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FACES OF WAR

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## EDITORS' PREFACE

In November 2020, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Academic Conference of the *Oblicza Wojny* (*The Faces of War*) series took place at the Institute of History of the University of Lodz.<sup>1</sup> The COVID epidemic had just begun spreading around the world, forcing humanity to change its lifestyle and work arrangements overnight. Of course, the pandemic also affected the organisation of academic conferences. Many were cancelled due to fear of the disease, others were held remotely via the internet, instead of in the familiar form of face-to-face meetings. As the organisers of the *Oblicza Wojny* conference, we suddenly had to deal with a dilemma – what to do? Today it may seem funny, but initially, we decided to wait out the epidemic, which would surely end soon, and we decided to postpone the conference originally planned for June to November. However, as the new meeting date approached and the virus was only getting bolder, we decided to hold the conference online. Admittedly, all the organisers are historians themselves, so it won't surprise anyone that we didn't have a clue how to go about it, but we figured we could make it work. And we did! The theme of the conference *Miasto i wojna – City and War*, which we proposed at the time, aroused interest among representatives of various academic disciplines, and the possibility of participating in the conference in the online formula attracted researchers not only from different corners of Poland, but also from the Czechia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. And thus, a deadly virus helped raise our conference to an international level.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the *Oblicza Wojny* conference, please visit [www.obliczawojny.uni.lodz.pl](http://www.obliczawojny.uni.lodz.pl)

All reputable conferences traditionally publish the most interesting articles presented during the sessions, and it was no different in our case. Since 2020, we have been publishing our own series under the eponymic title – how else – *Oblicza Wojny*. The volume you are holding in your hands (if you are lucky enough to have a paper copy) or reading on your screen is the sixth in the series and the first to be published entirely in English. This will make the results of the research published in this volume more accessible and available to a wider audience. When preparing the content of this publication, we have tried to select papers with universal themes, hence the group of texts on the role that towns played in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine as places of combat or military bases. We have also included articles that talk about towns, with the main focus on army equipment and armaments. In total, this volume contains fourteen articles, the results of research conducted by scholars from Hungary, Poland, and Romania, whose papers were based on the analysis of previously unknown sources, both written records and archaeological materials. In this way we were able to present these research issues in a new light. As a result, all papers published in this volume are original and certainly contribute to the knowledge of the role that towns played during times of war.

We believe that this is the right place and time to thank all those who have contributed to this volume. So, firstly we would like to express our thanks to the authors – not only for making their texts available, but also for patiently waiting for the completion of the editorial and publishing work. The reviewers – Hassan Ali Jamsheer and Jan Szymczak – greatly contributed to the preparation of this publication and their comments helped to improve the texts which we now present to the readers. The difficult task of translation, editing, and linguistic supervision of the papers was performed by excellent proofreaders: Karolina Płoska and Rebecca Górzyńska. Last, but not least, we thank the team of the Lodz University Press, with whom we have prepared all our post-conference publications to date. We, the editorial team, would like to thank all the above-mentioned for their work, sharing their knowledge, skills, and talent.

We wish the readers a rewarding read and – *signum temporis* – good health.

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