

RJÉOUTSKI, VLADISLAV, GESINE ARGENT, and DEREK OFFORD, eds. *European Francophonie: The Social, Political, and Cultural History of an International Prestige Language*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2014. ISBN 978-3-0343-1703-0. Pp. 498. 80 €.

Connecting the term *francophonie* to Europe might surprise some readers, but the editors of this volume remind us that the term is linked to the spread of the French language in the seventeenth century in Europe and is therefore not solely associated with non-European colonized countries. The book's fourteen chapters examine the use of French principally from the mid-seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries in a dozen communities in countries such as Romania, Italy, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Spain, offering a comprehensive geographical, historical, and social range. Peter Burke discusses diglossia, the coexistence of two varieties of the same language (high and low) that have a hierarchical relationship, with one variety carrying more prestige than the other. He also describes the prestige of French and its use among the Russian aristocracy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Marianne Ailes and Ad Putter describe how, after the 1066 Norman conquest, French became a major language in England, to the point that it was no longer considered a foreign language for two centuries. Nadia Minerva analyzes the relationship between the "two Latin Sisters," French and Italian, charting the spread of French in Italy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as it became the language of culture and education used by the Italian elite and remained the first foreign language learned by Italians until the 1970s. In his examination of French in imperial Russia, Derek Offord reminds us of the numerous passages in French of some of the versions of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, highlighting the significant position of French in mid-nineteenth-century Russia, when it was used by the Russian elite and the court. French was perceived as the language of modernization, diplomacy, and public sociability, and French-style salons were popular in Russia. During this time, the relationship between France and Russia intensified through diplomatic and intellectual exchanges. Offord mentions, for instance, visits to Russia by Diderot and Louis-Philippe, Count of Ségur. Laurent Mignon discusses the position of French in Ottoman Turkey, where the 1923 treaty of Lausanne allowed non-Muslim minorities—Armenians, Greeks, and Jews—to be educated in their national language. The Jews of Turkey fought to establish French, rather than Hebrew, as the language of education. The French schools of the Alliance Israélite Universelle educated 100,000 students who spoke Hebrew and French but not Turkish. The fondness of Turkish Jews for the French language was so strong that between 1935 and 1996, one third of the books by Jewish authors published in Turkey were in French, as it was considered the language of science and culture. Overall, this book covers a wide range of the use of French in Europe and places it in a strong historical context. However, the editors' claim that the book examines bilingualism, language choice, and code-switching may be a bit ambitious, as these concepts are not fully explored. Nonetheless, the book is a valuable addition to the study of the use of the French language in Europe within a historical perspective.