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## SUMMARY, No. 8 (83), 2009

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The issue highlights a very traumatic topic for the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, namely the beginning of WWII.

Paradoxically, unlike Poles or Czechs, some Belarusian intellectuals suggest that their nation benefited from the start of the war. The Soviet Union attack of Poland on September 17th, 1939, reunificated the Belarusian ethnic territory in one (Soviet) state and gave a stark stimulus for the extremely belated Belarusian nationalism.

To break up with Stalin-fashioned perception of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1939, which was adopted and cosmetically renewed by the present official Belarusian historiography and propaganda, the issue combines some national and methodological prospects. The Belarusian nationally oriented approach is balanced by the Polish perception, meanwhile some contributors of the issue use non-classical methods of the historical expertise like *oral history* to disclose the effaced from the public discourse aspects of September 17, 1939.

The issue opens with the preface of the issue guest editor **Andrej Vaškievič**. Historians **Andrej Čarniakievič** and **Aleś Paškievič** discuss the historical background. Their 'The Short Historical Review of the Relations between Belarusian National Movement and 2-d Department of General Staff of the Polish Army' points how the authorities of the interwar Poland tried to manipulate the Belarusian political and cultural nationalism.

**Alaksandar Paharely** in his 'Making the National Time and Space: the Memorial Practices and Places of Remembrance of the Belarusian Christian Democrats in the Interwar Poland' focuses on symbolic discourses of the Belarusian nation building in Western Belarus.

**Alaksiej Radziuk** in his 'The Soviet-Polish Border in the Collective Memory of the Inhabitants of Dokšycy District' reconstructs an everyday life of the ordinary people from both sides of the Soviet-Polish border.

**Eduard Mažko** in his 'Western Belarus in the Eyes of the Inhabitants of Eastern Belarus' concludes that following the end of WWII Western Belarus attracted people from the East as a relatively unaffected by the warfare territory of wealth and order.

**Rev. Andrej Krot** in his 'I'm Ready to Die for Christ and Church with God Assistance. Fabijan Abrantovič Way' describes tragic fates of Belarusian Roman Catholic clergy.

**Anatol Sidarevič's** account 'Alaksandra Bergman's Conclusions, Riddles and Prompts' and **Alaksandra Bergman's** one 'Once Again on Anton Łuckievič' are dedicated to one of the top Belarusian leaders in the first half of XX century Anton Łuckievič.

**Hierman Kiryłaŭ** in his 'Ryhor Jakubionak and the Belarusian School in the Interwar Poland' shows how the Polish authorities systematically exterminated the Belarusian schools despite the protests of the Belarusian civic society.

Some texts sort out September 17, 1939 topics directly. **Žmicier Lucik** in his 'The Belarusian Front. The Military Operation of the Red Army in Western Belarus' presents a comprehensive analysis of the topic.

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**Siarhiej Tokć** in his 'Skidziel Uprising of 1939: The Anthropology of the Conflict' gives an unprecedented reconstruction of the rebellion of Belarusian communists in a small town of Skidziel near Hrodna, which was suppressed in a bloody way by the Polish regular army. He bases on previously unpublished sources and various historical methods, including *oral history*.

**Andrzej Poczobut** in his three pieces 'September, 1939: Bolshevik Revolutionary Committees Terror,' 'Hrodna 1939: a Battle for Honor' and 'Soviet Gratitude' elaborates September, 1939 topics from the Polish point of view.

**Andrej Vaškievič** in his 'Brothers Belarusians. Few Documents on September, 1939' pays an epistemological interest in studying propaganda leaflets, designed for Western Belarus and published both by Polish and Soviet officials.

**Alaksandar Pilecki** makes a debut in ARCHE publishing his 'Fist after Devil in International Relations. 1939 in Polish Historiography.' He reviews recent publications on the theme in Poland.

To catch fitting *Zeitgeist*, the issue re-prints some texts, written by Belarusian authors in the interwar Poland: **Albin Stapovič** 'Belarus in the Contemporary Polish Literature,' **Sapron Kaverda** 'One Can't Keep Silent.' **Leapold Rodzievič** 'Horrible Wall,' and **Adolf Klimovič** '1700 Kilometers'.

The issue closes with an interview with a prominent researcher of Western Belarus **Arsień Lis**.