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Review of the book Historical Dictionary of Poland, 1945-1996

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Wróbel, Piotr. **Historical dictionary of Poland, 1945-1996**, by Piotr Wróbel with editing by Anna Wróbel. Greenwood, 1998. 423p bibl index afp ISBN 0-313-29772-X, \$85.00

The sequel to *Historical Dictionary of Poland, 966-1945*, by Jerzy J. Lerski (CH, Sep'96), to which Wróbel made substantial contributions, covers the postwar period and provides entries on individuals (both prominent and lesser known), groups of people (Jews, Gypsies), institutions (Roman Catholic Church), political parties, events, and current or historical topics (economy, education). Its more than 900 articles are arranged alphabetically according to the Polish alphabet, provide *see* and cross-references, and contain bibliographies. Other features include six black-and-white maps, a brief explanation of Polish spelling, a detailed chronology, and a general bibliography. Although the volume is extremely well organized and the articles well balanced among the different time periods, there are some omissions: a brief entry is devoted to foreign affairs, but there is none on NATO or individual countries (e.g., Germany, the US, or Russia/USSR). Some of this could have been covered in an introductory overview, if the book had one. Wróbel's book is more comprehensive (although it covers a briefer time period) than *Historical Dictionary of Poland*, by George Sanford and Adriana Gozdecka-Sanford (CH, May'95), which has a more extensive general bibliography. Highly recommended for all reference collections.—*J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College*