

A COMIC BOOK

"POLE-UKRAINIAN-EUROPEAN -A COMMON WAY TO EUROPE"





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POLSKO-UKRAIŃSKA RADA WYMIANY MŁODZIEŻY

ПОЛЬСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКА РАДА ОБМІНУ МОЛОДДЮ

INTRODUCTION

On September 10-18, 2017 in Gliwice there was a Polish-Ukrainian youth exchange called "Pole-Ukrainian-European". The exchange was organized by the Institute for Labor Market Development (Zawiercie, Poland) in partnership with NGO Development and Initiative (Dnipro, Ukraine).

The aim of the exchange was to bring together the work of 20 participants from Poland and Ukraine on the history of the two countries. We looked for sources of good neighborly relations connecting our countries. The result of our work is the comic book that you read. It was created, developed and drawn by participants of the exchange. We have combined artistic and historical passion to build strong relationship based on close cooperation between Poland and Ukraine, as well as between Ukraine and the European Union.

Thank you for your interest in this publication and we hope that it will contribute to building a positive image of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the common way to Europe.

Piotr Czarnojańczyk - Chairman of the Board Institute for Labour Market Development

> Kateryna Pryagnikova - President NGO Development and Initiative

> > Gliwice, 2017

"POLE-UKRAINIAN-EUROPEAN -A COMMON WAY TO EUROPE"

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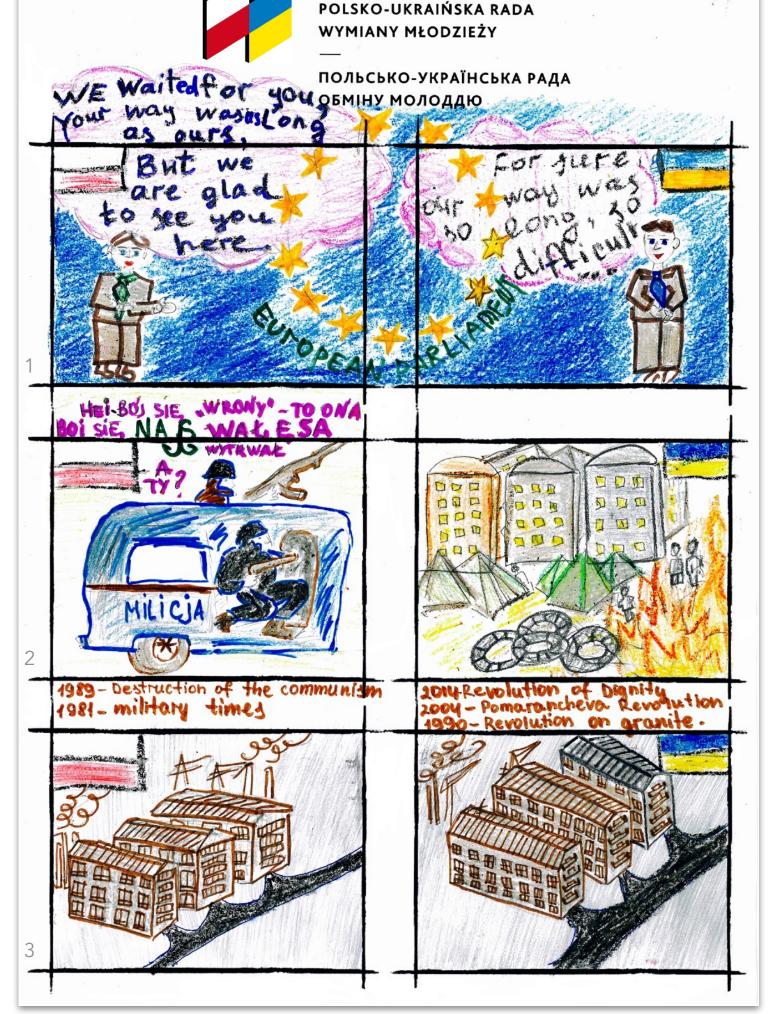
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Firstly it should be mentioned that our comic book is written in reverse way. So the actions are shown from the newest to the oldest. In the first line (1) there are two MEPs in European Parliament - representatives of Poland and Ukraine. Polish one greets Ukrainian and says that Poland waited for Ukraine to enter the EU for long time. Ukrainian MEP answers that it was really hard and long way and starts to explain it in next pictures...

On the second line (2) there are some armoured skirmishes in Ukraine and Poland. For Poland it was a time of martial law in 1981 and the start of collapse of the communism system. In the Ukrainian side there are: Revolution on granite in 1990, Pomarancheva revolution in 2004 and Revolution of dignity in 2014. The common is that Poland and Ukraine had hard military actions during history of both countries.

