

tendency to side with the Russians," which in turn is an oversimplification. Ciechanowski's study cannot be properly appraised unless it is made clear that it is a "revisionist" piece of writing and a book with a strong thesis. Some Polish reviewers suggested that Ciechanowski's approach reflects his own disillusionment with the Warsaw Rising in which he had fought valiantly. True or not, Ciechanowski's passionate involvement with the subject is obvious and should not be glossed over.

Two other important points need stressing. First, the reviewer seems to have uncritically accepted the author's explanation that he had to rely on Polish materials, the Soviet sources being inaccessible. This is true of course for Soviet archives but not for other sources, for instance, the Soviet press and numerous contemporary accounts. The author also ignored numerous archival materials in Washington and at Hyde Park. This imbalance in documentation alone raises some doubt about the author's bold conclusions and sweeping judgments. Second, the original Polish subtitle: "The Political and Diplomatic Background" describes far more accurately the content of the study than does the title of the English version. The book stops short of the Rising itself, and the potential reader should be aware of this fact.

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Professor Nemeč does not wish to reply.

TO THE EDITOR:

Recent years have seen significant modifications in the collection policies of libraries and archival and manuscript institutions in the United States. One area in which this change has been most pronounced has been in the acquisition of materials pertaining to ethnic groups originating from Central and Eastern Europe, especially the Slavs. A number of university repositories such as the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, have begun to build significant collections. In addition, a number of privately funded and state institutions such as the Balch Institute in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission have begun to develop significant holdings of published and unpublished documentation.

Despite these developments, seemingly few Slavists have shown interest in these matters and even fewer have taken an active and guiding role in their implementation. American Slavists have a strong obligation and responsibility to study and guide research in the history of the American Slavs, as well as to survey, register, and preserve the numerous published and unpublished documents that this immigration generated. American Slavists could make a significant contribution to the celebration of the bicentennial by committing themselves to the study of American Slavs and the registration of their manuscript legacy as well as to follow more closely developments in such organizations as the Society of American Archivists and the Organization of American Historians.

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