

Judgments, when occasionally rendered, flow from description or impressions rather than analysis. Too often they are snap or moralistic. The evidence does not, to take one example, support the impression (p. 87) that women's influence on society is strong. Democracy is pronounced "very safe" in West Germany (p. 284) but its structure is not analyzed.

A tourist visiting West Germany for the first time might make good use of this book to sharpen his observation powers. A serious student of either Germany, however, will probably have the feeling that he has read most of the vignettes and sketches somewhere before, perhaps in columns by Dornberg or other newspapermen. For the scholar there is little new in *The New Germans*.

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CONFLICT, COMPROMISE, AND CONCILIATION: WEST GERMAN-POLISH NORMALIZATION 1966-1976. By *Louis J. Ortmyer*. Monograph Series in World Affairs, vol. 13: CHANGE AND SURVIVAL: STUDIES IN SOCIAL DYNAMICS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. ESSAYS IN HONOR OF JOSEF KORBEL, Book 3. Denver: University of Denver, Graduate School of International Studies, 1975. xiv, 162 pp. Paper.

The evolution of West Germany's *Ostpolitik* and its impact on Eastern Europe is one of the most important aspects of East-West relations in the last decade. Yet the *Ostpolitik*—together with other European efforts at easing East-West tensions—is frequently considered no more than a secondary political phenomenon, tangential to the "key" issues of U.S.-USSR détente and the overall strategic balance. The virtue of Louis Ortmyer's excellent and well-documented monograph on Polish-West German relations lies in its focus on the involvement of two major—but not superpower—actors in the détente process and in its appreciation of the role played by domestic politics in motivating this involvement.

Indeed, Ortmyer is particularly good at sorting out the diverse strands of internal policy imperatives which drove Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany to the negotiating table: for example, Gomulka's desire to compensate for economic shortcomings at home and to bolster his deteriorating power base within the party; and Brandt's realization that he could muster more public support and would encounter less opposition from his own party in foreign affairs than in domestic policy. Ortmyer does a fine job of relating these domestic and bilateral Polish-West German developments to the international flow of events during the "high period" of détente (1966-75) and, despite a rather ponderous and nonidiomatic prose style, has produced an extremely useful case study of a significant contemporary problem.

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OBERSCHLESIE NACH DEM ZWEITEN WELTKRIEG: VERWALTUNG, BEVÖLKERUNG, WIRTSCHAFT. By *Ernst Bahr, Richard Breyer, and Ekkehard Buchhofer*. Marburg/Lahn: J. G. Herder-Institut, 1975. xii, 342 pp. Maps. Paper.

This is a useful handbook which probably contains all the information about Upper Silesia for the period 1945-70 that one ever wanted to know but somehow never had the time or opportunity to ask. Published under the auspices of the well-known Johann-Gottfried-Herder Institute for East European Studies in Marburg, it brings together,

with typical German thoroughness and attention to detail, statistical data dealing with the population and economy of Upper Silesia since the end of the Second World War. The introductory chapter provides a survey of administrative and territorial changes in the region.

As suggested above, this is probably as good a compendium of its kind as one could imagine. It stays clear, by and large, of potentially controversial issues such as population transfers and nationality policy. It contains a wealth of information, though some of it is fairly trivial—such as the listing of various kinds of beer brewed in the region—and most of it is dated. The data are culled either from Polish statistical yearbooks or from the daily press. I presume that anyone interested in studying Upper Silesia—in itself one of the most interesting regions in East Central Europe—would find this handbook indispensable. As for myself, I found it rather dull, pedestrian, and unimaginative, and, as always in cases such as this, I asked whether the effort was really worth the trouble.

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THE LANDS OF PARTITIONED POLAND, 1795–1918. By *Piotr S. Wandycz*.

A History of East Central Europe, vol. 7, edited by *Peter F. Sugar* and *Donald W. Treadgold*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1974. xviii, 431 pp. Maps. \$14.95, cloth. \$7.95, paper.

A decade ago the student seeking a survey history of partitioned Poland had to rely upon the uneven chapters of the *Cambridge History of Poland*, the Marxist *Historia Polski*, and the one-volume work of the distinguished émigré historian Marian Kukiel (1961). Since 1968 four one-volume surveys, each intended for the nonspecialist, have appeared. Three are the works of Polish scholars (Kieniewicz, 1968; Groniowski and Skowronek, 1971; and Koberdowa, 1976), while the present volume is the first to be published in English. It is the second volume of a projected eleven-volume "History of East Central Europe" to appear, and it is broader in scope than its Polish counterparts, this despite a shorter text.

The work is a thorough survey divided into four roughly equal parts: the aftermath of the Partitions (1795–1830), the age of insurrections (1830–64), the age of organic work (1864–90), and the road to independence (1890–1918). A discussion of social, economic, and political conditions opens each section, followed by an outline of major political and social developments. Chapters on cultural trends and achievements conclude each major era, and a very useful bibliographical essay ends the book. The chronological divisions do not differ radically from Polish works. The book's broader scope is due to the author's deeper perception of the relationship between international and domestic developments and the inclusion of issues frequently skirted by post-World War II Polish historiography. The result is a more balanced presentation of the important period from the end of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to the emergence of the independent, interwar Polish state.

Wandycz, known primarily as a diplomatic historian, in this work chronicles domestic political and social developments, the struggle for national survival and independence, the evolution of an agrarian nation into a modern society with a diversified economic base, the impact of the policies of the partitioning powers upon Polish national development, the similarities and differences in economic, social, cultural, and national development in each section of partitioned Poland, and the national revivals among the nations of the eastern borderlands of the former commonwealth. The political importance of resolving social conflicts in order to strengthen national cohe-