

SHORT NOTES*

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GENERAL WORKS

Lech M. Nijakowski, *Rozkosz zemsty. Socjologia historyczna mobilizacji ludobójczej* [Delighted with avenge: A historical sociology of genocidal mobilisation], Warszawa, 2013, Scholar, 423 pp., bibliog., index of personal names

This book is situated at the intersection of historical sociology and genocide studies. Among the forms of ritual revenge committed against some group of people, the author, a sociologist, identifies massacre (slaughter), lynch rule, pogrom, and genocide (using the commonly accepted definition of genocide, as proposed by the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948). While quoting a number of historical cases of revenge taken by a group of people against another group, from Antiquity into the twentieth century, the study's special focus is on the twelve more extensively discussed instances of genocide from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (among them, those suffered by Indigenous Australians; the Namibian Herero and Nama people victimised by the Germans; the Armenians killed in Turkey; the genocide inflicted by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; and, clearly enough, the Holocaust of the Jewry). L.M. Nijakowski attempts to explain the process of genocide mobilisation – that is, determine the factors increasing the probability of occurrence of genocidal acts. Among the essential conditions, identified is the indispensability of an ideological discourse stigmatising the potential future victims.

The book's second section deals with Germany after WWII as a case study. The discussion is founded, among other things, on the results of sociological research based on in-depth biographical interviews of sixty war survivors. The author comes to the conclusion that in 1945, circumstances factually occurred for setting in motion the mechanism of genocide mobilisation aimed against the Germans; yet, the perpetrators were demobilised soon afterwards. What the Allied Forces did was withholding genocide and offering the victims of Nazism, instead, an option to carry out ethnic cleansing (legal as well as illegal but tolerated – that is, mass displacement of Germans). There were some other inhibiting factors at work, including moral drivers. The study demonstrates that comparative historical research and mutual comparison of

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temporally and spatially distant phenomena is feasible. It also helps realise and visualises the need to render such research inter(trans)disciplinary – the precondition being that historians beforehand describe in detail concrete genocidal occurrences. (BK)

MIDDLE AGES

Testimonia najdawniejszych dziejów Słowian [The *testimonia* of the earliest history of the Slavs], Seria grecka [The Greek series], Fasc. 6: *Pisarze wieku XI* [The eleventh-century authors], trans. and commentaries Anna Kotłowska, contributions Alina Brzostkowska, Warszawa, 2013, Sławistyczny Ośrodek Wydawniczy, 371 pp., indexes

The volume under review contains an edition of Byzantine sources relating to the history of Balkan Slavs and Ruthenia (the events indirectly related to Slavs have been virtually omitted – such as conflicts inside the Empire or migrations of nomadic Turkish peoples). Fragments of the following works are comprised in the collection: Michael Psellos's *Chronographia* (pp. 15–41); Michael Attaleiates's *Historia* (pp. 42–61); Kekaumenos's *Strategikon* (pp. 62–105); John Skylitzes's *Synopsis* (pp. 106–269); so-called 'Skylitzes Continuatus' (pp. 270–87); Nikephoros Bryennios's *Historical materials* (pp. 288–93); and, Anna Komnena's *Alexiad* (pp. 294–349). The original, Greek versions are presented alongside the Polish translations as well as brief profiles of the authors and their respective works. Although those by Anna Komnena and Nikephoros Bryennios were written in the twelfth century, they 'mentally' belong to the preceding century, the editors remark. The publisher has announced that the last Byzantine source of use for the eleventh-century history of Slavs, will open the subsequent volume in the series. (JA)

Adam Wolff and Kazimierz Pacuski, *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziemi warszawskiej w średniowieczu* [A historical and geographical dictionary of Warsaw Land during the Middle Ages], ed. by Tomasz Jurek, Marta Piber-Zbieranowska, and Anna Salina, Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Historii PAN, XVI + 348 pp., maps; series: *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziem polskich w średniowieczu*, ed. by Tomasz Jurek, ii, 2: Mazowsze – województwo mazowieckie

This publication has been based on the data contained in the file of place-names of Masovia, collected between 1951 and 1984 by Adam Wolff and,

subsequently, Kazimierz Pacuski, finally complemented and prepared for publication by Marta Piber-Zbieranowska, Anna Salina, and Tomasz Jurek. The dictionary contains a total of 509 entries on towns (save for a text on Warsaw), villages, physiographic objects (forests, rivers, *etc.*), and units of State and Church territorial divisions, as found in the sources since the earliest time until 1526, and situated in the historical area of Warsaw Land. As far as needed and possible, the entries contain data concerning, in a sequence: the territorial pertinence of the object/area in question; the object's/area's topography (borders, mills, roads, *etc.*); ownership/property rights and sizes of settlements; the functioning of the German law; sacral sites/religious buildings, their emoluments, tithes, clergymen details; major historical events and careers of the people coming from the area under discussion; reference literature; architectural monuments and selected archaeological sites; and, the authors' remarks and commentaries. (JA)

Jakub Morawiec, *Knut Wielki, król Anglii, Danii i Norwegii* (ok. 995–1035) [Cnut the Great, King of England, Denmark, and Norway, ca. 995–1035], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwo Avalon, 363 pp., maps, tables, index of personal names

This book comes as the first Polish scholarly monograph of the ruler (whose proper Polish name equivalent, the authors emphasises, is *Knut* [Old Norse, *Knútr*; Latin, *Cnut*], rather than *Kanut*, as otherwise common in Polish literature [the English *Canute*]). In spite of the king's Danish-Polish descent (Cnut's father was Sweyn Forkbeard, his mother being a daughter of Duke Mieszko I), his main area of activity was England. In his conquest of England, 1015–16, Cnut followed his father; then, he strengthened his political position through the espousal of Emma, the widow of the defeated Anglo-Saxon king Æthelred II (1017), displaying his piety and showing munificence to the ecclesial institutions. Although Cnut's military capabilities cannot be reliably evaluated based on the available sources, there are clear indications that the king was a skilled and successful politician. The overall result of his rule in England ought to be regarded as positive. (JA)

Adam Krawiec, *Król bez korony. Władysław Herman, książę polski* [A king without the crown: Ladislaus Herman, Duke of Poland], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN S.A., 303 pp., index of personal names

Among the recently numerous biographies of Polish mediaeval rulers, this one comes out as the first scholarly monograph of Duke Ladislaus I Herman.

As its author points out, the bad opinion related to this figure, as commonplace among scholars to date, is a reflection of what Gallus Anonymus wrote on the duke in his chronicle. Quite important is also the fact that Ladislaus appears not as powerful or spectacular as his predecessor or successor (Boleslaus II and III, respectively). Yet, Ladislaus Herman, albeit not an outstanding personality, was in fact not a poorly performing ruler, and his reign was indeed marked with some political success. Among the successful moments, A. Krawiec points out to his administration of Masovia (during his father's lifetime) in a manner such that any separatist tendency was prevented in the region; contribution to the establishment of the Bishopric of Płock; stabilisation of the authority in Poland (Ladislaus was the first Polish monarch since Boleslaus the Brave's time who was not deposed during his reign); settlement of the political relations with Hungary, Bohemia and the Empire; acting as the arbitrator in the disputes among Ruthenian dukes; the reform of the monarchical administration (establishment of the *pristaldi*, i.e. ducal envoys equipped with extensive competencies). An important factor that restricted the ruler's activity and achievements was, in the author's opinion, the strong opposition on the part of the mighty individuals who gathered around Mieszko, the monarch's fraternal nephew and son of Boleslaus II – and, afterwards, around Ladislaus's own sons. (JA)

Grzegorz Pac, *Kobiety z dynastii Piastów. Rola społeczna piastowskich żon i córek do połowy XII wieku – studium porównawcze* [The women of the House of Piast: The social role of Piast wives and daughters before the mid-twelfth century. A comparative study], Toruń, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 696 pp., indexes, English sum.; series: Monografie Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej

The book deals with the social position and forms of activity of the wives and daughters of the rulers of Poland, from the beginnings of Poland as a state until the middle of the twelfth century, with a focus of the figures best represented in the sources: Dobrawa, Emnilda (third spouse to Boleslaus I the Brave, according to Gallus Anonymus's chronicle), Richeza, Judith Přemyslid of Bohemia, Judith-Maria of Swabia, and Salomea of Berg. As the author points out, apart from their roles of spouse and mother, the central domain of these females' activities was religion (foundations and donations; propagation of cults of saints; Dobrawa's participation in the baptism of Mieszko I – a unique occurrence). Inasmuch as these activities are rather well confirmed by the sources for the queens and duchesses of German or Bohemian descent, the same would not hold true for their Ruthenian peers.

In the author's opinion, this has to do with the dynastic policy of the House of Piasts, with the rulers most frequently espousing the princesses from the territory of the Empire, including members of the emperors' families (Richeza, Judith-Maria of Swabia), and wedded their daughters most willingly to the Reich's aristocrats; neither of these women was a wife to any emperor or ruler of another West European country. These considerations lead Mr. Pac to a vision of the Piasts as a 'provincial' dynasty that was primarily striving for establishing ties with the Empire's elite and taking over its cultural patterns, whilst holding a relatively not-too-high position within the elite's circle. (JA)

Dariusz Andrzej Sikorski, *Wczesnopiastowska architektura sakralna (jako źródło historyczne do dziejów Kościoła w Polsce)* [Sacred architecture of the early Piast period (as a historical source for the history of the Church in Poland)], Poznań, 2012, Wydawnictwo Poznańskiego Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk, 218 pp., ill., maps, English sum.; series: Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk. Wydział Historii i Nauk Społecznych. Prace Komisji Historycznej, 72

This book challenges the opinion, which is dominant among scholars, whereby the baptism of Mieszko I in 966 entailed fast Christianisation of the population of Poland as a whole. A survey of the present state of research concerning the remains of the earliest church buildings (in Gniezno, Poznań, Cracow, Wrocław, Ostrów Lednicki, Giecz, Przemyśl, Łekno, Kałdus, Gromnik, Niemcza, Kołobrzeg, Wiślica, Płock, Tum near Łęczyca, Cieszyn, and Kalisz), with their related organic remnants datable using the C14 method, allows one to date the church in Poznań and, probably, those of Giecz and Ostrów Lednicki, at the time of Duke Mieszko; the remaining edifices date back to *ca.* 980 to the early eleventh century. In the author's opinion, this state of affairs only indicates that Christianisation originally extended to the ruler and his closest relatives and associates; it spread, together with the churches being built, appeared in the late years of Mieszko's reign or in the time of his son Boleslaus the Brave. It is also possible that reason behind the limited reach of the earliest Christianisation was that Poland was at that time divided between the realm of Mieszko and those of his brothers who remained pagan, and it was only the hypothetical unification of the country that enabled the spread of the new religion. A hypothetical and approximate character of dating made with use of the C14 method is emphasised, as caused by some of the old wooden elements having possibly been reused with later-dated buildings, and by the fact that the grain of the wood absorbs organic material for up to a dozen-or-so years, and hence, various segments of the same trunk may vary in dating. Resulting from sophistication of the C14 method as well

as new historical monuments being found, the image of the Christianisation portrayed in this book may still be subject to modification. (JA)

Ryszard Chudzik, *Chrześcijańska architektura sakralna Rusi Halickiej i Wołyńskiej (do końca panowania Daniela Romanowicza)* [Christian sacred architecture in the Halych Ruthenia and Volhynian Ruthenia (until the end of Daniel Romanovych's rule)], Rzeszów, 2014, Wydawnictwo MITEL, 283 pp., 179 ills., 3 maps, English and Russian sum.

