ruler) or even prestige-related reasons (e.g. the foundation of Kazimierz as a town adjacent to Cracow was meant to commemorate its founder, king Casimir the Great). In France, hubs of the sort being described tended to emerge in areas where settlement was divided by physical features (river, old ramparts, and the like) or political premises (a part of the town being ruled by the bishop and the other part, by the count). The French monarchy did not support hubs of this type, and hence they disappeared almost completely as the country was centralised in the late Middle Ages. (JA)

Stanisław Suchodolski, *Numizmatyka średniowieczna. Moneta źródłem archeologicznym, historycznym i ikonograficznym* [Medieval numismatics. Coins as an Archaeological, Historical and Iconographic Source], Warszawa, 2012, Wydawnictwo Trio, 487 pp., bibliog., ills., maps, tables, diagrams, indexes, English, German and French sum.

For the purpose of this publication, the author has selected on his own a total of thirty-two articles, originally released in 1962–2010; four of them are translated from the German original, two from the French and one, from

the English. The author's intent was to compose a uniform whole illustrating the major source-study and methodological problems of numismatics, particularly, Central-European numismatics of tenth to twelfth century.

Section 1 is a general overview, emphasising the versatile potential of coin research – coins being a historical (inscriptions), iconographic (visual images) and material source (metal objects manufactured on a mass scale). Coin dies, it is indicated, should be approached carefully as sometimes untrue data can be found placed on them – copied, in most cases, from earlier-date coins.

Section 2 deals with the archaeologists' regard on the numismatic material. It opens with a review of Polish numismatic studies in the second half of twentieth century, with indication of the benefits as well as problems implied by cooperation of representatives of the coin-researching scientific disciplines. The following argument concerns the role of coin finds in setting the course and timeframe within which trade routes functioned, and in determining the changes in the origin of coins imported into Polish lands in ninth/tenth century. Another issue is the share of coins in local exchange, as traceable based upon coin fragmentation. The author assumes a compromising attitude toward the scientifically debated question whether early-medieval coin treasures had economic or cultural-religious origins behind them. A remarkable purchasing power of small silver treasures is indicated. The archaeological considerations are summarised by a suggested classification of various types of finds.

Section 3 covers usability of coins in historical cognition. The author points out e.g. the information contained on the coin dies, regarding cultural history, incl. foreign contacts of Poland in the late tenth/early eleventh century, and the fiscal policy. Analysis of the quantity and composition of the coin finds in Mazovia has led to the conclusion that a part of the social elite of the early-Piast Poland fled into that region during the state's crisis of 1034–9. Dedicated studies tackle the role of images featured on coin dies as sources for the religious history of Poland, along with military (weaponry) and ideology-of-power aspects (insignia of power). A separate essay talks about migrations of dies models, which testify to the migrations of minters. Methodological issues are covered in three special articles.

According to Suchodolski, in the early Middle Ages, the basic elements of the coin dies were not always mutually related, and thus call for being approached carefully by researchers. Beside this, he draws our attention on non-source influences affecting scholarly studies on the origins of Central-European money, which are at times rooted in a peculiar nationalism. A text showing the history-cognition possibilities enabled by the modern investigation apparatus, using the example of a wrecked ship drowned in fourteenth century at the Danish shore, concludes the book. As far as necessary, the articles are supplemented with lists of the most recent reference literature and foreign-language abstracts; moreover, the administration structure of Poland has been updated. (JA)

Żaneta Bonczkowska, *Mennica toruńska od drugiej połowy XIV wieku do 1454 roku. Lokalizacja – personel – funkcjonowanie* [The mint of Thorn between the Latter Half of 14th Century and 1454: Its Location, Workers, and Operation], Toruń, 2011, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 204 pp., bibliog., ill., map, diagrams, annex; series: Biblioteka ToMiTo

This monograph sets the history of the Teutonic mint in Thorn (Toruń) against the background of the Teutonic Order's monetary policy and provides comparisons with other mints within the Teutonic State. Bonczkowska believes that the mint in question existed, evidence-wise, since the 1380s and ceased operating in 1453, destroyed by the burghers during the Prussian Confederation's rising against the Teutonic Knights. The mint was located in the Old-Town area, at what is today 37 Mostowa Street (Vergasse, in the Middle Ages); its staff was recruited among the burghers (apart from the supervisor who, in most cases, was a friar). The coins minted there, particularly the shillings, played a part of importance in the Order's monetary policy. In the author's opinion, the letters 'd', 'm' and 't' impressed on Teutonic coins did not refer – opposite to what the reference literature claims – to the towns being the period's minting hubs (i.e. Danzig/Gdańsk, Marienburg/Malbork, Thorn) but instead, formed an acronym of *Deus, Maria* and (signifying) the Cross of Tau (St Anthony's Cross); a similar practice (the letters 'm' and 't') was applied by the Hospitallers of St John in their minting industry. The annex on pp. 192–4 lists the workers of the Thorn Mint, as evidenced based on the sources. (JA)

Paweł Cembrzyński, *Zaopatrzenie w wodę i usuwanie nieczystości w miastach stref bałtyckiej i sudecko-karpackiej w XIII–XVI wieku* [Water Supply and Waste Disposal in Towns of the Baltic and Sudeten-Carpathian Zones in 13th to 16th Centuries], Wrocław, 2011, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, 135 pp., bibliog., ill., maps, diagrams, tables, annexes, indexes, English sum.; series: Wratislavia Antiqua. Studia z dziejów Wrocławia, 14

The source base for this book consists of archaeological resources providing the foundation for a discussion on water supplies and waste removal in towns between thirteenth and sixteenth century, within two economic zones defined by Marian Małowist: northern (i.e. southern North-Sea coastal area and the Baltic-Sea basin, which in practice encompasses the main cities of today's northern Poland: Elbląg (Elbing), Gdańsk, Kołobrzeg (Kolberg), Koszalin (Köslin), Pyrzyce (Pyritz), Tczew (Dirschau), and of the south of

Poland (a southern section of Poland, Czech Lands, Hungary; especially, Silesian towns and Cracow). As emphasised by the author, wells were among the earliest objects built in the incorporated cities; with time, the needs of large clusters of people enforced supplies of water with use of water-supply systems, mostly gravitational ones (although ladle wheels were also used to heighten the water level). Water was supplied in this way to private houses as well as public venues. In the northern zone, where underground waters were of relatively low quality, water-supply systems appeared faster (in Elbląg, ca. 1275). Successive redevelopment of the network of wells and water-supply systems was basically completed by sixteenth century. Ordure was initially thrown away and poured out to free parcels; as built-up areas grew denser, litter pits and latrines appeared (latrines were systematically emptied), alongside gutters through which sewage and rainwater was drained off. Waste was usually removed into the closest river. A catalogue of Polish archaeological artefacts related to the book's subject-matter is published on pp. 88–123, specifying 337 objects: wells, fragments of water-supply systems, latrines, gutters, drains, and other related appliances. (JA)

Marek Radoch, *Walki Zakonu Krzyżackiego o Żmudź od połowy XIII wieku do 1411 roku* [The Teutonic Order Fights for Samogitia, Mid-13th Century to 1411], Olsztyn, 2011, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warmińsko-Mazurskiego, 377 pp., bibliog., maps, annex, indexes

The book deals with the period between the earliest attempt at conquering Samogitia by the Knights of the Sword (1236) and the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic (Great) War, focusing on Teutonic Order's actions taken with a view to subduing Samogitia – militarily and/or diplomatically. Attempts to organise a local administration and Christianise the Samogitian population, made within the short periods of Teutonic rule over the country, are covered as well. Considering the reasons for the failure of the Order's actions in Samogitia, the author emphasises, apart from resistance of the local population, that these people were supported by Lithuania and subsequently, by Poland. This strengthened the defenders' forces while also enforcing on the Teutonic Knights a dissipation of their military and political effort onto those two countries' lands. The thesis proposed by Henryk Łowmiański, whereby efficient defence of Samogitia was of high importance for preventing the Order from building, in the Baltic Sea area, an empire capable of dominating Lithuania and Poland economically and later on, politically, is followed up in the book. The annex, pp. 336–41, displays an edition of five Teutonic documents (in German) on Samogitia, dating to 1406–10. (JA)

Anna Salina, *Polityka książąt mazowieckich wobec władz Kościoła od początku XIV wieku do 1526 roku* [The Policy of the Dukes of Mazovia towards the Church Authorities, from the Early Fourteenth Century to 1526], Poznań, 2011, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 448 pp., bibliog., map, genealogical table, annex, index, English sum.

The book covers the period when – with the unified duchies of Poland, reinforced power of the Teutonic State, and most Ruthenian lands having been seized by Lithuania – Mazovia became the region's weakest state which finally, in 1526, was incorporated into the Kingdom of Poland. The subject-matter is the rulers' policies toward the Catholic Church institutions: papacy, dioceses whose territories were situated within Mazovia (i.e. Gniezno Archdiocese, Płock and Poznań bishoprics), and chapters – specifically, cathedral (in Płock) and collegiate-church (in Warsaw, Łowicz, Pułtusk) ones. The author is of opinion that the dukes endeavoured to act as benefactors and patrons to the local Church, while making use of its income, as far as practicable. The dukes' policy was basically supported by local social elites, with their ensured access to ecclesial posts – although, with time, the Polish kings had more and more of a say with regard to appointment of Bishop of Płock, the highest-ranking position. Resulting from cooperation of the dukes and the elites was postponement in time of Mazovia's incorporation in Poland. The extensive annex, on pp. 258–394, comprises an edition (in Latin) of hitherto-unpublished 38 documents, 1 letter, and 3 pieces of notes from the Płock bishopric register of 1390–1526, concerning the issues under discussion. (JA)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Adam Perłakowski (ed.), *Teoria i praktyka edycji nowożytnych źródeł w Polsce (XVI–XVIII w.)* [Editing Early Modern Sources in Poland, 16th–18th Centuries: Theory and Practice], Kraków, 2011, Towarzystwo Wydawnicze “Historia Iagiellonica”, 234 pp.; series: Studia edytorskie, 1

Editorship of historical sources is a very important activity of historians, boasting a rich tradition in Poland. Editors of early-modern sources grapple with a number of problems, the very central one being relevant modern editorial instruction in place. The one developed by Kazimierz Lepszy (1953) which has been in use to date does not extend to a number of issues being key to the modern editorship. The present volume aims at presenting the

major problems encountered by historians dealing with edition of Old-Polish sources. The thematic area covered by the twenty-one articles forming the volume is broad. There are general issues discussed (by Andrzej Tomczak, Hubert Łaskiewicz, Waldemar Kowalski, Wojciech Krawczuk), alongside discussions of edition of various types of documents. Editing methods of the following types of sources are presented: castle court records (Henryk Gmiterek), Old-Polish correspondence (Anna Filipczak-Kocur, Anna Skolimowska), regional-council (*sejmik*) sources (Michał Zwierzykowski, Jarosław Stolicki), inspections and inventories (Jerzy Dygdała), traveller accounts (Bogdan Rok), memoirs and diaries (Miroslaw Nagielski, Leszek A. Wierzbicki), political history sources (Monika Wyszomirska, Robert Kołodziej) as well as to the history of towns and bourgeoisie (Kamila Follprecht, Ewa Danowska, Jerzy Kiełbik). (MC)

Kazimierz Karolczak (ed.), *Pamiętniki, dzienniki i relacje jako źródła do badań historycznych (XVIII–XX wiek)* [Memoirs, Diaries, Reports and Accounts as Sources for Historical Research (18th–20th Century)], Kraków, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego, 296 pp.

