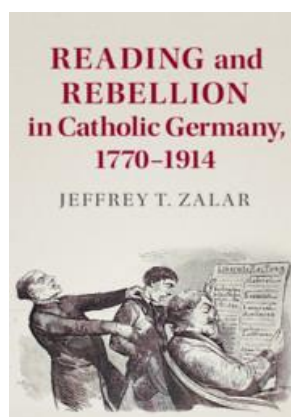


Jeffrey T. Zalar, *Reading and Rebellion in Catholic Germany, 1770-1914*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2018, 398 p.:

Segmented into 8 chapters and accompanied by a rich bibliographical list which valorises the most important title of the topic (pp. 369-376) and an index (pp. 37-397) that makes it to be prepared according to all the contemporary standards, the book of Jeffrey T. Zalar entitled: *Reading and Rebellion in Catholic Germany, 1770-1914*, is for sure, a very interesting approach that will be enjoyed by the readers interested in religious history of Germany from the 18th and 19th centuries and the beginning of the 20th one.



Known for his previous publications (like: „Knowledge is power: the Borromausverein and Catholic Reading Habits in imperial Germany”, in *Catholic Historical Review*, year LXXXVI, no. 1, 2000, pp. 20-46; „The Process of Confessional Inculturation. Catholic Reading in the *Long Nineteenth Century*”, in Helmut Walser Smith (ed.), *Protestants, Catholics and Jews in Germany*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 121-152), Jeffrey T. Zalar who is Associate Professor of History and the inaugural holder of the Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Cincinnati and works on the cultural and intellectual history of Roman Catholicism, the history of modern German religion, and the history of modern knowledge, offers this time an interesting approach on the way how religion generated rebellions and conflicts in German space between 1770 and 1914.

His book not only does it present the religious history of the investigated space in the period studied, but also emphasizes the social, cultural and economic evolution of the country, showing in the same time, how it influenced the evolution of religious sphere. For being much clear in his presentation and helping the reader to understand the context of some problems, he uses even some key words, formed by concepts meant to guide the reader and to make him to get closer with the context of the research. One of them, presented in the introductory part is „*Sonderweg*”. He underlines about it the fact that: „*In the historiography of modern Germany, the analytical structure in which this Sonderweg reading comes down is the spatial metaphor of the „Catholic confessional milieu”. In accord with social scientific imperatives to cut and sort, and reinforced by postmodern assumptions about the communal locations of meaning and identity, the milieu idea*

frames the interpretive environment. Its empirical facts assemble in a master narrative of historical development. This narrative argues that in response to the challenges presented by German modernity, Catholics found unity and mutual succor in an insular subculture, whose boundaries were policed by an authoritarian clergy” (pp. 6-7).

The introductory part (pp. 1-17) is then followed by a chapter entitled: „At the Origins of Germany’s Book Wars, 1770-1815” (pp. 18-51), where the author presents the origins of the important theological debates between Catholics and protestants from this space and the context how they appeared and developed as a community and also makes a critical evaluation of their literature. The second one entitled „Gall and Honey in the Catholic Theology of Cultural Taste” (pp. 52-96), although is a more specifically one, is very interesting and offers a real overview of the particularities of theological discourse in German space. Richer in historical data, is the 3rd chapter, entitled: „Reading Run Amok in Prussia Triumphant, 1815-1845” (pp. 97-147), a very documented thematic unity which offers an overview of the way how the history of the country came in contact with religion. The other four ones, namely: „Book Mischief in the Papal Monarchy, 1845–1880” (pp. 140-184), „Catholics and Their Deficit in Education” (pp. 184-184-224), „The Tail Wags the Dog: The Lay Rebellion against Catholic Libraries after 1880” (pp. 225-270) and „Brave New World: Lay Reading in the Libraries They Want” (pp. 270-209), are either conceived as book reviews or reviews of literature, or starting from a book and trying to investigate the literary phenomenon generated by a book or which can be observed as being behind it. From the huge amount of bibliographic information, the author extracts the most important one and offers to the reader an overview on the way how spirituality has been expressed through the culture and generated debates and „wars in the books” in pamphlets or apologetically works in a space so filled with culture, philosophy and literature.

The last chapter entitled: „An Appetite for Pleasure: Private Reading in Germania Profana” (pp. 310-359), is also a well-documented incursion in the cultural history of the Church from German space, and instead of conclusions, the author prefers an epilogue (pp. 360-368) which summarizes the main ideas and offers a general landscape of the entire problematic investigated and its evolution.

Written in a pleasant way, full of information which are presented in a very accessible way, the book of Jeffrey T. Zalar entitled: *Reading and Rebellion in Catholic Germany, 1770-1914*, published in Cambridge University Press in 2018 offers an interesting contribution in the

understanding of the cultural confessional history from the investigated space in a period marked by the national emancipation and the development of a phenomenon later known as secularisation.

Iuliu-Marius MORARIU

Răzvan Mihai Neagu, *Formarea intelectualității din Turda: studenți din Turda la marile universități europene 1377-1918*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2015, 273 p.:

Răzvan Mihai Neagu s-a născut în Turda, județul Cluj, la 10 mai 1983. A urmat cursurile Facultății de Istorie și Filosofie a Universității „Babeș-Bolyai” din Cluj-Napoca, absolvind ciclul licență în anul 2006, pentru ca în anul 2013 să obțină titlul de *doctor*, sub coordonarea prof. univ. dr. Nicolae Edroiu. De-a lungul timpului, a participat la numeroase sesiuni științifice din întreaga țară, fiind de asemenea autor sau coautor a mai multor lucrări istorice, precum: *Episcopi și episcopii în estul Ungariei medievale: tipologii episcopale în diecezele de Transilvania, Oradea și Cenad în Evul Mediu: studii; Momente din istoria orașului Turda: personalități, evenimente, instituții (secolele XV-XX) sau Evul Mediu Românesc. Dicționar biografic*. În prezent, Răzvan Mihai Neagu este cadru didactic titular la Colegiul Tehnic din Turda.



În anul 2015, Răzvan Mihai Neagu pune în atenția publicului interesat o lucrare de istorie locală, intitulată *Formarea intelectualității din Turda: studenți din Turda la marile universități europene 1377-1918*, publicată la Editura Mega din Cluj-Napoca. Dincolo de a fi o *carte de suflet*, așa cum autorul prefetei, conf. univ. dr. Șerban Turcuș o numește, lucrarea susmenționată este rezultatul unei necesități resimțite la nivelul întregii societăți românești în perioada actuală: aceea a identificării elitelor comunităților locale, dar și naționale. De altfel, în introducerea pe care o realizează autorul vorbește despre rolul important al intelectualilor, aceștia fiind „*gardienii valorilor într-o societate*”. Lucrarea lui Răzvan Mihai Neagu este structurată în opt capitole, segmentate în funcție de ordinea cronologică, dar și de locurile în care tinerii turdeni au studiat. Cel dintâi capitol al lucrării realizează o incursiune istoriografică în subiectul tratat. Autorul observă o mai mare abundență a istoricilor maghiari preocupați