The book considers religious buildings, or sacral sites, of the region, from the appearance of first such edifices until 1264. In total, twenty-three brick monuments, sixteen wooden, and ten mentioned in written sources only, are known to us (a breakdown of these monuments is on pp. 23–135). As emphasised by the author, the appearance in Ruthenia of numerous political centres, resulting from the split of the Kievan state into independent duchies, fostered the dissemination and diversity of church architecture, particularly, brick buildings. The part of Ruthenia under discussion offers an example of such diversity: whereas Byzantine (Kievan) patterns were merely reproduced in Volhynia, the Halych Land showed influences of Romanesque architecture, probably from Hungary, Poland, and, perhaps, Bohemia, displayed in the materials and techniques used, as well as in architectural details. Gothic-style bricks spread across the region in the thirteenth century. The relics of wooden Orthodox churches, often imitating brick buildings whilst resembling residential and utility buildings as far as their construction techniques go, form a separate group of historical monuments. Although rather concisely, the course of the warfare and the specificity and, importantly, the differences between the opponents, has been shown in a proper manner. Elements of martial arts taken over by Poles and Lithuanians from such opponents, or coming as their response to individual enemies, are shown as well. (JA)

Michał Chlipała, *Wojskowość Królestwa Armenii cylicyjskiej w czasach wypraw krzyżowych* [The military system of the Kingdom of Cilician Armenia in the Crusades period], Zabrze and Tarnowskie Góry, 2013, Wydawnictwo Infortedititions, 128 pp., 21 ills., 1 map; series: Szlakiem krucjat, 3

The book is the first Polish scholarly monograph of the military history of the Kingdom of Armenia Minor, 1199–1375. The organisation of the army (against the background of the country's social structure), its numerical force,

armament, and the history of the wars it waged are discussed. Emphasis is put on the significance of the military factor in the history of Armenia Minor as a country that was forced to defend itself against the expanding Muslims, and struggled from time to time against the Crusaders' countries and knightly orders. The organisation of its army was typical to feudal societies, as it was composed of a cavalry recruited from landowners (together with their fellowships) and an infantry that was formed of lower social strata. The field forces were complemented by city garrisons consisting, mainly, of local burghers. Apart from the country's own people, 'Franks' – mainly Normans and Frenchmen – were taken advantage of as mercenaries. Using the reference literature, the author has estimated the army's size at approx. 20,000 (against the country's population of around one million); it is possible that this number was exceeded in moments of special mobilisation. In terms of outward appearance and armament, the Cilician army was no different from its Byzantine counterpart until the early thirteenth century; later on, it began gradually assimilating to the Western models. In his discussion of the military history of Armenia Minor, the author presents the Crusaders' concept of making use of the Kingdom as a base camp for an expedition which was meant to liberate the Holy Land. The concept, never delivered, was proposed in the late thirteenth century, its advocates being Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, and Pope John XXII, among others. (JA)

Marek Plewczyński, *Wojny Jagiellonów z wschodnimi i południowymi sąsiadami Królestwa Polskiego w XV wieku* [The Jagiellon rulers' wars with the fifteenth-century eastern and southern neighbours of the Kingdom of Poland], Oświęcim, 2014, Wydawnictwo Napoleon V, 282 pp., ills., maps, indexes

The book deals with the wars waged by Poland and Lithuania with the Bohemian Hussites, Hungary, Moldavia, Turkey, Crimean and Volga Tatars, Moscow, and the rebellion of Śvitrigaila (Świdrygiełło). Discussed is the course of each of these conflicts, and emphasised the differences in the methods of waging the struggle by the opponents of the Jagiellons. This differentiation was the reason for the development, later on, of specific Polish-Lithuanian martial arts that combined elements of Western and Oriental military system. Among the major advantages of this military art, the author identifies the skill of manoeuvring actions on the level of defensive strategy and cavalry warfare tactics. He does not think as high of the aggressive warfare strategy, infantry warfare tactics, or neglected castles and ramparts. A point is made about a relatively slow mobilisation and concentration of the armed forces.

In spite of its deficiencies, the military skills of the Polish and Lithuanian forces proved sufficient for strengthening of the power of the Jagiellons. The warfare methods developed at the time considerably informed the military systems of the two states in the early modern period. (JA)

EARLY MODERN TIMES

Dariusz Kuźmina, *Wazowie a Kościół w Rzeczypospolitej* [The Vasa monarchs and the Church in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth], Warszawa, 2013, Oficyna Wydawnicza Aspra-JR, Instytut Informacji i Studiów Bibliologicznych, Wydział Historyczny, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 315 pp., ill., bibliog., index

The Vasa age and the religious relations in the Commonwealth at that time continue to enjoy unabated interest among historians; thus, one might presume that these topics have already been covered in vast amounts of detail. Dariusz Kuźmina has all the same decided to show the mutual relations between the monarchs of the Vasa house and the Catholic Church. His study is primarily based on the reference literature, also using the scarce sources, the author having limited himself to printed ones. Hence, rather than offering new findings, the study is a compilation of the literature on the subject. Its drawback is that strictly scholarly literature has been put on equal footing with studies whose function is, rather, popular. The reader gets an overwhelming impression that this monograph has been tailored to a thesis, with the argument not being based on an adequate source material.

The study consists of five chapters, the first being an introductory section where the figures of the consecutive Vasa-house monarchs are portrayed. Special attention is paid to the religious education of the Commonwealth rulers and their contacts with exponents of the Catholic Church. The following chapter outlines the biographies of preachers, bishops, and primates associated with the royal Vasa courts. Next, the role of the clergymen in the country's political life is discussed, with a focus on their activities during the free elections and influences on the Vasa rulers' policies. The denominational policies of the Vasa rulers are described in chapter four. The following section focuses on the kings' attitude to Catholic orders.

D. Kuźmina poses a number of daring hypotheses and tries to overthrow certain known theses; however, such attempts at polemicising, when unsupported with source-based arguments, seem merely to show the author's own views, and hence ought to be approached with extreme cautiousness. (MC)

Anna Michałowska-Mycielska, *Sejm Żydów litewskich (1623–1764)* [The Diet of Lithuanian Jews, 1623–1764], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo DiG, 325 pp., appendix, English sum.

The history of the Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is a topic intensely researched by Polish, Israeli, and American historians. In spite of considerable interest, there is a wealth of subjects still remaining unelaborated; the history of the Wa'ad Medinat Lita, the Diet, or parliament, of the Lithuanian Jewry, has been a case in point. The monograph by Anna Michałowska-Mycielska offers the first comprehensive presentation of the activities of this body. Active between 1623 and 1764, the Wa'ad was the top-ranked authority in the Jewish self-government, acting as a central representation of Lithuanian Jewish community; its significance for the functioning of Jews in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was crucial. Fundamental for this monograph, in terms of sources, is the Hebrew *pinkas* (book of minutes) of the Wa'ad, which – let us emphasise – is one of the scarce extant Jewish sources related to higher authorities of the autonomy. The Lithuanian Metrics (*Metryka*), Lithuanian Tribunal and Treasury Tribunal files have been used as an auxiliary material.

The book has nine chapters, discussing, respectively: the circumstances of the emergence of the Wa'ad, the Diet's organisation, legislation, finance, judicial activities (the Wa'ad tribunal), as well as contacts with third-party institutions and individuals (non-Jewish institutions and officials, the Crown Wa'ad, Karaites), and, the circumstances of the institution's dissolution. The author's conscientious and professional analysis of the minutes' records has enabled her to present the organisation of the Wa'ad in detail, the roles of its individual functionaries and officials. The argument on contacts with Christians proves to be very interesting as the institution in question apparently managed to work out efficient procedures whose central aim was to protect the community. Emphasis is placed on the specificity of the Grand Duchy, and the author proposes an interesting hypothesis whereby the Lithuanian Wa'ad was less susceptible to the influence of nobility-related political culture compared to its Crown counterpart. A. Michałowska-Mycielska has moreover successfully subverted certain statements made by Israeli historiographers (such as Israel Halpern's argument on a sixteenth-century background behind the Wa'ad).

The monograph in question excellently complements the studies concerning the history of the Commonwealth's Jewry, and is of special interest to historians dealing with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as it describes, in quite a straightforward manner, the history of an institution that, with its significant role in the Duchy's political system, has not been known to our contemporary researchers, owing to the language barrier. (MC)

Katarzyna Losson, *Komu miła całość Ojczyzny. Świadomość i aspiracje polityczne kancelistów kozackich (1670–1720)* [‘Whoever cherishes the Homeland’s entirety.’ The awareness and political aspirations of Cossack clerks], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 228 pp., ill., bibliog., index, appendices, English, Ukrainian, and Russian sum.

For the sole sake of the subject-matter dealt with, this book is innovatory in Polish historiography. To date, historians have rarely researched into the history of early modern left-bank Ukraine. Katarzyna Losson has set as a goal for herself to describe the awareness and aspirations of the Cossack Hetmanate’s political and cultural elite between 1670 and 1720. The analysis have spun around the so-called *letopises* – pieces written by Cossack clerks Grygoriï Grab’yanka, Samiïlo Velychko, and treatises by Pylyp Orlyk. The chronological framework, the years 1670–1720, is determined by the dates the prints were published.

The study is composed of three basic chapters discussing the issues related to the state’s historical legitimisation, political system (with a detailed description of the notions of equality and liberty), and the Cossack elite’s attitude to the Orthodox religion and Islam. The extensive source appendices (five in total, running fifty pages), offering Polish translations of fragments of analysed *letopises*, complete the proposed analysis. In the introduction, the author very concisely and clearly outlines the historical background of the events to be portrayed. She demonstrates that a separate identity of a political nation developed among the Cossack elite, which, however, is nowise tantamount to the existence of a Ukrainian nation. Very interesting is the argument on the association between the Cossack and Polish political thought, as is argued, in spite of certain obvious influences and borrowings, the impact of Polish political thought on the Ukrainian elite was rather superficial at the time.