This publication is the aftermath of a conference held by the Chair of Nineteenth-Century History, the Pedagogical University of Cracow, with contribution of other chairs and institutes of historical and philological studies of this university. The conference, whose formula reminded of source-studies workshop, was meant to be an opportunity for exchange of experiences in the research of so-called ‘ego-documents’, i.e. memoirs, diaries, reports and accounts. Experienced and acknowledged researchers were invited to deliver their presentations, along with thesis students at the onset of their scholarly career. The volume contains a total of twenty-one papers, of which six deal with the early-modern period and the others analyse sources referring to the nineteenth and twentieth century. The papers are of varied nature and discuss a wide spectrum of issues. Synthetic studies describing a specified type of source (e.g. by Piotr Borek [At the borderland-area of history and literature: remarks on the Polish eighteenth-century memoirs]; Bożena Popiołek [Diaries and funeral accounts as a historical source]; Joanna Kuchta [The seventeenth/eighteenth-century nuptial ceremonial in the light of wedding diaries]) appear along specialised case studies presenting selected source materials (by Paweł Konieczny [A Virginian magnate: The rhythm of the day of William Byrd II (1674–1744) in the light of his secret diary]; Renata Król-Mazur [The tiny-diary book of Major A. Ptaszyński, 1769–1793: a ‘mutilated’ source for the King Stanislaus Augustus’s period]; Aleksandra Bednarowska

[Eighteenth-century diaries of female members of the Pennsylvania-based Moravian Brethren community as the sources for study of history and literature]). (MC)

Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, *Rys panowania Zygmunta III* [An Outline of the Reign of Sigismund III], trans. from Latin Edward Kotłubaj, ed. Janusz Byliński and Włodzimierz Kaczorowski, Opole, 2011, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, 167 pp., appendices, indexes, tables, ill.

Rys panowania Zygmunta III had its first Polish (incomplete) edition and translation only in 1848. The work is known to historians and has been made a wide use of in research. Its Polish translation was published in *Ateneum Wileńskie*, not easily accessible today; recently, J. Byliński i W. Kaczorowski resolved to reedit the translation by E. Kotłubaj.

The work is based on the author's personal recollections and forms a specific introduction to the diary of Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania. It consists of three letters to his friends, with descriptions of the reign of the Polish kings of the Vasa House: Sigismund III, Ladislaus IV, and John II Casimir (till 1652). The last two letters are abridged versions of the text published in Radziwiłł's memories (*Pamiętniki*) in Edward Raczyński's edition of 1839 and not included in the Kotłubaj edition or in the present publication. The annexes appended to the present edition comprise: (i) accounts from Władysław Bekiesz's legation to Charles IX, duke of Södermanland – an extremely important source casting a new light on the origins of the Polish-Swedish conflict; (ii) *De rebus gestis Serenissimi Sigismundi III ...* – a work by Andrzej Lipski, a secretary of the king and later bishop of Cracow, on the first years of the rule of Sigismund III. The latter text is also a re-edition; the first edition, containing the same translation – by Ignacy Polkowski, was published in *Dziennik Poznański* in 1868. The work thematically extends to the same historical period as *Rys panowania Zygmunta III*, but shows the king's reign from a different perspective. (MC)

Zbigniew Anusik (ed.), *Władza i polityka w czasach nowożytnych* [Power and Politics in the Early Modern Period], Łódź, 2011, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 341 pp.

This collection of articles dedicated to the memory of Zofia Libiszowska has been prepared by her students and friends on the tenth anniversary of her death. All the fifteen articles published are thematically linked with the

scope of Libiszowska's research, covering issues related to functioning of the state, power, and politics in early-modern Europe. The subject-matters covered extend to the seventeenth and eighteenth-century history. Six authors research into eighteenth-century history of the Commonwealth, including reflections on the court of King Stanislaus Leszczyński (by Małgorzata Durbas), opinions on the Saxon Period expressed in King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski's time (Andrzej Stroynowski); the 1782 Diet (Witold Filipczak); the Commonwealth's response to the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 1783 (Tadeusz Srogosz); the political stance of Primate Michał Jerzy Poniatowski (Richard Butterwick); the Diet of 1791 (Wojciech Szczygielski). The remaining articles concern world history in the seventeenth (Andrzej K. Link-Lenczowski) and eighteenth century. The history of America enjoys special attention of the contributing authors (Piotr Robak, Karolina Korytkowska-Ogrodowczyk, Katarzyna Stelmasiak, Jolanta Daszyńska), the other focus being the history of Sweden under Gustav III's rule (Zbigniew Anusik), or Polish newspaper reports on the occurrences in the revolutionary France (Małgorzata Karkocha). The historical articles are supplemented by two mostly theoretical essays: Mariusz Markiewicz's analysis of the functioning of modern state and Jerzy Grobis's contemplation of the Enlightenment state in post-modernistic authors. (MC)

Arkadiusz Wagner (ed.), *Księgozbiór wielkopolskiego magnata: Andrzej Opaliński (1540–1593)* [The Book Collection of a Greater Poland Magnate: Andrzej Opaliński, 1540–1593], Poznań, 2011, Wydawnictwo Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, 264 pp., ill., appendix (a catalogue of manuscripts and prints from the Andrzej Opaliński book collection); series: Biblioteka Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk. Księgozbiory Staropolskie

The volume is the first issued as part of a publishing series designed to discuss various aspects of book gathering in the Old-Polish period. As assumed by the series initiators – the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Learning (PTPN) coming to the fore – the presentation of the research outcome would be twofold: in the form of publications and exhibitions held upon issuance of each of the books. The first volume and the exhibition are devoted to the book collection owned by Andrzej Opaliński (1540–93), Grand Marshal of the Crown and *Starost-General* of the Greater Poland. The choice was made as the PTPN Library Collection comprises several extremely valuable tomes once belonging to Opaliński. The proprietor himself, one of the major and most influential politicians of his time, is a significant figure. The book opens with his biography written by Michał Zwierzykowski. There is a total of seven articles, with the primary focus on bibliological analysis

of the Opaliński collection (by Elżbieta Stelmaszczyk, Joanna Pietrowicz, Arkadiusz Wagner, Magdalena Marcinkowska). This section is concluded with a catalogue of Andrzej Opaliński's manuscripts and old-prints, prepared by J. Pietrowicz and E. Stelmaszczyk. There are two complementing articles, one on the original look of Andrzej Opaliński's palace in Radlin (by Jan Skuratowicz) and the other about the his family tombstone, in the same locality (by Katarzyna Mikocka-Rachubowa). A rich selection of illustrations complements the content. (MC)

Anna Markiewicz, *Podróże edukacyjne w czasach Jana III Sobieskiego*. Peregrinationes Jablonovianae [Educational Journeys in the Time of King John III Sobieski. *Peregrinationes Jablonovianae*], Warszawa, 2011, Wydawnictwo DiG, 370 pp., bibliog., maps, appendix, indexes, ill.

Journey and journeying is a research topic that enjoys incessant interest among early-modern history scholars; still, a number of issues remain unresearched. Anna Markiewicz has presently made an attempt to fill this gap, focusing in her research to the reign of King John III Sobieski – in spite of the general conviction that the latter half of seventeenth century was a period when Poles did not travel in Western Europe. Markiewicz has now given evidence to the contrary, making her research focus on the journeys made by the Jabłonowski family members – Jan Stanisław, Alexander Jan and Stanisław Karol. A detailed analysis of peregrinations of the young Jabłonowski travellers enabled the author to draw broader conclusions on groups of people travelling in the period and on the culture of educational journeys during the reign of John III Sobieski. She is mostly focused on describing groups of people, the Polish environment abroad, and later-date contacts of Polish peregrines. The source base is diaries, notes and correspondence exchanged while on travel. The query has been carried out in the Polish collections (Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, the Czartoryski Library in Cracow) and at the National Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library in Lvov, Ukraine. The book consists of four major parts, the first discussing the most typical routes of foreign journeys made by young Poles. Next, presented is the group of private instructors, tutors and wardens of those young people, based on the apt assumption that they formed a separate and specific group among the peregrines. The study's central fragment consists of a detailed description of the peregrination made by the Jabłonowski brothers, adding the important introduction of other young Polish magnates staying abroad at the time. At this point, the author poses the question about the formation of representatives of the country's future political elite. The last chapter describes the

travels of young magnates in the final years of John III's reign, the basis for the analysis being journeys of people related with the Jabłonowski family – including families such as e.g. Dzieduszycki, Wiśniowiecki, Karczewski, Granowski. The book is complemented with an itinerary of the travels of Jan Stanisław and Alexander Jan for the years 1682–8. (MC)

Karolina Stojek-Sawicka, *Duchowieństwo katolickie w życiu Radziwiłłów nieświeskich w XVIII w.* [The Catholic Clergy in the Life of the Radziwiłł Family of Nieśwież in 18th Century], Toruń, 2011, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 445 pp., bibliog., tables, charts, annex

This book deals with functioning of the Catholic clergy within the Commonwealth's society, an issue of extreme importance to the history of the eighteenth century. The author has set a goal for herself to research into the mutual relations between the magnates and the Catholic clergy of the former, the Radziwiłł family, of the Nieśwież (Nesvizh) line – one of the most significant magnate families in the history of the Commonwealth. Stojek-Sawicka's research is innovative as the scholar has quit the traditional method of describing the clergy as a tight-knit, homogeneous and impersonal social group. Referring to the research in the area of sociology of religion, the author has assumed the standpoint of sociology of individual, in order to show a new image of clergyman and a new picture of contacts between the clergy and the magnates. Correspondence was the main source material, the auxiliary basis being documentative sources such as deeds of foundations, endowments, bequests, lease agreements, and panegyric literature. The basic search query was carried out in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw – the Radziwiłł Archive; documents presently stored at the National Historical Archive of Belarus have also been made use of. The study's chronological framework is the period of 1720–90. The book consists of three major sections. The first, introductory one, describes the clergy as a group, discussing aspects of spatial organisation, educational standard and intellectual-pastoral formation of the clergy. The following chapter analyses the mutual ties between the Radziwiłł family and clergymen, with a special focus on the significance of client relations and patronage activities of the Radziwiłłs. The last section is an attempt to reconstruct cooperation mechanisms between the Radziwiłłs and Catholic clergymen. This part of the analysis refers to pastoral as well as educational and cultural work of the clergy in the Radziwiłł courts, along with political and social-economic contacts. The book is furnished with tables and charts; there is an annex listing the Radziwiłł courts' clerical correspondents. (MC)

Mateusz Wyżga, *Parafia Raciborowice od XVI do końca XVIII wieku. Studium o społeczności lokalnej* [The Raciborowice Parish between 16th and the Late 18th Century: A Study on the Local Community], Kraków, 2011, Księgarnia Akademicka, 477 pp., bibliog., source appendices, tables, maps, engravings, genealogical tables, indexes, ill., English sum.

