director's highly visual style, his personal thematic obsessions, prevailing images of the
violent and the grotesque and an adept mastery of manipulating the viewer's emotions.
Stachówna draws attention to the most intriguing aspects of Polański's films by the titles
of her sub-chapters: "The Lamp—An Introduction to Fear," "Repulsion—A Story of a
Madness," "Cul-de-sac—A Heroic Struggle with the Absurd."

Polański's artistic output, because of its diversity, manipulation of the genre's rules
and its cosmopolitan nature, is not easily defined; there is, presumably, nothing Polish
about his films unless we take a tendency toward the bizarre and the grotesque as a
typical Polish feature. Stachówna's intelligent book avoids all the generic weaknesses of
a typical "author study" and provides fresh, perceptive insight into the career of a great
contemporary filmmaker.

It is not unimportant to note that the book, which is carefully edited and illustrated,
contains a detailed filmography of Polański's achievements as film director, script writer,
producer and actor.

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Hans-Joachim Torke and John-Paul Himka, eds. German-Ukrainian Relations in
Historical Perspective. Toronto and Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
Press, 1994. vii, 239 pp. Index. $34.95, cloth.

The map of Europe has changed, fulfilling the dreams of nations. Nations that for
hundreds of years were part of empires—feudal or Communist—have liberated
themselves and begun once again to write their own history. Their future is still not clear,
but it is clearly bound up with their past. One of the most interesting topics of study in
contemporary Europe is Ukraine, its dramatic past and place in Eastern Europe, as well as
its process of identification with the family of democratic states.

Understanding the complex emancipatory process of Ukraine and its attempt to
overcome the past and become a part of Europe requires knowledge of its history. A great
help in this is Torke's and Himka's German-Ukrainian Relations in Historical
Perspective, a collection of fourteen papers presented at an international conference on
the history of German-Ukrainian relations in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in October 1986.

Four of the articles are devoted to the development of German-Ukrainian relations
before World War I. Edgar Hosch in his paper "An Episode from German-Ukrainian
Scholarly Contacts: Dietrich Christoph von Rommel" analyzes the connection between
Ukraine and academics from Germany; using the example of the German scholar
Rommel, he outlines the perception of a "child of his age" and his romantic attitude
toward his "mission" in Ukraine.

The role of German colonists in Ukraine, mainly Mennonites, as model farmers is
described by Detlef Brandes, who points out that in 1813 the Mennonites living in
Ukraine produced three times more grain per head than Lutheran and Catholic colonists
(p. 19). These achievements were made possible by the use of threshing machines and the
four-field system.

In his article, John-Paul Himka traces the influence of German culture on the
national awakening in Western Ukraine before the Revolution of 1848, concluding that
Austrian absolutists played a "modest but contributory, role in Western Ukraine’s
national awakening" (p. 37) by creating a national intelligentsia. Himka also mentions the
influence of German thinkers such as Herder on Czechs, Balts, and other East Europeans.

Andreas Kappeler in "Ukrainians and Germans in Southern Ukraine, 1870 to 1914"
analyzes figures dealing with the demographic, social, and socio-cultural structure of
southern Ukraine society, and compares German and Ukrainian communities. Germans,
who were invited to live in Ukraine and to vitalize its economy, in fact created closed communities: a “different religion, language, culture, and mentality clearly set the Germans apart from the rest of the population” (p. 62).

Memoirs, always a popular and fertile historical source, inspired Jaroslav Pelenski’s piece on the memoirs of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky, and what they reveal of Germany in 1917–1918. A similar topic attracted the attention of Peter Borowsky in “Germany’s Ukrainian Policy during World War I and the Revolution of 1917–1918” and Ihor Kamenetsky in “German Colonization Plans in Ukraine during World War I and II.” These two authors point out that Germany’s short-term policy toward Ukraine was to obtain supplies and raw materials from it (the so-called grain peace), and its long-term goal was the separation of Ukraine from Russia as a means of weakening the Russian colossus (p. 92).

The inter-war period is described by Bohdan Krawchenko in “Soviet Ukraine and Germany, 1920–1939.” The most important topic of the conference, however, seems to have been developments during World War II. This issue is addressed by five authors: Ralf Bartoleit in “The New Agrarian Order in Ukraine, 1941–1942: Sources and Considerations”; Wolfdieter Bihil in “Ukrainians in the Armed Forces of the Reich: The 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS”; Peter J. Potichnyj in “The Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and the German Authorities”; Taras Hunczak in “OUN-German Relations, 1941–1945”; and John A. Armstrong in “Ukraine: Colony or Partner?” The guiding idea of all papers dealing with the German occupation of Ukraine is to show that “the arbitrary and brutal behaviour of the German authorities played into the hands of OUN [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists], by convincing the desperate population that their only hope (except for the Bolshevik alternative) lay in joining OUN, in order to participate actively in the national resistance movement” (p. 183).

The book is concluded by Yaroslav Bilinsky’s “Germany, Western Europe, and Ukraine after World War II,” amended by a postscript written in January 1993. Among other interesting topics, the paper analyzes the problem of ethnic Russians in Ukraine: how to avert sudden mass immigration into Germany, when Germany already faces the formidable task of “integrating the population of the former (East) German Democratic Republic” (p. 218).

The future of Ukraine, and its future relations with Russia and Germany, are very complicated issues that include many unpredictable aspects (among them the problem of Crimea, the ideological split between eastern and western Ukraine, the substantial Russian minority, and economic troubles, to name only the most obvious ones). The main task of this book is to foster a better understanding of present developments—an understanding to which all authors have successfully contributed.

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Ze'ev Wolfson made his name in the English-speaking world in 1980 with the book The Destruction of Nature in the Soviet Union. Written under the pseudonym of Boris Komarov while he was still a Soviet official, it was a harsher indictment of environmental policies in his homeland than any published by a Western author. The present volume is a logical successor to that it both gives more recent information on some topics and presents a broader view of environmental problems at several levels. Wolfson pursues a number of themes relating to the spread of ecological deterioration and the impossibility