
Bulgaria, the Jews, and the Holocaust

Rochester Studies in East and Central Europe

Series Editor: Timothy Snyder, Yale University

Additional Titles of Interest

Individualism and the Rise of Democracy in Poland
Tomek Grabowski

Rethinking Modern Polish Identities: Transnational Encounters
Edited by Agnieszka Pasieka and Pawel Rodak

*Seeking Accountability for Nazi and War Crimes in East and Central Europe:
A People's Justice?*

Edited by Eric Le Bourhis, Irina Tcherneva, and Vanessa Voisin

Great Power Competition and the Path to Democracy: The Case of Georgia, 1991–2020
Zarina Burkadze

Toward Xenopolis: Visions from the Borderland
Krzysztof Czyżewski
Edited by Mayhill C. Fowler
With a Foreword by Timothy Snyder

The Universe behind Barbed Wire: Memoirs of a Ukrainian Soviet Dissident
Myroslav Marynovych
Translated by Zoya Hayuk
Edited by Katherine Younger
With a Foreword by Timothy Snyder

*Borders on the Move: Territorial Change and Ethnic Cleansing in the Hungarian-
Slovak Borderlands, 1938–1948*
Leslie Waters

Beyond the Pale: The Holocaust in the North Caucasus
Edited by Crispin Brooks and Kiril Feferman

Polish Literature and National Identity: A Postcolonial Perspective
Dariusz Skórczewski
Translated by Agnieszka Polakowska

*An American in Warsaw: Selected Writings of Hugh S. Gibson, US Minister to Poland,
1919–1924*
Edited and annotated by Vivian Hux Reed
With M. B. B. Biskupski, Jochen Böhrer, and Jan-Roman Potocki

A complete list of titles in the Rochester Studies in East and Central Europe series
may be found on our website, www.urpress.com.

Bulgaria, the Jews, and the Holocaust

On the Origins of a Heroic Narrative

Nadège Ragaru

Translated by Victoria Baena and David A. Rich

 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER PRESS

The University of Rochester Press gratefully acknowledges generous support for this publication from the following: the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah (FMS); the Center for International Studies, Sciences PO; the Scientific Information and Resources Division, Sciences Po; and the Understanding Middle Europe Lab Research Cluster (GDR 3607), National Centre for Scientific Research, all in Paris, France.

Translation copyright © 2023 Victoria Baena and David A. Rich

Originally published in French as *“Et les Juifs bulgares furent sauvés” . . . Une histoire des savoirs sur la Shoah en Bulgarie* by Nadège Ragaru. Copyright © 2020 Presses de la Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques

Some rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, any part of this book may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise)

First published 2023

The ebook edition of this book is openly available under the Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND.

University of Rochester Press
668 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620, USA
www.urpress.com
and Boydell & Brewer Limited
PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF, UK
www.boydellandbrewer.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-64825-070-5 (paperback)

ISBN-13: 978-1-80543-105-3 (ePDF)

ISBN-13: 978-1-80543-104-6 (ePUB)

ISSN: 1528-4808

Cataloging-in-Publication Data available from the Library of Congress

A catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

Cover image: ©Hervé Robillard | Design: Toni Michelle

The publisher has no responsibility for the continued existence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

*To my mother (1939–2023),
who gave me life and the strength to hold on to it*

We oscillate between the illusion of completion and the vertigo of the elusive. In the name of completeness, we want to believe that a unique order exists that would enable us to accede to knowledge from the outset; in the name of the elusive, we want to believe that order and disorder are two of the same words, denoting chance.

Georges Perec, *Penser/Classer*

From a certain point on, there is no more turning back.
That is the point that must be reached.

Kafka, *The Zürau Aphorisms of Franz Kafka*