Historical-demographical research has seen a considerable development in Poland recently; Mateusz Wyżga's book is a good example of the trend. The book provides a demographical analysis of the population of the parish of Raciborowice (the Lesser Poland) in the early-modern period. The choice of the object of study was based on a decent state of preservation of the registers of births, deaths and marriages, the primary source basis for any such project. The central issue analysed is the functioning of the period's peasant family in the Raciborowice parish area. The family reconstruction method was used for the purpose. The book is divided into five chapters, the first two describing the parish's natural conditions and structure. Chapter Three, central to the present study, analyses the parish's population data and its natural movements between 1604 and 1795. The other chapters discuss the parish's economic development: proprietors of individual estates are presented along with the specificity involved in managing those estates and the rules of operation of the rural self-government in individual *gromady* (smallest administrative units). The last chapter discusses the farming and rural industry; analysed is the mill industry, the functioning of inns and artisan activities. The book is supplemented with source appendices containing descriptive documents on the Raciborowice parish along with breakdowns of peasant anthroponyms, the layered structure of the rural community, tables and diagrams of the natural movements, and a few exemplary cards of reconstructed families. (MC)

Jerzy Karol Kalinowski, *Wawrzyniec Gembicki jako biskup chełmiński i pomezkańskiej diecezji wieczysty administrator. 1600–1610* [Wawrzyniec Gembicki as a Bishop of Chełmno and Administrator Perpetual of the Pomezanian Diocese], Toruń, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, 378 pp., bibliog., appendix, maps, ill., tables; series: *Euntes Docete*, 10

The study by the Rev. Jerzy Karol Kalinowski is based on his doctoral thesis defended ten years ago at the Catholic University of Lublin. The subject of its research is the biography of Bishop Wawrzyniec Gembicki, an ecclesial

hierarch who zealously implemented the provisions of the Council of Trent, and a politician actively involved in the Commonwealth's political life. The source basis was primarily provided in the form of hitherto-unpublished handwritten materials; the author has widely queried the Church's archival resources (including the diocesan archives in Gniezno, Cracow, Poznań, Płock, Olsztyn, Włocławek and Pelplin), and made use, on an auxiliary basis, of relevant correspondence and printed memoirs.

The book is composed of five chapters, the first two characterising the profile of Wawrzyniec Gembicki before he was promoted to the bishopric functions. Described is the future primate's background milieu, his formation and career path. The third, and central, chapter shows Gembicki's activities as the Chełmno (Culm) bishop, describing the reforms he launched in the diocese, and discussing the issues related to the bishop's pastoral and priestly work as well as economic policy. The remaining chapters concern Gembicki's later years' activities. To paint a complete picture of the individual in question, his political career, activity as a senator and cooperation with the Prussian Estates has been considered separately. The further stages of his career have been depicted in a rather abridged way – we are briefed on these in the last chapter. A source appendix with a calendar of the bishop's activities and an introduction to *Acta Curiae* penned by Bishop Wawrzyniec Gembicki complement the volume. (MC)

Marcin Kamler, *Przemoc między szlachtą sieradzką w XVII wieku. Opis zjawiska* [Violence among the Sieradz Nobility in 17th Century], Warszawa, 2011, Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, 205 pp., tables, charts, indexes, English sum.

Crime and violence among the nobility has not been much dealt with by Polish scholars. Władysław Łoziński has described the issue for the Red Ruthenia area. Marcin Kamler presently makes an attempt to fill this gap: he set as a task for himself to describe an analogous phenomenon in the other areas of the Commonwealth. His research also attempts at verifying the theses proposed by Łoziński. Kamler's research has extended to the Sieradz and Szadek counties (*powiat*). The study's source base is the resources dated 1601–10, 1651–60, 1691–1700, 1600 and 1680. To complete the picture, materials of a nobility poll census have been used. The study's primary intent was to describe the phenomenon in question, its manifestations, and social reach. The statistics of injuries and lesions suffered, showing the phenomenon's scale in a precise manner, open the book's basic section. This is followed by a detailed description of the assailant group, specifying their affluence and political significance. The groups of females, soldiers, servants, peasants,

burghers and clergymen taking part in the violent acts are each portrayed separately. This section of the work is complemented by a portrait of several noble families reappearing multiple times in judicial sources and thus seeming to be extremely 'aggressive'. The following chapters deal with types of crimes committed (injuries and killings, thefts and robberies, attacks and raids on manors and farmsteads, insults, batteries, rapes of women). A chapter discussing the reasons behind these acts of aggression summarises the content. (MC)

Paweł Maciejko, *The Mixed Multitude: Jacob Frank and the Frankist Movement 1755–1816*, Philadelphia, 2011, University of Pennsylvania Press, 362 pp., bibliog., indexes; series: Jewish Culture and Contexts

In 1759, a group of Jews led by Jacob Frank was baptised according to the Catholic rite: this marked an unprecedented occurrence in the history of Jewish-Christian relations in the Commonwealth of yore. Although Frank enjoyed interest from researchers in the past, the present monograph comes out as the first comprehensive presentation of the figure and the doctrine of the movement he propelled. There is an extensive source base behind this study, with multilingual source materials taken advantage of. As part of his search query, the author has browsed through the archives and libraries in Poland (Central Archives of Historical Records, Warsaw; the Prince Czartoryski Library, Cracow; National Library, Warsaw; Jagiellonian Library, Cracow; Hieronim Łopaciński Provincial Public Library, Lublin; Archive of Pauline Monks in Jasna Góra, Częstochowa), Germany (*Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz*, Berlin; *Stadtarchiv Offenbach*; *Universitätsarchiv Herrnhut*), Vatican, Israel (National Library of Israel, Jerusalem), UK (Bodleian Library, Oxford), and Czech Republic (*Moravský Zemský Archiv*, Brno). Old prints have been made use of a great deal, with Jewish mystical texts coming to the fore. The figure of Jacob Frank and the history of his movement are set against an extensive background of events and of the development of Jewish eighteenth-century mysticism. Central to this monograph is description of the development of the Frankist doctrine and the responses it triggered among the Jews and Christians alike. Posing these research questions has opened up a novel perspective of the movement's perception. There are nine chapters, preceded by an introduction outlining the history of the Sabbataist doctrine which formed the basis for development of Frankism. The monograph's primary section analyses the history of the Frankist movement, actions taken by Jewish and Christian authorities in response to the emerging sect, and the development of the doctrine and its amendments. In the final sections, Jacob Frank is presented as a typical eighteenth-century 'charlatan'. A chapter

on the history of Frankism in the late eighteenth century, characterising Frankist groups in Offenbach, Prague and Warsaw, summarises the volume's content. (MC)

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Jarosław Czuby, *Księstwo Warszawskie (1807–1815)* [The Duchy of Warsaw, 1807–1815], Warszawa, 2011, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 597 pp., bibliog., ill., index; series: Biblioteka Humanisty

Of scholarly monographs of the Duchy of Warsaw, there have appeared two by far: a nineteenth-century work of Fryderyk Skarbek (his was, in fact, a volume of memoirs from his youth years), and a book by Barbara Grochulska, published forty-six years ago. The recent, modern study by a Warsaw historian has made a full use of the research done in the last fifty years – both with respect to new sources (today, we are knowledgeable of more period accounts, and more studies, incl. French ones) as well as interpretations. Czuby has done much to present the history of the Duchy, a 'small state of great expectations' set up under Napoleon's patronage, without a patriotic blast, and without ascribing the Poles of 1807 the way of thinking typical to their children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. The author describes the events in their chronological order, starting from presentation – in the 'Introduction' (of almost fifty pages) – of the lot of the Polish nation under the Prussian rule until 1806, and ending at the replacement of the Duchy of Warsaw by the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland. He volubly demolishes numerous historical myths – from the opinion presuming a 'totalitarian' nature of the Prussian Partition, fed with comparisons with the Third Reich, through the belief whereby the Poles uncritically worshiped Napoleon (e.g. a rather little-known episode is discussed of plans of anti-Napoleonic rising in 1811, in case France entered into a peace with Russia to a detriment of Poland), up to the conviction that the Duchy meant freedom whilst the Congress Kingdom stood for a bondage for the Polish nation. Czuby indicates aspects of continuation between the two states, as regards their political system and the opinion of the Poles themselves, of whom many inferred that it was their valour that had made the Russian tsar preserve for his new subjects the rights once bestowed by Napoleon, and even to extend them. Their other conviction was that Poland had acquired a new patron, Tsar Alexander I, in lieu of the emperor of the French.

Excellent knowledge of the relevant literature enables this author to penetratingly analyse all the spheres of life in the Duchy – the organisation

of the army, economic issues, the fight between various political fractions and coteries and their attitude toward the French (and vice versa), and, the sentiments of the street. Jarosław Czubyty's writing style is elegant, his tongue sharp, this proving combined with a skill of formulating concise and balanced judgements and the habit of interjecting extensive source-based quotations. This latter characteristic may cause a little problem, as some linguistic constructions appear uneasy to catch up with two-hundred years after. The major weak point of the proposed argument is the incautious use of the term 'aristocracy', which in the Polish realities may be ascribed a metaphorical meaning, at the best. The wealthier nobility (*szlachta*) indeed described themselves as 'aristocracy' in the nineteenth century, which has been followed by later-date historians; yet, there are certainly no grounds for referring to Polish 'nobility and aristocracy' as if those were two separate categories, like in France.

Presently, the Czubyty's book excels as the best study covering the historical period in question. It could serve, let us add, as a model to follow for authors of synthetic studies on Polish nineteenth-century history, for whom the period all too often boils down to a series of armed spurts and oppression by the partitioning invaders. (TF)

Bronisław Grąbczewski, *Podróże po Azji Środkowej 1885–1890* [My Travels Across Central Asia, 1885–1890], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, 3rd edn (2nd with the PWN), 712 pp., ill.; series: Odkrywanie Świata – PWN

Son of a January Insurrection soldier, Bronisław Grąbczewski (1855–1926), having completed his military education – promoted to an officer's rank with the tsarist army – requested being transferred to Central Asia, the area under conquest at the time, so that he did not have to fight against his compatriots in case another armed spurt occurs. A talented officer, with a bent for science and a skill to socialise with the Muslim autochthons, he was sent on a number of, increasingly difficult, missions, to finally crown his career in the tsar's service in 1910 as a retired major-general, and come to the end of his days in Poland (intermitted by his collaboration with General Denikin during the civil war in Russia). Out of Grąbczewski's sizeable literary output, remaining to a large extent in a manuscript form, three books have now been reprinted within a single volume (i.e.: *Kaszgarja; Przez Pamiry i Hindukusz do źródeł rzeki Indus; W pustyniach Raskemu i Tybetu*), concerning a five-year period of research/diplomatic missions held as part of so-called 'Great Game' (so named by Rudyard Kipling) – the Russian-British rivalry for influence in the yet-non-colonised areas of Asia. Hence, Grąbczewski

negotiated with Yaqub Beg, the lord of the Uyghurs rebelling against the Chinese empire; led expeditions into the unexplored regions of Pamir and Tibet; coaxed the pretender to the Afghan throne to overtly rebel against the pro-British emir Abdur Rahman. Grąbczewski's memoirs, written in an archaic Polish (not interfered in by the editors), describe, in a vivid language, hundreds of observations on the dwellers, civilisation, and nature of the lands he visited, forming altogether a valuable source for their history as well as for the history of mentality of Russian soldiers and the expansion plans woven in Petersburg. All this is offered to the reader in a manner connoting, as aptly pointed out by the volume editors, the best novels of Karl Friedrich May – with a non-fictional plot, for a change.