The issues subject to discussion are analysed very critically; the author resolutely poses research questions, even though the source material provides no ready-to-use answer. Appreciation is moreover deserved because of an extremely critical and skilful use of the reference literature, which, due to its topics, frequently tends to be burdened by the stigma of our contemporary political occurrences and ideologies. Katarzyna Losson’s study is a fascinating piece of reading also for those historians who do not deal with the history of things Cossack on a daily basis. The source appendices add up to the book’s value. (MC)

Grzegorz M. Kowalski, *Zwyczaj i prawo zwyczajowe w doktrynie prawa i praktyce sądów miejskich karnych w Polsce (XVI–XVIII w.)* [The custom and the customary law in the legal doctrine and praxis of municipal criminal courts in sixteenth- to eighteenth-century Poland], Kraków, 2013, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 201 pp., bibliog., index

The monograph by Grzegorz M. Kowalski is an attempt at defining custom and its role in the municipal law between the mid-sixteenth and the late eighteenth century. The study is composed of two main parts, of which the first, primarily based on analysis of the studies by Bartłomiej Groicki and Paweł Szczerbic, is more theoretical, seeking to define the notions of custom and customary law. The author's choice of these treatises as the source base stems from his correct assumption that the municipal law applied in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth differed from the municipal law used at that time in Western Europe. In the second part, whose source base is the so-called (published) books of malefactors, the author's intention was to show the functioning of the judicature in practice. A detailed analysis of theoretical treatises has enabled G.M. Kowalski to word a definition of custom in the municipal law. As he points out, custom was a formalised practice direction applied within a defined territory or social group. In order for a custom to become the local common law, it had to satisfy a few basic criteria, such as having been several times in use and proving compliant with the written law. The arguments whereby the local custom was the basis at the commencement and conclusion of court proceedings, with use of evidence measures such as torture or oath, are interesting indeed. The second section is somewhat different as it analyses the instances of application of custom in the praxis of the courts. Kowalski finds that customary law was decisive both in the course of the proceedings and when it came to inflicting penalties. A high legal culture of the Commonwealth's courts-of-law is emphasised.

Grzegorz M. Kowalski's monograph is of interest, in particular, to historians researching the history of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The proposed detailed analysis of the source texts, which are often used by historians, is interesting in that it points to certain new research prospects. The basis for the argument being limited to printed court materials is, however, a drawback. And, one should also reflect on whether the arguments proposed in this book really refer to the Commonwealth in its entirety (which is referred to as 'Poland' in this monograph – a modern and rather awkward name), or rather, the Lesser Poland alone, the area where the sources analysed by the author originate in. (MC)

Adam Moniuszko, *Mazowieckie sądy ziemskie (1588–1648). Organizacja – funkcjonowanie – postępowanie* [The Masovian noble land courts, 1588–1648: Structure – functioning – procedures], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Campidoglio, 364 pp., bibliog., indexes, appendices

The history of Old-Polish judicature does not rank among subject-matters that are willingly elaborated by historians; most of the major studies in this field were written in the early twentieth century. The functioning of the noble land judiciary has been poorly recognised until quite recently. Adam Moniuszko's most recent book has filled in this gap, in an excellent manner. The author's main intention was to show how the noble land court functioned and how disputable cases were considered by it. The research has extended to the whole of Masovia, whereas, let us remark, the source material has survived unevenly across the territory, the north-western lands being the best documented area. The chronology encompasses the reign of the Vasa-house kings Sigismund III and Ladislaus IV. The argument is based on normative sources, law literature, as well as records of land courts – and it is the juxtaposition and comparison of the legal norms against the praxis that forms the study's greatest value. There are many open-ended questions posed; A. Moniuszko shows the need to pursue further, intensified research in a number of areas, which seems to make this study even more valuable.

The book consists of three chapters; the first analyses the organisation and functioning of the land courts. A detailed analysis of records of courts has enabled to refute the hypothesis whereby the judicial system suffered a crisis in as early as the former half of the seventeenth century. It has been ascertained that in the entire period under analysis, these courts convened twice in a year, at the utmost. Extremely interesting are the considerations on the land courts' cast of members. A. Moniuszko presents their career advancement potential, term of office, and how they combined their work at the courts with political activities. The section in question is not a detailed prosopographic study; yet, the author confidently poses research questions and problems, thus indicating the possible directions of further inquiries. The considerations in this chapter are founded upon an immensely valuable list of judges of the Masovian noble land courts (quoted in an appendix). The last section analyses the proceedings before the land courts; as the author demonstrates, these courts primarily settled a variety of civil cases. (MC)

Urszula Kicińska, *Wzorzec szlachcianki w polskich drukowanych oracjach pogrzebowych XVII wieku* [The model of noblewoman in Polish seventeenth-century printed funeral orations], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo DiG, 404 pp.; English and French sum.

The author's central purpose was to describe a baroque model of woman, on the basis of funeral orations used as the source. While the research on the role of women in Old-Polish society has been pretty popular for some time now, scholars have made a minimal use of the funeral literature in this area, U. Kicińska observes. She accordingly has intended to fill in this gap, using the orations written for the funerals or death anniversaries of a total of eighty-seven women as the source base. All these orations date to the seventeenth century; the query has been carried out through the resources of the main Polish libraries. The assembly of such originally dispersed source material is an unquestionable value of this study. The description 'noblewoman' (*szlachcianka*) used by the author is somewhat misleading, as the characters featured include daughters and wives of the most eminent magnates (members of Radziwiłł or Sapieha houses), along with noblewomen of whom not much is known. Although Kicińska has declared her intent to narrow down the scope of her research to Catholic sermons, she has provided references to Protestant orations as well.

There are three chapters, the first showing funeral sermons and orations as an element of the funeral ceremonial, and analysing the attitude toward death and sermons as a specific type of source. In this section, the author confirms the statements known from earlier research, confronting them with quotations from funeral orations. The following section, which is based entirely on the reference literature, portrays the position of woman in the family as well as in the noble society. The third chapter, discussing the model of woman emerging from the funeral orations, appears to be the most interesting. This section analyses the amassed source material in detail. Otherwise, the book is quite verbose, the detailed introductions to the subject matters to be dealt with seeming irrelevant; in many of these cases, it would arguably have sufficed to refer the reader to the relevant literature. On the other hand, the abundant quotations from hitherto-unknown source materials seem to be of central value in this study. (MC)

Emil Kalinowski, *Ród Kalinowskich herbu Ślepowron w XVII wieku* [The seventeenth-century history of the house of Kalinowski, of the *Ślepowron* coat-of-arms], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 302 pp., ill., index of personal names, English sum.

Although petty-nobility families formed the largest group among the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's nobility, they have rarely been an object of interest to historians. Hence, the research undertaken by Emil Kalinowski on the family of Kalinowski, of the *Ślepowron* coat-of-arms, deserves a mention. The objective was to show one of the petty-nobility families of Podlasie, and to draw the reader's attention, through a case study, to certain permanent mechanisms governing the life of the nobility of yore. With an extensive underlying source base, the study analyses the town records of Brańsk, tax registers, and armorials, as an auxiliary source. The study's style is eloquent and zestful: the spinning tale of individual members of the family makes it a really interesting piece of reading. However, the publication is not merely a family story; it proposes some interesting hypotheses too.

There are three main parts: the first shows the history of the family, its individual representatives, and describes the history of Kalinowo, the family's residence. Historians would find the second section more interesting, as it analyses, in a more synthetic fashion, the living conditions of Kalinowski family members; particularly valuable seem the breakdowns concerning the number of homesteads in Kalinowo estate, or those made with respect to the property-related stratification of the family's representatives. Also discussed in this section are the issues related to daily life (attire, diet), religiosity, and the functioning of the family's representatives within the Commonwealth authorities, or their contacts with the neighbour families. The third part is purely genealogical: the author has compiled genealogical tables of individual representatives of the family, and renders the reader better acquainted with the most eminent figures. Although the study under review has not put forward many new propositions or arguments, and merely seems to confirm the regularities observed in the earlier research, it is a valuable monograph. Of importance is the fact that the author has focused on the life of the Commonwealth's petty nobility; his findings can become the basis for further research and comparisons. (MC)

Pamiętniki króla Stanisława Augusta. Antologia [The Memoirs of King Stanislaus Augustus. An anthology], sel. Dominique Triaire, trans. Wawrzyniec Brzozowski, introd. Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz, ed. Marek Dębowski, Warszawa, 2013, Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie w Warszawie, 573 pp., ill.

Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski does not call for introduction. The last of the kings of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is one of those historical figures who have for years now been attracting interest of the researchers. Nonetheless, the King's memoirs were first printed and published, in their French original, only in 2012; also very recently has this historical source been published in Polish. Stanislaus Augustus began writing his memoirs in 1771, and subsequently made his memoiristic notes and edited them till his death (his reminiscences end with the year 1778). These memoirs are comprised of the King's recollections, detailed records of talks with politicians, excerpts from political correspondence, and political documents. In analysing this particular source, it has to be borne in mind that it was conceived and made with quite a specific purpose: aware of his failure, the King wanted to leave his testimony to the posterity. The memoirs reflect their author's views, opinions, and visions. Historians keen on political history may find these memoirs not quite interesting. Research on the downhill years of the Commonwealth, advanced as it presently is, has resulted in discovery and dissemination of a considerable number of sources, in the light of which the memoirs of the last Polish king appear not to have much new to offer. Still, attention should be paid to the abundance of details concerning the daily life, customs and morals, and the culture of Europe in the Enlightenment age. Particularly interesting are the descriptions of the characters King Stanislaus Augustus encountered.

The edition under review, compiled by Marek Dębowski, offers a Polish translation of large fragments of the memoirs of the last king of the Commonwealth. The text has been selected by Dominique Triaire, the editor of the French original. The Polish edition omits certain portions of the original work – above all, extensive quotations of the letters and political writings. The source text edition is preceded by an introduction by Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz, outlining the monarch's profile. The editors' intent has been to target a broader reading public, not limited to professionals researching into the period referred to in the Commonwealth's history as 'Stanisлавian'; hence, the biographical notes and factual footnotes included, which otherwise may seem too simple or basic to professional historians. Such elements do not depreciate the edition's significance and value, though. An evident shortcoming, for a change, is the language of the translation. Wawrzyniec Brzozowski, the translator, has resolved to use a language adapted to the eighteenth-century style; the inversions and sophisticated, though not always quite apt expressions of phrases applied render the reading somewhat impeded. (MC)

NINETEENTH CENTURY (PARTITION PERIOD)

Arkadiusz Janicki, *Kurlandia w latach 1795–1915. Z dziejów guberni i jej polskiej mniejszości* [Courland in 1795 to 1915. Aspects of the history of the Courland *Guberniya* and its Polish minority], Gdańsk, 2012, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 1027 pp., bibliog., index of personal names, 28 appendices, German and English sum.

