

list of errors, inconsistencies, infelicities, and highly debatable statements, it can only be concluded that the fifteen *Britannica* articles on the republics of the USSR are not a reliable source of information on the USSR. The editors state in their *Propaedia*: "No matter how clearly the new *Britannica* manifests its other qualities, it will fail to the extent that inaccuracy renders its contents undependable" (p. xiv). This should suggest that the policy of unqualified use of Soviet sources in future editions needs re-evaluation.

ROMUALD J. MISIUNAS
Williams College

PAMIĘTNIKI (1919–1928). By *Bolesław Limanowski*. Edited by *Janusz Durko*. Warsaw: Książka i Wiedza, 1973. 380 pp. 50 zł.

Bolesław Limanowski was born in Livonia on the same day the first Polish socialist organization—the Polish People—was formed on British soil (October 25, 1835). He became one of the most prominent representatives of Polish social democratic thought—harking back to the tradition of Polish struggles for independence. When he died, almost a centenarian, on February 1, 1935, he left an eclectic ideological legacy combining patriotism, keen social consciousness, feminism, commitment to parliamentarism, and championship of minority nationality rights.

This book, a diary of events which Limanowski recorded between his eighty-fourth and ninety-third years, is a sequel to his memoirs published in three volumes between 1937 and 1961 (covering the period from 1835 to 1919). The memoirs and diary are based on a manuscript now kept in the Manuscript Section of the Polish National Library in Warsaw, which I saw in the original—along with the typescript of the diary—courtesy of the editor, while I was doing doctoral research in Poland in 1968.

The editor, who is director of the Party Central Archives, had to contend with sometimes illegible handwriting (due to the advanced age of the author), the obscurity of some of the items, and chronological gaps (due to illness or lack of leisure). He omitted those entries which he judged to be insignificant. However, the published version includes purely personal items as well as comments on public affairs. It contains references to the previously published volumes, and should be read as part of the whole. Also, because the entries (which are based on information in the daily press and other contemporary sources, as well as on the author's personal experience) tend to be quite succinct, some background knowledge is necessary.

Notwithstanding his great age, in the period 1919–28 Limanowski was active as a historian and political commentator. Twice elected to the Polish Senate on the PPS (Polish Socialist Party) ticket, he distinguished himself as a fearless champion of minority nationalities who fought for justice for political prisoners and defended parliamentary democracy. His membership in Polish organizations such as the Association of the Amateurs of Air Navigation, the Leonardo da Vinci Society, the Human and Civil Rights Defense League, TUR (Association of the Workers' University), and TSL (Association of Peasant Schools) reflects his broad interests. He had a remarkably wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and he read a great deal of fiction and nonfiction by both Polish and foreign authors.

The book is equipped with a useful name index and a list of periodicals mentioned in the text. It also includes a bibliographical guide to Limanowski's publications in the period 1919–35, a list of the works he had read, and fifteen portraits from the Party Central Archives. In addition, the appendix includes Limanowski's articles on the East Prussian Mazurians, his inaugural address in the Senate, and a vehement appeal directed to President Ignacy Mościcki. The book is a valuable historical source reflecting the political and socioeconomic preoccupations of the period.

K. J. COTTAM
Ottawa, Canada

HITLER'S FREE CITY: A HISTORY OF THE NAZI PARTY IN DANZIG, 1925–39. By *Herbert S. Levine*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1973. xii, 223 pp. \$7.50.

The interlude in history during which Gdańsk was a free city, especially its role as a political and social entity, has attracted surprisingly little attention. The generally accepted view—reinforced by historians—is of Gdańsk as a bone of contention, a “Sarajevo,” as it were, of the Second World War. Nazi propaganda calling for the “return of Danzig to the Reich” and the pro-Nazi attitude of later collaborators (“Mourir pour Danzig,” Marcel Déat, May 4, 1939) are better remembered than the striking local successes of the NSDAP, all the more noteworthy because they came about in a closed and fairly homogeneous urban community and under the specific conditions of international control. In Gdańsk the Nazi movement developed in what might almost be called a “test-tube environment,” although it is true that neither the geographical frontier nor international agreements provided much of an obstacle to outside infiltration.

Professor Levine's study does much to fill the gap in the existing literature on Gdańsk. It is based on a conscientious study of documents from the archives of the former Free City, the Reich, and private collections owned by institutions in the United States, the Federal German Republic, and Poland. Careful use has also been made of the growing body of background literature, with the sole exception, perhaps, of overall analyses of fascism inspired by sociological and political theory, whose importance, however, Levine acknowledges (notes, p. 183).

As its title suggests, Levine's work is less a book about Gdańsk than a study of the NSDAP, and as such will have an important place in the literature on the subject. The position of the Nazi party in Gdańsk can be regarded as exceptional for two reasons at least. First, Gdańsk was an “isolation zone,” which meant that communications with headquarters—first in Munich and later in Berlin—proceeded along somewhat different channels than in Germany itself, while at the same time local political and social conditions required certain specific adaptations. Second, the isolation of the community as a whole plus internal tension (among Germans, Poles, and Jews) clearly determined the scope and intensity of political campaigning.

A weakness of the book is the superficial treatment of the city's social infrastructure and economic dependence. The author has not attempted the difficult but fruitful method of “urban” history undertaken so successfully ten years ago by W. S. Allen (*The Nazi Seizure of Power*, Chicago, 1965), although admittedly Gdańsk would have presented far more difficult a task in this respect than Nort-