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Review of the book In the Shadow of the Polish Eagle: The Poles, the Holocaust and Beyond

John A. Drobnicki
CUNY York College

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Cooper, Leo. **In the shadow of the Polish eagle: the Poles, the Holocaust and beyond.** Palgrave, 2000. 255p bibl index ISBN 0-333-75265-1, \$65.00

Although Cooper, a political economist (Univ. of Melbourne; *Russia and the World*, 1999), touches on 1,000 years of Polish-Jewish history in this book, the most controversial aspect is his assertion that the Holocaust was carried out "by the Nazis in Poland with the active assistance of their Polish collaborators." While the author sheds light on many shameful parts of Poland's history, both before and after the Holocaust, he sometimes omits important details in his attempt to illustrate his charge of "Polish endemic anti-Semitism." For example, Cooper writes of Jewish partisans killed in 1943 by a Polish Home Army unit, but fails to mention that the unit's leader was subsequently court-martialed and executed by the underground as punishment. His tone is frequently angry, repeatedly referring to some Polish historians as "apologists," and even ultimately holding the Poles responsible for the slaughter of Jews by Ukrainian Cossacks under Bohdan Chmielnicki, because the revolt was caused by the Poles' cruel treatment of the Cossacks. Libraries should balance Cooper's interpretation of Poles and Jews during the Holocaust with Richard C. Lukas's *The Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles under German Occupation, 1939-1944* (1986; 2nd rev. ed. 1997). Upper-division undergraduate students and above.—J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College