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**Topic: Polish-Ukrainian relations between 1989-2005, as presented by Polish journalism.**

The basis for this dissertation was presenting the mutual relations between Poland and Ukraine and describing them in an overall form. Presenting all the major events which took place in different areas of mutual contacts in the years 1989-2005. So far no one has decided to present a picture of both nations in the Polish journalism in the aforementioned period. A massive amount of source material has undoubtedly discouraged scholars from attempting to write a dissertation dealing with this issue.

This subject has been surrounded by much controversy and emotions, mostly negative ones. A particular difficulty for the researcher was a short period of time which was presented in this work, which means that many people lack a proper distance to the subject, which is expected from a historian.

The main source for the following work was daily press. During the period concerned, many titles have „disappeared” from the market while new ones took their place. This situation was common mostly in the early nineties. At that time, many government-printed magazines from Polish People's Republic were discontinued, e.g. „Odrodzenie” or „Trybuna Ludu”. They were replaced by private-owned magazines.

The main objective of the work to investigate the Polish-Ukrainian relations between 1989-2005 as pictured by nationwide press. In particular, I was trying to find answer to the main thesis of the dissertation: „in what way did the Polish press influence the Polish society”, including the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the reasons for mutual conflicts and how were they resolved over the centuries?
2. What image of the neighboring country existed in the Polish and Ukrainian societies?
3. Was it possible to create peacefully coexisting, modern nations?
4. What chances for development did ethnic minorities have in Poland and Ukraine?
5. What role in reaching a consensus between both nations did political, religious and social factors play?

6. What is the possibility of conducting political changes which would allow Ukraine to „join” Europe?

While analyzing the mutual relations of both nations, a question needs to be asked whether or not would it be possible for them to have happened differently that they actually did. The answer is, unfortunately negative. Even when both nations attempted to reach a consensus, which unfortunately happened very rarely, foreign countries interfered. Such situation could be observed already during the Khmelnytsky Uprising, during which a conflict between Cossacks and Poles was exploited by Russia, which took over vast areas of Ruthenian lands. During WWII Nazi Germany influenced Polish-Ukrainian relations. Nothing changed in the 90s and at the beginning of the XXI century. Russia, very quickly, returned to its imperial policy, not coming to terms with its loss of influence over the Ukrainian territory.

Polish press was strongly interested in conflicts between both nations. Many authors focused mostly on historical affairs. The Volhynian Slaughter or Operation Vistula were a leitmotif of many publications. While describing the reality, they pointed out the barriers which were present in both countries, very often exaggerating local incidents to an international scale.

A breakthrough for the Polish journalism was the Orange Revolution. In the time preceding this event and during its major parts, Polish journalists, regardless of their political affiliations uniformly supported the pro-democratic forces. Many of them broadcasted the events in Kiev live, encouraging the Polish people and our government to support the orange coalition and its struggle for the modernization of Ukraine.