

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,