This book presents and interprets the archival records pertaining to the last meetings between Reagan, Gorbachev, and Bush between 1985 and 1990, and the transcripts which include direct quotes by top leaders, as far as the interpreters and the notetakers managed to capture them. Important sources are the excerpts from the transcripts of the foreign ministers—Eduard Shevardnadze, Alexander Bessmertnykh, George Shultz, and James Baker—especially when they go face to face with the president or the general secretary.

The summit conversations fueled a process of learning on both sides. Geneva 1985 and Reykjavik 1986 reduced Moscow’s sense of threat and unleashed Reagan’s inner abolitionist. Malta 1989 and Washington 1990 helped dampen any superpower sparks that might have flown in a time of revolutionary change in Europe, set off by Gorbachev and by Eastern Europeans (Solidarity, dissidents, reform communists). The high level and scope of the dialogue between these world leaders was unprecedented and appears to be largely missing in today’s world.

A collection of 95 documents on the events that represent a pivotal moment in modern Polish and world history: the 16 months between August 1980 when the Solidarity trade union was founded and December 1981 when Polish authorities declared martial law and crushed the nationwide opposition movement that had grown up around the union. Transcripts of Soviet and Polish Politburo meetings give a detailed picture of the goals, motivations, and deliberations of the leaders of these countries.
The past may be approached from a variety of directions. A myth reunites people around certain values and projects and pushes them in one direction or another. The present volume brings together a range of case studies of myth-making and myth-breaking in east Europe from the nineteenth century to the present day. In particular, it focuses on the complex process through which memories are transformed into myths. This problematic interplay between memory and myth-making is analyzed in conjunction with the role of myths in the political and social life of the region.

The essays include cases of forging myths about national pre-history, about the endorsement of nation building by means of historiography, and above all, about communist and post-communist mythologies. The studies shed new light on the creation of local and national identities, as well as the legitimization of ideologies through myth-making. Together, the contributions show that myths were often instrumental in the vast projects of social and political mobilization during a period which has witnessed, among others, two world wars and the harsh oppression of the communist regimes.

This volume focuses on the historicity of emotions and explores the processes that brought them to the fore of public interest and debate. Coming to terms with emotions and how they influence human behavior, seems to be of the utmost importance to societies that are obsessed with everything “neuro.” On the other hand, emotions have become an object of constant individual and social manipulation since “emotional intelligence” emerged as a buzzword.
By exploring the development of ethnic diversity and national tensions in Bulgaria and Bosnia, while also drawing parallels with Macedonia, this volume uses the three most diversely populated areas in the Balkans to tackle complex issues. What institutions of state building are capable of managing conflicting national identities? How do people on the ground respond to state-sponsored political projects at the local community level? In what ways do studies of cultural representations of ethno-national and religious conflicts call attention to inequality and human rights violations? More generally, what is the role of the humanities and social sciences in developing a discourse on conflict resolution and human rights?

The volume engages the question of ethno-national conflicts and identities from three perspectives: historical interpretations of national and ethno-religious tensions in the context of empire- and state-building; cultural debates reflected in language, dance, film, and media production and circulation as tools for nation-and community-building; and thirdly, current political controversies over national resurgence and human rights both in the post-Yugoslav war context and in connection to European Union integration.
This book takes a new approach to interwar Prague by identifying religion as an integral part of the city’s cultural history. As Prague emerged as a modern city and the Czech nation gained independence, Catholics, Protestants, and those who imagined a non-sectarian religion debated questions of faith and morality. Contrary to the conventional view of modern Czech elites as “atheistic,” Berglund shows how they were deeply concerned with the place of religion in modern life.

The author takes an approach that is both interdisciplinary and biographical by focusing on important figures in the politics and culture of interwar Prague, including Tomáš Masaryk, the philosopher who became Czechoslovakia’s first president; his daughter Alice, founding director of the Czechoslovak Red Cross; and Jože Plečnik, the Slovenian architect who directed the renovations of Prague Castle. This study of their beliefs and doubts shows the transition from a (mostly) Catholic tradition to a new religious conception that was modern, humanistic, and detached from any institution—much like the religious beliefs held by many Europeans today.
A unique application of social science software to generate typology and ranklist of transition models of twenty-nine countries in Europe and Asia, ranging from Estonia to Vietnam, Norkus provides a highly innovative internationally comparative causal analysis of the variation in political and economic outcomes after the first decade of post-communist transformations. The analysis contributes to current debates on the varieties of post-communist capitalism.

