

*The Mapping of a Russian War. The Atlas of the Principality of Polatsk by Stanisław Pachotowiecki (1580). Hrsg von Jakub Niedźwiedź, Karol Lopatecki, and Grzegorz Franczak. (Mapping the Past, Bd. 5.) Brill. Leiden – Boston 2025. XXXVI, 209 S., Ill. ISSN 978-90-04-70558-6. (€ 176,55.)* – Drawn at the beginning of the Livonian War between Poland-Lithuania and Russia, these maps, created by the Polish royal cartographer, reflect the nature and strength of map making at the period, particularly in respect to its military applications. Preceded by a clear, modern day depiction of the area in question, in addition to a valuable chronological table, this volume provides copies of maps and 12 essays to make use of them, divided into three sections: on the atlas, on military aspects, and on propaganda, politics, and knowledge construction. The Atlas consists of two folio maps and six smaller perspectives of the castles, and the book covers them thoroughly. Printed at the printing house of Giovanni Battista Cavalieri in Rome, the maps are described and analyzed in intricate detail, not least by the use of a distortion grid based on the identified 59 control points, a most useful approach that is itself explained thoroughly. So also with analysis of the titles of the maps, including of the castle plans, which are of greater significance due to the previous destruction of the castles. All Latin texts are provided in transcription, with modernized spelling. The atlas is contextualized through an analysis of the entire corpus of sixteenth-century cartographic works depicting the siege and conquest of Polatsk (Polotsk) in 1579. There is then an assessment of relative quality, as well as a discussion of how philological tools and, in particular, textual criticism, can be applied to the analysis of early modern maps in order to establish the relationship between them. The description of the major map of the atlas demonstrates that it was created for the campaign, in other words before the siege. Thus the map enabled Stephen Báthory to plan his strategy and his operational manoeuvres. The itinerary of the planned march of Báthory's troops was marked on the map. The editors argue that a manuscript version of this map became the basis for the later publication, and that the map was redrawn and expanded, with a focus on the inclusion of the basic elements of local fortresses. At the tactical level, analysis of the maps shows that the depiction of terrain—adequate, albeit not with the use of contours—served to indicate the protection provided by rivers and hills, as well as the possibility of using flanking fire. The latter was always significant but had become far more so with the development of gunpowder weaponry. Such maps are presented as closely linked to cartographic plans, and the ability to correct these plans during the siege is discussed. The publication of the maps is seen as part of a propaganda campaign against Russia. This leads the authors in a variety of fascinating directions, including the mapping of a human network of contemporary propagandists. A Counter-Reformation dimension is seen as at play in the focus on Polish campaigning. The use of cartographic rhetoric to make items attractive, notably panegyrics, is discussed as part of an account of the triumph of text. There is also a consideration of the triumphal medals produced in Poland. The scholarly supports include indices in Polish, Russian and Belarussian, and a list of town descriptions. An important and attractive volume.

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*Andreea Odovicu: Gegeneinander – Nebeneinander – Miteinander. Deutsch und Rumänisch als Rechts- und Verwaltungssprachen im habsburgischen Kronland Bukowina (1848–1918). (Forum: Rumänien, Bd. 47.) Frank & Timme. Berlin 2023. 142 S. ISBN 978-3-7329-0944-5. (€ 24,80.)* – In examining language policies relating to the legal and administrative use of German and Romanian in one of the most famously multiethnic and multilingual imperial Austrian crownlands, the reviewed monograph provides an insightful survey of these processes during the last six decades of Habsburg rule. Based on a doctoral thesis completed in Iași under the supervision of noted Bukovina expert Andrei Corbea-Hoișie, this concise volume takes a multidisciplinary approach, combining strong historical and terminological analysis with relevant input from translation and intercultural studies. The Introduction and Chapter 1 outline the theoretical and methodological approach to the study, applying a postcolonial lens to the important role of language in Bukovina, as well as the concept of intercultural transfer. Chapter 2 succinctly summarizes the distinctive diversity of the Habsburg lands, making reference to the relevant literature on the formation of individual and collective linguistic identities, as well as the metaphorical weaponization of language in discourses relating to the empire's various na-