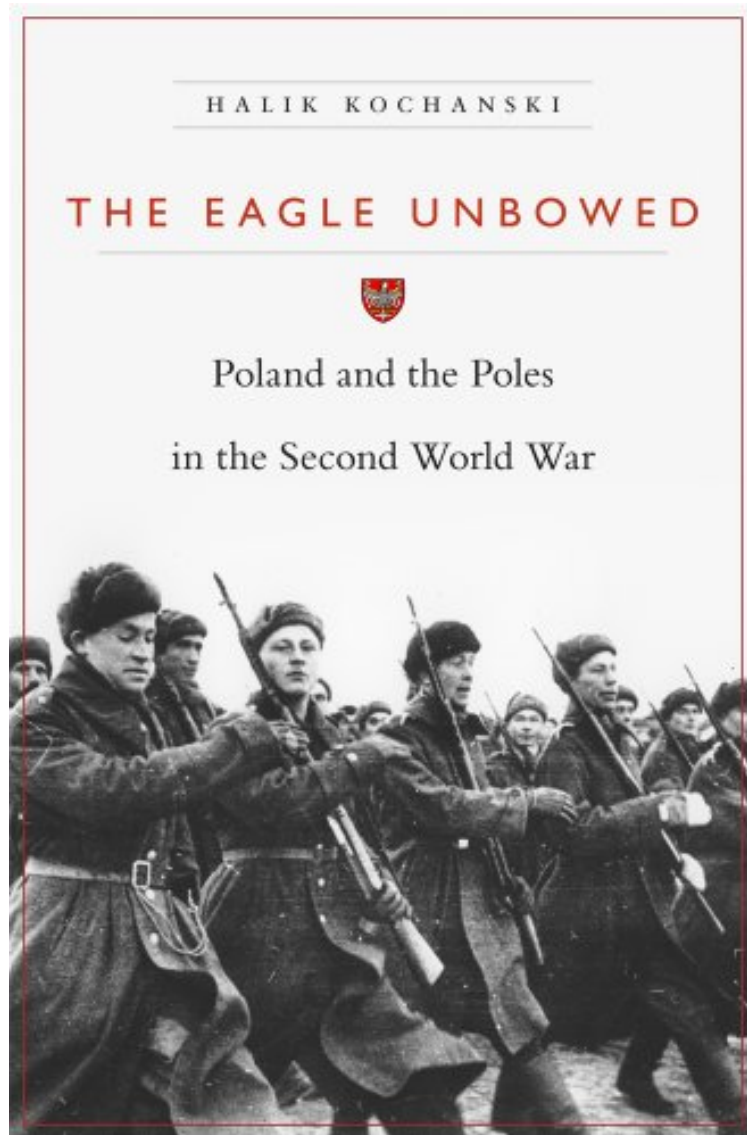


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The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War

Halik Kochanski

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Halik Kochanski : The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Complete History, Long OverdueBy Robert K. WarskiWhile

many books have been written about bits and pieces of the complicated history of Poland's involvement in World War II, this is the first, to my knowledge, to bring the whole story together in a single volume. The author has obviously done enormous research on the subject and succeeded in enlightening an old history teacher like myself on several points. The book is interestingly written. I looked forward to returning to it every time I had to set it aside. The chapter on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 was especially engaging, leading me to imagine myself on the streets of the Polish capital during those dramatic and tragic week. The author does an outstanding job of tracing the story of Poland beyond the end of hostilities in 1945 because, in some ways, the war didn't truly end for the Poles until the fall of Communism in 1989 when the whole truth about the war could be told.^{2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.} A very readable history of a complex periodBy Raymond ZablonyThe author organizes the many layers of the German invasion, Polish politics, Russian invasion, imposition of communism, and the extermination camps in a very readable way that allows one to understand what happened. My ancestors left Poland for America at the start of the 20th century. This is the best history of post WWI Poland that I have read. There is just enough detail about the many battles. The author makes it clear that extermination of the Poles was on the agenda to follow the extermination of the Jews.^{2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.} A salute to the PolesBy David WillettsThis is a complex subject that makes for a complex book. I think the author tried a little too hard to make sure he did not leave out a single detail, and as a result the book, although fascinating, it was a hard read. However, on the whole, it was worth the effort.

First published in the United Kingdom by Penguin Books Ltd., 2012--T.p. verso.