The essays in the book compare the Czech Republic and Slovakia since the breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993. The papers deal with the causes of the divorce and discuss the political, economic, and social developments in the new countries. This is the only English-language volume that presents the synoptic findings of leading Czech, Slovak, and North American scholars in the field.

The authors include two former Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, eight leading scholars (four Czechs and four Slovaks), and eight knowledgeable commentators from North America. The most significant new insight is that in spite of predictions by various pundits in the Western World that Czechia would flourish after the breakup and Slovakia would languish, the opposite has happened. While the Czech Republic did well in its early years, it is now languishing, while Slovakia, which had a rough start, is now doing very well. Anyone interested in the history of the Czech and Slovak Republics over the last twenty years will find gratification in reading this book.

The essays deal with the intersection of issues associated with globalization and the dynamics of core-periphery relations, framed in the larger context of the dynamics between metropolitan areas and their peripheries. The first section deals with the theoretical origins of the core-periphery debate. The second analyzes the interactions between economy and society. The third part is centered around the concept of globalization.

A co-publication with Apostrofa, Vilnius

384 pages, 16 illustrations (charts, photo etc.), 2012
978-615-5053-50-4 cloth
$60.00 / €55.00 / £50.00

306 pages, 2011
978-615-5053-02-3 cloth
$50.00 / €38.00 / £32.00

A unique application of social science software to generate typology and ranklist of transition models of twenty-nine countries in Europe and Asia, ranging from Estonia to Vietnam, Norkus provides a highly innovative internationally comparative causal analysis of the variation in political and economic outcomes after the first decade of post-communist transformations. The analysis contributes to current debates on the varieties of post-communist capitalism.
Exploring theater practices in communist and post-communist Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria, this book analyzes intertextuality or “inter-theatricality” as a political strategy, designed to criticize contemporary political conditions while at the same time trying to circumvent censorship. In the Soviet bloc the theater of the absurd, experimentation, irony, and intertextual distancing (estrangement) were much more than mere aesthetic language games, but were planned political strategies that used indirection to say what could not be said directly.

Plays by Romanian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian dramatists are examined, who are “retrofitting” the past by adapting the political crimes and horrifying tactics of totalitarianism to the classical theatre (with Shakespeare a favorite) to reveal the region’s traumatic history. By the sustained analysis of the aesthetic devices used as political tools, Orlich makes a very strong case for the continued relevance of the theater as one of the subtlest media in the public sphere. She embeds her close readings in a thorough historical analysis and displays a profound knowledge of the political role of theater history.
This volume addresses the broad spectrum of challenges confronting today’s universities. Elkana and Klöpper question the very idea and purposes of universities, especially as viewed through curriculum—what is taught,—and pedagogy—how it is taught. The reforms recommended in the book focus on undergraduate or bachelor degree programs in all areas of study, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences, technical fields, as well as law, medicine, and other professions.

The core thesis of this book rests on the emergence of a New Enlightenment. This will require a revolution in curriculum and teaching methods in order to translate the academic philosophy of global contextualism into universal practice or application. Are universities willing to revamp teaching in order to foster critical thinking that would serve students their entire lives? This book calls for universities to restructure administratively to become truly integrated, rather than remaining collections of autonomous agencies more committed to competition among themselves than cooperation in the larger interest of learning.

Focusing on one of the key areas of public policy, the book delivers a penetrating, nuanced account of American universities in the twenty-first century. Tackles topics that range from the rise of the managerial class to the failed attempts to reform practice in the classroom. Lazerson discusses both the problems and the accomplishment of American universities with equal care. It is a smart provocation for policy makers, educators and anyone who cares about where universities are heading.

