

that the Germans might have held of the Poles, which could have inspired them to strive consistently for cooperation between the two nations.

Dr. Rosenthal rightly observes that since the Second World War the Germans have abandoned, although still not completely, their negative view of the Poles. Unfortunately, in West Germany this has not been replaced by a positive image but rather by a new indifference. The valiant efforts by a few West German scholars to change this situation have not been particularly successful. In this sense the author's basic pessimism about German-Polish relations still holds true.

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POLAND AND THE COMING OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR: THE DIPLOMATIC PAPERS OF A. J. DREXEL BIDDLE, JR., UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO POLAND, 1937-1939. Edited and with an introduction by *Philip V. Cannistraro, Edward D. Wynot, Jr., and Theodore P. Kovaleff*. Foreword by *Charles Morley*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1976. xvi, 358 pp. Photographs. \$17.50.

Ambassador Anthony Drexel Biddle, Jr., was one of the few foreign diplomats to enjoy the complete confidence of Polish Foreign Minister Józef Beck. Precisely because Beck confided in Biddle on matters of policy and frequently sought his views, the publication of the "Biddle Report" on the fall of Poland in September 1939, and a selection of his diplomatic correspondence provides an interesting source for the study of Polish diplomacy and domestic affairs during the years 1937-39.

In addition to an introductory essay, this work, based on materials found in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, is composed of the lengthy "Report" and thirty-one documents, only two of which have been previously published. The ably written introduction sketches Biddle's background and diplomatic career, and outlines the course of Polish foreign policy up to the outbreak of war. The "Report" itself, written in Paris in October 1939, traces in a succinct and at times exciting manner the events—from the Munich crisis to the internment of Polish leaders in Rumania on September 21, 1939—leading to the collapse of Poland. The documents are perhaps the most interesting feature of the book. Chronologically spanning Biddle's tenure in Warsaw, they touch upon economics, military matters, minority problems, and politics as well as foreign affairs. Yet, we find no major revelations here; much of what Biddle reported to Washington, as the editorial notes indicate, corroborates positions and policies already made known through the memoirs of Beck, the papers of the Polish ambassadors to Paris and Berlin, Łukasiewicz and Lipski, and the diary of Undersecretary of State Jan Szembek.

The picture of Colonel Beck that emerges from Biddle's correspondence is not the stereotyped version of the elegant and completely cynical foreign minister who was, to use Henry L. Roberts's phrase, "riding two horses at once." Rather, Beck appears as a sympathetic figure, a statesman attempting to maintain a delicate balance between two hostile neighboring states. Yet, while Beck had no illusions as to the ultimate catastrophic consequences of the cession of any part of Polish territory to Germany (pp. 62-63), his assessment of Hitler was partly obscured by a belief that Hitler's "Austrian mentality" would impart to him a "flash of reasoning" or cause him to think twice when faced with a strong opponent (pp. 52-53, 348).

Biddle, politically and financially well-connected, had no formal training in diplomacy, but nonetheless possessed natural analytical powers that enabled him to carry out his assignment effectively. Viewed from the present, his memorandums often emerge as correct in their insights into Polish policy (especially, pp. 17, 220-21).

Indeed, one finds the editors consistently using words and phrases such as "prescient" (p. 195) and "remarkably accurate" (p. xiv) to describe Biddle's pronouncements. In the case of at least one observation, however, described by the editors as "brilliant" (p. 274, n. 5), in which Hitler's reluctance to attack France until Poland had been vanquished is commented upon, the credit does not belong to Biddle, but rather to his informant, the Turkish ambassador. Moreover, such geopolitical and strategic considerations regarding the crucial importance of East Central Europe for the West were nothing new to those who, in the 1930s, were familiar with the writings of Sir James Headlam-Morley, the former historical adviser to the British Foreign Office.

This well-edited work is a substantial addition to the existing primary source material on Polish foreign policy.

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THE GREAT POWERS AND THE POLISH QUESTION, 1941–45: A DOCUMENTARY STUDY IN COLD WAR ORIGINS. Edited by *Antony Polonsky*. London: The London School of Economics and Political Science, 1976. 282 pp. Maps. £5.00. Distributed by Orbis Books, 66 Kenway Road, London SW5 ORD, England.

The central role which the question of Poland's future geopolitical position played in relations among the Allies during World War II has received considerable attention from both scholars and polemicists. This collection of documentary source materials, mostly hitherto unpublished, should stimulate further discussion of the topic, while simultaneously resolving many unanswered questions and illuminating many unclear issues. The documents are well chosen, skillfully arranged, and superbly edited by Professor Polonsky, who in many cases has provided footnotes more carefully researched than some previous studies on the subject. His excellent introduction serves as a concise yet complete guide to the maze of international and domestic political considerations which determined the behavior of all parties involved.

The picture that emerges is one of confusion and division—with resulting inconsistencies—within the British, American, and Polish leadership circles over the proper approach to the Polish question. On the other hand, the Soviet leadership apparently followed a unified and consistent policy on this vital issue. All told, the book is indispensable reading for those interested in the general wartime and postwar political scene or in the policies of individual countries.

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THE SLOVAK NATIONAL AWAKENING: AN ESSAY IN THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF EAST CENTRAL EUROPE. By *Peter Brock*. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1976. x, 104 pp. \$12.50.

In relatively few pages Peter Brock has made a valuable addition to the literature in English on the genesis of modern nationalism in Eastern Europe. Though less detailed than the two other studies with which his work may be compared—Ludwig Gogolák's *Beiträge zur Geschichte des slowakischen Volkes*, vol. 2 (Munich, 1969) and Jozef Butvin's *Slovenské národnosťednocovacie hnutie (1780–1848)* (Bratislava, 1965)—it nonetheless covers the essential facts of the evolution of Slovak linguistic and political consciousness from the latter decades of the eighteenth century to the revolution of 1848.