The Duchy of Courland (which is south-western Latvia today) was for 234 years of its history connected with the Commonwealth of the Two Nations as a fiefdom of the kings of Poland. With the last partition of the Commonwealth, 1795, it became part of the Russian Empire and remained within it, as the second-to-last smallest *guberniya*, until the German occupation of 1915. This provincial corner of the Empire was additionally marginalised as the railroad network was extended in the second half of the nineteenth century. By the century's end it became – owing mostly to the Libava port – one of the main routes of Russian maritime trade, and an important spot on the route of transatlantic emigration from the Empire. Polish historians have so far not devoted too much attention to the region's history under the partition, focusing instead on so-called Polish Livonia – the south-eastern part of what today is Latvia, populated by an influential Polish minority. Arkadiusz Janicki's book is the first comprehensive and, moreover, extremely thorough, Polish-language elaboration of the region's history in that period.

Apart from the existing Latvian, German, and Russian studies, the author makes references to Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, German, and Russian archival sources, memoirs, guides, printed statistical sources, the press, letters, and photographs. Aside from an elaborate outline of the *guberniya's* history, the book offers a detailed insight in the history of the rather small but significant Polish minority in the region, composed primarily of well-off landowner families, of German, Lithuanian, or Ruthenian descent, Polonised in the seventeenth to nineteenth century. The histories of the most influential of these families are discussed with an impressive solicitude. The author moreover emphasises the substantial part the Polish and German landed gentry played at the onset of the Latvian national movement – despite themselves, as it were, not realising the far-reaching effects of what in principle was an anti-Russian policy.

The book's arrangement is problem-oriented and chronological. The first chapter discusses the *guberniya's* political history, emphasising the most 'disturbed' moments in the history of an agricultural region that was, as a general rule, situated aside of the great occurrences; these historical moments are the Napoleonic occupation of 1812, the Russification action

under Tsar Alexander III, and, the 1905–7 Revolution. Interesting is the fact that Courland was gradually entering into the orbit of ‘great politics’ and, simply put, of Petersburg’s political interference in the course of the nineteenth century. Particularly interesting is the *guberniya*’s non-Russian character, which initially was perceived by the tsardom as an almost neutral factor, but grew increasingly troublesome with time (for both the authorities and the local population). The second chapter describes the administrative and legal situation, and local government institutions. Chapter three draws a statistical and demographic portrait of Courland, imaging the dynamics of demographic changes, as well as the birth of the Latvian movement, social organisations, the denominational issues (in particular, the situation of the Catholic Church, with Poles gathering around it). Chapter four discusses the economic situation, industrialisation, the development of commerce, and, cultural and educational institutions. Chapter five is on the situation of Polish minority in Courland, reconstructing its numerical force, the locations of the main hubs; discussed are the histories of the major landowner families, local careers, and governmental careers in Petersburg. The book is complemented by twenty-eight impressively detailed appendices, where the Polish, German and Russian terms are mutually compared, a complete list of nobles is provided, along with demographical data and land proprietorship data, Polish estates coming to the fore. (AK)

Mikołaj Getka-Kenig, *Ojcowie ‘wskrzeszonej’ ojczyzny. Senat w rzeczywistości społeczno-politycznej Księstwa Warszawskiego* [The fathers of the ‘resurgent’ Homeland: The Senate in the social and political realities of the Duchy of Warsaw], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 228 pp., bibliog., index of personal names, English sum.

The Duchy of Warsaw (1807–15) was one of the satellite countries to the First French Empire. In the consciousness of its inhabitants and of the following generations of the Poles, the Duchy marked the first stage of continued Polish statehood, which undermined the arrangements for the Third Partition of the Commonwealth of 1795. Combining the independence tradition with the Napoleonic legend, the Duchy of Warsaw has enjoyed unfading interest among Polish historians, not least as a political formation that fused the indigenous models and the solutions superimposed by Napoleon, the author of the Duchy’s Constitution. Mikołaj Getka-Kenig’s book is focused precisely on this aspect of the Duchy’s functioning, taking its Senate as a case study object. The institution that was rooted in both constitutional models: the Imperial French one, and that of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Yet,

the study under review exceeds the confines of history of legislation and political systems as it extensively analyses the social facet of the Senate: its members, their worldviews, symbolical status, and real political influence.

In the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the senators were members of the country's top-rank social and political elite; the Polish nobility perceived the post of senator as competing with, or indeed surpassing the aversion-arousing aristocratic titles. The authority of the Senate was clearly abated in the last years before the partitions: in the Great *Sejm* period, 1788–92, it was outshined by the *sejm* – the parliament's lower house. Senate enjoyed high prestige in Napoleonic France as well: the body theoretically supervised the legality of resolutions adopted by the lower house, and in the Consulate period it formally nominated the consuls and a number of senior officials, and even proclaimed the appointment of the Emperor (based on the 1804 plebiscite). But in fact, the French Senate's political importance was illusory, and in reality it boiled down to authorising the decisions made by the First Consul and, afterwards, the Emperor; and such was the role afforded to this body by Napoleon in the countries subordinate to France (Spain, the Kingdom of Italy). M. Getka-Kenig's book analyses in detail the collision of these two models in the functioning of the Duchy of Warsaw's Senate. The emphasis is placed on the status of the senators: formally equal to that of the ministers (which gave them, among other things, the right to demand personal audience with the monarch, or the right to be judged by him), they actually held no real power. The author stresses that owing to this, the Senate outlived the Duchy, as a matter of fact, and was afterwards made part of the Kingdom of Poland instituted in 1815 and related to the Russian Empire – as a body which enjoyed prestige whilst remaining unentangled in politics directly.

The study places special emphasis on the senators' individual prestige, which is shown through the prism of the process of co-opting new members and their formal status as compared to the other officials and the ancestral aristocracy (the so-called precedence question, debated in those years and evolving in time). This problem serves the author as the point of departure for original considerations on hierarchies of political and civic values, and moral and patriotic merits, which in the perception of the contemporary public a senator ought to have had to his credit – being a sanctioned member of the elite of a country that endeavoured to combine the Polish tradition and the Napoleonic designs. The book uses a rich material from the archives of the Duchy's Council of State and Council of Ministers, political commentaries and correspondence; in particular, the surviving documents left by the pretty influential senators Stanisław Kostka Zamoyski and Stanisław Kostka Potocki. (AK)

Paweł Samuś, *Wasza kartka wyborcza jest silniejsza niż karabin, niż armata... Z dziejów kultury politycznej na ziemiach polskich pod zaborami* [‘Your ballot is more powerful than a rifle or canon’: Aspects of political culture in the Polish territory under partition], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 369 pp., bibliog., index of personal names

This book attempts at a synthetic description of the more or less ‘democratic’, or legal, political activities of the population of the Kingdom of Poland, Galicia, and Grand Duchy of Poznań in the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These forms of political activity, connected with massification of politics, emergence of modern political parties, and extended electoral system, have doubtlessly not been described in an exhausting and synthetic fashion by Polish historians. Instead, they remained kept in the background, against the paradigm of struggle for the country’s independence and the related conspiratorial and diplomatic activities. There is, however, a significant number of monographs on the topic, including synthetic takes of the history of mass-scale political movements in Polish lands: the socialists, peasant party activists, or National Democrats. P. Samuś has made a profuse use of these studies, focusing, for the most part, on the formations or factions seeking support among the fast-forming working class that was growing in numbers due to the industrialisation and urbanisation. Unfortunately, the book does not extensively refer to sources unknown to the literature, nor does it propose an original reinterpretation of the arguments or propositions functioning in the historiography. As a matter of fact, a significant portion of the studies it refers to date back to the People’s Republic period: at that time, studies on the history of industrial proletariat were intensely carried out on political order but were also burdened with the related ideological baggage. The author’s innovative approach is, virtually, reduced to cutting this baggage out of the narrative and replacing it by a paradigm of ‘democratisation’ of Polish society in the period being described, approached in today’s terms.

The book offers a review of political activities of the basic mass (or, aspiring as such) political movements and organisations referring to workers, such as the Polish Socialist Party, the Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland, the Jewish Bund, the Silesian-Poznań branch of the SPD, the National League and the National Democracy, the Christian Populist Party, trade unions, and other, ephemeral political organisations. The initial chapters discuss the political demonstrations related to the national anniversaries, the First of May, or funerals, monument unveiling ceremonies, and the like. Chapter 4 focuses on the Revolution of 1905–7. The subsequent sections discuss the organisation and course of general strikes, as well as the strategies

and activities related to the elections for the Reichstag (in Poznań Province and Silesia), the Diet of the Land and the Council of State (Galicia) and the State Duma (Kingdom of Poland).

The book's style is vivid and approachable, and so the study can be an attractive introduction to the topic for the not-quite-well-versed reader. Yet, it would not be named a new quality contributed in the historiography. The author does not penetrate any of the disputable interpretative questions with insight. He combines the nineteenth-century patriotism with an apology of the labour movement, following the People's Republic-period literature, adding up civil democratic values in the twenty-first century way. This leads to a facilitated categorisation into those 'evil' and 'good' ones, in the spirit of optimistic presentism and didacticism. He credulously seeks for the 'good' ones among activists of all persuasions who mobilised the workers for political activity. This leads him to rather peculiar conclusions concerning the political life of the Second Republic, under regained independence: "In the public life of the time some severe perturbations, contradictory to the democratic ideas and values, did appear ... with contributions from representatives of workers' milieus, which attested to a substantial deficit in their preparedness for civic life. The parties and other formations made efforts to counteract these adverse phenomena" (AK)

Rafał Łysoń, 'Wieżnie proszący, nigdy nie wysłuchani...' *Polskie ugrupowania ugodowe w Wielkim Księstwie Poznańskim w latach 1894–1918* ['Endless requesting, never getting heard': Polish conciliatory formations in Grand Duchy of Poznań, 1894–1918], Warszawa, 2013, Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 314 pp., bibliog., index of personal names, German and English sum.

Predominant in the political history of the Prussian Partition in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the years preceding WWI was a conflict between the German administration, which identified the Polish population as an element disloyal toward the State, and those Polish organisations that actively opposed the Germanisation campaign. The view has been adopted among Polish historians whereby at the beginning of the twentieth century, the National Democracy grew to become the central or, as a matter of fact, the only mouthpiece of the national aspirations of the Polish people (save for the Catholic Church). Rafał Łysoń has entered a polemic against this view, pointing to the activity of the conciliatory milieu that sought agreement with the Berlin-based government and was strongly anchored in, and backed by,

the landowning milieu of the Province of Poznań (*Provinz Posen*). The book is the second attempt in Polish historiography to analyse and describe this particular circle, the first one being Lech Trzeciakowski's 1960 monograph *Polityka polskich klas posiadających w erze Caprivięgo 1890–1894* [The Policies of the Polish Upper Classes under the Caprivi Government 1890–4]. R. Łysoń resumes the thread at the point Trzeciakowski severed it: the moment Chancellor von Caprivi, the only head of the Reich's government who was inclined to seek conciliation with the Polish elite, resigns.

