

## Citation style

Pekár, Martin: review of: Martin Zückert / Jürgen Zarusky / Volker Zimmermann (eds.), Partisanen im Zweiten Weltkrieg. Der Slowakische Nationalaufstand im Kontext der europäischen Widerstandsbewegungen. Vorträge der gemeinsamen Tagung des Collegium Carolinum und des Instituts für Zeitgeschichte München-Berlin in Bad Wiessee vom 6. bis 9. November 2014, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017, in: Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas / jgo.e-reviews, jgo.e-reviews 2020, 1, p. 91-93,  
<https://www.recensio.net/r/3c2bc45d645f4bf99a263e4b91f4be7e>

First published: Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas / jgo.e-reviews, jgo.e-reviews 2020, 1

**Jahrbücher für  
Geschichte  
Osteuropas**



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**Partisanen im Zweiten Weltkrieg. Der Slowakische Nationalaufstand im Kontext der europäischen Widerstandsbewegungen. Vorträge der gemeinsamen Tagung des Collegium Carolinum und des Instituts für Zeitgeschichte München-Berlin in Bad Wiessee vom 6. bis 9. November 2014**

Hrsg. von Martin Zückert, Jürgen Zarusky und Volker Zimmermann.  
Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017. 320 S. = Bad Wiesseer Tagungen des Collegium Carolinum, 37. ISBN: 978-3-525-37315-6.

On the milestone 70th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (SNU) in 2014, a number of scientific and commemorative events were held. One such event was organized by the Collegium Carolinum – Research Institute for the History of the Czech Lands and Slovakia in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History. The result of this scientific conference, which took place in Bad Wiessee in 2014, is the book reviewed here, which offers an original view of the Slovak National Uprising in a comparative perspective.

The SNU has occupied an important position in the historical consciousness of Slovak society since then till now, and thus it has become a subject of interest for all that have been in power in Slovakia since 1945. To this day, August 29, the day the uprising started, is a public holiday. The extraordinary importance of this event has significantly influenced the scientific research of the uprising in the context of Slovak historiography. From the point of view of Slovak historians, the SNU has been one of the key events in the political and military history of the 20th century. Historians already began to conduct scientific research on the SNU in the 1960s. Timeless works by Jozef Jablonický, for example, were involuntarily overshadowed by the politically favoured production of ideologized Marxist historiography of that era. After 1968, there was no longer any room for interpretations of the uprising outside the official ideological framework. The year 1989 brought democratization and an opportunity for scientific research into the SNU to make significant progress. However, historians in Slovakia still tend to view the SNU as a unique and specific phenomenon without a broader context. It must also be acknowledged that their research offers only limited innovations from a methodological point of view.

This excursion is essential for understanding the meaning of the book being reviewed. In short, its significance can be summarized in four points. To begin with, as the title of the book suggests, the SNU is placed in the context of pan-European developments and other comparable resistance movements. Today, more than three years after the book was issued and more than six years after the conference itself, it can be said that this approach has also inspired other authors. Secondly, the book was intended to represent a unique attempt at the theoretical and typological classification of

the SNU, and also other resistance movements. Thirdly, it has created an international platform to debate the research results of Slovak historians on a topic which they instinctively perceived as their own domain and therefore often fell into a certain schematism as to its interpretation. Only by questioning the established Slovak research results and interpretations in the context of international debate new opportunities for further research of a topic already rather intensively examined by Slovak historians can be found. Finally, the fourth point is the noteworthy fact that this book contains studies in German and English, which makes a significant contribution towards making the topic accessible to the wider audience and towards its further promotion as a topic of research.

The concept of the conference was developed and the volume edited by Martin Zückert, Jürgen Zarusky († 2019) and Volker Zimmerman. The book consists of 15 studies, divided into four sections. The contributing authors were experts from various institutions in Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria.

In the introductory section, the editors present their opening contribution and, in so doing, create the basic framework, which the authors subsequently use for their more narrowly formulated topics. They outline the state of the art, the context of the comparison, the fundamental problems and the chronology of events. The second contribution in the introductory section is a study by BORIS BARTH. This paper represents one of the above-mentioned attempts at theoretical and typological classification of the SNU. One by one, various aspects of uprisings – actors, interests, space, violence, the national issue, etc. – are analysed and the author endeavours to apply his conclusions directly to the case of the SNU.

The next two sections of the book deal with specific partisan movements from a geographical point of view. The second section contains four studies and is dedicated to Slovakia. The third section comprises five studies on selected topics from the region of Eastern and Southeast Europe.

From the second section, the studies by MARTIN ZÜCKERT and MAREK SYRNÝ, which are broadly conceived in terms of their content, deserve special attention. Zückert's study has a partly theoretical-methodological character, with the author analysing the historical-political controversies surrounding the various interpretations of the SNU. These are scrutinized using the various definitions of the term *partisan* and taking into account the specificity of the SNU case, where the army served as the driving force. Syrný analyses in detail the role of the Communist Party of Slovakia in the SNU. His study is an important enrichment of the topic, as it contributes to the elimination of stereotypes and the still present ideological misinterpretations about the role of communists in the uprising. The studies by MARIAN UHRIN and MARTIN VITEK are as to form an approach typical case studies. They focus on the activities of two specific partisan groups operating in the SNU.

The third section contains thematically and methodologically different papers from occupied Belarus (OLGA BARANOVA), Lithuania (EKATERINA MAKHOTINA), Greece (VAIOS KALOGRIAS), the Soviet Union (SVEN DEPPISCH) and occupied Poland. In the latter case, the author, FRANZISKA BRUDER, interconnects, rather unusually, the themes of the partisan movement and the uprising of the Jews in the Sobibór extermination camp. The study by Deppisch, with its focus on the analysis of the diary of a Soviet partisan, represents a methodologically different approach to the other studies in the reviewed book.

The fourth, and last section combines four articles depicting the period after 1945. In his comparative study, ULRIKE LUNOW traces the postwar position of members of the resistance movement in Czechoslovakia and France. The contributions by MARÍNA ZAVACKÁ, MATTEO COLOMBI and MONIKA VRZGULOVÁ examine the images of the SNU uprising in postwar literature, film and political discourse. Of these three authors, Colombi in particular offers an overtly international comparative perspective, by contrasting the image of the partisan movement in Slovakia with the one in Slovenia depicted in the films by director František Čáp. The study by the ethnologist Vrzgulová with its analysis of the image of the SNU in Slovak political discourse after 1989 offers an up-to-date viewpoint. It identifies how closely the uprising and its image are interconnected with other current and sensitive societal issues, especially with the question of the national identity of the Slovaks.

As the book editors state, the partisan movement in Europe during the Second World War is a relatively underexplored phenomenon. Until now, research into the partisan movement has been dominated by a military-historical approach and a national perspective. Although the reviewed book does not intend to provide a comprehensive analysis of this phenomenon, it is still a highly notable work. The book comprises studies by renowned authors, who provide contributions with a solid theoretical and methodological grounding. They explore their topics in a broader chronological frame, but above all, bridge the national perspective and are thus able to offer the reader a much broader spatial and temporal context based on comparison. It goes without saying that the book editors as well as the contributors succeeded in their intention. After a high-quality conference with a stimulating discussion, they produced a book which, since its publication, had already begun to determine the direction of further research, at least in the regions of Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe.

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