From Publishers WeeklyKochanski, a British military historian, integrates concise, clear, and persuasive campaign analyses with an account of the brutality suffered by Poles under German and Soviet occupation during WWII. She also examines the complex internal politics of Poland's armed forces in exile, and Poland's international position. She incorporates the creation and performance of the 1st Polish Army on the Eastern Front into a narrative that in most Western accounts is too often dominated by action in Italy and Northwest Europe. Her treatment of the Polish Resistance and the 1944 uprising is excellent. She also establishes the complex mix of operations, logistics, and politics behind the Allies' limited support for the Home Army in Warsaw. Kochanski's sympathies clearly lie with Poland's exile government in London, but she neither conceals nor trivializes policies and decisions that often proved self-defeating. Kochanski also gives an account of the Holocaust and the thorny issue of Polish collaboration in it. Above all, this is a story of expedience: the critical decisions that had to be taken, the terrible role of sheer chance, ...the simple desire to survive under the most difficult circumstances. And expedients, as Kochanski ably demonstrates, are not always wise. 32 bw illus., 5 maps. Agent: Robert Dudley Agency (U.K.). (Nov.) An unmatched synthesis of Poland's wartime experience and fate. Kochanski deftly integrates operational analysis with the complex internal politics of Poland's armed forces in exile. Her campaign narratives are concise, clear, and persuasive; her account of the Polish Resistance and the 1944 uprising is excellent; and her treatment of Polish Jewish relations is balanced without being anodyne.--Dennis Showalter, Author Of "Hitler's Panzers"An informative, authoritative and wide-ranging account of the tragedy that befell Poland and its inhabitants gentiles and Jews during the war and its aftermath. The less-well-known story of the Poles deported to the Soviet Union is particularly vivid and moving. An engaging and important book.--Hubert Zawadzki, Author Of "A Concise History Of Poland"[Kochanski's] book is opinionated, fluid and forceful. It lays out in impressive detail how ordinary Poles lost the Second World War, kept losing and yet refused to be beaten.--Olivia Bullough"New Statesman" (10/04/2012)This is a comprehensive study that provides a fair-minded introduction to the subject.--Richard J. Evans"The Guardian" (11/09/2012)Kochanski's extraordinary achievement is to bring together the threads of a story only known in fragments or through well-meaning fictional versions like Ian Serraillier's "The Silver Sword". This is the first fully comprehensive account in English of Poland's war. It is also a brilliant exercise in historiography, showing how the myths and misconceptions that surround the Polish story were constructed and reinforced.--Brian Morton"The Herald (Scotland)" (11/03/2012)Kochanski tells Poland's 20th-century story in absorbing detail, from the rebirth of modern Poland in 1919 to the collapse of the Soviet empire in 1989. But her great interests are the war years, 1939 to 1945, and the multiple and repeated atrocities inflicted upon the Polish people...Kochanski...compellingly conveys Poland's wartime agony and the ordeals of those caught between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.--Daniel Ford"Wall Street Journal" (11/23/2012)Given the unending flow of misconceptions about wartime Poland, a comprehensive survey of this neglected subject is long overdue, and Halik Kochanski's study fits the bill...Kochanski has a good chance of reaching a wide readership.--Norman Davies"New York of Books" (01/10/2013)Owing to the nature of the subject, "The Eagle Unbowed" is an extraordinarily ambitious book. Kochanski sets out to pull together, for the first time in English, the many different strands of the Polish war experience. These include, among other things, the stories of the German occupation of Western Poland, the Soviet occupation of Eastern Poland, the Holocaust, the Polish pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain, the Polish infantry who fought with the Allies at Monte Cassino, the Polish soldiers who fought with the Red Army, and the Polish Home Army--the military wing of the underground Resistance--which suffered extraordinary

losses during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944...She also moves deftly between individual stories and wider themes...Here, for the first time in English, the entire Polish experience of the war is captured in a single volume. The result is a book far bleaker, and far more ambiguous, than anything most Americans have read about the war...Kochanski tells the story of the war from the perspective of the people who lived between the two great totalitarian powers [Russia and Germany] and who suffered the most from their murderous politics...Her story is about Poland, the Polish state, the Polish armies, the Polish population, and--inevitably--the nature of Polishness itself..."The Eagle Unbowed "is one of the first books to make comprehensive use of the many new sources in English, putting a complicated story into a clear narrative.--Anne Applebaum"New Republic" (12/20/2012)About the AuthorHalik Kochanski has taught at both Kings College London and University College London. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a member of the British Commission for Military History.