This solidly edited hardback volume should contribute to increased interest in Bronisław Grąbczewski the man – nowadays, an almost forgotten figure, perhaps because he does not quite fit into the black-and-white categorisation of patriotic and non-patriotic Poles living under the Russian Partition, the image historians find easy to cope with. Just think about it: a Catholic Pole, cultivating his relations with Poland, and a loyal subject of the Russian tsar, in one? The memoirs penned by this army general/geographer can persuade us that there was not much contradiction between these aspects. (TF)

Ignacy Charszewski, *1000 mil w przelocie przez Europę. Zdjęcia migawkowe* [1,000 Miles through Europe in a Glimpse: Instantaneous Photographs], ed. Krzysztof Lewalski, Gdańsk and Sopot, 2011, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 273 pp., index, ill.

The Reverend Ignacy Charszewski (1869–1940) was one of the most interesting figures in the history of Polish Catholic Church of the late nineteenth and the former half of twentieth century. Having graduated from a seminary in Płock, he resolved to take up studies at the St Petersburg Roman Catholic Theological Academy, the mint of Polish clergy elites at the time, but quit two years thereafter. Never coming to a bold post with the Church – ‘merely’ a rector with the parishes of Szpetal near Włocławek, since 1912, and of Dobrzyń-upon-Drwęca, since the 1930s – Ignacy revealed an extraordinary mind and uniquely self-reliant way-of-thinking since his early young years. Until 1905, he was perceived in the ecclesial circles as a theological moderniser and critic of parochial religiosity. It was already then that he made a name for himself with e.g. his sharp-tongued polemics with the clerical/anti-Semitic *Rola* periodical edited by Jan Jeleński. A sudden turn was subsequently seen in his attitude, as Charszewski made himself one of the most noted Catholic anti-Semites and priests involved in politics (in the 1920s, he was the leading

columnist with *Słowo Polskie*, the major nationalistic daily in Pomerania). Moreover, he got published, under various pseudonyms, with dozen-or-so countrywide social-religious periodicals. He died a tragic death, killed by the Nazis at the Sachsenhausen camp in 1940.

1000 mil ... is a concise collection of his records from travels he made across Europe in July and August 1904. These daily notes, combined with short impressions from a dozen or more European cities, certainly deserve being named one of the most interesting testimonies of the epoch. The notes testify to their author's versatile reading, brilliant social observation skills and discernment of the political situation. The book provides a valuable source adding to the image of the period; it should be hoped that it will become an incentive for a future biographer. The extensive archival matter (incl. 40 volumes of a diary) has not been tackled by researchers as yet.

The present critical edition, furnished with meticulous footnotes and illustrations from the author's diary, is accompanied with an introduction by Krzysztof Lewalski of the University of Gdańsk, presently one of the best experts in the Polish Catholic Church of the nineteenth century. (GK)

Jolanta Żyndul, *Kłamstwo krwi. Legenda mordu rytualnego na ziemiach polskich w XIX i XX wieku* [The Blood Libel: The Ritual Murder Legend in the Polish Lands in 19th–20th Century], Warszawa, 2011, Wydawnictwo Cyklady, 329 pp., bibliog., ills., maps, indexes

The book by Jolanta Żyndul is a study of Polish aspects of the legend of Jewish ritual murder. The blood libel issue is presented in a broad European context, starting from the Middle Ages (the cases of William of Norwich, 12th c., and Simon of Trent, 15th c.). The *longue durée* perspective enables to trace the subsequent versions of the legend and its actualisations assuming the form of anti-Jewish interventions (a few dozen trials or accusations appearing in the Polish territory are discussed). Before the end of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth some 300 Jews were killed resulting from torture or burnt at stake, on accusation of having drawn blood, to make matzah with, from Polish children. The Enlightenment caused a laicisation of the legend but not its disappearance; it was moreover sustained by the equipment of some Catholic churches (images, inscriptions, relics), among other factors. The year as late as 1816 saw several ritual-murder trials. The superstition proved particularly durable in the Russian Partition area, becoming an element of modern anti-Semitism. (The author proposes a statement whereby it was the nineteenth-century Catholicism that has instilled the legend in the Orthodox Church.) In the Prussian and Austrian Partition lands, the accusation was

targeted in the 1880s/1890s at Jewish ritual-slaughterers, the victim not being a child any more but a young woman now. The blood libel saw its spectacular renaissance in 1911 with the Kiev trial of Menachem Beilis, accused of having killed a boy. The case's ambiguous conclusion provided arguments to anti-Semitists in many countries (the court acquitted Beilis, whilst pointing out to a ritual character of the murder). Ritual murder slanders reappeared in the years 1945–6, contributing to the triggering of the Kielce Pogrom. Referring to the ethnographic research of Joanna Tokarska-Bakir (carried out in the vicinity of Białystok and Sandomierz, in 2004–6 and 2005–6, respectively), Żyndul reminds us that the legend has lasted till this day, as a folk superstition, in countryside areas of Poland. The present monograph takes account of international anti-Semitism literature, along with official archives (trial files, police documents, 19th/20th-century press) as well as the resources of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the Yad Vashem institute of Jerusalem. (BK)

Magdalena Gawin and Kamila Uzarczyk (eds.), *Eugenika, biopolityka, państwo. Z historii europejskich ruchów eugenicznych w pierwszej połowie XX w.* [Eugenics, Biopolitics, and State: Aspects of the History of European Eugenic Movements in the First Half of 20th Century], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Instytut Historii PAN, 243 pp., ills.

The present collection of studies is an aftermath of an international conference held, under the same heading, in 2008, its subject-matter being reception of eugenic ideas, as a broad concept, in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. This 'broad concept' encompasses any actions taken by states, groups and/or private individuals aimed at ameliorating the genetic pool of a society, nation, or humankind. Thus, the notion of eugenics would extend to killing the mentally ill, alongside caring for women-in-childbirth; hence, the scholars have deemed it appropriate to differentiate between a 'positive' and 'negative' eugenics. In spite of this, apart from Holocaust and communist-Poland studies, Polish historiography offers hardly any other domain where moralising with a topical political subtext can be so frequently encountered.

A historical determinism has proved tempting to many in this respect. One of the essays in the present collection, by William de Jong Lambert [A contribution to the eugenic thought and Lysenkoism in Polish biology of the interwar and post-war period] very nicely shows this way of thinking: Trofim Lysenko's theories have seemed handy to certain scholars, as thinking in the categories of Mendelian genetics would lead straight to Auschwitz, in

the opinion of some characters depicted in the article. An afterthought of this sort (where the 'ominous shadow of eugenics' is cast not as much by Mendel as by e.g. prenatal tests) forms but one among the many traps the volume's authors happen to have fallen into. Francesco Cassara [Eugenics and biological racism in the fascist propaganda of *La Difesa della razza*, 1938–1943] remains discreetly tacit on quite essential a question: how did this propaganda, developed by radical eugenists – forming a rather small group among the fascists – relate to the actual views of the state leadership team and their ideas of e.g. Jews? Richard Cleminson [The anarchistic labour movement and the reception of neo-Malthusianism and eugenics in the Iberian Peninsula] lapses into triteness by neglecting the issues in question in their micro-scale appearances: how can one deal with the topic without mentioning e.g. the case of Hildegart Rodríguez Carballeira? The text of Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska [Violence, or, 'an expression of freedom'? Voluntary and forced sterilisation in the history of Polish actions for regulation of births] is rather curious: this author needed as many as twenty pages to superficially summarise a hundred years of Polish twentieth-century sterilisation discourse, finally coming to the conclusion that, if voluntary, sterilisation broadens the scope of an individual's freedom, whilst its compulsoriness does the reverse.

Yet, we can find recommendable articles in this volume too. Björn Felder's essay [A 'hygiene of heredity': race, nation, and psychiatry in Latvia in 1937–1944] is a model multi-plane analysis of the tangle of politics, science and propaganda that shaped up the climate of eugenic projects. Herwig Czech [Sexuality supervised: Venereal diseases in Vienna during World War II] distinctly shows, based on a thoroughly investigated example, how, in the Nazi policies, the great social transformation projects, incl. in eugenics, overlapped with mere pragmatism which imposed a tolerant attitude toward brothels as retreats for Thousand Years' Reich soldiers. The essay by Tudor Georgescu [Optimism attempted against: The Saxon eugenic discourse in the Romanian Transylvania in the interwar period], perhaps the most revealing one in this volume, shows the ways in which the eugenics science was blending into the system of values of an enclosed traditional group being, moreover, an ethnic minority, penetrating it in a bottom-up fashion, rather than because of a state-imposed coercion. The volume moreover comprises texts dealing with the reception of eugenics amongst the interwar Polish Jewry (Jewish physicians, to be specific), Bulgarians, and Greeks.

The underlying conference was accompanied by an exhibition on eugenics, and the book contains a few dozen photographs of the exhibits – another important part of the collection. (TF)

Ryszard Gryz (ed.), *Strajki w Polsce w XX wieku* [Strikes in Poland during the Twentieth Century], Warszawa, 2011, DiG, 476 pp., indexes, English sum.

This volume is a collection of papers delivered at a conference held at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce in 2010. Encompassing the years 1901 to 1990, it deals with a sequence of historic epochs and political systems, thus providing an interesting comparative material. The content includes twenty-six articles, mostly idiographic, based on archival materials, and providing certain generalisations and synthetic opinions. In their light, strike appears as a multi-shaped phenomenon, diversified in terms of methods applied, forms assumed, and reach. Strike was an instrument of combat for social, political, and, finally, national subjectivity. Not only workers but also peasants, students, and research workers would go on strike. Immediately after World War II, strike actions mostly occurred in hubs with a long tradition of workers' protests behind them – particularly, in Lodz, where female personnel of textile factories went on strike. The strike held in Poznań in 1956 turned into a street revolt. Another strike wave followed in late 1970/early 1971 (with Lodz excelling again), leading to an important change in the economic policy (cancelled increase in foodstuffs prices). A total of six articles pertain to the 1980–1 period – the time of the legal 'Solidarność'; three deal with the year 1988, with its mass strikes (especially at the Cracow V. I. Lenin Steelworks, in Szczecin and the Upper Silesia) contributing to a crisis in the authorities–opposition relations. It appears that the People's Republic of Poland authorities found it more facile in 1988 to meet the protesters' political postulates, compared to their economic postulates. A dialogue between those in power and the 'social party' became a must – eventually leading to a political-system change. (BK)

Wiesław Balcerak, *Liga Nadziei. Z dziejów Ligi Narodów* [A League of Hope: Aspects of the History of the League of Nations], Warszawa, 2010, Wydawnictwo Neriton, Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 359 pp., bibliog., tables, ill., index

This monograph by Wiesław Balcerak, historian of diplomatic service and international relations in the former half of twentieth century, summarises the author's long years of studies on the League of Nations. The organisation was from its very origins marked with a doom. The United States, its main originator, did not ratify the peace treaties in Paris. Germany and the Bolshevik Russia remained outside of the Versailles system in the several first

years; lastly, the United Kingdom and France – the international politics' main players – never quitted pursuing a *Realpolitik* or taking backstage actions, while consistently persisting as defenders of 'the Versailles' throughout. The collective security project, the author stresses, has eroded resulting from concessions and tolerance toward the anti-Versailles states: the Nazi Germany and the fascist Italy, aggressive as it was in the foreign field in the 1930s; also, toward Japan in Southeast Asia. Balcerak's study is thus a discourse on the great expectations and a gradual yet systematic decline contributed to by almost each of the participant states, the less significant ones included.

