

Abstracts

Jan Gerber, W.E.B. Du Bois and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. A Primal Scene of “Multidirectional Memory”?

W.E.B. Du Bois’ text “The Negro and the Warsaw Ghetto”, first published in 1952, is often made use of in debates about the uniqueness of the Holocaust, its relationship to other genocides of the 20th century and a suitable form of commemoration for the mass atrocities of modernity. Michael Rothberg even called it a central inspiration for his concept of “multidirectional memory”. However, such a usage mostly stems from the expectations, desires and projections of the present. Du Bois’ text is rather to be understood against the background of the Cold War, the strategies of the Communist Party of the United States of America and the history of acculturation of the American Jews.

Meral Avci/Christian Franke, Between Fighting the Pandemic and Economic Interests. The Quinine Cartel and the Malaria Policy of the League of Nations

The article investigates how the interwar Malaria Commission of the League of Nations negotiated concrete recommendations to contain the Malaria epidemic while torn between (national) entrepreneurial as well as scientific interests on the one hand and transnational responsibility on the other hand. Using the example of the Third Malaria Report of 1933, it discusses why – despite highly diverging scientific opinions regarding the effectiveness of Quinine and synthetic substances (Plasmochin and Atebrine) – there was a clear decision in favour of Quinine. The article also shows how the Malaria Commission successively lost the international authority it had gained during the 1920s. This decline was exacerbated by the withdrawal of Germany and (in 1937) Italy, both of which were pillars of Malaria research.

Contemporary History Podium: Contemporary History as a Task for the 21st Century. Themes, Concepts, Perspectives

Our seventh Contemporary History Podium is dedicated to what constitutes contemporary history as a field of research and as a subfield of historiography. Starting from Hans Rothfels’ groundbreaking reflections in the first article of

Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte, Julia Angster covers the topic “Contemporary History between National and Global History”, while Kiran Klaus Patel debates the question “The Contemporary History of Europe as Supranational History?” Subsequently Eckart Conze deals with an aspect which has almost been forgotten for quite some time, “War, Peace and Security as Research Perspectives for Contemporary History”, while Martin Rempe discusses the rewards as well as the risks of a contemporary history of globalisation. Finally, Frank Bösch draws attention to another topic closely connected to globalisation: “Contemporary History in the Digital Age”.

Grzegorz Rossoliński-Liebe, **From the Notes of an Assassin. The KGB Agent Bohdan Stashynskyi and the Murders of Lev Rebet and Stepan Bandera in Munich**

The documentation presents central passages of the memoirs of the KGB agent Bohdan Stashynskyi, which are held by the Archives of the *Bundesnachrichtendienst* (Foreign Intelligence Service of Germany). Stashynskyi was a talented but internally torn assassin, who went down in the history of the intelligence services and the Cold War because of his assassinations of the leaders of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), Lev Rebet and Stepan Bandera. In his notes, which he wrote after his intentional arrest in order to seek judicial leniency, he reported what made him join the KGB, successfully infiltrate the nationalist underground in western Ukraine, murder OUN leaders in Munich and finally turn his back on probably the most brutal of all intelligence services.