GERARD LABUDA

THE HISTORY OF PRUSSIA AS A HISTORIOGRAPHIC PROBLEM

On the assumption that the level of studies in Prussia's history does not permit a full synthesis, the author has only made a review of the more important publications on the following problems:

a) ideas on Prussia in former historiography (prior to 1947);

b) views of non-German historians before 1947;

c) Prussia in historiography of the last twenty years.

All these German monographs issued before 1947 are in general characterized by a taciturnity on Polish problems involved in the genesis of the Prussian state; by spreading news on the alleged exceptional role of Prussia in the history of Germany; by assuming a cooperation of territorial and universal factors in the formation of the Prussian state; and by gloryfying the Great Elector, Frederick II and Bismarck.

Chapter II is concerned with the achievements of Anglo-Saxon, French and Polish historiography. It is made clear that prior to World War II the Anglo-Saxon, mainly English, historiography was notably influenced by the ideas of German authors. A review of French publications has shown France from before 1871 not to have appreciated the role of Prussia in Germany's history.

The author criticizes the influence exerted by the actual political situation, especially that of the XIXth century, on Polish historiographers; and he emphasizes the fact that the most eminent works of Polish researchers have so far not invited any sound discussion from the part of the Germans.

In the last chapter the author concentrates on contemporain papers of German historians. Scientists of the German Federal Republic include a numerous group of enthusiasts of the Prussian past, composed of minimalists, apologists and glorifiers. Achievements of historiographer of the German Democratic Republic and of Poland are likewise considerable and the author suggests several important problems which should be subject to detailed elaboration.

JERZY KRASUSKI

PRUSSIA AND THE GERMAN SYSTEM OF STATES

Unification of Germany was a very long process meeting with exceptionally great difficulties. In 1792 there were 289 German states, in 1815 — 41, in 1866 still 28. In 1871 the German Reich under Prussian leadership was created consisting of 25 states. Three states: Austria, Lichtenstein and Luxemburg remained outside. In the Constitution of Weimar of 1919 the states composing the Reich were called lands (Länder). Their number fell to 17. In the nazi period further two of them were abolished.

During the time of the German Empire (before 1918) Prussia occupied 64%, during the Republic 62% of the Reich territory. According to the Constitution, king of Prussia was at the same time German Emperor, and in the practice Prussian prime-minister was usually Reich chancellor as well. All important industrial