The disquisition is astute, based on a reliable and balanced narrative which in itself is founded upon broad source documentation. A comprehensive use of the international press is certainly worth mentioning. (GK)

Jacek Gzella, *Między Sowietami a Niemcami. Koncepcje polskiej polityki zagranicznej konserwatystów wileńskich zgrupowanych wokół "Słowa" (1922–1939)* [Between the Soviets and the Germans: Polish Foreign Policy Concepts Proposed by Wilno Conservatives Forming the *Słowo* Circle, 1922–1939] Toruń, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 477 pp., bibliog., index, German sum.

As opposed to any other 'genre' of the press, apart perhaps from nationalistic (and its varieties), the conservative press has enjoyed incessantly high interest among researchers after 1989. The present study by Jacek Gzella, a historian and press expert with the Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, primarily focuses on a key issue in the journalism of the Wilno daily *Słowo* – its attitude toward Germany (the Soviets, mentioned in the title, served as a background slogan). Seen against the other conservative periodicals, *Słowo* was distinct with its acquiescent attitude to Germany and German culture, which did not change even after 1933, exposing the newspaper's authors and contributors to charges of a Germanophilia. Gzella's point is to somewhat revise and nuance this picture, also by presenting the periodical's journalistic output. Not only did *Słowo* have the famous penmen with it (along with Stanisław 'Cat' Mackiewicz, the editor-in-chief, Józef Mackiewicz, Ksawery Pruszyński, Władysław Studnicki and Marian Zdziechowski got published there) but it played an important part in the Polish political life, especially in the 1930s.

The discourse has two sections, each containing three chapters. Its strong point is a methodically collected and patently presented documentation resource: the author's query was not limited to the press but extended to Polish and Lithuanian archives as well. The book's weaker aspect is a rather widespread concept of research questionnaire and, overall, not-quite-clear

composition, enforcing certain reappearances. For historians of the press and political relations, of the diplomatic service of the Second Polish Republic and diplomatic service in general, the present study is nevertheless much helpful, if not indispensable. (GK)

Piotr Łossowski, *Ultimatum polskie do Litwy 17 marca 1938 roku: studium z dziejów dyplomacji* [The Polish Ultimatum to Lithuania of 17 March 1938: A Study in the History of Diplomatic Service], Warszawa, 2010, Instytut Dyplomacji Collegium Civitas, Wydawnictwo "Trio", 170 pp., ill., index, English sum.

A brief monograph, written by the doyen of Polish diplomatic-service historians, concerns an apparently minor episode, which however had its far-reaching implications in the history of Polish-Lithuanian relations in the first half of twentieth century. Piotr Łossowski describes the behind-the-scenes of a diplomatic ultimatum Poland issued to Lithuania in March 1938. The occurrence triggered by a dramatic incident at the Polish-Lithuanian frontier, which brought about the death of a Polish soldier, corporal Stanisław Serafin, has till this day been arousing disputes among not only Polish but also foreign historians. Łossowski shows us the related incidents in a series of scenes, placing a strong emphasis on the international repercussions of what was happening. He reminds us of the whole entanglement of frictions occurring in the Polish-Lithuanian relations and contributing to hostility between these countries in the entire interwar period. The problem is analysed from several standpoints, including the one of the Lithuanian (incl. oppositional) establishment, with extensive references to the most recent findings of Lithuanian historians, and a discussion of the responses from the Polish street. It was perhaps the emotion and the social response, with mass street demonstrations in Polish cities, combined with attempts at triggering anti-Jewish pogroms (as e.g. in Wilno and Warsaw), that reflected the scale of unrest, ethnic tensions and, primarily, a fear of impending war. The authorities as well as the nationalist opposition tried to manipulate those sentiments, with better or worse effect. The historian indicates that the Polish authorities mostly assumed a moderate attitude when it came to carrying out the affair, putting a strong emphasis on the role of diplomatic bluff. Attention is paid to a realistic approach of the Polish authorities, while the statement of Warsaw's aggressiveness is undermined. Let us remind, though, that the affair was viewed by the international opinion, and by many historians afterwards, as yet another manifestation of a progressing fascisation of the Second Republic. (GK)

Agnieszka Biedrzycka, *Kalendarium Lwowa 1918–1939* [The Lwów Calendar, 1918–1939], Kraków, 2012, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 1180 pp., bibliog., indexes, appendices

This book by Agnieszka Biedrzycka is more than a cold breakdown of dates, occurrences, facts and historical figures that have set their foot on this multiethnic and multi-religion metropolis of the Second Polish Republic. It is, first of all, a voluminous compendium of this unique city's history. The work is constructed basing on an enormous source material concerning, among other things, the political life, various aspects of the life of its inhabitants, municipal government, along with architecture, motion pictures and cinemas, the press, the organisation and activity of the churches, tertiary schools, and a number of other social and cultural institutions. Along with a vast source base gathered and systematised, really impressive with its diversity, the author has made a smart use of the rich reference literature. It is with considerable avail that the press, mainly Polish and Ukrainian, has been taken advantage of, be it through the citations quoted. Although the calendar is limited to the 'Polish' Lwów (Lvov) period (22 Nov. 1918 – 31 Aug. 1939), its actual multicultural facet has successfully been shown.

The study grasps the specificity, rhythm and pulse of this city which several times set the course of the history of Poland in the interwar period (1918–39). It would be hard to think of any study regarding Lwów, if not the south-eastern Poland at all, which from now on would do without the work under review. (GK)

Łukasz Adamski, *Nacjonalista postępowy. Mychajło Hruszewski i jego poglądy na Polskę i Polaków* [A Progressive Nationalist: Mykhailo Grushevs'kyi and his Views on Poland and the Poles], Warszawa, 2011, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, 369 pp., bibliog., index

The young researcher Łukasz Adamski (born 1981), to whose credit go multiple minor scholarly studies and treatises, is also an acknowledged columnist specialising in Ukrainian matters. He belongs to the second generation of Polish historians (the first includes e.g. Bogumiła Berdychowska, Aleksandra Hnatiuk, Grzegorz Motyka, Tomasz Stryjek) who after the 1989 breakthrough resumed anew in their research the problems of Polish-Ukrainian relations or, more broadly, the history of Ukraine. The present book was originally a doctoral thesis written in the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. It attracts attention with an enormous amount

of the source material analysed. The author has made use of a few extensive Polish and Ukrainian archival funds – in specific, for the first time, of a number of recently-found manuscripts. The focus on the views of Mykhailo Grushevs'kyi (1866–1934) with respect to Poland and the Poles would only ostensibly narrow down or restrict the research perspective. One of the major figures in the Ukrainian national movement, an outstanding historian himself – promoted to a professorship in History with the Lvov University at age 28 – and a Ukrainian politician in one, Grushevs'kyi is approached as an exponent of his generation. Hence, his present biography is contextual, to a considerable extent. The five chapters, crowned with a synthetic conclusion, and arranged using a combined chronological and issue-related method, contain not only the character's vicissitudes but convincingly prove that the Ukrainian national movement was being confronted with the Polish question for almost the whole period under discussion. Adamski takes up the political issues, focusing his narrative around the incrementing Polish-Ukrainian antagonism, and moreover using the opportunity to refer to historiographic disputes Grushevs'kyi participated in. Importantly, the author does not avoid facing thorny or ticklish matters, attempting to shed light on a series of misunderstandings and stereotypical clichés that have aroused around the figure of Grushevs'kyi in Polish journalism. We have doubtless received one of the most valuable biographies ever written by a Polish historian on Ukrainian national activists. It will become a lasting contribution to broadening our knowledge of Mykhailo Grushevs'kyi himself and, primarily, the entangled Polish-Ukrainian history. It would be good if this work could some day be read by foreign readers too. (GK)

Włodzimierz Mich, *Przeciw pauperyzacji i wywłaszczeniu. Walka Związku Ziemiaków w Warszawie o opłacalność produkcji i zachowanie własności folwarcznej w latach 1916–1926* [Against Pauperisation and Expropriation: The Landed Gentry Union of Warsaw Fighting for Production Profitability and Preservation of Estate-Farm Property, 1916–1926], Lublin, 2009, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 340 pp., bibliog., index

1915 saw the emergence in the former Congress Kingdom-of-Poland area, divided at that time by the war into a Russian and a German zone, of a Landed Gentry Self-help Society (*Towarzystwo Samopomocy Ziemiaków*), turned a year later into the Landed Gentry Union (*Związek Ziemiaków*; ZZ). The Union's primary goal was, initially, to provide mutual financial assistance. Once Poland regained independence, it turned out that the landed gentry – defined

for the purpose hereof (and quite often so by the period's politicians) as owners of more than 50 hectares of land – were threatened by getting their lands parcelled, since most *Sejm*-represented parties supported the agrarian reform in face of 'hunger for land' in the countryside. Thus, ZZ redefined itself as a political organisation, fighting in the interest of landed gentry from the central Poland. Strictly cooperating with the nationwide Head Council of Landed Gentry Organisations (*Rada Naczelna Organizacji Ziemiańskich*), ZZ lobbied with the parliament, offices, and the press in favour of its postulates. These included, primarily, mild agrarian reform conditions, and rendering the reform as belated as possible (only larger farm-holdings, it was argued, could be market-competitive). Landed gentry moreover wanted their taxes reduced, and transferred on the peasantry. ZZ was eventually defeated on both fronts, particularly, on the latter one: the arrangement of political forces did not act in its favour. The left wing did not like them at all; peasant parties, representing the rural population, demanded that land be parcelled, whereas the right-wing Peasants'-and-National Association (*Związek Ludowo-Narodowy*) could not go against the flow of those rather common demands, albeit it did sympathise with ZZ. In some cases, however, ZZ and peasant parties acted hand in hand, the underlying rule being 'the countryside against towns' – as when they proposed, in 1924, that cereals be exported, thus increasing their price and, effectively, the rural areas' income, at the expense of urban consumers. The study does not deal with an economic dimension of the agrarian reform, or with the changes taking place in the countryside, its only focus being the landed gentry's political lobbying activity. Hence, the coup of May 1926 is the final caesura – the moment the society was deprived of a possibility to democratically influence the state's operations.

