

## SUMMARY, No.5 (92), 2010

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ARCHE # 5, 2010

The richly illustrated issue deals with WWII topics. Historical studies highlight first of all military aspects of the German occupation.

The issue opens with a preface by ARCHE editor Dr. **Alaksandar Paškievič**.

**David R. Marples** and **Per Anders Rudling** from Alberta University (Edmonton, Canada) in their 'War and Memory in Belarus: The Annexation of the Western Borderlands and the Myth of the Brest Fortress' discuss main points of an early WWII Brest Fortress history (1939—1941), re-interpret Soviet myths regarding its defense as well as analyze their manipulative use by the current Belarusian regime.

A British scholar **James Dingley** in his 'Old Topical Review' tests the book by an American lawyer John Loftus 'The Belarus Secret' (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 196 p). The main idea of the scandalous publication was that the top Belarusian national activists during WWII were involved in Nazi crimes against humanity.

An American historian **Andrew (Andrievs) Ezerigails** in a short review 'A Starting Point for the Problem Understanding' re-considers the approach used by an American historian Martin Dean in his book 'Collaboration in the Holocaust: Crimes of the Local Police in Belorussia and Ukraine', 1941—44, St. Martin's Press, in Association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, New York, 2000. pp.241. Particularly he criticizes the author's estimations to which extent Belarusians and Ukrainians collaborated in Shoah.

A Polish historian **Sławomir Kosim** in his 'Minsk, 1941' studies military operations which were launched by Nazi Germany in Belarus during an initial period of Soviet-German war in the Summer of 1941.

An American journalist **Anne Applebaum** in her «How Hitler Could Have Won» reviews two books written by the Western historians. 'The Greatest Battle' by Andrew Nagorski. Simon and Schuster, 2007, 366 pp. and 'Moscow 1941: A City and Its People at War' by Rodric Braithwaite. Knopf, 2006, 398 pp. are discussed. She defies the opinion that the Battle of Moscow was the crucial point of the German-Soviet war. Applebaum concludes that Hitler could have won the war only if he had taken Moscow in autumn, 1941. Germany lost the war after the blitz offensive had failed.

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The ARCHE issue presents the translation of a German historian **Marc Bartuschka's** book 'The Partisan Warfare in Belarus, 1941—1944. Everyone Against Everyone? The Origin, Structures and Parties of the Conflict'. VDM Verlag Dr. Müller, 2008.' The partisan warfare in Belarus during the last German occupation is still a controversial research topic. The opinions about the actors, their goals and actions often fall out differently. The research explores the question of the roots of the violence which began well before 1941 and continued after 1944. Was it a struggle to survive in a society devastated by war and coercion? Was there also a fighting over the political future of Belarus, even a civil war in the shadow of a World War? The book is aimed at giving answers to some difficult questions of the Belarusian history.

A German historian **Alexander Brakel** in his 'Most Dangerous is the Peasant's Anger. Supply of the Partisans and Their Attitude to the Civic Population. A Case Study on Gebiet Baranowicze 1941—1944' sheds new light on WWII history in Belarus.

A German-Polish scholar **Bogdan Musiał** in his 'Polish-German 'Reconciliation' in the Borderlands (Kresy Wschodnie)' touches upon the collaboration between Home Army (Armia Krajowa) and German military authorities during the final period of WWII in Western Belarus.

Historian **Aleś Hiełahajeŭ** in his 'Formation of Belarusian Armed Forces in the 'Generalbezirk Weißruthenien' reconstructs the German attempts to create allied Belarusian military units in 1941—1944.

Historian **Jury Hryboŭski** in his 'The Uniforms of German Allied Belarusian Military Units during WWII' sorts out a particular aspect of the above mentioned subject.

As a thematic supplement the issue presents the full text of 'Drill Military Manual' published in 1943 in an occupied Minsk. The document in Belarusian was inspired by a correspondent German manual and was obligatory for the Belarusian Self-Defence Corps (Bielaruskaja Samaachova).

A Brest-based historian **Jaŭhien Razenblat** in his 'Attitude of the Polish and Belarusian Populations to Jews in Palessie Region the First Weeks after the German Attack on the USSR' debates painful problem of three nations co-existence under the German occupation.

Historian **Marek Jan Chodakiewicz's** contribution 'The Last Rising in the Eastern Borderlands: The Ejszyszki Epilogue in its Historical Context'

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deals with an attack of Home Army unit on the borough Ejšyški located at the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. A couple of local Jews, who survived the German occupation, were killed in the incident, which took place on October 19, 1944.

An American scholar **Johanna Granville** in her 'Occupation by a Spoiler State: The Soviet Takeover of Eastern Poland (1939—1941)' reviews the book by an American historian Tomasz Jan Gross 'Revolution from Abroad: The Soviet Conquest of Poland's Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia' (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002. xxiv + 396 pp).

The issue ends with a piece by a Hrodna-based historian **Volha Sabaleŭskaja** titled 'Nations under Occupation'. She reviews a monograph by a Minsk-based historian Dźmitry Kryvašej 'Нацыянальная супольнасці Беларусі ў перыяд германскай акупацыі (чэрвень 1941 — ліпень 1944 гг.) / Д.А. Крывашэй. — Мінск: Беларуская навука, 2009. — 200 с.'