The crucial difficulty Łysoń faces is that the 'formation' he has undertaken to describe had no structure, leader, or specified programme whatsoever. It was, basically, a group of people who were active in the political life of the Province, sharing similar views, opinions and interests, and maintained stricter or looser relations with one another. They held the upper hand in the Reichstag's Polish Circle when Caprivi was in office; in 1897 turned into opposition (not boycotting the parliamentary actions, as was the case under Bismarck), and afterwards lost their majority in the Circle after the 1903 election, giving way to more radically oriented deputies. Their disposition for compromising with the government stemmed, to an extent, from their conservative worldview which was based on their landed-gentry background: they perceived themselves as loyal subjects of the monarchy, the monarchy itself being their natural ally. An ideal 'conciliation', as mentioned in the title, would have been one resembling the arrangement of 1868 between Emperor Francis Joseph and Galicia's political elite; however, Poznań landowners realised, for the most part, that such an ideal solution was unattainable. Hence their inclination to confine themselves to a more modest ideal: they offered their cooperation and loyalty to the government, in exchange for abolishment of the most severe anti-Polish laws and for limitation of the Germanisation action in the Province. R. Łysoń has reconstructed this never-written-down programme based on the press, archival materials, and memoirs. He moreover presents the activities and biographies of the 'formation's' main actors, the activity of the Civic Casino, a peer-group institution associating the adherents of 'conciliation'. Finally, the only moment is shown when the book's characters gained some influence on the government's policy: during WWI some of them became members of the authorities of the Kingdom of Poland, then occupied by Germany; also, a National Work Party was set up, in 1916, the only formal organisation consisting of the advocates of conciliation. (AK)

Alicja Kulecka (ed.), *Dziedzictwo Powstania Styczniowego. Pamięć – historiografia – myśl polityczna* [The heritage of the January Uprising. Memory – historiography – political thought], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 344 pp., indexes, ill., English sum.

The inspiration for this collection of studies on topics connected with the history of the 1863–4 Insurrection, and its reception in the historical and popular culture, has come from the 150th anniversary of its outbreak. With dozens of meticulous studies and several thorough synthetic elaborations on the January Uprising produced by Polish historians, the editor of this volume has successfully assembled texts touching upon certain hitherto-unresearched, or plainly new, questions. These twenty-one essays encompass an extremely diverse range of issues: from the Uprising's military history, the vicissitudes of individual insurgents, original accounts of the witnesses, through to literary, cinematic and television resonances. The essays are grouped into five, rather loosely arranged, chapters; the first heralds 'politics and memory' and comprises texts on topics as diverse as physicians participating in the combats, the Insurrection veterans in the restored Poland, after 1918, the memory of the struggles in Poznań region and in the area of Konin, and the celebrations of the 100th anniversary in the People's Republic of Poland. The second chapter collects accounts from the area of Piotrków Trybunalski, reports of St Felix Order nuns, and the vicissitudes of Narcyz Wojciechowski, an insurgent and Siberian deportee. The next chapter describes the struggles led by two commanders. Chapter 4 deals with historiographic grasps of the Uprising by the Lvov researcher Bertold Merwin and the Russian historian Mikhail P. Chernushevich. The last chapter shows the reverberations of the Uprising, in the context of its 50th anniversary, in the literary prose works of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski and Tadeusz Konwicki, the films of Juliusz Machulski, and the broadcasts of Polish public television. (AK)

Mariola Hoszowska (ed.), *Szymon Askenazy i jego korespondencja z Ludwikiem Finklem* [Szymon Askenazy and his correspondence with Ludwik Finkel], Rzeszów, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 387 pp., ill., index, appendices

This book is, virtually, a two-in-one offer. The opening section (entitled 'Between Lvov and Warsaw. Szymon Askenazy's intricate vicissitudes and affairs') offers the reader, in fact, the most complete, comprehensively and painstakingly documented, biography of the historian. The second section presents Askenazy's (1865–1935) ninety-three letters exchanged between

1897 and 1926 with Ludwik Finkel (1858–1930), an outstanding historian from Lvov, and a friend of Szymon's. In those years, Askenazy never lost his unique gift of attracting the public's attention to himself and the coextensive skill of sensing the historical prosperity, and of naming it properly. The letters reflect everything we know of this man: his character – exuberant, though rather hard-to-cope-with; his indomitable ambitions; and, above all, a fascinating personality of an eminent historian, attentive observer, and talented author displaying all the makings of a thoroughbred diplomat. Professor Mariola Hoszowska, a historian affiliated with the University of Rzeszów, the volume's editor, is quite right in saying that interest in this correspondence should be taken not only by historians of historiography. It offers, in the first place, an important document of the history of the Polish intelligentsia in the late nineteenth and the former half of the twentieth century. Two annexes are attached, referring to interesting archival material and a selection of pieces of reminiscent journalism, including a few specimens of National-Democratic libels mocking the historian. (GK)

Wiesław Puś, *Statystyka przemysłu Królestwa Polskiego w latach 1879–1913. Materiały źródłowe* [The statistics of the industries of the Kingdom of Poland as for 1879 to 1913. Source materials], Łódź, 2013, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 260 pp., bibliog.

Wiesław Puś has been dealing with the history of industrialisation in the Kingdom of Poland for several dozen years, focusing on the most intensive developments that took place between the 1870s and WWI. Apart from an impetuous increase in the output, upgraded methods of production, and concentration in the three main hubs (Warsaw, Lodz, and the Coal Basin), characteristic of the period was the production's slant toward exports to Russia, which was facilitated by the 1877 reduction in the customs duties. This author's major works on this topic include *Przemysł Królestwa Polskiego w latach 1870–1914* (1984) and *Rozwój przemysłu Królestwa Polskiego* (1997), both on the industrial developments in the Kingdom of Poland. The materials contained in the book under review have already been partly used, by the author himself and by other researchers in the area. This comprehensive edition has probably been meant to facilitate the efforts of future historians. As W. Puś stresses, this is the most extensive collection of statistical data concerning industrial establishments or plants in the Kingdom's territory, compiled based upon the period's published sources, and never before used in its entirety. The said sources include: lists of industrial establishments dated 1879, 1884, 1893, and 1900, published by P.A. Orlov and V.E. Varzar

(Petersburg, 1881, 1887, 1895, 1903, resp.) and address books from 1903 and 1913, edited by L. Jeziorański, A.R. Sroka, and D.P. Kaudanov (Warsaw, 1903, 1914; Petrograd, 1914). The book consists of three parts, containing a total of 321 tables, all discussed and interpreted. The first chapter shows tables picturing the number of establishments, value of the output, numbers of workers, capacity of power-engineering facilities, as well as evolutions of the structure and profile of production across the Kingdom. Chapter two discusses spatial changes and detailed data concerning the main centres: Lodz, Warsaw, Sosnowiec/Częstochowa, and the so-called Old-Polish (i.e. Świętokrzyskie) hub. Chapter three provides analogous data for smaller hubs. A classification of industrial establishments into seven categories, by the number employed, proposed by a Russian factory inspection of the 1890s, has been followed. In total, the data concern 17,521 establishments, in twelve categories, by profile of production. (AK)

Szczepan Kozak, *Kobieta na prowincji galicyjskiej w świetle akt notarialnych 1871–1914. Studium historyczno-źródłoznawcze* [Woman in the provinces of Galicia, in the light of notarial files, 1871–1914. A historical and source-science study], Rzeszów, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 255 pp., ill., tab., bibliog., index, appendices

The interest in social history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century has been resumed by Polish historiographers in the last few years – with scholarly centres from the south of Poland being in the lead, Cracow and Rzeszów first of all. The study by Szczepan Kozak, a young historian associated with the University of Rzeszów, concerns a selected aspect in this particular field. The social history of women in provincial areas of Galicia is a demanding topic, calling for extensive query and precise research questionnaire. Thus, the book is doubtlessly an ambitious undertaking. It is, primarily, a source-science study encompassing a few smaller urban hubs in West Galicia. Of the four chapters, the first is an introduction to archival research on the documentation material sourced from a notary's office; apart from registers-related material, notarial resources offer, probably, the most complete source for research in the private sphere. Chapters two and three deal with the position of woman in the life of provincial town, attempting at outlining the woman's social roles. At last, the fourth chapter discusses the place of woman in the economic life and capital turnovers. The author has skilfully used the period's local press and the memoiristic material. He has also made an abundant use of the demographic sources, charts and diagrams, figures, drawings and photographs from the period in question. A dozen-or-so annexes

are attached. Although the dissertation seems somewhat conservative at some moments, it will appeal not only to experts in the field concerned. (GK)

Waldemar Potkański, *Terroryzm na usługach ugrupowań lewicowych i anarchistycznych w Królestwie Polskim do 1914 roku* [Terrorism in the pay of Left and anarchist groupings in the Kingdom of Poland before 1914], Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo DiG, 568 pp., bibliog., index

A Szczecin University-based valued historian specialising in Polish political thought of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century, Waldemar Potkański, has now tackled an issue that has tended to be circumvented by historians: the position of terror in the political activities of leftist milieus, in the broad sense of the term. The study contains four sizeable chapters, each running above a hundred pages. The first offers a panorama of leftist groupings in Polish lands at the century's turn, with particular focus on the currents seeking to resort to violence in politics – that is, anarchists and a part of Polish Socialist Party. Chapter 2 broadly describes the Revolution of 1905; Chapter 3 discusses the terroristic methods used or advocated by the leftist groups. How these methods were perceived by the rightist public opinion as well as by the social sciences of the time is shown in the fourth chapter. The issue, interesting in itself, and the enormous query that has extended to archival documentation as well as the reference literature in several languages, regrettably cannot make up for the weaknesses ensuing from a mental mess: one finds the same threads reappearing and certain somewhat vague speculations. Having read this monograph, one still ponders what was, actually, the reason behind embarking on such a broad-based project, except for filling in a research gap. Nonetheless, with all these objections in mind, the book may serve as an interesting compendium of knowledge on the issues it discusses. (GK)

Agnieszka Puszkow-Bańka, *Polska i Polacy w myśli narodowej demokracji na przełomie XIX i XX wieku* (Jan Ludwik Popławski, Zygmunt Balicki, Roman Dmowski) [Poland and Poles in the National Democracy's concepts at the turn of the 20th century (Jan Ludwik Popławski, Zygmunt Balicki, Roman Dmowski)], Kraków, 2013, Akademia Ignatianum, Wydawnictwo WAM, 316 pp., bibliog., index, English sum.; series: Dyskurs Politologiczny

The central trouble with this study by a young Cracow-based political scientist is that she considers the ethno-linguistic concept of Polishness an obvious

thing, rather than an ideological construct. Such an approach leads to a variety of intellectual abuses stemming indirectly from the primary one: an extremely Right-oriented idea of national identity turns in A. Puzskow-Bańka's book into an objectified fact. The thus understood identity may basically be accepted or rejected, the latter option implying renunciation of national identifications. The profiles of National-Democratic ideologists as pictured in the book show a tear occurring between modernity and conservatism. All the three thinkers approached the Enlightenment tradition as a collection of foreign novelties not fit for transplantation into the Polish soil. Their visions of Polishness were essentially rooted in a contestation of that tradition. The author has embarked on a difficult topic that called for in-depth analysis of the ideas and views of the title characters. The outcome is not thoroughly successful. Puzskow-Bańka's analysis of J.L. Popławski's ideas seems the most convincing, whereas the elaboration of Dmowski appears textbook-like, if not schematic. In spite of these deficiencies, the book is, on the whole, an interesting and ambitious study. (GK)

Arkadiusz Stempin, *Próba 'moralnego podboju' Polski przez Cesarstwo Niemieckie w latach pierwszej wojny światowej* [A 'moral conquest' of Poland attempted by the German Empire during WWI], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 652 pp., bibliog., index of personal names, English sum.

