

Poland in the past two decades. The dominant topic is the German-Polish problem; however, some new research themes emerge as well (especially on Lithuania and Ukraine). Swetłana Falkowicz examined the Russian perspective and chronologically analyzed the place of Polish history in Russian historiography since the mid-19th century until today. She focused mostly on Russian authors, research topics and educational institutions dealing with Polish history. Lithuanian historiographical view and the image of Poles and Poland in Lithuanian historical memory are presented by Alvydas Nikžentaitis. He concluded that given the phenomena such as Polonization of Lithuania and periods of anarchy, Poland has been by and large given negative connotations. Recently, though, some new and more positive topics have come up such as the civilizing role of Poland and its cultural heritage. In the following paper on Belorussian historiography, Olga Gorbaczewa asserts that Polish history is a recurring topic in Belorussian history textbooks due to the common past but is also evaluated mainly negatively. Unlike in the Lithuanian case, there is no tendency towards a study of topics that would bring a more positive account of Poland's historical role. Leonid Zaszkilniak noted that Ukrainian historiography depicts Poland in very similar colours. This can be ascribed to the prism of Polish-Ukrainian relations, the influence of Russian historical research as well as the dominant stereotypes and *Ukrainocentrism*. István Kovács added to the discussion with his study on Polish-Hungarian relations and the consequent interest for Poland in the Hungarian realm. The last paper of the volume written by Jiří Vykoukal offers an insight into the Czech historiography on modern and contemporary Polish history and its evolutionary trends, primary topics and research institutes. The impact of Czech/Czechoslovak environment is particularly noticeable in this case.

Any reader of the volume can gain a very clear image of Poland in the studied foreign historiographies. Moreover, the editors admonish Polish historians to publish more works on Poland abroad.

Michaela Kůželová

Jana Nosková, ***Reemigrace a usídlování volyňských Čechů v interpretacích aktérů a odborné literatury***. Brno: Ústav evropské etnologie Filosofické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, 2007, 226 pp. ISBN 978-80-2540095-1.

The doctoral thesis of Jana Nosková, a researcher in ethnology, was published in the scope of the programme “Building on the Past: European Doctorate in Social History of Europe and the Mediterranean” and was defended at the Institute of European Ethnology of the Faculty of Art at the Masaryk University in Brno in 2006. Nosková pursued a historical-ethnological research whose main aim was to

establish the process of memory formation of some historical events by their actors and determine how personal memories differ from scholarly work on the topic and how these two perspectives influence each other. All of the studied processes relate to re-emigration and ensuing settlement of Volhynian Czechs in Czechoslovakia after the Second World War.

The volume comprises of eight large sections and also includes an extensive number of appendices, list of bibliography and a summary in German. Each chapter is supported by comprehensive footnotes. The time frame of the study is clearly determined in the beginning: the author examines events after the Second World War up until the beginning of the 1950s but also relies on relevant literature from recent years. The study thus indirectly covers the entire post-war period until the 21st century. Territorial scope of the study primarily includes Czech territories and implicitly also the area of Volhynia within the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

As this work is based on a broad research, methodology and theoretical foundations make up a large part of the first section that is by its extent comparable to the description of the actual findings. Therefore, first section could be called the theoretical part. Nosková decided to combine the bibliographical method, oral history and document analysis that should, in her view, help to achieve a better understanding of collective memory formation of a concrete group of people. This section further includes a detailed analysis of bibliography used in the thesis, evaluation of general theoretical concepts and terminology applied in this research. Terms such as life story, small and big history, everyday life reality formation and collective memory are among those mentioned in this section. Last but not least, the methods used during fieldwork are described as well as the process of information acquisition by the means of interviews and subsequent data evaluation. The author interviewed and recorded seventeen people in total and subsequently produced transcriptions of every interview. Personal experience of each individual interviewee was thus of major importance.

The author called the second principal part of the thesis material and interpretational. It is again subdivided into two sections according to the two historical processes: the first one is the process of re-emigration of Volhynian Czechs and the second their settlement on the Czech territory. Two different perspectives are used in both of the sections: scholarly work on the topic of historians and ethnologists (usually associated with the general context of domestic and international politics) represents the first one whereas the second one is projected on a much more individual and emotional level as it assembles the memories of the individual actors. Excerpts from interviews, often quite long, serve as an illustration and as a documentation of the presented arguments. A separate chapter is devoted to literature stemming from the environment of Volhynian Czechs that the author sees as a valuable additional source. Each sub-chapter is supported by a commentary by the author and an interpretation of the findings.

The crucial finding of the thesis is presented in the conclusion: in terms of factual history, the two perspectives – that of the actors and that of the historians – do not differ in any substantial manner. Nosková also offers an explanation of her findings: the studied community is largely very interested in its own history and thus possesses a substantial knowledge of the scholarly literature. She thus confirmed her hypothesis included in the introduction that interpretation of historical events in the work of historians, ethnologists and other scientists has an impact on the collective memory formation of the community that is a subject to the respective study. However, it is impossible to quantify or precisely determine their impact.

Appendix to this work is also quite extensive. Biographies of the interviewees, tables and maps showing the settlement of Volhynian Czechs, demographic migrations and contemporary political or press documents form the bulk of the materials.

This publication is undoubtedly a very valuable historical analysis based on a thorough historical research. The main stress is placed on the work with historical documents, hence it is not their form by their creator that matters the most. Apart from new finding, that the author acquired by her research, this work is valuable also as an overview of scholarly and popular literature on the topic of re-emigration and settlement of Volhynian Czechs in the lands of their forefathers.

Eva Pelíšková

Carolina Vendil Pallin, ***Russian Military Reform. A failed exercise in defence decision making.*** London: Routledge, 2008, 248 pp. ISBN 978-0-203-89239-8.

Carolina Pallin as many other authors in the past looks into the question of what happened with the Soviet army after the break-up of the USSR. The transformation of a gigantic military complex into a viable post-bipolar world army is certainly not a neglected topic. The author has decided to bring some sacks to the literature mill on Russian military reforms by the use of institutional framework analysis and the impact of decision-making process on state defence. Pallin believes that the Russian military reform was a very specific example of the process that each and every European country had to go through after the end of the Cold War. Its analysis can thus provide a stepping stone for studies of military reform in other countries. As has already been mentioned, the author focuses primarily on the decision-making process and how its changes influenced the course of the reform. After the collapse of the USSR, Russia's new political leadership had also to take charge of the military command and subjugate the colossal Soviet military apparatus; however, at first new and appropriate institutions had to be created.