Though noted in the text, the author himself may underestimate the scholarly contribution of this work to the field of church history; the serious reader may regard many of Emmons's other answers as rather tepid. Indeed, researchers better versed in the discourse of American immigration and ethnic history might have found interesting — if more conventional — parallels to developments in many nineteenth- and early twentieth-century immigrant Roman Catholic parishes riven by conflicts over homeland nationalism (and anti-semitism), lay trusteeism, and intra-ethnic class, economic, and political conflicts. Relating the Vladimir-Russel conflict to these well-documented patterns might have yielded fresh insights on the processes of assimilation, acculturation, accommodation, ethnicization, political mobilization, and ethnic middle-class formation. As a piece of scholarship, this book needed less minutiae and much more context and analysis.

But such an approach also might have sapped both life and liveliness from the Russel-Vladimir melodrama, and this clearly was not Emmons's intention in bringing this extraordinary account to light. The book includes general, chapter references to archival sources consulted (and reproduces many long documents in their entirety); but, presumably in the interests of economy and readability, provides neither footnotes per se nor references to secondary literatures which the inspired reader might consult. Certainly a prior passing familiarity with both Russian and American history would assist readers in apprehending the gracefulness of the staging of this book. But, in the main, Alleged Sex and Threatened Violence aims to reprise the venerable (if lapsed) practice of history-as-story-telling; and scholars and general readers will appreciate it most as a fine piece of summertime or vacation reading (not intended for the puritanically minded) which does not take itself too seriously.

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Susan Heuman's study of the Ukrainian intelligent Bogdan Kistiakovsky (1868-1920) is yet another contribution to the recent spate of political biographies that has served to reinvigorate a genre of historical analysis which had fallen out of favor in academe. Professor Heuman uses a thematic approach to explore Kistiakovsky's contributions to Russian and Ukrainian thought. After a biographical overview in the first chapter, successive chapters are devoted to his philosophical writings on human rights, his activity in the Russian constitutional movement and his ideas on cultural autonomy and federalism. The study concludes with a discussion of Kistiakovsky's clash with Russian liberals over their chauvinism just before the outbreak of World War I.
Kistiakovsky was born the scion of a leading Kyiv (Kiev) family during a time of cultural and intellectual ferment in the Ukraine (use of the article here is deliberate in order to distinguish between the time when "the Ukraine" was part of the Russian Empire and its present independent status). Both his father (Alexander, a noted legal scholar and professor of criminal law at Kyiv University) and his uncle (Volodomyr Antonovych, a professor of Ukrainian language and history at the same institution) were deeply involved in the Ukrainian national renaissance. However, most of the inhabitants of what is today Ukraine had very little awareness of being "Ukrainian." Although educated elites such as the Kistiakovskys (and, to be sure, they were descendants of serfs that had only been freed early in the nineteenth century) certainly seemed to have a sense of their own cultural identity, most Ukrainians identified themselves primarily as Slavic (usually Russian, or malorosy, Little Russians"), Orthodox Christians (Kistiakovsky's first name means "God-given" and he spelled his surname in the Russian variant throughout his life) and as members of a given social estate, such as peasant, noble, townsman, and so on.

This points up the tremendous impact these intellectuals had as they began to pursue cultural and educational activities in the middle of the nineteenth century designed to inculcate an awareness of the rich Ukrainian heritage amongst its people in hopes of achieving (in Kistaikovsky's case) cultural autonomy for the Ukraine. However, the tsarist regime's short-sighted policies of Russification, which included even a ban on the publication of Ukrainian language books or the use of the Ukrainian language in schools and theaters, led to the development of a full-scale Ukrainian nationalist movement.

Kistiakovsky became widely known in Russia (and is best known to scholars of the period) as a result of his contribution to Vekhi. His article, entitled "In Defense of Law: The Intelligentsia and Legal Consciousness," underscored the leitmotif of the volume, that the intelligentsia should work within the existing political system to effect meaningful change. Kistiakovsky believed that the use of extralegal measures would be disastrous as it would only lead to the development of a self-perpetuating authoritarian system. Such a system could not but continue to oppress both the individual personality and the various ethnic and national groups that comprised the Russian Empire. Heuman traces Kistiakovsky's intellectual odyssey from Marxism to liberalism and ultimately to social democracy (albeit in its German, Eduard Bernstein variety; he was horrified at Lenin's idea of a vanguard party leading the revolution, for the very same reason elucidated above). She rightly contends that Kistiakovsky sought the establishment of a social, economic and political order which would allow for social justice, human rights and constitutional federalism. She also does a superb job of placing his scholarship and educational endeavors within the social, intellectual and political milieu of late Imperial Russia.

Heuman brings to life Kistiakovsky's sense of decency, concern for the individual and devotion to the cause of liberty. For example, he was an early champion of women's rights when many leading liberals, including even the leader of the Kadet Party Paul Miliukov, were not willing to take their eyes off the prize of a