2-2004

Review of the book Historical dictionary of Poland, 2nd ed.

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Recommended Citation

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Beginning with a chronology (800s-2002) and an introductory essay, Sanford provides some 500 articles covering people, places, events, institutions, and political parties in Poland, past and present. Topics added since the first edition (CH, May'96) include numerous politicians (e.g., historian and foreign minister Władysław Bartoszewski) and the pogrom in Jedwabne, and articles about such personalities as President Aleksander Kwaśniewski and Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła) have been expanded. Most articles are brief, but several ("Literature," "Roman Catholicism") exceed five pages. Sanford adopts a more reader-friendly format in this edition, using boldface to indicate cross-references rather than the "q.v." he used before. Because the typeface is smaller, the new edition has 48 fewer pages. The bibliography covers a wide range of well-chosen scholarly articles and monographs in English. There is no index. Any one-volume source will suffer from omissions (e.g., no entry for Czechoslovakia), so collections requiring more detail should consider George (Jerzy) Leczkowski's Historical Dictionary of Poland, 866-1946 (CH, Sep'96) or Piotr Wróbel's Historical Dictionary of Poland, 1945-1996, (CH, Jan'99). Well researched and written, the second edition remains a valuable reference source for students and faculty. Summing Up: Recommended. All academic and public libraries.—J. A. Drobicki, York College, CUNY