

Magdalena Pogońska-Pol  
University of Lodz

 ORCID: 0000-0001-7525-6260

OBLICZA WOJNY

TOM 10 • NARZĘDZIA WOJNY

ŁÓDŹ 2023 • ISBN 978-83-8331-461-7 • s. 7-9

<https://doi.org/10.18778/8331-461-7.01>

## EDITOR PREFACE

This 10<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Oblicza Wojny* (*Faces of War*) series, contains 12 papers written by archaeologists and historians from Czechia, Greece, Canada, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Italy. Such a team of researchers not only ensures an interdisciplinary approach to the issue at hand but also guarantees a multifaceted approach.

All papers address the problem named in the title of this volume: *The Tools of War*. We can distinguish several levels of research undertaken by the Authors: themes related to the armaments of particular armies and fortification systems; references to military formations and the impact of their development on the battlefield; diplomacy as a tool during war, and less obvious issues: money, bicycle, and even a lekythos.

Coming from the perspective of the classical understanding of tools as a means of warfare, Zoltan Szolnoki looked at battles fought among the members of the conflicted Canceledii family that influenced the development of Florence and the surrounding region. By analysing the chronicles from that period, he identified not only the phases of the fighting and its intensity but also the weapons used by the parties to the conflict, concluding that as time passed, the vendetta became more and more brutal. Simone Picchianti, on the other hand, treated the war between Florence and Lucca in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century as a backdrop for his paper, in which he presented a highly organised system for the production of crossbow bolts that enabled their constant supply to the Florentine troops and thus ensured their effectiveness. Whereas Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani analyses a Persian manuscript (probably from the 17<sup>th</sup> century) indicating that this source provides invaluable information on how to make crucible steel blades, how to identify and classify swords, how to make the adhesive glue for attaching the blade tang to the handle of the sword, how to make glue for

fletching arrows, how to make naphtha (burning material) for attacking fortifications, and how to make the black powder. The development of Parthian military architecture became the subject of Kaveh Farrokh's discussion. The author indicated the tasks for the fortification system, taking also into consideration the modifications introduced by the Parthians, some of which were based on solutions used in the areas conquered by them.

An article by Ioannis Bellas draws attention to the hitherto underestimated role of the archers in the army of Philip II of Macedon, as in his opinion this formation often determined the victories of the Macedonians. Oleg Hański has attempted to analyse the composition and armament of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century troop of mercenaries, using the example of Jan Buczacki's rota, stating that the composition and equipment of the unit were typical of Polish military formations in the Jagiellonian times. Ferenc Sebők presented *militia portalis* as an armed force that effectively defended the Hungarian borders against the Turks. In doing so, he pointed out not only the advantages of such a solution but also its development and demise.

Diplomacy as a tool of war was discussed by Josef Rafael Gudmann, who outlined the reasons for the defeat of the French army at the Battle of Attella in 1496 and showed diplomacy as an effective means of waging war. The success of Naples was uncertain until the formation of the Holy League. At the same time, Anna Ambrochowicz-Gajownik discusses the diplomatic activities of the Polish Office in Casablanca and their impact on the fate of Poles (including soldiers) during the Second World War.

When considering the factors that play an important role in the ability to conduct military operations effectively, one cannot overlook finance. Thus, Mariusz Mielczarek presents the influence of money on waging war in ancient Greece, when it was already necessary to finance professional armies – but it was also the army that made it necessary to mint coins, indirectly contributing to the development of mints. In turn, David Hubeny and Nadezhda Kruglova dedicated their paper to bicycles that were used in the Czechoslovak army in the second half of the 1930s. The authors emphasise that despite their design shortcomings, a defect resulting from the use of inappropriate materials for production, these bicycles fulfilled their role as a means of transport in the army of a country experiencing an economic crisis. Inga Głuszek analysed a vessel from the collection of the National Museum in Poznań, proposing a different

interpretation of the painting on its surface considering the fact that vessels were produced by the Athenians for export to be an important factor in the change of approach to the discussed subject.

New approaches to well-known research problems, reinterpretation of old analyses and views, and taking up hitherto unexplored issues are features that unite all the texts, at the same time making them a reading material recommended for both specialists and students.