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Doctoral Dissertation Abstract

The occupation of Poland in German-language non-fiction literature in the context of the culture of remembrance

The dissertation presents the memories written by Germans covering the period of World War II and the Nazi occupation of Poland. The analysed memories were presented in the context of the culture of remembrance as they take into account the individual experiences of the authors who were direct witnesses of the events during the Second World War. The term culture of remembrance was introduced in Poland around 2010 and is gaining increasing popularity, however, it should be emphasized that there is no uniform definition of this concept.

The various accounts of Germans are the subject of research - their autobiographies, diaries, letters and memories - showing the reality of that time from a German perspective. The main sources which are the basis for the presented work are composed of publications of people who did not form the state apparatus of the Third Reich and had no influence on "great politics" in the occupied areas in September 1939.

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