

Review of: "Ukrainian Theatre in Exile: A Case Study, Poland"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Robert Boroch, Anna Korzeniowska-Bihun, Ukrainian Theatre in Exile: A Case Study, Poland

This is an interesting piece of research, contributing to filling a gap in studies on the role of theatre in international relations. The authors contribute to studies concentrated on the time of an international military conflict with many contexts. The paper focuses on the Polish-Ukrainian case and mainly on the developments in the last two years (2022-2024), after the second stage of Russian aggression on Ukraine. The study is based at least partly on the personal experiences of the authors in the field.

The case has the potential to develop into an interdisciplinary study, especially if the authors consider the theoretical backgrounds hiding behind issues such as theatre as a means of expression for a diaspora or cultural diplomacy. However, not all ideas and decisions of the authors are clear to me. It is not said explicitly in the text, but cultural security seems to be the main frame for the research. It would be relevant to explain the theoretical background in the text, as there are many approaches to which the authors may refer. The focus on NATO in the initial part convinces me that some restructuring would serve for more coherence in the text.

Issues such as 'subliminal destabilization actions' would need an explanation and discussion, based on literature in the field and some references.

The questions signaled here are partly the result of missing information about the authors' method in the paper. Some interviews were mentioned on the list of references, which means that the study is based on relevant and unique sources. However, it would need to be explicitly stated in the text. Some editors would question the self-reference of the study, as the authors cited themselves quite frequently.

Last but not least, what is evident to the authors doesn't have to be evident to the reader. Readers from Central – Eastern Europe will mostly understand the history as the background, but it would contribute to the clarity of the paper if the authors explained what the developments from the history of World War II were that they referred to. 1941 is mentioned in the text as the start of Russian political and military domination in Poland occupied by the Soviet Union. In the latter case, why not 1939?

As not any English native speaker myself, I would strongly recommend having the text corrected by a native speaker.