This book is a radical reappraisal of positivism as a major movement in philosophy, science, and culture. It aims to provide a more precise definition of the notion, and to describe positivism concerned not only with the theory of philosophy of science, but also with problems of ethics, social, and political philosophy. Nekrašas discloses the relation of positivism to other trends of philosophy and determines the influence the positive mind had upon other cultural phenomena.
SPACE AND PLURALISM
CAN CONTEMPORARY CITIES BE PLACES OF TOLERANCE?

Edited by
Stefano Moroni
Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy
David Weberman
Central European University, Budapest

268 pages, 2016
978-963-386-124-0 cloth
$55.00 / €48.00 / £37.00

This book addresses the social, functional, and symbolic dimensions of urban space in today’s world. The twelve essays range from a conceptual framing of the issues to case descriptions, rich with illustrations. Together they provide a thorough exploration of the nature and significance of social space and particular aspects of its distribution in today’s urban spaces, and the various factors that are competing for it.

The book addresses a topic that is intrinsically interdisciplinary. Questions of space are examined from a rich variety of perspectives from urban planning to political philosophy, shedding some light on this shadowy process. Some of the issues addressed include the dichotomies of public and private space, rights and duties regarding the use of space, and conflicts over its allocation. Well-reasoned and lively discussions are offered from the perspective of basic values and rights. The recognition of the specifics of (minority community) identity as an institutional policy is raised in opposition to “abstract distributive accounts of justice”—economic pressures by developers and would-be gentrifiers.

RACES TO MODERNITY
METROPOLITAN ASPIRATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, 1890–1940

Edited by
Jan C. Behrends
Martin Kohlrausch

380 pages (incl. maps, tables and figures–12 black and white illustrations), 2014
978-963-386-035-9 cloth
$60.00 / €45.00 / £38.00

From the second half of the nineteenth century, the towns in the Romanov and Habsburg empires, as well as in the Balkans, grew into cities and metropolitan areas. They changed at an astonishing pace. Through the comparative presentation of the ascent of St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Kiev, Belgrade, or Athens, this volume aims to understand the genesis of Eastern European cities with a metropolitan character or metropolitan aspirations.

HYBRID RENAISSANCE
CULTURE, LANGUAGE, ARCHITECTURE

Edited by
Peter Burke

250 pages with color illustrations, 2016
978-963-386-087-8 paperback
The Natalie Zemon Davis Annual Lecture Series
$24.95 / €21.95 / £16.99

The book introduces the idea that the Renaissance in Italy, elsewhere in Europe, and in the world beyond Europe is an example of cultural hybridization. The two key concepts used in this book are “hybridization” and “Renaissance.” The book discusses the concept of cultural hybridization and offers a geography of cultural hybridization focusing on three locales: courts, major cities (whether ports or capitals) and frontiers.

2016 FALL & WINTER
Having presented the physical conditions among which Hungarian Jews lived in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—the kind of neighborhoods and apartments they lived in, and the places where they worked—this second volume addresses the spiritual aspects and the lighter sides of their life. We are shown how they were raised as children, how they spent their leisure time, and receive insights into their religious practices, too. The treatment is the same as in the first volume. There are many historical photographs—at least one picture per page—and the related text offers a virtual cross section of Hungarian society, a diverse group of the poor, the middle-class, and the wealthy. Regardless of whether they lived integrated within the majority society or in separate communities, whether they were assimilated Jews or Hasidim, they were an important and integral part of the nation. Through arduous work of archival research, Koerner reconstructs the many diverse lifestyles using fragmentary information and surviving photos.

HOW THEY LIVED
THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF HUNGARIAN JEWS, 1867–1940
Volume 2
Family, Religious, and Social Life, Learning, Military Life, Vacationing, Sports, Charity
András Koerner
270 pages, with numerous photos, 2016
27.44mm x 23.25mm, 10.79” x 9.13”
978-963-386-175-2 cloth
$85.00 / €64.00 / £54.00
978-963-386-174-5 paperback
$45.00 / €34.00 / £29.00

We have surprisingly few detailed accounts of the lifestyles of Hungarian Jews in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—the world knows more about the circumstances of their deaths than about the way they lived. Much like piecing together an ancient sculpture from tiny shards found in an excavation, Koerner tries to reconstruct the many diverse lifestyles using fragmentary information and surviving photos.

