

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

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The article has a strong claim and demonstrates that culture, and in this concrete case, theatre, can support national identity even under painful constraints. The article has a number of merits, such as the introduction of an under-researched field, concrete evidence-based analysis, and the ambition to connect the concrete case to a theoretical background. Nevertheless, in terms of structure, the article would need some fundamental transformation, which would help the reader and substantiate the analysis. In its present form, some topics are recurring (repeated), and the storyline becomes blurred. For example, a historical overview of the troubled connections between Ukraine and Poland could be an introduction. This could be followed by a thorough introduction of the theoretical approach. The next section could elaborate on how Russia has aimed to challenge, threaten, and demolish Ukraine's cultural identity and existence. Then, the concrete developments in Poland after the aggression would be introduced, and the article could finish with the conclusion. Three further points might be considered: the theoretical approach should be more clearly defined, some value and normative judgements (which are not substantiated) should be deleted - or explained and substantiated, and the reference list should be enriched. An example of the value judgement could be: "practical and theoretical reflection in the Western world doesn't understand the strategy adopted by the Russian Federation of hybrid warfare in the information space" or "the opposition of Polish directors to Ukrainian repertoire is astonishing." A final thought: should Chekhov be expectedly eliminated from theatre repertoire?