The book is based upon a fairly extensive source base, including archival resources – especially those stored at the State Archives of Kielce and Cracow and in the Catholic-University-of-Lublin archive – along with press materials (primarily, from three periodicals being the ZZ organs: *Ziemiańin*, *Głos Ziemiański*, and *Przegląd Ziemiański*), plus transcripts of meetings of the Senate of the Republic of Poland. (TF)

Bogdan Gadomski, *Biografia agenta. Józef-Josek Mützenmacher (1903–1947)* [The Biography of An Agent: Józef/Josek Mützenmacher, 1903–1947], Warszawa, 2009, Wydawnictwo Tedson, 360 pp., bibliog., tab., ill., index, appendices

Although Josek Mützenmacher, born 1903, son of a poor Jew from Mława, died at only age forty-four, his biography would suffice for several. He has borne at least seven surnames in his life, had four wives, collaborated with three intelligence services, and twice died pretedly.

During the Polish-Bolshevik war, Josek, then aged seventeen, spellbound with the communist slogans, took sides with the pro-Soviet 'civic militias'. Judged on this account by the Polish authorities, but released soon afterward, he paved his way through to Moscow where he got trained in Marxism-Leninism. He was sent from there to Poland and Bohemia as Robert Granit, emissary. Detained in Poland, he consented to cooperate with the Second Republic's intelligence service in exchange for getting freed from gaol; the intelligence resolved to use their new agent to destroy the Communist Party of Poland (KPP). As 'comrade Mietek Redyko', he cast suspicions on his party companions, provoking internal feuds and embarrassment of the party in Moscow's perception; he subsequently gave away almost the entire KPP leadership team and soon after faked his own death, thus releasing himself of suspicions. When his 'bestial murder by the feral enemy' was celebrated in the Soviet Union, he was writing, on commission from the Polish intelligence, under the name of Jan Alfred Reguła, a bestselling book on secrets of Polish communists, thereby contributing to the liquidation of KPP by Stalin as a 'spy- and provocateur-cluttered' organisation.

Having his book published, as Józef Bogusław Kamiński, he became a Catholic and an exemplary head of the family, and a fiery anticommunist columnist – a career path he was to continue during the German occupation, nicknamed Jan Berdych. He in parallel thrashed out the Polish Underground, ordered to do so by the Gestapo, which finally got suspicious about him; before they cracked down on Mr. Berdych, he faked his own arrest by the Germans. Furnished by them with papers, as 'Jan Roszkowski' now, he resurfaced in Białystok where he had his texts published with the so-called 'reptile' press. He met the war's end in Cracow; next, he worked as a railroad expert in Wrocław. A gifted organiser, it took him short to become involved with the railway labour unions' board. He eventually died in 1947 of gastric cancer.

It was several years after his death that the People's-Republic-of-Poland authorities twigged, but still not completely, who 'comrade Redyko' actually was. It took Bogdan Gadowski four years to write this excellent biography, and he mostly spent this time laboriously rummaging through the archives in search of the tiniest traces of that political arch-chameleon. The effort has paid back, and the study was deservedly awarded the Kazimierz Moczarski Prize. Not only does this book reconstruct Mützenmacher's biography but offers a fascinating panorama of the epoch, especially as regards KPP and its activities; it furthermore poses more general questions: What could a man of so many identities, turning so easily from a Jew into a Catholic, a communist into an anticommunist, a Polish patriot into a Gestapo informer, really think of the world? If put in his position, wouldn't we decide to quit anything stable or foreseeable in our lives, just not to be outdone in the game for survival? (TF)

Andrzej Leon Sowa, *Historia polityczna Polski 1944–1991* [A Political History of Poland, 1944–1991], Kraków, 2011, Wydawnictwo Literackie, 776 pp., bibliog., ill., indexes

The author, a Cracow-based historian, has astonishingly well managed to grasp the history of the People's Republic of Poland (PRL) within a synthetic depiction (extended to the political-system transition of the years 1989–91). This titanic task has proved all the more difficult that a number of figures of importance to the period are still alive, whilst the epoch itself has become subject to a zealous political dispute. In the author's opinion, perhaps somewhat exaggerated, the historians of the said epoch are divisible into 'posthumous children' or epigones of the communist propaganda of yore, and, such for whom PRL signified sheer evil. A. Sowa rejects the idea of rewriting the history of PRL based upon the archives of Polish Security Service having recently been rendered available – a postulate that has recently gained popularity. He namely considers these archives' contents to be merely complementary for the political occurrences and incidents we are aware of. As he remarks, the Security Service was not omnipotent or all-powerful, since the system it protected has finally lost. Still, this author keeps up with research conducted based upon the Security-Service files, with the related studies of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), as well as with information revealed by mass media and/or other countries – to quote e.g. the murder committed in 1945 by the Soviet counterintelligence service SMERSH on some 500 Polish partisan warriors, detained as part of the so-called Augustów Raid. Being excellently knowledgeable of these and other source materials, and the reference literature, Sowa describes a majority of spheres of life in the PRL state, his focus remaining the political and social history. As he remarks, the Polish emigration and the anti-communist government in exile, based in London, have not been taken into account as their influence on Poland was essentially distant.

The work contains a number of apt generalisations leading to a reevaluation of the common knowledge on the communist period – one example being the attitude toward the Church in the first period of Stalinisation, where persecution was not a core method (a total of 551 sacred edifices destroyed during the war were rebuilt owing to the state effort; the Catholics were granted with the property of the Churches formerly existent in the lands deserted by Germans within the limits of post-war Poland; the property's value was otherwise not much lesser than what the Catholic Church lost some time later due to expropriations resulting from the notorious Bierut decree). One might obviously sometimes get an impression that the author's depiction of the complex issue being tackled is not fully satisfactory. For instance, he is right to have raised the question of a sizeable share of people of Jewish origin in Polish Stalinist-period authorities, identifying this aspect

as one of the reasons behind the anti-Semitic accusations in March 1968 (contrary to the statements claiming that the latter phenomenon followed up the pre-war anti-Semitism); yet, he does not ask what the reason was behind such a state of affairs, or how much true were claims like those voiced by Władysław Gomułka who remarked that his colleagues of Jewish descent were, in general, not bound with Poland. Yes, questions of this sort are risky – but isn't it better that they be asked by historians, rather than journalists?

Was the PRL a totalitarian state? To what an extent was it non-sovereign? Having asked these questions in the conclusive section of his book, the author replies to himself that the Poland under communism resembled a British dominion rather than, say, a country like North Korea. A number of weak points, a non-democratic nature included, were common to the *Sanacja*-regime period – a circumstance worth emphasising, now that some leading politicians tend nowadays to compare the Second Republic to a perfect Swiss-wristwatch-like machine demolished by the 'commies'. While no grounds could be given for PRL's crimes whatsoever, it would not be fair to refuse to admit that this state has had certain merits to its credit. Then, a historian's task is to place both within their appropriate context, trying to note down any and all pros and cons. This taken into account, the synthetic study by A.L. Sowa proves to be the best existing one among its peers. (TF)

Paweł Kowal, *Koniec systemu władzy. Polityka ekipy gen. Wojciecha Jaruzelskiego w latach 1986–1989* [The Decline of a Power System: The Politics of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's Government Team in 1986–1989], Warszawa, 2012, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Wydawnictwo Trio, 524 pp., bibliog., index of persons

A historian and politician, Paweł Kowal deals in his most recent monograph with the international and domestic threads of the policy pursued by General Wojciech Jaruzelski as Chairman of the Council of State and First Secretary of the Central Committee, Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR). In contrast to the other socialist state leaders, Jaruzelski unambiguously and resolutely supported Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* policy, thus winning the Soviet Secretary-General's trust, and freedom to act within the Polish conditions. 1986 saw the shaping of a government and rule system different than the one thitherto prevalent in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL). General Jaruzelski concentrated considerable power in his hands, thus rendering himself less hampered by the interests of the communist-party and state apparatus. He established a team of advisors which operated outside the statutory instances of PZPR, so-called 'Directorate'. The important roles were played within it by

the experienced and unorthodox-thinking journalists: Jerzy Urban, Wiesław Górnicki, Mieczysław F. Rakowski. They made a wide use of scholarly expert opinions and public opinion polls, furnishing them with a broad knowledge on the social sentiments, which they were able to make a use of in their ongoing propaganda operations. In the military circles, Jaruzelski enjoyed a peculiar personal cult, worshipped as a saviour of Poland. Gen. Czesław Kiszczak, Minister of Interior, remained absolutely loyal to him, a factor that reinforced Jaruzelski's authority. Yet, the public at large, particularly its circles oppositional in attitude, deemed Jaruzelski to be a usurper. He, consequently, endeavoured to regain a social legitimacy he had lost owing to the martial law; actions to this end included e.g. enabling pursuance of operations to businesses with a foreign capital share, so-called 'Polonia' businesses (the name denotes Polish [emigrant] communities abroad); establishment of an ombudsman office; appreciation of national threads in the history of Poland, not-quite-highlighted thitherto. The Catholic Church became the main point of reference for those authorities, but there was no social dialogue they would pursue in 1986–7. This strategy proved inefficient as the bishops were unwilling to take the positions owed to the 'social party'. By 1988, entering into talks with the opposition, led by Lech Wałęsa, appeared as a must (albeit the home reforms embarked on were initially not intended to render the system more democratic or to allow equal access to the mass media). A turn in the economy – which matter-of-factly marked a withdrawal from the socialist economy – was eventually carried out by the government presided by M. F. Rakowski, in late 1988 and early 1989. The 'Round Table' initiative added to bettering the image of Poland in perception of the West, whilst warranting to the ruling team no political responsibility borne for the martial law they had imposed. The book exquisitely shows the nuances and paradoxes of the latest years of PRL, the splits within the party apparatus, ideological crisis and weak points of the period's authorities. Archive materials drawn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, accounts of the leading exponents of the Jaruzelski team and the period's press publications have formed the source base. (BK)

Andrzej Chwalba, *Historia powszechna 1989–2011* [A History of the World, 1989–2011], Warszawa, 2011, PWN, 395 pp., bibliog., indexes, maps

Andrzej Chwalba's book encompasses many aspects of the history of the world past 1989, including political transformations along with civilisation changes, endeavouring to determine their long-lasting effects. The first part of this work offers a synthetic presentation of globalisation processes, as expressed in the changing lifestyles, turbulences in financial markets, threats

such as terrorism, environmental pollution (e.g. smog, onerous especially in China), modern-age diseases (e.g. tuberculosis still tends to kill more than AIDS does), anxieties of epidemics – real ones or mass-media-triggered (SARS, BSE, *etc.*). The main directions of demographic changes are shown, along with the dynamism of urbanisation (larger urban than rural population identified worldwide as of 2008) and their accompanying social change – transformed family model, social movements in defence of national, sexual minorities and immigrants. The author foresees that investment made in renewable sources of energy will become a new flywheel for humanity, a step toward a third industrial revolution – a ‘green’ revolution.

