The Second World War affected Poland as well as other European countries far beyond immediate military conflict. Especially the civilian population had to face occupation, forced labor, political and racist persecution as well as shifting borders and resettlement. As a result, after the fighting had some to an end, many of the surviving inhabitants of the former Republic of Poland involuntarily found themselves in other regions, on the territory of other newly-established states or in exile.

The authors of this volume assume that there was no one end of war, neither in Poland nor in its neighboring states. In Lublin, a Soviet-molded transitional government was established already in 1944 after the liberation by the Red Army, whereas forced migration and the return of Displaced Persons continued through the early 1950s. On the mental level the varying experience of war shaped the lives and behaviors of people for years or even decades.

In this book the varying ends of war are considered as a phase of transition and reorientation. The analysis includes historical, museological, sociological, jurisprudential, philological as well as psychological approaches.