Although WWI enjoys incessant interest among German historians, and has undisputably become an en-vogue topic among Polish researchers in the last years, Arkadiusz Stempin's book is the first so comprehensive attempt at describing the German rule in the Kingdom of Poland, 1915–18, since Werner Conze's 1958 study *Polnische Nation und deutsche Politik im Ersten Weltkrieg*. The author's focus is not on political programmes or diplomatic negotiations of the WWI years, as otherwise exhaustingly described in the scholarly literature (Marceli Handelsman, Lech Trzeciakowski, Jerzy Holzer). Instead, as the title suggests, central to this study are the attempts of the German authorities to win a kind attitude from the Kingdom's population, which are perceived as a key element of the Empire's political agenda with respect to the Polish lands, and Poles in general. Such a take of the subject makes the Stempin book original. It is moreover distinct with its underlying reliable source base, logical structure, and meticulousness (as reflected in the book's rather voluminous size – in spite of the fact that an overwhelming majority of official archives of the German administration have not survived).

As A. Stempin emphasises, General Hans Hardtwig von Beseler, head of the civil and military administration of the Generalgouvernement, was

the main architect of the German policy with respect to the Kingdom. His activity lasted from the summer of 1915 till November 1918, when, after the revolutionary Council of German military-men was established in Warsaw, he eventually fled from the city, dressed in civil clothes. Hence, his private views, known from his reports and letters (addressed, among others, to his wife), are the author's focus. Stempin moreover seeks to identify the other figures whose role was crucial in the German administration of the *Generalgouvernement*, and who were responsible for the individual aspects of the German policies. The period under research is split into two parts: before and after the Central Powers announced, in November 1916, their manifesto proclaiming the establishment (in the future) of a Polish monarchy. The author stresses that the said manifesto has paradoxically complicated the German administration's efforts to propitiate the Polish population under occupation: it brought about radicalised spirits and excessive expectations, against which all the 'petty concessions', such as those concerning public demonstrations or use of the Polish language, lost in their attractiveness. Moreover, it put Governor Beseler in the face of a new, and tough, partner: the Polish Provisional Council of State. The book's argument makes it apparent, in any case, that the attempts made by Beseler and his administration at winning an affinity amidst the Poles for the Germans and their warlike purposes was doomed to failure. First of all, this was not their central objective: the civil administration was continually subjected to the military administration, which overexploited the Polish territory. Second, the Polish society was reluctant to welcome the German troops entering, and in spite of certain successes General Beseler had had to his credit, the claims of full independence for Poland soon got the upper hand among the Polish people – and the General would not be in a position of satisfying such expectations. Finally, the German military and civil administration were also reluctant toward Poles. Moreover, the former's sense of superiority over the latter was reinforced by the appeals made by the German national minority in Lodz and elsewhere who demanded special rights and privileges for themselves.

The first three chapters are arranged according to a chronology, and discuss: the first months of the German occupation; the Polish society's response to the invading Germans; the establishment of the *Generalgouvernement* and its administrative structure. The following chapters cover as follows: the formation of a Polish university in Warsaw; propagation of German cultural and scientific achievements; the bargaining on the oversight of the educational system in the Kingdom; the relations between the German administration and the Catholic Church; and, the authorities' policies with regards to the German and Jewish minorities. In conclusion, emphasised is, in the first place, a temporary status of the formation called the *Generalgouvernement*, and the related partialness of General Beseler's 'cultural' policy, subordinated as it was to the incessantly short-term warfare

purposes. The author moreover offers some, rather superficial, comparisons between the German occupational policy of 1915–18 and the dramatically dissimilar realities of the 1939–45 occupation. (AK)

Janusz Sibora, *Dyplomacja polska w I wojnie światowej* [Polish diplomatic service in WWI], Warszawa, 2013, Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 607 pp., ill., bibliog., index

Janusz Sibora, a historian of diplomacy, author of the valued work *Narodziny polskiej dyplomacji u progu niepodległości* [The birth of Polish diplomatic service at the threshold of the country's independence] (1988), has now subjected to critical, and impersonal, evaluation the Polish politics of the period, providing us with a new synthetic monograph on Polish diplomatic service in the Great War time. The reader is offered a pretty nuanced picture of the events of the time. The study consists of four comprehensive chapters, of which three could be separate mini-monographs of the subject-matter. The author gravitates to the idea that Polish diplomatic service of the period, although pursued by at least four mutually independent centres, was not reactive and never diverted from the political compass course. In almost all its manifestations, it proved rooted in its own comprehension of the national interest and, first of all, international realities; this seems to be quite an undisputable conclusion. The value of this book is primarily based on the material the author refers to in order to support this finding; an interesting picture of the 'diplomatic behind-the-scenes', based on this material, is a pretty novel aspect in Polish historiography. Still, the monograph rather remotely corresponds with the incessantly increasing foreign literature concerning the period 1914–19. A careful editing and publishing format is a strong point of this book. (GK)

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Wojciech Musiał, *Modernizacja Polski. Polityki rządowe w latach 1918–2004* [Poland under modernisation: The governmental policies in 1918 to 2004], Toruń, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 320 pp., ill., bibliog., indexes, English sum.; series: Monografie Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej

This study, by a young political scientist (born 1980) associated with the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, is positioned on the borderline of history of economy, history of historical thought, and political-science comparative

research. The book has four chapters, the first offering an extensive introduction to the theory of modernisation; the second discusses the modernisation policy models in the interwar years 1918–39; the third deals with modernisation that followed the Soviet models, and was a selective imitation, in the author's perception. The fourth chapter, definitely the most interesting one, describes the modernisation of the time of political transformation after the fall of the communist system (1989–2004). The monograph attempts at grasping the twentieth-century modernisation changes in Poland, in their entirety, through the prism of the three radical 'developmental leaps'. The author has made a skilful use of the statistics and official documentation, and has proved to be well versed in the literature. His analytical argument somewhat struggles along in the book's first section, as the author refers to existing studies rather than his own research. W. Musiał considers the condition of the economy as the precondition for modernisation of the society; consequently, islands of economic modernity are analysed for each of the researched periods in the first place. Although the study's argument is that all the types of Polish modernisation have been imitative, the conclusions are far from single-sided. All in all, this ambitious book encourages cogitation. (GK)

Ewa Maj and Aneta Dawidowicz (eds.), *Prasa Narodowej Demokracji* [The National Democracy press], vol. 4: *Prasa lokalna, regionalna, środowiskowa* [The local, regional and milieu press], Lublin, 2013, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 417 pp., bibliog., index

This volume, coming out as part of the series 'Prasa Narodowej Demokracji', contains a dozen-or-so studies whose value is unequal. Most of them deal with periodicals and, not as frequently, milieus connected with the nationalist Right between the earliest twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first, this timeframe being at times exceeded. As was the case with the preceding volumes, one has the impression that the editors have failed to fully control the collection's content. The problems with the selection of the material result in that valuable and bibliographically useful studies of experienced and established researchers appear alongside scholarly essays written by fledgling graduates of history faculties; added to that is a couple ideological manifestos. The interesting articles do not make up a coherent edition. This, all in all, produces a hodgepodge effect. Consequently, the editors have only partly managed to portray the milieu, which was extensive not only in terms of the local Polish conditions, and whose influence was enormous and apparent, particularly in the Polish provincial areas. (GK)

Marta Wyka, *Miłosz i rówieśnicy. Domknięcie formacji* [Miłosz and his age peers. A formation under closure], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 409 pp., ill., index

The utmost ambition of a generational biography is to propose a description of the social and political reality that allows for grasping the mental and intellectual structure of the entire generation. Has Marta Wyka, the outstanding historian of the twentieth-century literature, succeeded in offering such a description? Her new book is not just another monograph on Czesław Miłosz, but rather, a sort of reconstruction of the key elements of the poet's worldview; it is confronted with those of Jan Błoński, Albert Camus, Simone Weil, and Gustaw Herling-Grudziński. The 'formational archive' is presented: the authors Miłosz read, the places, cities and streets he experienced, and their significance for the formation of his outlook. Traced down are also the parallel vicissitudes and ideological genealogies, by juxtaposing C. Miłosz and Mircea Eliade, for instance, or by pointing to important borrowings (the chapter 'Miłosz and [Stanisław] Brzozowski. A brief history of an influence' evokes Miłosz's discussions with some recently proposed readings of Brzozowski, e.g. those of Sławomir Sierakowski and Cezary Michalski). M. Wyka resumes a few essential but somewhat unrecognised or unappreciated moments in C. Miłosz's biography. These include the wartime Occupation years (chapter 'Reading deep into an Occupation photography: [Jerzy] Andrzejewski, Miłosz, [Kazimierz] Wyka') as well as the poet's last years ('The Literary House as an *Imago Mundi*: Around the Cracow episode in Czesław Miłosz's life'). Analysed are Miłosz's encounters with some eminent authors of his generation, such as Konstanty I. Gałczyński, Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz. The study reconstructs the worldview-related and aesthetical ties of the entire formation that gained awareness in the Second Republic years and then marked the long twentieth century by their presence; the generation's intellectual character and influences are portrayed brilliantly. Along with Piotr Karwowski's *Czytanie Miłosza. O trzech postaciach ideologii historycznej* (Warsaw, 2014), Marta Wyka's study ranks among the most interesting recently published books discussing with Czesław Miłosz's heritage. (GK)

Andrzej Z. Makowiecki, *Warszawskie kawiarnie literackie* [Literary cafés of Warsaw], Warszawa, 2013, Wydawnictwo Iskry, 264 pp., bibliog., index, appendix

Although WWII had, unquestionably, severely decimated Polish cultural elite, the universe of literary café was reborn very soon – in some cases, almost

grotesquely enmeshed in the time before the disaster. A.Z. Makowiecki's book has four chapters surveying the history of Warsaw literary cafés from the Romanticist period up to the famous meeting tables at 'Czytelnik' café. A serious shortcoming of the book, written by an experienced and well-thought-of Polish literature scholar, a professor at the University of Warsaw, is that it offers no background aspects of political and social history, which sometimes turns the story's narrative into a train of curiosities, titbits, and anecdotes – tasty as they are, to pay the author his due tribute. The book, though based on meticulously collected accounts and reminiscences, would not function as a cultural history of the local literary café. Yet, the summary section brings a number of valuable observations and remarks in the field of literary sociology and readership, which not only literary scholars may find of interest and use. And be it for this particular section, the monograph is worth referring to. A valuable bibliography and an extensive annex, regarding café as reflected in literary anecdote, are attached. (GK)

Andrzej Kulig, *Kształtowanie formy rządów u progu niepodległej Polski (1917–1926)* [The emergence of a form of government at the threshold of independent Poland 1917–1926], Warszawa, 2013, Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, 364 pp., bibliog.

