



Review of the publication: Leszek Zasztowt, *Akademie nauk, uniwersytety, organizacje nauki. Polsko-rosyjskie relacje w sferze nauki XVIII–XX w.*, Warszawa: Instytut Historii Nauki PAN 2013, ISBN 978-83-754-5442-0

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The collection of numerous articles devoted to the scientific contacts and academic dimension of the Russian-Polish and Soviet-Polish relations was published in 2013 by the Polish Academy of Sciences and edited by the Polish historian Leszek Zasztowt. The volume mirrors the presentations delivered at a congress of Russian and Polish historians in 2011. This congress was organised in the framework of the activities of the "Commission of the Historians of Poland and Russia" (*Komisja Historyków Polski i Rosji / Komissia istorikov Pol'shi i Rossii*) and financed by the Polish Academy of Sciences and other Polish institutions. The 756-page volume consists of numerous case-studies authored by prominent historians from both countries on the reciprocal influence and reception of humanities both in Poland and in the Russian Empire resp. the Soviet Union. Divided into three sections, correspondingly called 'Research', 'People' and 'Institutions', the contributions shed light on the different fields of Polish-Russian academic cooperation, people central to the exchange of ideas between Warsaw, Vilnius, Lviv, Moscow and St. Petersburg as well as on the main institutions, mostly Institutes of Slavonic Studies, in both countries.

In the section on 'Research', the Polish historian Andrzej Walicki delivers a bright essay on Russian and Polish thinkers and intellectuals in the "circle of the common fascination" (81-100). He portrays the mutual influence and exchange of ideas between Russian and Polish thinkers throughout the nineteenth century by elucidating the emergence of Pan-Slavism as intellectual discourse in the Polish lands and in the Tsardom. According to Walicki, though, the Polish intellectual elites read the Pan-Slavist ideas differently than their Russian contemporaries did, "[...] the intellectual history of both countries can be presented as a common exchange of ideas" (99). The author depicts how intensive the mutual perception was among the intelligentsias of both societies.

Roman Duda presents an interesting article on the life, contribution and personal destiny of numerous mathematicians of Polish background in Tsarist and Soviet Russia. Despite the long chronology of almost three centuries, Duda authors an exciting study of the significant role of the Polish scientists at Russian and Soviet universities. The article contains rich archival material on the mathematicians' biographies and restores the complicated mosaic of scientific interconnections in the field of mathematics within the Russian Empire as well as between Warsaw, Moscow and Leningrad during the Soviet period. By focussing on these specific Polish-Russian contacts, Duda elaborates a topic mostly neglected by international Polish and Russian Studies.

The article by the Russian historian Boris Nosov sheds light on Soviet academic writing on Polish history and on the communist Polish historians' history-writing. Nosov describes the historians' congresses in Moscow from the end of the 1940s through the beginning of the 1950s until the years of late Stalinism and analyses the papers and speeches presented by both Polish and Soviet historians. Nosov points out, that the Soviet historians were quite interested in getting more knowledge about historical research in Poland. While criticizing the 'ideologisation' of historical research in both countries in that period, this cooperation had a positive impact on the Soviet investigations of the Polish history, so Nosov (202).

In the section 'People', the case-study of the Cracow-based historian Andrzej Nowak on Dmitrii Filosofov is particularly worth mentioning (335-346.). Nowak focused on Filosofov's Russia- and culture-related writings in Poland and later articles on Mickiewicz and perception of Poland. Filosofov embodied a Russian exile intellectual who left Bolshevik Russia first for Poland.

The third section on "Institutions" contains a number of contributions devoted to the interconnected history of the academic disciplines in the Soviet-Russian-Polish context. The evolution of the chairs of Russian and Polish studies in both countries and the academic cooperation are the focus. The article of the Polish historian Jan Sobczak is of particular importance (663-672). Sobczak spent three years as a guest research fellow at the Institute of Slavonic and Balkan Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow during the 'fateful' time between 1990 and 1992. In his essay, he describes his research on the biography of Tsar Nicholas I and his stay in Moscow. Sobczak shares his memory of the city, of the academic atmosphere at the Institute during the last period of Perestroika and

the first post-Soviet year. The Polish historian reflects on his conversation with his Russian counterparts and describes the rapid change that the majority of Soviet historians underwent after the collapse of the Soviet Union – the change from a Marxist-Leninist approach to a liberal one.[1]

The Polish historian Mariusz Wołos contributes a report on the activity of the Mission of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Moscow from 1995 to 2002 (673-690). After the fall of Communism, Poland launched the creation of representation offices of the National Academy of Sciences in cities of importance for Polish sciences and academic cooperation. Warsaw founded centers in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Vienna and in 1995 in Moscow. Wołos became the Director of the mission in Moscow and therefore his report should be read as a critical self-descriptive and experience-related piece. The article entails numerous facts about the evolution of Russian-Polish scientific cooperation in the post-communist era.

To sum up, the volume consists of a number of well-written articles on Polish-Russian and Polish-Soviet academic cooperation, published in Polish and Russian. Along with its significance for international historical research on Russian-Polish relations, this volume also has an important political meaning. Despite a quite complicated stand of Polish-Russian relations during the last two decades, this volume gives hope that the scientific cooperation between Warsaw and Moscow will continue. Many of its articles deliver a well-researched account of the emergence, evolution and also current development of the scientific cooperation and intellectual interaction between Poland and (post-)Soviet Russia. The bilingual volume is recommendable for everyone interested in the study of the intellectual history of Eastern Europe, Poland and Russia and able to read in Russian and in Polish.

[1] Sobczak calls them with irony "wielkie liberały" (p. 669).

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