initiatives and engage in direct advocacy. Ultimately, five natural sites in the former East Germany gained formal recognition as national parks in Germany's 1990 unification treaty. Yet, because West Germany had created national parks in the 1960s, the long-standing East German engagement on behalf of the five new parks is usually overlooked, with their creation attributed to West German leadership during reunification.

Continuities across 1989 in East Germany come forward in chapters by Peter Ulrich Weiß and Mandy Tröger on post-reunification developments in television and newspaper publishing. As Tröger shows for newspapers, despite the hopes of some activists in the citizens' movements of 1989 for a new form of media that aligned with neither state socialism nor with profit-oriented market capitalism, 1989 was clearly a caesura for East Germany's press, as Western media corporations assumed ownership of former East German newspapers. Yet continuities remained, as the vast majority of the editors and staff were former East Germans. Weiss likewise shows how the East German television stations fell under West German corporate control. At the same time, however, regional channels such as Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk and Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg remained 90 percent eastern in personnel and focused on broadcasting programs from the former East Germany or developed with a former East German audience in mind. The strong "eastern" identity of these regional stations helped ease the transition of the East German state from lived experience to memory.

Rounding out the chapters on Germany are essays by Tilmann Siebeneichner on astrofuturism in both Germanies before and after 1989, Peter Brandt on transitions on the German Left since the 1980s with a particular focus on the PDS and Linke parties in unified Germany, Matthias Warstat on the merger of the West and East Berlin theater scenes, and Gerhard Sälter on the influence of post anti-communist ideologies on post-reunification understandings of the GDR.

Although the book does not have a formal conclusion that pulls its themes together, Sälter's essay, which comes last, nicely aligns with Sabrow's opening chapter about myth-making. Sälter demonstrates how an early Cold War era anti-communist framework, embedded in postwar desires to bypass engagement with the crimes of the Third Reich and boost West German state legitimacy, dominated post-unification efforts to process the complex history of East German state and society. He calls for the replacement of this anti-communist framework, which embraced a good versus evil narrative and overlooked the complexities of everyday life for many East Germans, with careful "historicization and contextualization" (301–302). By raising provocative questions and featuring rigorous scholarship, *1989 – Eine Epochenzäsur?* provides an excellent example of how careful and contextualized historical research advances historical understanding.

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The Palatine Family and the Thirty Years' War: Experiences of Exile in Early Modern Europe, 1632-1648

By Thomas Pert. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. Pp. xii + 299. Cloth $110.00. ISBN: 978-0198875406.

Erica Bastress-Dukehart

Skidmore College

In his new book, *The Palatine Family and the Thirty Years' War: Experiences of Exile in Early Modern Europe 1632-1648*, author Thomas Pert offers readers a nuanced and meticulously

detailed account of the trials and hardships the Palatine family encountered as they were forced into exile. Set against the backdrop of the Thirty Years' War, Pert casts a wide geographic net, examining how the *Pfalzfrage* (the Palatine Question) became a central point of contention during the war as the Palatine family first lost, and then made every effort to regain, their lands and titles. Using the Palatine family as an example, Pert successfully argues that his study "provides valuable insight into the tactics used by early modern European dispossessed noble and royal houses in pursuance of their restoration, and how they marshalled the resources at their disposal to ensure the survival of their dynasty in spite of prolonged exile" (43). From the start, Pert's analysis shows to what lengths these families went to protect their legacies.

It is a complicated story, one that began in 1356 when then Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV issued a Golden Bull intended to regulate the imperial election process. The emperor's Bull confirmed the four secular voters of imperial elections: the King of Bohemia, the Duke of Saxony, the Margrave of Brandenburg, and the Count Palatine of the Rhine. The three ecclesiastical electors were the archbishops of Mainz, Cologne, and Trier.

By the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War in 1618, the Palatinate was the smallest of the four secular electorates, the result of divisions and sales following the Reformation, when the Palatinate had become one of the three Protestant electorates. At the war's outset, Frederick V had been Elector in his own right for four years. In one of his most important decisions as a young elector, Frederick had married Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of Britain's King James VI and I and sister to the ill-fated Charles I. As Pert deftly establishes, this dynastic alliance would prove to be both an advantage and a drawback for the future of the Palatine family.