HOW THEY LIVED JEWISH BUDAPEST
THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF HUNGARIAN JEWS, 1867–1940
András Koerner
Géza Komoróczy et al.
2016

This richly illustrated history of the Jews in Budapest, from medieval times to the present day, provides a comprehensive account of their culture and ritual customs. It looks, in turn, at each of the “Jewish quarters” of the city, focusing on patterns of settlement and occupation, on biographic details and historical monuments. Pays special attention to the integration of the Jews into society and to their assimilation in certain periods.
For more than half a century the truth about Jewish life in Belarus during the years after World War II was sealed in inaccessible archives. Jews preferred to keep silent rather than expose themselves to the animosity of the authorities. In addition to archival materials, the present research is based on a questionnaire submitted to former residents of Belarus in Israel, as well as information from periodicals, collections of documents, statistical reports, and monographs.

From the eighteenth century onwards, Jews developed patterns of decreasing mortality and fertility that was not observed among the gentile majority in Bohemia (the historic name of the western part of the Czech lands), patterns which established them as the demographic avant-garde population in all of Europe. This study scrutinizes statistics from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century, and examines why this demographic transition occurred.

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THE HOLOCAUST IN HUNGARY
SEVENTY YEARS LATER

Edited by
Randolph L. Braham
City University of New York
András Kovács
Central European University, Budapest

More than seventy years after the Shoah, the origins and prehistory as well as the implementation and aftermath of the genocide in Hungary still provide ample ground for scholarship. In fact, Hungarian historians began to seriously deal with these questions only after the 1980s. Since then, however, a consistently active and productive debate has been waged about the history and interpretation of the Holocaust in Hungary and with the passage of time, more and more questions have been raised in connection with its memorialization.

This volume includes twelve selected scholarly papers thematically organized under four headings: The newest trends in the study of the Holocaust in Hungary; The anti-Jewish policies in interwar Hungary; The Holocaust era in Hungary; National and international aspects of Holocaust remembrance. The studies analyze the decision-making process that led to the deportations, and the options left open to the Hungarian government. They also provide a detailed presentation of the Holocaust in Transylvania and describe the experience of Hungarian Jewish refugees in Austria after the end of the war.
The genesis of the federalist thought that the book discusses is the project beginning in the fall of 1939 about the idea of combining Poland’s and Czechoslovakia’s war efforts. It soon developed into federalist concepts, leading, in turn, to particular political gestures: the Polish-Czechoslovak Declaration of November 11, 1940; a joint project of a constitution of a future Polish-Czechoslovak Federation; and, finally, the Declaration from January 1942.

Poles and their Central European colleagues in exile cooperated with the American Committee for European Reconstruction during the war and later with the National Committee for a Free Europe. The goal of the political federalist thought was to offer the best solution to the situation in which Poland found itself after World War II. A populous and militarily strong Central European federation would be able to fight off the aggression of powerful neighbors, which at that time were Germany and the Soviet Union. Federalism lost momentum with the gradual withdrawal of United States support in the second half of the 1950s.

The recognized cultural historian and researcher of the Middle Ages relates about the gruesome year of 1944 in Hungary, as she has seen the events with the eyes of a small Jewish girl. The memoir describes life in Budapest and in Komárom, in the Hungarian countryside, in the preceding years before March 1944 when the German army marched in, and what happened thereafter.

“It is not true that you can no longer write anything new about the Holocaust. All you need is an excellent memory, restraint, irony hidden among the lines, and know-how. The bulk of Marianna D. Birnbaum’s book is about her relatives, her childhood friends and their parents who have not returned. She attached photos of several of them; here and there the author too appears as a small child. Well-to-do adults, nicely dressed children: They ought to have lived out their days in peace. With a vision pointing toward the grotesque and using experience honed on literary criticism, the author avoids provoking our tears. That makes this book beautiful and true.” (G. Spiró)