

ABSTRACT. Bilewicz Michał, Dudek Natalia, Nasze zbrodnie ≠ ich zbrodnie. Potoczne wyjaśnienia historycznych mordów w Pawłokomie [Our crimes ≠ their crimes. Causal attributions of historical crimes in Pawlokoma]. My i oni. Interdyscyplinarne obrazy wielokulturowości [We and They. Interdisciplinary pictures of multiculturalism] edited by H. Mamzer – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo”, vol. XXX, Poznań 2010, pp. 155-169. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-2120-3. ISSN 0239-3271.

Explanations of intergroup historical misdeeds received considerable interest in contemporary social psychology. People explain their intergroup history using systematic bias: ingroup crimes are attributed to external (situational) factors, while outgroup crimes are explained using internal (dispositional) explanations (Doosje & Branscombe, 2003; Bilewicz, 2004). The present article focuses on the spontaneous explanations of relatively unknown historical conflict (Pawlokoma massacres) and discusses the role of identification in biased explanations of the past. A cross-sectional study performed on 180 Polish students confirmed that Polish participants attribute more internal causes to the Ukrainian perpetrators than to the Polish ones, perceiving Ukrainian criminal behaviour as more stable over time than Polish criminal behaviour, and finally – that the outgroup perpetrators (Ukrainians) are perceived as more homogeneous than ingroup perpetrators (Poles). The impact of participants' identification on these biases was rather weak.

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