

FROM THE EDITORS

The current issue of the English-Language Edition of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* (Historical Quarterly) is in large measure devoted to a specific period of Polish history. It concerns various aspects (political, cultural, social and military) of the history of the communist Poland (1945–89). We have made this choice aware of the great interest that the recent history arouses in Poland, as evidenced by a great number of daily and weekly Polish newspapers publishing historical supplements devoted mainly, if not decisively, to the most recent history. It also seems easiest to bring into scholarly circulation archival materials (which just more than a decade ago were generally unavailable to scholars) regarding the recent past. We have found that it may be useful for foreign readers to become familiar with this material.

The volume's Authors have focused their attention on the following issues: the role of women in Poland in the years 1945–89 (Natalia Jaraska), the Polish-Italian diplomatic relations at the turn of the 1950s and the 1960s (Maria Pasztor), the distribution by the Soviet Union of the nuclear weapons, those stored in Poland, to be used in case of war by the Polish command (Jarosław Pałka), the Workers' Defence Committee and its efforts to elaborate the model of resistance in the latter half of the 1970s (Jan Skórzyński).

The history of post-war Poland is also dealt with in the article by Przemysław Pazik regarding the political Catholicism, in the review article by Dariusz Jarosz regarding the Stalinist plan for the transformation of nature, and in the review by Piotr Madajczyk of the book by Severin Gawlitta on the exchange of letters between the Episcopates of Poland and Germany in 1965. The remaining reviews concern the publications devoted to earlier periods.