



Publications

Matthias Schwartz, Nina Weller, and Heike Winkel edited *After Memory. World War II in Contemporary Eastern European Literatures*, (de Gruyter, June 2021) The present volume posits that literature as a medium can help us understand the shifting attitudes towards World War II and the Holocaust in post-Communist Europe in recent years. New narratives of remembrance are conditioned by a fundamentally new social and political context, one that emerged from the devaluation of socialist commemorative rituals and as a response to the loss of private and family memory narratives. The volume offers insights into the diverse literatures of Eastern Europe and their ways of depicting the area's contested heritage.

Natalia Aleksium's *Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians before the Holocaust* (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2021) highlights the historical scholarship that is one of the lasting legacies of interwar Polish Jewry and analyzes its political and social context. As Jewish citizens struggled to assert their place in a newly independent Poland, Jewish devoted themselves to creating a sense of Polish Jewish belonging while also fighting for their rights as an ethnic minority. The political climate made it hard for these people to pursue an academic career; instead they had to create and disseminate Polish Jewish history by teaching outside the university and publishing in scholarly and popular journals. By introducing the Jewish public to historical heroes to celebrate and anniversaries to commemorate, they sought to forge a community aware of its past, its cultural heritage, and its achievements. In highlighting the role of public intellectuals and the social role of scholars and historical scholarship, this study adds a new dimension to the understanding of the Polish Jewish world in the interwar period.

Amy D. Ronner's sixth book, *Dostoevsky as Suicidologist: Self-Destruction and the Creative Process* (Lexington Books, January 2021), shows how self-homicide in Fyodor Dostoevsky's fiction prefigures Emile Durkheim's etiology in Suicide as well as theories of other suicidologists. This monograph not only fills a lacuna in Dostoevsky's scholarship, but also provides fresh readings of Dostoevsky's post-exile writings. Beyond that, the book funnels out, chapter-by-chapter, to an exegesis of how Dostoevsky's implicit awareness of fatalistic, altruistic, egoistic, and anomic modes of self-destruction helped shape not only his philosophy but also his craft as a writer. Most expansively, the book tackles the formidable task of forging a ligature between artistic creation and the pluripresent social fact of self-annihilation.

Dungan Folktales and Legends, by Kenneth J. Yin, was published by Peter Lang in August 2021. This book is a unique anthology that acquaints English-speaking readers with the rich and

captivating folk stories of the Dungans, Sinophone Muslims who fled Northwest China for Russian Central Asia after failure of the Dungan Revolt (1862–1877) under the Qing dynasty. The most comprehensive collection of Dungan folk narratives, available now in English for the first time, this volume features translations of oral narratives collected in the former Soviet Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in the twentieth century. The Dungan folk narrative tradition is a vibrant and fascinating tapestry of Chinese, Islamic, and various Central Asian cultural elements.

Esperanto and Languages of Internationalism in Revolutionary Russia, by Brigid O'Keeffe, was published by Bloomsbury in June 2021. In 1887, L.L. Zamenhof launched Esperanto, an international auxiliary language, from the western borderlands of a tsarist empire in crisis. This book studies the ordinary people in Russia (and all over the world) who soon transformed Esperanto into a global movement. O'Keeffe traces the history and legacy of Esperanto from its birthplace in the Pale of Settlement; to its appeal among the globally minded in late imperial Russia; to its links to interwar socialist internationalism and Comintern bids for world revolution; and, finally, to the demise of the Soviet Esperanto movement in the increasingly xenophobic Stalinist 1930s. This book reveals how Esperanto and global language politics broadly shaped revolutionary Russia. It also helps us to better understand the ambiguous premium placed on foreign languages and the often precarious position of their speakers in the larger history of Soviet internationalism.

From Victory to Peace: Russian Diplomacy after Napoleon, by Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter, was published by Northern Illinois University Press in December 2020. This history of Russian diplomatic thought in the years after the Congress of Vienna concerns a time when Russia and Emperor Alexander I were fully integrated into European society and politics. Wirtschafter looks at how Russia's statesmen who served Alexander I across Europe, in South America, and in Constantinople represented the Russian monarch's foreign policy and sought to act in concert with the allies. This book illustrates how Russia's policymakers and diplomats responded to events on the ground as the process of implementing peace unfolded.

I Was Never Alone or Oporniki, by Cassandra Hartblay, (University of Toronto Press, October 2020) presents an original ethnographic stage play, based on fieldwork conducted in Russia with adults with disabilities. The core of the work is the script of the play itself, which is accompanied by a description of the script development process, from the research in the field to rehearsals for public performances. In a supporting essay, the author argues that both ethnography and theatre can be