The second part of the book presents political occurrences worldwide, starting from the fall of communism in the Central Europe: twenty-four new states emerged resulting from the decomposition of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia – most of which have assumed a parliamentary democracy model for them. The European Union evolved toward an increasingly stringent internal integration, while the world on the turn of the century turned multipolar; the Western development model, merging a political democracy with capitalism, is being transplanted to off-European cultures in a selective and partial manner. Chwalba does not neglect the changes taking place in the Americas, focusing primarily on the Latin-American revolutions striving for so-called twenty-first-century socialism. The changes in Africa, initiated with the fall of the South-African apartheid regime, manifested themselves in a particularly violent way when it came to democratising the Arab Maghreb countries in 2011. The Central Asia and the Far East remains a relatively most stable region of the world. India and China still see high economic development rates, propelling the world economics, while the rank of aging Japan is going lower. (BK)

Jolanta Mysiakowska-Muszyńska, *Zabiegi o legalizację Stronnictwa Narodowego w kraju w latach 1945–1947* [The Endeavours to Legalise the National Party in Poland in 1945–1947], Warszawa, 2011, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 334 pp., bibliog., ills., index, appendices

Immediately after World War II was finished, the pre-war national right-wing activists – those who survived the war at home or returned from their emigration – embarked on recreating a national-democracy organisation in Poland. There was basically no legally determined path for (re)establishment of political parties, and hence the point was to render the resurrected National Party (*Stronnictwo Narodowe*; SN) admitted for the parliamentary election, which the party’s Legalisation Committee tried to bargain for. At the same

time, the press propaganda developed and attempts were made at winning over adherents via social organisations such as the Polish Red Cross, scouting, or Marian Sodalities. Nevertheless, there was no room eventually provided for SN in the political map of the People's Republic of Poland (PRL). The reason was that, in contrast to the so-called 'Dziś i Jutro' group (later turned into 'PAX' Association), of akin views, SN did not concede to become a 'licensed opposition' unit, duly recognising the political primacy of the communists in this country. The book's final caesura is 1947 – the date of three occurrences evidencing that there was no option whatsoever to pursue overt oppositional activity in Poland: the forged election for the Legislative *Sejm*; the flight from Poland of Stanisław Mikołajczyk, the peasant party's leader; and, the arrest by the authorities of Adam Doboszyński, a nationalist activist. Doboszyński arrived in Poland in late 1946 to meet the local activists in order to incite them to develop a broad Catholic-national front, whereto he intended to attract anticommunist partisans, once persuaded to lay down their arms (the platform was to be run by so-called Managing Centre). After a trumped-up trial, Doboszyński was sentenced, in 1949, to death, and executed.

The author has made use of an extensive source base, consisting mainly of documents whose lion's share came from various sections of the Institute-of-National-Remembrance (IPN) Archive and the Central Archives of Modern Records (AAN); and other Polish libraries or archives of the Polish community in London. This has been complemented by the period's memoirs as well as press. (TF)

Zbigniew Romek, *Cenzura a nauka historyczna w Polsce (1944–1970)* [Censorship and Historical Science in Poland, 1944–1970], Warszawa, 2010, Neriton, 358 pp., index of persons

The monograph describes organisational and political-ideological conditionings of pursuance of historical science in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL), with special focus on the position of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. The author uses censorship as a broad concept, extending not merely to the activities of the censorship office as such but also to editorial boards of periodicals and publishing houses. Communist party units functioning within academic institutes, and these institutes' management teams, are rightly approached as censoring institutions. A considerable role in superimposing the orthodox Marxist methodology of research was also played by official (disciplining and training) meetings of Polish and Soviet historians, which Romek describes in light of hitherto-unknown Russian sources. A rather narrow concept is applied, for a change, to what this author names 'historical science'. Having declared the intent to deal with Polish

historiography, he has actually taken into account the historiography of Poland. We cannot infer from this study whether, and to what extent, Polish antiquity scholars gave in to the Marxist pressure in the Stalinist period, for instance. The political-ideological pressure manifested itself also in source editing, with respect to e.g. memoirs. Some historians applied the mimicry tactics, pretending they were attached to Marxism. There nonetheless existed a sizeable group of eminent researchers who took genuine interest in the Marxist methodology. The present study attempts at describing their political attitudes and an evolution of their methodological views as well. The book's last section shows the ways in which, in a longer perspective of the PRL-period historiography, the depiction evolved of topics such as: the Second Republic of Poland; the history of labour movement, the Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*) and the Warsaw Uprising; and, the PRL as such. (BK)

Konrad Rokicki, *Literaci. Relacje między literatami a władzami PRL w latach 1956–1970* [The Writers: The Relations Between Writers and PRL Authorities, 1956–1970], Warszawa, 2011, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 592 pp., bibliog., ill., index of persons

In 1956–70, the number of members of the Polish Writers' Association (ZLP) – the monopolistic organisation of creative writers, acting also as a trade union – grew to 1,000, up from 700, nationwide. This data signifies that the conditions of performing the profession of writer were consistently improving (a new category of artists collaborating with the film, radio and television industry appeared at the same time). Around 1955, the ruling communist party (PZPR) quit the socialist-realism doctrine which had been binding for literature in the Stalinist period; still, it required that men-of-the-quill support its policies. This has led to severe conflicts, triggered in: 1964 (around the 'Letter of 34' – a petition submitted in 1964 by writers and scholars to the authorities for respecting the constitutional freedom of speech); 1966 (philosopher Leszek Kołakowski expelled from the party); 1968 (ban on a National Theatre production of Adam Mickiewicz's *Forefathers' Eve*). Rokicki presents the main cultural policy objectives, as binding during the rule of Władysław Gomułka as the communist party leader, and their related authorities' concepts of the role of writer. The artistic activity control mechanisms applied by the censorship office, the Ministry of Culture and Arts, the Central Committee of the PZPR, and the Security Service (political police) are shown. As the author argues, the complex problems of the literary milieu far exceeded the dilemmas like 'with, or against socialism' or 'for the authorities,

or in defiance of them'. The penmen were not just steadfast oppositionists and collaborators who wrote exactly as the party ideologically guided them to.

The basic problems the writers had to face were of the social-and-living nature. Their milieu was much heterogeneous politically and socially, and financially too. There existed, for instance, incessant tensions between writers from the provinces, cut off as they were from many opportunities to make money and get published, and those from Warsaw, enjoying their artists' retreats (called 'creative work houses') or canteens at the ZLP headquarters. Another split, between the young, living in a bohemia spirit, without a stabilised life position, and the old ones whose output enjoyed recognition. Communist-party membership did not directly imply supporting the authorities' policy. Overly oppositional attitudes were manifested, in most cases, by members of ZLP's Warsaw section, among whom there were many outstanding authors. In spite of their non-meekness, they were also treated by the authorities in a special and individual way (e.g. Maria Dąbrowska faced no repressive measures for putting her signature on the 'Letter of 34'). Penal repression was the lot of those, in particular, who decided to enter into cooperation with Polish emigration centres (which led to several political processes between 1956 and 1970). The book is based on a rich, diverse source base: files of authority meetings and ZLP conventions, so-called basic party organisation affiliated to Warsaw Branch of ZLP, Central Committee of PZPR and Security Service documents (denunciations, communications, reports, wiretapping records). A number of diaries and memoirs have been taken into account as well. (BK)

Jerzy Giedroyc – Czesław Miłosz, *Listy* [Letters] 1964–1972, ed. Marek Kornat, Warszawa, 2011, Czytelnik, 641 pp., index of persons, annex; series: Archiwum 'Kultury', 11

This collection of 306 letters exchanged once between Jerzy Giedroyc, the editor of the Paris *Kultura* monthly, and the poet Czesław Miłosz, a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, contributes to the history of the *Instytut Literacki* in Paris, and of the American stage in C. Miłosz's biography. The Paris-based editor and the Nobel Prize winner-to-be collaborated in a variety of fields; for instance, Miłosz furnished *Kultura* with his texts, and won U.S. grants for the people Giedroyc has indicated. In parallel, the two great émigrés exchanged opinions on Polish home affairs (particularly, Polish literature and authors), or Polish emigration community's activities (e.g. Polish Section of the Munich-based Radio Free Europe). They sought each other's advice, and took note of young people's protests in Western universities, changes in the mass culture, subsequent stages of USRR–U.S. confrontation. Their special focus is on East-European affairs (e.g. March 1968, Warsaw Pact invasion on

Czechoslovakia five months later, literature of Slavonic nations). The letters are polemical in character, as their authors often differed in opinion on what was happening in Poland and outside it. The book is furnished with detailed footnotes and an annex featuring the most important texts published in *Kultura*, as a background for this correspondence, so rich in threads and themes. (BK)

Janusz Zabłocki, *Dzienniki* [Diary], vol. 2: 1966–1975, introduction Jan Żaryn, bios and footnotes Jacek Żurek and Krzysztof Widmański, Warszawa, 2011, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 1079 pp., bios, index of persons, ill., series: *Relacje i wspomnienia*, 15

Born 1926, Janusz Zabłocki boasts an extremely rich biography. During World War II, he was active with the underground scouting movement (the Grey Ranks – *Szare Szeregi*) and joined the Home Army as a soldier. In 1945, he was member of anticommunist partisan forces and then hid from the authorities. He subsequently took advantage of the 1947 amnesty opportunity and resumed an official life. He got politically associated with Bolesław Piasecki, who in the 1930s had formed a radical faction of the nationalist movement; in the post-war period, Piasecki supported the political and social change (the group associated with *Dziś i Jutro* periodical, later on known as the 'PAX' Association). Zabłocki eventually broke with PAX in 1955. Since 1956, he was active with the Catholic Intelligentsia Club (KIK) movement, emerging out of the 'thaw' wave. He contributed to the establishment of the Warsaw *Więź* monthly, organised the economic base for the KIKs ('Libella' manufacturing enterprise). Yet, he increasingly distanced himself from the policies pursued by the Clubs and their political representation in the communist Poland's parliament – the 'Znak' Deputy Circle – though was elected, in 1965, a 'Znak' deputy himself.

The present, second volume of Zabłocki's diary evidences its author's political evolution. He did not share the critical attitude toward the Polish Episcopate and, personally, Primate Stefan Wyszyński – otherwise rather common among the 'Znak' movement leaders and *Tygodnik Powszechny* editorial-board members. Zabłocki's position was that the foreign policies of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) ought to be strictly supported, including with respect to the German question ('Znak' acted in benefit of reconciliation with the Germans), while the home policy should postulate – stronger than 'Znak' usually did – equal rights for the religious and the irreligious. He managed to win Primate Wyszyński's favour. In 1967, Zabłocki founded the Centre for Documentation and Social Studies (OdiSS), which he managed while increasingly remonstrating the policy of 'Znak'. He

had been involved, since 1963, in secret talks with officers of the Ministry of Interior, showing certain political-dialogue symptoms (Zabłocki was recorded as a secret collaborator with the Security Service anyway). It was with benevolence that he looked at the 'national communism' propagated by Gen. Mieczysław Moczar, the Ministry's head, while remaining reluctant toward former Marxists (revisionists). At the same time, on his travels to the West, he had political talks with the émigré anticommunist Labour Party (*Stronnictwo Pracy*) led by Karol Popiel.