It is also a compelling tale, one that Pert tells with care and attention. More decisive than his marriage, following the Defenestration of Prague, Frederick V was elected King of Bohemia in 1619. Frederick was twenty-three years old with a growing family and deep political connections. It was a fateful election for the Palatine prince, one that would define the rest of his short life and the lives of his wife and children. His rule lasted less than a year. The Battle of White Mountain in 1620 ended his reign, leaving him with the humiliating title of 'The Winter King.' Along with his loss of Bohemia, Frederick was also stripped of hereditary lands and titles through Emperor Ferdinand's *Reichsacht*, or Imperial Ban. "The 'Winter King' was now effectively a landless outlaw who was almost entirely dependent on the assistance of his family and supporters" (30).

Through the primary sources, most of which are letters that flew between the family and various supporters, and sharp analyses of the secondary sources that have often discounted the Palatine family following Frederick V's death in 1632, Pert reconstructs the family's ensuing struggles. Here Pert turns his focus on Elizabeth, who initially took up the family's cause. Between 1632 and the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, Pert highlights her efforts, along with her son, Charles Louis, to remain politically and socially relevant as their financial and political debts mounted.

Elizabeth lost her husband and several of her children during this period, yet she remained steadfast in her conviction that her family should not compromise. She wanted the Palatinate with its titles returned intact, a demand that was, as Pert notes, impossible. Yet she never wavered. She turned most notably to her brother, Charles I, King of Britain, for support. Busy with his own political troubles, Charles offered sporadic aid to his sister. The English Parliament also became involved, complicating negotiations between the Palatine family and the British crown.

In the end, the Peace of Westphalia offered mixed results for the return of the Palatinate to Elizabeth's son, Charles Louis. Pert carefully re-evaluates historians' earlier accounts that deemed the Peace a failure for the dynasty. Rather, in Pert's estimation, the Peace provided Charles Louis with some restitution, if not all. He regained the Lower Palatinate and a "newly created eighth electoral title, which was to be the lowest in the order of precedence in the Electoral College" (218). For Elizabeth, however, it was a bitter blow as she continued to demand full restitution.

What followed was what one might expect of noble families that had fought for so long to restore their titles and lands: they fell to bickering over the partial restoration and their financial troubles as a result of the war. Elizabeth, who had spent most of her exile in The Hague, continued to amass enormous household debts, over which she and Charles Louis argued endlessly. Finally, their dispute "led Elizabeth to retire to her homeland, rather than returning to the Palatinate, demonstrating how the experience and legacy of exile could tear ruling dynasties apart" (258). Yet, for her family and its future, the saga of their restoration continued, as it did for so many other noble exiles in the seventeenth century. Their stubborn survival led Pert to conclude that "exiled rulers were not automatically rendered politically insignificant after losing their lands and titles" (258). Instead, through the intersections of political machinations, intrigue, media, and blind belief in their cause, these dynastic houses were able to maintain certain levels of political agency, making them worthy of re-examination.

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In den Augen der Anderen. Die Wahrnehmung von Jan III. Sobieski in den Korrespondenzen von Habsburg und Hohenzollern

By Kathrin Dorothea Paszek. Vienna and Cologne: Böhlau, 2022. Pp. 356. Hardcover €55.00. ISBN: 978-3205215752.

Karin Friedrich

University of Aberdeen

Historical work on the "image of the other," as reflected in correspondence, ego-documents, memoirs, chronicles, pamphlets, and newspapers, remains popular. Cultural historians of diplomacy, such as André Krischer, Hillard von Thiessen, and Christian Windler, have applied this emphasis fruitfully, tracing how perceptions and stereotypes motivated political behaviors and influenced decision-making between friends and foes on the diplomatic parquet. Kathrin Dorothea Paszek's book—the result of her doctoral thesis under the guidance of Peter Thorau, a specialist on medieval crusades and Ottoman history—extends these scholars' work to perceptions of Jan III Sobieski, King of Poland, in diplomatic correspondences.

In den Augen der Anderen begins with a summary of the events of the battle on the Kahlenberg near Vienna on September 12, 1683, at which Sobieski broke the Ottoman siege of the Austrian capital. This account, based on contemporary reports, is accompanied by a summary of the relevant historiography, which has emphasized Sobieski's decisive leadership in guaranteeing the victory of Polish and allied Austrian, Saxon and Brandenburg troops over Kara Mustafa, grand vizier, and leader of the Ottoman army. The introduction then provides a useful overview of the relationship between Poland-Lithuania and the Habsburg Empire, particularly with Emperor Leopold I and Brandenburg-Prussia's Elector Friedrich Wilhelm. Among other things, Paszek contest the long-standing accusation that Sobieski, due to his close relations to Louis XIV, through his French wife Marie Casimire, was slow to cultivate an understanding with the house of Habsburg. Paszek's evidence includes materials from Saxon and Bavarian archives rarely used by historians working