

Nuova Rivista Storica

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Abstracts

JAN WNEK, American Civil War in Polish Historiography

This article contains an overview of Polish historical writings about the Civil War in the United States. Not only scientific publications were analyzed, but also popular and academic textbooks for teaching history. From these books and articles an interesting picture emerges of the American military struggle seen through the eyes of Polish historians - a picture that does not always reflect the true causes, course and consequences of the war. In some periods, especially during the Cold War, Polish historians worked under extremely difficult conditions. They were instructed to interpret history according to the principles of historical materialism. Today we have available a much richer and more objective source of information about the American Civil War drawn from a much larger source. This paper contains elements of the armed conflict, assessments of these events in the 1860s and characterizes some of the heroes of those events.

Keywords:

American Civil War 1861-1965

Slavery

Polish Historiography