This study, written from the perspective of a political scientist and historian of law, evokes constitutional and juridical debates from the years 1917–26, which concerned the form of government in the emerging state of Poland. The monograph consists of six extensive chapters, the first two being a synthetic introduction to the history of the political systems of several West European countries, including France, Great Britain, and the Weimar Republic. The other four chapters offer a survey of the discussions between Polish lawyers and politicians until the coup of May 1926. The author makes apparent his own historical likings and political preferences; for instance, he assumes from the very beginning that certain legal or constitutional solutions were doomed to failure, whilst some other could bring about beneficial results, which sometimes might come across as exaggerated historical presentism. Yet, A. Kulig strives to reliably legitimise his argument; to be fair, he skillfully works his way around the complex issues embarked on. The study is of particular value to historians of the political system, although the reader interested in the period will certainly find in it a systematised knowledge and a wealth of studiously thought-over material. (GK)

Dziennik Juliusza Zdanowskiego [The diary of Juliusz Zdanowski], vol. 2: 15 X 1918 – 23 VI 1919, ed. Janusz Faryś, Tomasz Sikorski, Henryk Walczak, Adam Wątor, Szczecin, 2013, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Humanistycznego Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego Minerwa, 288 pp., ill., index

This second volume of Juliusz Zdanowski's diary, edited by a team of Szczecin University-based historians, brings as stenographical record of the several months of formation of an independent Poland. Zdanowski's report is not unbiased. The author, a leading figure in the Kingdom of Poland's National Democracy from the beginning of twentieth century until Piłsudski's coup d'état of May 1926, held a central role in the formation of the nationalist movement in the period covered by this volume. Historians can find there testimonies of a brutal struggle for power between the involved political camps, accurate profiles of a number or significant figures in the period's politics and, primarily, a record of the mentality of which is still worth of reading. The volume, whose edition was coordinated by Adam Wątor, confirms that the *Dzienniki* is one of the most valuable sources for research of the political history of Poland in the first decades of the twentieth century. (GK)

Kazimierz Fudakowski, *Między endecją a sanacją. Wspomnienia ziemianina* [Between the National Democracy and the *Sanacja*. Reminiscences of a landowner], ed. Izabela Broszkowska, preface: Szymon Rudnicki, Warszawa, 2013, Towarzystwo 'Więź', 360 pp., ill., indexes; series: Biblioteka 'Więzi', 291

This condensed account is, in various ways, model for a remarkable group in the generation of independency activists who co-formed the Second Republic of Poland. Of a landed-gentry background, the author remained throughout his adult life devoted to the defence of the interests of his own class: initially, through his activities with the National Democracy – as member of the Supreme Council of the Democratic National Party or, for some time, personal secretary to Roman Dmowski himself. Later on, he evolved, with increasing intensity, toward the *Sanacja* circles, never ceasing to endeavour to loyally represent the interests of his social group. Until the mid-1930s, Fudakowski held the post of Chairman of the Central Society for Farming Organisations and Groups (*Centralne Towarzystwo Organizacji i Kółek Rolniczych*). An ideological evolution of this kind seems typical to the extent that a sort of peculiar mythology has accrued around it in Polish historical journalism; Fudakowski's reminiscences, admittedly, provide some such hagiographical threads. Particularly substantial in this valuable account are, as it seems, its

penetrating portraits of public life personages with whom the author was associated: just to name R. Dmowski, Bronisław Pieracki, or Henryk Mościcki. 'Więź', the ambitious publishers, has thus edited and published yet another relevant historical testimony. The book contains a valuable essay by Professor Szymon Rudnicki, an outstanding researcher in the field of twentieth-century political history of Polish landed gentry. (GK)

Tadeusz Stegner (ed.), *Religia a społeczeństwo Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej. Zbiór studiów* [Religion and the society of the Second Republic of Poland. A collection of studies], Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Historii PAN, 370 pp., index; series: *Metamorfozy społeczne*, 5

This collection of studies, another one in the series 'The Society of the Second Republic of Poland', a project under the auspices of the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, comprises essays on the position of religion and religious communities in the political and social life of interwar Poland. The book contains a few various types of historical penmanship: from ambitious, though not always completely successful, synthetic essays (to mention G. Bujak's opening article on 'The changes in religiousness in the Catholic Church of the interwar period [1918–39]'; or, R. Płoński's 'The moment of the *sacrum* in the life of the Orthodox religion in the Second Republic. An attempt at a synthetic depiction'), to a series of exiguous studies, of which a few (e.g. K. Chylak's 'Modernisation or archaisation: Aspects of the emolument system of the Catholic Church in the Second Republic', or K. Kijek's 'The worldview and life aspirations of Jewish orthodox youth in interwar Poland: Toward a new type of orthodoxy in Eastern Europe') exceed the limits of their narrowly outlined subjects. The essays describing the broader social processes, such as e.g. selected aspects of laicisation or modernisation against the period's background prove to be not as good. This volume, fifth in the series, clearly shows that researchers in the Second Republic area have an increasing representation of sociologists, historical anthropologists and cultural-studies-oriented historians, which augurs well for the research on the period. The book is equipped with an index; its careful edition is worth highlighting. (GK)

Ulrich Schmid (ed.), *Estetyka dyskursu nacjonalistycznego w Polsce 1926–1939* [Aesthetics of nationalist discourse in Poland, 1926–1939], German texts transl. by Patrycja Pieńkowska-Wiederkehr, Warszawa, 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, 507 pp., ill., bibliog., index, appendix

This study has been issued as a result of an international Polish-German-Swiss scholarly conference which was held a few years ago in Switzerland. It offers more than a typical collection of conference papers would do: in fact, it forms a synthetic introduction to culture-related studies on Polish nationalist Right at the intersection of history of ideas, aesthetics, and gender studies. Composed of four sections ('Method and notions'; 'The nationalist discourse: institutions and positions'; 'Nationalism and literary aesthetics'; 'Art as a national project: A summary'), the study offers a dozen-or-so essays on various aspects of literary aesthetics, alongside what might be deemed the most comprehensive available image of the cultural life of Polish pre-war Right, with all its tints and shades. A broad scope of issues is covered, from conceptualisation of the idea of nation, through the reception of fascism in the Second Republic, the place and role of the Catholic Church, the 'Jewish question', up to the nationalist(ic) concepts of gender and patterns of identity. In an annex, scrupulously compiled by Monika Bednarczyk, the reader moreover finds a survey of literary and cultural periodicals associated with the Right. All in all, it is a collection of studies that is worth our attention, reading, and discussion, not only among experts. (GK)

Małgorzata Gmurczyk-Wrońska, *Stanisław Patek w dyplomacji i polityce (1914–1939)* [Stanisław Patek, his diplomatic service and politics (1914–1939)], Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Historii PAN, Wydawnictwo Neriton, 528 pp., ill., bibliog., index, English and Russian sum.

This study, written by Małgorzata Gmurczyk-Wrońska, a historian who has been associated for many years with the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, is primarily a wide-ranging source-based study in Polish diplomatic service. It has been based on archival query carried out in Poland, England, France, Russia, and the United States. The author, an established researcher in the field of Polish-French relations in the two interwar decades, has recently taken interest in Stanisław Patek (1866–1944), an eminent diplomat of the Second Republic. The diplomatic activities of this man, once a known and valued counsellor before the war, later on, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Dec. 16, 1919 to June 9, 1920), envoy in Tokyo and Moscow and, later, ambassador in Washington and Cuba, is the book's

dominant subject. It is a pity that the author begins her disquisition from the Great War whilst limiting the entire earlier period to a concise information running a few pages. Consideration of the earlier period of Patek's biography would have given her a possibility to show a peculiar intellectual path that a considerable number of Polish intellectuals affiliated to Piłsudski made together with him (the author frequently uses the phrase 'Józef Piłsudski's diplomat'). The book is solicitously edited, and contains a number of earlier-unpublished illustrations. (GK)

Bogdan Podgórski, *Józef Retinger: prywatny polityk* [Józef Retinger, a private politician], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 418 pp., ill., bibliog., index

Authored by Bogdan Podgórski, a political scientist of the Jagiellonian University, this study concerns one of the most mysterious figures in the Polish politics of the former half of the twentieth century. The monograph is based on a meticulous analysis of sources dispersed across a number of foreign archives – in London, Strasburg, Florence – as well as private collections. The book has seven chapters, arranged in a chronological order and covering, respectively: the years 1918–39; Retinger's collaboration with the Government in Exile; his activity to the benefit of European unity in the post-war years (also as the trailblazer and cofounder of the Bilderberg Group); his political ideas and concepts; and, the controversies and disputes around Retinger. B. Podgórski shows the title character as the Polish precursor of the idea of a united Europe, and, otherwise, an object of ideologically motivated attacks lasting for long decades. The purpose behind the proposed detailed reconstruction of J. Retinger's biography is, however, to demythologise this figure. Although burdened with enormous load of biographical detail, the book is a nice piece of reading. (GK)

Marcin Krzanicki, *Fotografia i propaganda. Polski fotoreportaż prasowy w dwudziestolecu międzywojennym* [Photography and propaganda. Polish press reportage in the interwar period], Kraków, 2013, Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 310 pp., ill., bibliog., index

This book by Marcin Krzanicki of the University of Rzeszów, a historian and photographer, touches the issue that has been underestimated by Polish historians: namely, photography treated as a tool of social and political

communication and an instrument of shaping the social imagination. The study is based on a rich documentary material (taken, primarily, from the resources of the major illustrated magazines of interwar Poland: *Tygodnik Ilustrowany*, *Świat*, the Wielkopolska periodical *Ilustracja Polska*, as well as the press issued by the *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* publishing concern).

