

Cultural heritage as a reason of misunderstanding. Poles from right- and left-bank of Ukraine.

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In my paper, I would like to show, how different tradition of one nation is, after the change of the conditions (i.e. the border), may lead to internal conflicts. Polishness becomes competitive between various cities — similarly to the not-invented-here problem faced by engineering communities: not based on any merit, only on who's the „truer” Pole. This is an opportunity to talk about it like a kind of internal colonization. They are living in „foreign country”, which is *de facto* their homeland. As an excuse for discussion I use examples from Lviv and Kyiv – two old cities in Ukraine, which have been long inhabited by Poles.

I will show twofold Polish traditions - national conservatism (Polish: *endecja*) with a wide ranges in Lviv/Galicia region and ideologically blend of gentry (Polish: *ziemiaństwo*) with revolutionary movements in Kyiv and Podilia. This ideological dichotomy decides about 1) modern conflict between Polish societies living in Lviv-Kyiv, 2) what in the consequences results the lack of unanimous cooperation of Polish government when it comes to Poles living in Ukraine. In consequence, we could talk about internal colonization of Poles who live in Ukraine.

Polish authorities who are responsible for organising help for Poles living outside, choose one which is the most patriotic, who speaks Polish language of the best quality and so on. In this perspective, there's no space for developing Polish identity when it comes to regional tradition, which about in the margin I have to say, was interrupted during and after the Second World War. Many times there is no direct connection with previous generations. And, what is symptomatic, Poles compare themselves with each other. They are authentic Poles just if: speak Polish, cultivate Polish traditions and have relationships with Poland. What means, that every change in internal situation in Poland affects them directly.

Keywords: national minorities, Ukraine, foreign homeland, Poles in Ukraine, institutionalisation of heritage.