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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A History of East Central Europe, vol. 7, edited by Peter F. Sugar and Donald
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 counter­
parts, this despite a shorter text.

The work is a thorough survey divided into four roughly equal parts: the after­
math 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 im­
portant 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 inde­
pendence, 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 na­
tional 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
sion in the struggle for independence is clearly indicated. While this is not a diplomatic history, the influence of international developments upon Polish events, particularly the upheavals of 1830–31, 1848, 1863–64, and World War I, is not overlooked. The peasant and the worker alone, still in the process of being integrated into the nation as economic conditions changed, were incapable of restoring independence. A political leadership capable of exploiting both domestic developments and the international situation was required. Throughout this period the perennial Polish question (even when dormant) always remained a problem with international and domestic implications. This relationship culminated during World War I, which is treated by Wandycz with great detail.

A unique feature of this work is the inclusion and separate consideration of the Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and, to a lesser extent, Belorussian national revivals. While Polish surveys dwell upon Polish national revivals in Silesia and Pomerania for obvious political reasons, similar reasons discourage any extended treatment of the eastern borderlands of the former commonwealth. Wandycz’s presentation is objective. While suggesting that Polish cultural influences may have helped these nascent movements by retarding Russification during the early part of the century, he also explains the reasons which prompted the emerging intelligentsia to break former historical associations. Wandycz also points out that neither the Poles nor the borderland nationalities were united in their approaches to each other. Although some elements of the Polish gentry lacked imagination, for example, in dealing with the Ruthenian problem, there were also individuals who recognized the need to accommodate and to make concessions. Similarly, divergent orientations could be found among the early Lithuanian and Ukrainian national awakeners.

The Jewish question is not treated as a separate topic, but incorporated into the presentation of social and political developments. The essential elements of Polish-Jewish relations are sketched, but, as Wandycz indicates in the bibliographic essay, there is a need for a balanced history of the problem.

A survey, by its very nature, is open to criticism. Other reviews have mentioned the absence of a systematic treatment of church and military history as well as some factual and typographical errors. It is, of course, impossible to mention, much less cover, every topic. The causes of peasant emigration, for example, are touched upon, but it would have been useful to say something about the establishment of Polish settlements abroad, particularly in the United States. Given the great detail in the chapter on World War I, it is surprising that mention of the activities of Paderewski and Dmowski in America is limited to two lines while there is no mention at all of the political activity of the Polish-American community during this period.

The chapters on cultural developments are useful, but at times dissatisfying. Considering the intimate relationship between the arts and the political struggle for national survival and resurrection, it might have been better to incorporate significant portions of these materials into the chapters on social and political developments.

These last comments are not meant to detract from the overall value of this work. Professor Wandycz has provided an important tool for the student beginning the comparative study of East Central Europe and a valuable reference work for both the Polish and non-Polish specialist. His work will facilitate and stimulate the study of East Central Europe.

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