The monograph has six chapters, the first two ('The image of the masses' and 'The favour of the masses') may serve as in-depth theoretical introduction to the issues at the intersection of propaganda and photography; three other chapters can be seen as consistently illustrating the theses and assumptions formulated earlier. The conclusive section encounters the problem of distortion and misrepresentation in the press photography. With a few risky statements proposed, the monograph is, all in all, substantial and worth recommending not only to specialists. (GK)

Waldemar Grabowski (ed.), *Okupowana Europa. Podobieństwa i różnice* [Europe occupied. Similarities and differences], Warszawa, 2014, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 332 pp., index of personal names; French edition: Waldemar Grabowski (ed.), *L'Europe occupée. Similitudes et différences*, Varsovie, 2014, Institut de la Mémoire Nationale. Commission pour la Poursuite des Crimes contre la Nation Polonaise, 356 pp., index of personal names

The book consists of sixteen articles, grouped into four sections. The first section, being thematically the most homogeneous, describes the forms of occupation regimes in the countries or cities of Western and Central Europe (the authors are Tomasz Szarota, Cécile Vast, Julien Blanc, and Maren Röger). There are pretty many similarities identifiable for Brussels and Warsaw, in spite of appearances. Holocaust is the focus in the second section (the contributors being Danuta Drywa, Wojciech Łukaszun, Rachel Feldhay Brenner, Marcin Urynowicz). Included in the third section are essays on Polish-French and Polish-Belgian political and military collaboration in WWII years – particularly, Polish participations in the Belgian Resistance (authors: Zdzisław J. Kapera, Emmanuel Debruyne, Fabrice Maerten, Przemysław Gasztold-Señ). The fourth, and last, section (written by Marek Ney-Krwawicz, Maciej Żuczkowski, and Waldemar Grabowski) is of higher importance to the foreign, rather than Polish, reader, as it comprises three popular-form and synthetic articles on the Home Army, military troops associated with Polish communists, and civilian structures of Polish Underground State. The bilingual edition no doubt facilitates the putting into circulation of the hitherto narrowly-distributed knowledge on the various aspects of WWII. (BK)

Władysław Pobóg-Malinowski, *Z mojego okienka. Fakty i wrażenia z lat 1939–1945* [From my window. Some facts and impressions from the years 1939–1945], vol. 1: 1939–1940, ed. Przemysław Marcin Żukowski, Łomianki, 2013, Wydawnictwo LTW, 764 pp.

One of the most influential historians in the Polish émigré community, Władysław Pobóg-Malinowski (1899–1962) is a legendary figure for researchers in the field of the political history of the Second Republic of Poland. His best known work is, obviously, *Najnowsza historia polityczna Polski* [‘A most recent political history of Poland’], reedited several times. His biography is not as well known, though. In WWI, Pobóg-Malinowski served with Józef Dowbór-Muśnicki’s army, and subsequently took part in the Polish-Bolshevik war. Since 1928, he was member of the Institute for Research in the Most Recent History of Poland (named after Józef Piłsudski, after the Marshal’s death). In the last years of the interwar period, he was head of the Section of Archives in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He spent the evening of his life in emigration, without a permanent employment. W. Pobóg-Malinowski died in Geneva in 1962.

His memoirs written down in 1943–4 are kept at the Polish Library in Paris. The volume recently printed encompasses the pre-war period (the records already published in 2008–9 as *W Polsce przed wojną* [‘In Poland before the war’]), the defeat of September 1939, the author’s stay in Romania (*Na rumuńskim bezdrożu* [‘On the sideways of Romania’]) and the French campaign of 1940. Although there is a bulk of biographical knowledge in these memoirs, the work makes no significant contribution to our knowledge of the social-political relations in the late years of the Second Republic. The chapters describing the war years perform much better in this respect. The volume is carefully edited and published in a decent manner, promisingly heralding the next volumes to come out. (GK)

Marceli Najder, *Rewanż* [Retribution], ed. Marta Janczewska, epilogue by Tomasz Najder, afterword by Andrzej Żbikowski, Warszawa, 2013, Ośrodek KARTA, 253 pp., ill.; series: *Żydzi polscy*

Marceli Najder’s background was a strongly assimilated Jewish family. Born 1914 (his name spelled ‘Neider’ before 1945), Marceli studied pharmacy at Lvov’s John Casimir University, gained his work experience as a pharmacist since 1938, and joined the military for the Defence Campaign of September 1939. In 1942, we see him serve as an orderly with the Jewish Order

Service in the ghetto arranged by the Germans in Kolomiya. He began hiding himself in January 1943; together with his wife and eight other individuals, he found shelter in an underground hideout arranged by a certain Andrzej Śliwiak, a Polish communist. Between February 1943 and March 1944, the pharmacist kept a diary. Extracts of this diary, along with some notes dated 1941 and flashback records of 1945, form the basis of the book. This source is extremely valuable, as the like records for the area of Galicia are quite scarce. Najder took notes describing an everyday life at the edge of death: how the bunker was arranged, what the time diary was like, and how were the functions distributed within the hiding community; what were the ways of staying in touch with the other dispersed family members who stayed in hiding elsewhere. The diary deals extensively with conflicts and tensions within the group of Jews, as well as between the group on the one hand and Mrs. and Mr. Śliwiak, who directly bore the risk, on the other. Although hiding the Jews could bring them to death, the couple were breaking many more bans imposed by the occupation administration: they had some weapons and a radio with them. These notes give us an insight in the occupation-time economics (illegal trade, including with German soldiers; illegal slaughter of animals, etc.). Ten of the hiding people entered into a peculiar contract with the Pole, promising him that they would be financing their own hiding; to this end, they gave him money and valuables – and, in addition, ensured he would be remunerated once Germany is defeated. In March 1944, Kolomiya was seized by the Soviet army. Najder eventually left the Eastern Borderland. After the war, he worked for some government offices as a specialised pharmacist; in 1957–61, he was Member of the *Sejm* – the Lower House of the Parliament of the People’s Republic of Poland. Marcelli died in 1991. Mr. Śliwiak was posthumously granted a ‘Righteous Among the Nations’ award. (BK)

Andrzej Friszke, *Rewolucja Solidarności 1980–1981* [The revolution of ‘Solidarność’, 1980–1981], Kraków, 2014, Znak Horyzont, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, Europejskie Centrum Solidarności, 997 pp., index of personal names

This book describes a fragment of the political biography of Jacek Kuroń, the democratic opposition activist under the Communist regime; in parallel, it offers a new description of the history of the ‘Solidarność’ Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union, based on the most recent studies and the author’s own source research. Extensive account is also taken of commotions and frictions within the Communist authority camp. Andrzej Friszke’s work is meant to polemicise against a current in Polish historiography of the most recent period which he names a ‘historiography of suspicion’, finding it quite strong in the last dozen-or-so years. A characteristic trait of this trend is detecting

an inspiration of secret communist services in independent oppositional and social actions. In describing the events of 1980–1, Friszke highlights the spontaneity and objective nature of the social processes of increasing dissatisfaction of the citizens, leading to the strike actions and, eventually, to the emergence of ‘Solidarność’. Analysed are the concepts of how to solve the conflicts between the authorities and the society, including, naturally, the activities pursued by J. Kuroń, an important advisor to the trade union. Kuroń extensively travelled across Poland at that time, meeting workplace crews and students; his itinerary forms an important, though not prevalent, thread in this study. A. Friszke has complemented the hitherto-known image of the ruling party crisis and the road to confrontation, concluded with the imposition of martial law on December 13, 1981, with many a substantial detail. The international context of the occurrences described has not been neglected. The political culture of ‘Solidarność’ in action has been pictured, with its weak and strong points. A synthetic and extensive panorama has been created of social and political change taking place in Poland in what was, Friszke argues, a truly revolutionary period in its history. (BK)

Narodziny ‘Solidarności’. Krajowa Komisja Porozumiewawcza 17 września – 10 listopada 1980 r. [The birth of ‘Solidarność’. The National Coordinating Commission, 17 September – 10 November 1980], ed. Tomasz Kozłowski, Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 547 pp., index of personal names; series: Dokumenty, 56

The volume is a collection of seventy-four documents of varied provenance, from the period of 31 August to 10 November 1980, which show the emergence of the organisational form of the new trade unions that were set up under the agreement concluded between the striking workers and the government delegation on August 31, 1980 in Gdansk. The process has hitherto remained poorly recognised, due to its spontaneous and disorderly character. On September 17, 1980, the new labour unions assumed the shape of a single countrywide Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union ‘Solidarność’. The documents contained in this volume demonstrate that the birth of ‘Solidarność’ was occurring amidst disputes and conflicts between strike-action activists and advisors. On the one hand, endeavours were taken to establish one organisation that would be capable of submitting the employees’ postulates to the authorities; on the other, it was feared that the Polish communist authorities would not be willing to acknowledge of a single organisation encompassing the whole of Poland, as such an organisation would have been too strong. The book also documents the stages of development of the organisation’s Statutes, the legal and political struggle for

'Solidarność' to be officially registered at court and the related occurrences (for instance, the Union's all-Polish token strike of October 3, 1980). Particularly interesting are the documents evidencing the meetings of the 'Solidarność' leadership team, named the National Coordinating Commission (*Krajowa Komisja Porozumiewawcza*), in the form of transcripts of sound recordings of its various conferences (in autumn 1980, the cast of this body was variable and its competencies unspecified; no importance was attached to the archiving of documents, so respect is owed to the publisher for having found and read the recordings of several Commission meetings of crucial importance). Some important public utterances of Lech Wałęsa, the Chairman of 'Solidarność', dating back to that time, have been included. A perfect editorial elaboration of the documents, with numerous and extensive biographical and substantive footnotes, deserves being highlighted. (BK)

PZPR a 'Solidarność' 1980–1981. Tajne dokumenty Biura Politycznego [The Polish United Workers' Party and the 'Solidarność', 1980–1981: The secret documents of the Politburo], foreword by Nina Smolar, introduction by Tomasz Kozłowski, Warszawa, 2013, Instytut Pamięci Narodowej – Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, 918 pp.; contains a chronological review (6 May 1980 to 30 January 1982), index of personal names

In 1992, the London-based Aneks publishing house issued a collection of seventy-eight sets of minutes of the meetings of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR] from the years 1980–1. For many years, it has been a reference volume, whose significance was primary for research of the dynamics of the Polish conflict. The book's new edition encompasses a complete set of 118 minutes of all the Politburo meetings (as for June 3, 1980 – Dec. 33, 1981). The previously missing minutes have probably been acquired from the private archives of former PZPR-affiliated politicians (the publisher does not explain what the actual source has been). In his introduction, Tomasz Kozłowski describes the history of the formation of the Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union 'Solidarność', its contacts with the state and party authorities, with special focus on the major turning points in the mutual relationships. The attached documents allow for reconstructing the authorities' decision-making process which eventually led to the imposition of martial law, show the attitudes of the individual Politburo members toward 'Solidarność' and towards the basic problems of the time (i.e. the economic crisis, revindication claims posed by the public, a decomposition of the ruling party). The volume's clear shortcoming is its scanty content-related footnotes attached to the contents of the quoted documents. (BK)