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BOOK REVIEWS

Ideologies of Eastness in Central and Eastern Europe, by Tomasz Zarycki. London: Routledge, 2014. ISBN-13 978-0415625890. xiii + 308 pages. Hardcover. \$109.03 (Kindle edition: \$19.85).

One of the finest books on sociology Routledge has ever published—and that is saying a lot, since Routledge specializes in the social sciences. The book explores the attempts of Eastern and Central European countries (formerly under Moscow's military occupation and therefore communist at that time) to articulate their identities vis-a-vis the West and the East. Not surprisingly, the countries in question draw on their historical experiences with the East; in particular, this is true of Poland, which held vast eastern territories in a quasi-colonial embrace (due to dynastic arrangements, however, as opposed to military conquest). On the other hand, Ukraine and Lithuania, whom Poland dominated for four centuries position themselves as far from Poland as possible while at the same time declaring their "Otherness" vis-a-vis "eastern" Russia. Zarycki employs the concept of Orientalism in the sense given by Edward Said in defining and probing these various "categories of eastness." Anyone wishing to understand Eastern Europe needs to read Zarycki's book. It abounds in ideas that could generate numerous dissertations in history and the social sciences