

in der Weimarer Republik (Düsseldorf, 1996) is imperative. This does little, however, to diminish the significance of Baranowski's monograph as a sophisticated and nuanced contribution to our understanding of elite behaviour in the transition from Weimar to the Third Reich. By the same token, *Ostelbische Agrargesellschaft* offers a wealth of new insights into the economic realities, social relations and political pretensions of East Elbian agriculture during a period of massive structural change throughout Germany as a whole. Each book represents a major contribution to our understanding of East Prussian society and its role in the fateful course of events that shaped German history before 1933.

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*Ungleiche Partner? Österreich und Deutschland in ihrer gegenseitigen Wahrnehmung. Historische Analysen und Vergleiche aus dem 19. und 20. Jahrhundert.* Edited by Michael Gehler, Rainer F. Schmidt, Harm-Hinrich Brandt and Rolf Steininger. 'Historische Mitteilungen', vol. 15. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1996. 688 pp. DM198.

This massive volume contains, apart from two introductions, twenty-five essays on aspects of German and Austrian history, from historiography and the Zollverein to the two world wars and post-1945 developments, only some of which can be noticed here. The essays are of varying quality; some are based on original research, others are based on older conclusions.

Manfred Botzenhart discusses the 'Austrian Question' in the German National Assembly of 1848-9. Were the non-German provinces of the Habsburg Monarchy to be included in a German Reich, or to form their own states, or was Austria to form a 'personal union' with Germany? Gagern favoured a close German unity without Austria and a loose tie or an alliance between Germany and Austria. Michael Dendarsky writes on Austria's German policy in the fateful years 1866-7, when the monarchy's catastrophic financial situation forced it to reduce armaments, while it is obstinately adhered to the preservation of the status quo: a policy condemned to failure. Andreas Kaernbach provides the counterpiece in analysing Bismarck's policy *vis-à-vis* Austria before 1870. Bismarck always left several possibilities and options open and even in 1866 still saw the chance of a compromise on the basis of a modified German *Bund*, with a 'perfect equality' between Prussia and Austria. Lothar Höbelt contributes an essay on the Dual Alliance and its results, which is full of paradoxical claims not only on his chosen topic, reaching to the Second World War.

Two interesting essays discuss the outbreak of war in 1914. From the Austrian side Manfred Rauschensteiner states that the war was brought about, 'even more, it was unleashed' by Austria-Hungary, in the full knowledge that this might start a European war (p. 360), as the Austrian historian Fritz Fellner has said. From the German side Imanuel Geiss to some extent revises his earlier opinion that the responsibility was Germany's and admits a partial responsibility of Russia and Serbia, 'through active Russian support for Great-Serbian-Yugoslav dynamism' as a factor driving to war (p. 381). Austria's responsibility, so Geiss says, consisted 'largely in her weakness and inability to carry out structural reforms' (p. 386): which is putting it surprisingly mildly.

Germany, on the other hand, was 'the youngest, strongest and hungriest wolf among the great powers', and Serbia was 'even hungrier and more ravenous' (p. 394).

Rolf Steininger analyses the ill-fated project of a German–Austrian Customs Union which was prepared by secret negotiations in Vienna in March 1931. Fierce opposition, especially from Czechoslovakia, was anticipated, for it would view the plan as an attack on its existence, a step towards the dreaded *Anschluss*. The forecast proved entirely correct. The French government too did everything to torpedo the project and it 'failed miserably' (p. 474): a clear defeat for the German Foreign Minister Julius Curtius and his Austrian counterpart Johann Schober. Franz Mathis investigates the 'economic' motives in favour of a union prior to 1938 and finds that the attitude of the economic associations was by no means uniform on account of the economic backwardness of Austria and that German industrialists were not very keen to invest in Austria; this only changed because of the rapid rearmament of Germany. Dieter Binder writes on German–Austrian relations in 1933–8 and claims that the vicious propaganda of the Austrian Nazis presented no danger to the Schuschnigg government; but this had a very weak basis, the Third Reich and its full employment attracted large numbers of Austrians, and the *grossdeutsch* ideology was all-pervasive. Franz Müller looking at the same years stresses the important part played by Papen as Hitler's special envoy in Vienna. Papen tried to divide the *Heimwehr* and the Christian Social supporters of the government and worked for 'evolution' in the relations between the two countries, a slow absorption of Austria in a Greater Germany.

Evan Burr Bukey looks at the slowly changing attitudes of the Austrians to the *Ostmark* of 1938–45. Large sections of the strongly Catholic rural population remained 'aloof and suspicious' and 'impervious to Nazi ideology' (p. 520), and in Vienna the socialist subculture was preserved. He claims that 'most Austrians saw eye to eye on the Jewish Question, holding both Jews and Jewry accountable for the suffering and distress of the past half century' (p. 514). He forgets that before 1933 well over a third of the people constantly voted for the SPÖ, a party in which Jews occupied many leading positions, and that the party was particularly strong in Vienna, in spite of all local anti-Semitism. The volume concludes with two interesting essays by Michael Gehler on the close relations between Austria and the German Federal Republic in the years 1945–60. It can be recommended to all interested in the ever-changing pattern of Austro-German history.

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F. L. CARSTEN

*The Cinema's Third Machine. Writing on Film in Germany, 1907–1933.* By Sabine Hake. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press. 1993. xvii + 353 pp. £35.

It was until recently something of a commonplace in Anglo-American film studies to identify film history—in contrast to film theory or textual criticism—as a poor relation within this young, but nonetheless well-established academic discipline. Born out of interdisciplinary encounters between literary studies, cultural theory and the visual disciplines, film studies in the institutional form it has taken in Britain and the US since the 1970s has tended to foreground the textuality of film—and this at the expense, arguably, of detailed engagement with its cultural-historical setting. If, however, the publication