

Yugoslav popular culture. In the penultimate case study, Ana Hofman and Polona Sitar consider the contradictory position of female folk singers who symbolized both working-class socialist women as well as capitalist entertainers. The final study by Igor Duda analyses the immensely popular television series *Naše malo misto* as a means of illustrating consumer culture in Yugoslavia's unique brand of market socialism.

All of the chapters are well-written and bring the theme of class back into Yugoslav historiography. It would have been beneficial, however, to have included a concluding chapter, bringing together these diverse micro-histories to show how they interacted to undermine socialism in the late 1980s. In terms of future research, it may be worth considering an exploration of the social inequalities in the Yugoslav successor states, which appear to have only deepened class differences. After all, these new nations are post-socialist as much as they are post-conflict. Nonetheless, this is a very interesting and balanced volume that demonstrates that social stratification should be as much a key term of reference as ethno-nationalism in exploring the deficiencies of Yugoslav socialism.

Olaf Asbach and Peter Schröder, eds, *The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years' War*, Ashgate: Farnham, 2014; 362 pp.; 9781409406297, £105.00 (hbk); 9781315613666, £105.00 (ebook)

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In the lead-up to the 2018 commemorations of the 400th anniversary of the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War, this major publication is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the conflict, and does an excellent job of summarizing and interpreting many strands of the relevant scholarship. Above all, this volume will serve as an invaluable reference work for all historians concerned with the Thirty Years' War, particularly for its detailed discussion of the most recent research on its political, military and religious aspects. Several of its chapters will be useful reading for graduate students and advanced undergraduates, especially those by Joachim Whaley (on the origins of the war) and Peter Wilson (on strategy), which summarize some of the findings of their recent magisterial publications, whose interpretations have done much to shape Asbach and Schröder's volume and serve as a useful, predominantly narrative, counterpoint.

Beyond summarizing recent research, what contribution does this volume make to the study of the Thirty Years' War? Perhaps its greatest strength is in its balance of the Imperial and international dimensions of the conflict, a dynamic that shapes the volume. Chapters by Joachim Whaley, Ronald Asch, Toby Osbourne and Tryntje Helfferich provide detailed narratives of the origins and course of the conflict that serve as a sure-footed guide through the complex terrain of this period. These chapters are complemented by a section that evaluates the role of the 'great powers', including Denmark (Paul Douglas Lockhart), France (Lucien Bély), Spain (Gabriel Guarino) and Sweden (Pärtel Piirimäe), as well as chapters

that demonstrate the spread of the conflict into Italy as a theatre of war (Sven Externbrink) and the Dutch-Spanish war in the Low Countries (Olaf van Nimwegen). Especially novel are the chapters by Maria Baramova on Ottoman neutrality and Susan Richter on the problems posed by the Peace of Westphalia in the world outside Europe, notably for the Dutch East and West India Companies. These chapters update and expand the European perspective of the all-star cast of contributors to Geoffrey Parker's volume on *The Thirty Years' War* (London, 1984, second edition 1997), even if the occasionally dense summary of research findings in the present volume rarely matches the vigorous narrative sweep of Bonney, Elliot, Evans, Parker, et al.

While this volume provides a clear guide to the politics of the Thirty Years' War, the contributors are more divided in their views as to how politics relates to religion. Whaley in his opening chapter summarizes and criticizes Heinz Schliling's view that the 1555 Peace of Augsburg marked the beginning of the confessional age and concealed a 'systemic crisis' that inevitably broke out in 1618 (14–15), instead foregrounding an accretion of political problems that culminated in the Bohemian crisis. By contrast, Cornel Zwierlein in a more ambitious interpretative chapter, explores the extent to which early modern theological and political discourse could indeed accept the Thirty Years' War as a 'religious war' (esp. 240–2). The chapters by Mathias Pohlig (on the Peace of Augsburg) and Mark R. Forster (on the 1629 Edict of Restitution) skilfully evaluate both sides of the argument while effectively showing how political and religious conflicts interlinked, while Ralf-Peter Fuchs in his chapter gives a close narrative of Protestant confessional politics.

Perhaps the weakest aspect of the book is its lack of attention to the impact of the Thirty Years' War in everyday life, which is given only two chapters to cover topics surely worthy of a section in their own right. Women are conspicuous by their absence. The demographic impact of the conflict takes only a short segment of John Thieibault's chapter on the material conditions of war (253–4) nestled alongside vast topics such as military finance and inflation. Sigrun Haude's chapter on the impact of war introduces the major work of historians such as Kasper von Greyerz, Hans Medick and Geoffrey Mortimer on first-person accounts of the war, mainly through the lens of collective psychology, but much more could have been done elsewhere to incorporate intellectual history, literary genres, print media and the visual arts (the volume includes no illustrations). As Thieibault laments, 'most of the best-regarded recent general histories of the war... treat economic disruption, death, and destruction in a separate chapter at the end of the book' (253). Asbach's and Schröder's volume has the same flaw. Finally, as a 'research companion' this volume does not discuss archives or source material, or include any maps, which limits its use as a practical guide. Overall, though, it serves best as a learned and thorough companion to the research literature on the Thirty Years' War, especially in bringing together interpretations presented in different scholarly traditions and languages. In these terms, the volume is a resounding success.