This diary enables insight in the situation of Catholic activists in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL), showing the costs and the limitations of political involvement with the period's parliament, and Zabłocki's ideological horizon, describing his contacts with European Catholic organisations and talks with Roman Curia officials. It excellently documents the history of the 'Znak' movement, full of upheavals and leading to its factual decomposition in late 1975 resulting from a dispute over the PRL Constitution amendments reinforcing PZPR's position in the state (Zabłocki voted for whereas Stanisław Stomma, the 'Znak' Deputy Circle leader, was the only deputy within the *Sejm* to have abstained, which meant objection under those circumstances). (BK)

Andrzej Friszke, *Czas KOR-u. Jacek Kuroń a geneza Solidarności* [The Time of the KOR: Jacek Kuroń and the Origins of 'Solidarność'], Kraków, 2011, Wydawnictwo Znak, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 612 pp., ills, index of persons

In 1971, Jacek Kuroń, one of the best-known oppositionists in Poland and in the West, whose background was the communist movement, was released from prison (having served 3.5 years for complicity in preparation of student protests in 1968). He resumed establishing contacts in milieus of intellectuals and young people displaying oppositional attitude. He made closer acquaintances in circles of Catholic intelligentsia, and of Catholicism as such – seeing in it a potential of disagreement for the breaking of human rights in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL). An impulse for his intensive strictly political activity became the protest campaign against the amendments to the Constitution of PRL (late 1975/early 1976), owing to which contacts were established between by-far-isolated groups of displeased people.

Andrzej Friszke's book is a synthetic outlook on the history of the Polish opposition before August 1980. The period it describes is 1971–80: the birth of the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR) is presented, alongside the emergence of other opposition structures and their relations with KOR; the political-programme thought of J. Kuroń and his adherents, and of their

ideological opponents (e.g. Confederation for Independent Poland [KPN]); internal disputes; as well as PRL authorities' policy and the ways the Security Service fought the increasingly larger and overt opposition movement. The author discusses in much detail the development of the 'second (i.e. independent) circulation' of publications, its contacts with political emigration centres, and some elements of the oppositionists' morals and customs. The treatise is based on long years of studies. With numerous accounts, PZPR files, Ministry-of-Interior and KOR documents as the background, it yields a panoramic, though extremely detailed, picture of political and social transformations of the Edward Gierek decade (1970–80), culminating in the strike wave of August 1980. Friszke's argument is that the mass-scale protest movement out of which 'Solidarność' eventually emerged had been developed by Jacek Kuroń's long years' activity. (BK)

Artur Kubaj, *Nie wyrosli z marzeń. Szczecińska podziemna Solidarność* [Not Out of Daydreams Have They Grown: The Underground 'Solidarność' of Szczecin], Warszawa, 2011, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu (Oddział w Szczecinie), Wydawnictwo LTW, 444 pp., bibliog., ill., index of persons, appendices; series: W Służbie Niepodległej (Instytut Nauk Historycznych, Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego)

This is an excellent monograph of the West-Pomerania Region of NSZZ 'Solidarność' [Independent Self-governing Labour Union 'Solidarność'], encompassing political and social aspects of the trade union's activity under illegality conditions in the period 1981–9. Szczecin was one of the central hubs where 'Solidarność' was getting formed in 1980. Marian Jurczyk, the region's union leader, ran alongside Lech Wałęsa for 'Solidarność' leadership in 1981. In the 1980s, the West-Pomerania Union Region was active in terms of opposition movement; since 1984, it was officially represented within the underground 'Solidarność' leadership team, called the Provisional Coordinating Committee (*Tymczasowa Komisja Koordynacyjna*; TKK). The first chapter of Kubaj's book discusses the directions of oppositional activity pursued in Szczecin in 1976–80 and in the period 'Solidarność' operated legally. The following chapters present the major structures of the labour union, then illegal, formed after the martial law was imposed on 13 December 1981; underground initiatives and projects; 'second-circulation' periodicals produced within the Region; local political milieus; the role of the Catholic Church in supporting the dissent movement. A political breakthrough followed in 1984, with the release from prison of the West-Pomerania Region leaders, Jurczyk and his

competitor Andrzej Milczanowski, who with time was growing stronger and popular. Their mutual dispute was ambitious but also programme-related, and so added dynamism to the Region. Szczecin played a special part in August 1988, with the entire agglomeration going on a strike that eventually led to a political turning point in Poland, making the authorities talk to the opposition. The book is based on several types of sources, incl. 'Solidarność' archives, accounts of several underground activists, regional and national independent press, Ministry-of-Interior documentation, and, private collections. Appendices attached list the members of West-Pomerania Region authorities and of the Union's major Site (Works) Committees (*Komisje Zakładowe*), internees under martial law, and comprise bios of several dozens of major heroic union activists. (BK)

Paweł Sowiński, *Zakazana książka. Uczestnicy drugiego obiegu 1977–1989* [A Forbidden Book: Polish Publishing Resistance, 1977–1989], Warszawa, 2011, Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 367 pp., bibliog., index of persons, appendix, English sum.

The work is an erudite essay whose research is situated at the intersection of history, anthropology, and sociology. It describes a single aspect of the 'second circulation' in the communist Poland – namely, the reasons, circumstances and stages of publishing books (periodicals not being covered). The author starts with a presentation of the Polish tradition of publishing illegal printed matters, dating back to the partition era, with the European background taken into account. He attempts to determine the degree of politicisation of undertakings of this type between 1977 and 1989, coming to the conclusion that the will to break the restrictions on freedom of speech was not in each case related with a clearly declared political attitude. As Sowiński shows, the 'second circulation' phenomenon was extremely territory and society-specific, as it concentrated in large cities, Warsaw coming to the fore. Support from abroad was essential to its existence and survival (completely printed books or printing equipment were received from Polish emigration centres). The activities of underground printers and distributors are also discussed, along with printing technologies used by the so-called democratic opposition for 'second-circulation' purposes. One chapter describes the underground book production (what books, and why, rose to become bestsellers; which authors got reprinted most often). Uncensored books, banned and inaccessible, published under the risky circumstances, were much in demand, which caused their prices rocketing high, at times (in spite of low editorial quality). As the author argues in conclusion, the 'second circulation' phenomenon contributed

to further de-legitimisation of the communist party's rule. The book is based on interviews with witnesses of history, Ministry-of-Interior resource files, memoirs, emigration-hub archives (e.g. the *Instytut Literacki* of Paris) and the censorship office archives. (BK)

Mateusz Falkowski, *Biznes patriotyczny. Historia Wydawnictwa CDN* [A Patriotic Business: The History of CDN Publishing House], Gdańsk, 2011, Europejskie Centrum Solidarności, 283 pp., bibliog., maps, diagrams, appendix, index of persons

The book's attractive album format frames a decent scholarly study of an illegal publishing firm, set up in 1982 and soon after rising to become one of the major Polish opposition publishing houses (with some 100 contributing people, often not personally acquainted with one another). A historical analysis of relevant documents and the real characters' accounts is combined with a sociological analysis of the network of interrelations that enabled the project to develop and operate despite the repressive measures deployed against it (e.g. Czesław Bielecki, the head manager, was gaoled in 1985–6). Falkowski describes the way the publisher team was built in the conspiracy conditions, CDN's organisational culture, methods of acquiring the inks and paper reams, and the authorities' actions taken against the enterprise (contributors detained, printing equipment confiscated). CDN has printed a total of 132 'underground' books; issued several important independent periodicals on a regular basis; moreover, thirty audio cassettes recorded go to its credit. The goal behind this undertaking was not only to expand the 'free word' space but also to financially remunerate the risk borne by its printers, distributors, and 'second-circulation' authors. This tangle of patriotic and business incentives ensured the firm's extraordinary endurance and success in the underground publishing market. The study is based on CDN's own documents (publishing plans, financial reports, correspondence with foreign sponsors), memoirs of the publishing house's 'employees' and, obviously, the Ministry-of-Interior files. (BK)

Zbigniew Gluza, *Odkrycie Karty. Niezależna strategia pamięci* [*Karta Uncovered: An Independent Strategy of Memory*], ed. Agnieszka Dębska, Warszawa, 2012, Ośrodek KARTA, Dom Spotkań z Historią, 376 pp., bibliog., ill., appendices

Karta was originally the name of a 'second-circulation' journalist newsheet (a total of nineteen issues produced in 1982, in Warsaw), with an editorial

board consisting of Zbigniew Gluza, Alicja Wancerz-Gluza, Piotr Mitzner, Katarzyna Madoń-Mitzner, among others. Its purpose was to prepare the society for a confrontation with the martial-law regime, which was due to occur in August 1982. The society did not get mobilised for such general resistance, though. Hence, the idea was conceived to turn *Karta* into an independent almanac presenting the attitudes of individuals toward history in the twentieth century. The first issue of a periodical so conceived was published in April 1983; the last, seventh, number appeared in late 1989. In 1987, the editorial board established Eastern Archives (*Archiwum Wschodnie*) to document the experiences of Poles in the Eastern Borderland area and in Siberia. An 'index of the victimised' was opened in 1988, meant to be a name register of Polish citizens subject to repressive measures by the Soviet Union authorities after 1939. A following project was an 'archive of the opposition in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL)'.

As from 1991, *Karta*, its issues renumbered, has been published on a legal basis (with a total of seventy numbers of this richly illustrated periodical issued by 2012). The KARTA Centre (*Ośrodek KARTA*) soon became the major Polish civic institution dealing with the most recent history and cooperating with the analogous Central-European institutions (especially, the Memorial in Russia). The Centre makes use of input from professional historians, keeps its archives (incl. a photographic one) and a publishing house. In 2005, the Centre established a History Meeting House (*Dom Spotkań z Historią*) as a cultural institution funded by the Warsaw local government. *Karta* the periodical presents testimonies of dissidents and of victims of Nazism and communism – their accounts, memoirs, diaries, documents, and letters.

The present book is memoirs of Zbigniew Gluza, the founding father of the KARTA Centre and *Karta* periodical. Excerpts from the press, documenting the controversies evoked by the activities of the periodical and Centre (which has consistently deprecated a nationalist vision of the history of Poland, one that shows the Polish nation as an innocent victim of history), indispensably illustrate the publication. All in all, the book is a historical self-portrait of the institution, in the Third Republic of Poland, testifying to the extent in which many groups and milieus found its activities unwelcome. It shows, last but not least, the existential and financial problems a nongovernmental organisation has to tackle in a state seemingly attaching so much attention to its own past. A winner of major domestic prizes and awards on account of its social activity, KARTA Centre has its existence put permanently under threat. Attached to the present publication is a list of educational competitions for schools (totalling 23), exhibitions held at home and abroad (48) and a bibliography of books and brochures published within the last thirty years (featuring 79 books, mainly, accounts and memoirs of history shareholders, such as Polish Jews, Siberian deportees, PRL opposition activists). A ten-volume series titled *Polska-Ukraina: trudne pytania* [Poland-Ukraine:

The Difficult Questions] has moreover been published, based on a series of conferences attended by Polish and Ukrainian historians; added to this is twenty volumes of lists of names of Polish citizens victimised in 1939 to 1946 by the Soviet Union. A number of KARTA Centre books have been published in several language versions. (BK)