

greater use of Iranian material than has been made until recently" (p. xvii), it is perhaps regrettable that he did not extend his investigations further in this direction. Such an undertaking might have better illuminated the complex fifth-century Irano-Greek world in which the surviving Armenian Agat'angelos cycle was compiled. Given the fact, however, that Professor Thomson's avowed interest lies in the "'received' tradition" (p. viii)—the conscious image of itself being created in Christian Armenia—it is perhaps unreasonable to expect him to give undue attention to the underlying Iranian realities, which the clerical makers of that tradition were sedulously rejecting and denying during the second half of the fifth century as part of the life and death struggle against Zoroastrianism, mobilizing all the energies of Armenia at the time. Be that as it may, Professor Thomson's contribution has given us ample reason to be grateful. We can only hope that equally useful publications will continue to make the all but unknown Armenian medieval sources at long last available to Western scholars.

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ARMENIA: CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION. By *David Marshall Lang*. Revised ed. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1978 [1970]. 320 pp. + 8 pp. plates. Illus. \$29.00.

The reissuing of David Marshall Lang's survey of Armenian history and culture is testimony to the interest in and need for an accessible one-volume treatment of the Armenian past. Focusing primarily on prehistorical, classical, and early Christian Armenia, Lang's work provides the nonspecialist with pertinent information and an easy narrative, accompanied by an abundance of photographs. The story breaks off with the fall of Cilician Armenia in the fourteenth century, and the last half-millennium is discussed in eight pages. Professor Lang also gives us a cursory review of the leading figures in Armenian art, architecture, literature, and music.

Already established as the leading Western historian of Georgia, in this study Professor Lang ventures into an alien field. As a contribution to scholarship, his book has nothing new to offer. Indeed, the frequently flamboyant prose, the nearly complete emphasis on political history and personalities, and the allusions to national characteristics give the text a distinctly old-fashioned quality. No attempt is made to analyze the centrifugal forces operating in Armenian society (the *naxarar* system), the influence of geography, the effect of living between great and hostile empires to the east and west, or the weight of Islamic rule. Historiographic disputes and controversial issues are skirted or ignored, although they could give the reader a more precise picture of how much historians still do not know about Armenian civilization. Despite Professor Lang's erudite effort, the need for an analytical survey of Armenian history remains as palpable as ever.

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THE STRANGE ALLIES: THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND, 1941–1945. By *Richard C. Lukas*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1978. x, 230 pp. \$12.50.

American-Polish relations in 1941–45 represent a strange, but by no means unimportant, historical episode. It was over the Polish question that the first American-Soviet diplomatic skirmishes, subsequently leading to the Cold War, were fought. The subject has received considerable attention in the memoirs of various personalities involved in those events (especially on the Polish side), and references to it abound in virtually all general historical works on World War II. Yet, so far only one major

study, Edward Rozek's *Allied Wartime Diplomacy: A Pattern of Poland*, has covered the subject extensively. Rozek's book, however, was published in 1958 and was based mainly on documents made available to the author by the wartime Polish premier, Stanisław Mikołajczyk. Naturally, since that time substantial new materials have become available, and Professor Lukas's book, which takes them into account, is a welcome addition.

The book is not only thoroughly researched but also well written and organized. The author avoids unnecessary conclusions and lets the facts speak for themselves. His style is concise, almost crisp, which not only adds to the lucidity of his presentation, but also intensifies the drama of the events which he describes. He ably traces the interaction among the main factions involved: the Roosevelt administration, the Polish government-in-exile in London, the American *Polonia*, the Soviet government, and the Lublin Committee sponsored by Stalin. The dilemma facing the United States at that time, with its sincere desire to help Poland on the one hand, and its sheer inability to render much assistance in the face of the determined opposition by the Soviet Union on the other, is clearly stated. The desperate efforts of American politicians to resolve this problem, which, unfortunately, bordered on duplicity at times, are reviewed in some detail.

For students of international politics the most interesting parts of the book are perhaps those describing the unintended consequences of some of the participants' actions. Roosevelt's well-intentioned, but empty, words of encouragement to Sikorski and Mikołajczyk during their visits to Washington complicated the efforts of Churchill, who was trying to impress the Poles with the gravity of their position. The uncompromising stand by the American *Polonia*, supporting the Polish government-in-exile and pushing President Roosevelt in the same direction, had similar effects. As a result, the Poles' illusions about the ability of the United States to help them were perpetuated and this made them reluctant to negotiate with the USSR. In any case, given Stalin's determination to subjugate Poland, it is quite possible (and Professor Lukas seems to share this view) that a more moderate Polish stance would not have helped and the outcome would have been the same. The fact remains, however, that the Poles did not give it a try and the United States unwittingly contributed to this.

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THE POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE: A GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND, 1939–1945. By *Stefan Korboński*. Translated by *Marta Erdman*. East European Monographs, 39. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1978. x, 268 pp. \$16.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

NOTHING BUT HONOUR: THE STORY OF THE WARSAW UPRISING, 1944. By *J. K. Zawodny*. Hoover Institution Publication 183. Stanford and London: Hoover Institution Press and Macmillan, 1978. 328 pp. + 8 pp. plates. \$12.95.

The two books under review complement each other, and readers are advised to start with Korboński's concise guide to the Polish underground, which discusses its origins, structure, and operation. Among other material, the guide contains a summary of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 and its antecedents (for example, the form operation "Tempest" took in the provinces), as well as a description of the political aftermath of the insurrection in the capital city. Without this short and factual introduction, written by the former chief of the civil resistance movement under the German occupation, the story of the Warsaw insurrection as such might have been more difficult for Western students of World War II—especially those of the younger generation—to understand.