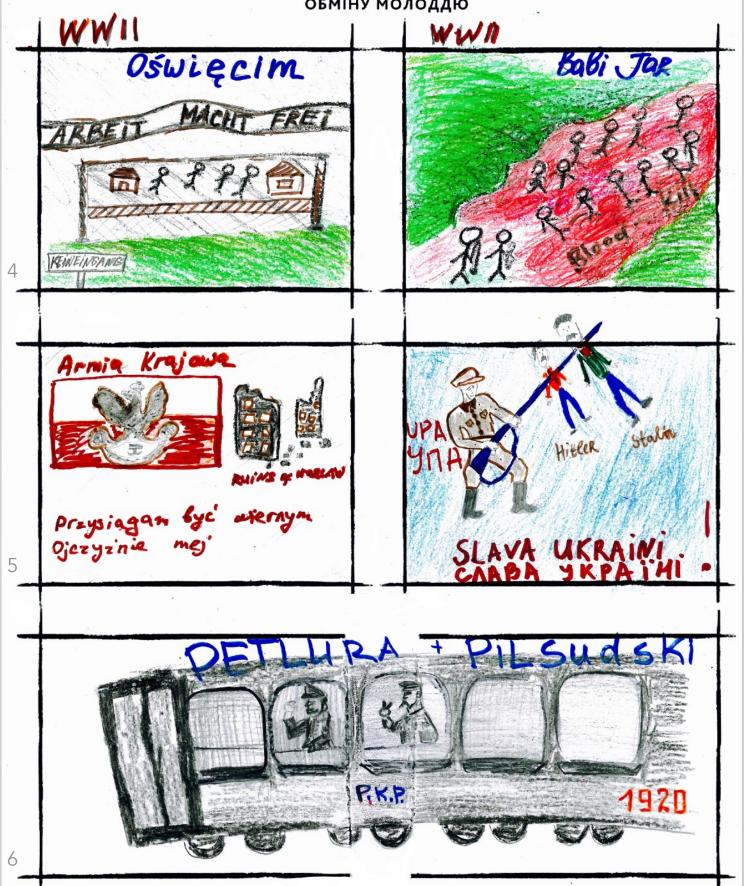
Both countries ruled under the same ideological framework, with the same style of economics and by the same superpower. The biggest difference between two countries is the fact that Poland was a satellite state (had an independent government in Warsaw), while Ukraine was fully contained within the Soviet Union (received orders directly from Moscow).

(3) But despite a lot of repressions, Poland and Ukraine saved their national identity, history and social consciousness. In 1989 in Poland the communistic regime was destructed and in 1991 Ukraine gained independence.



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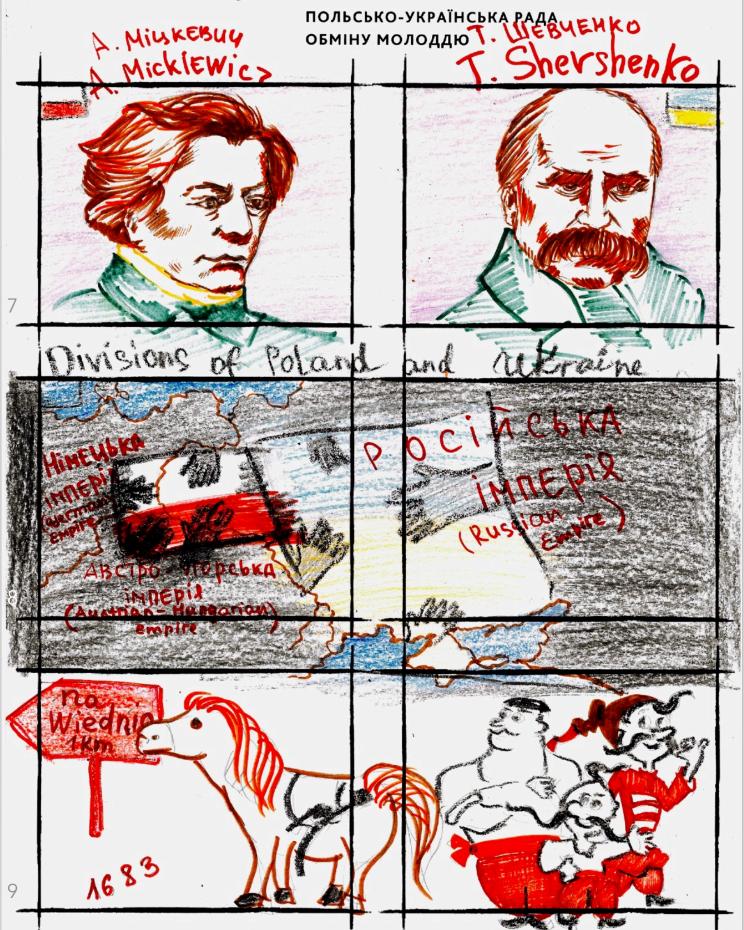
(4) The German Death Camp in Osventsim - Poland - it is one of the greatest tragedies in Polish history. There were 2,5 million of people killed. At first people were chosen according to their state of health; if it was okay, a person had to work hard in cruel conditions: if not, he/she was killed in a gas chamber and then sent to crematorium and burnt. There were 1,5 million of Jewish, 150 hundred thousand Polish and 100 hundred thousand Ukrainians among them.

Babiy Yar is also one of the greatest tragedies, but this time in Ukranian history. There were 33 771 Jews killed in Babiy Yar (Kyiv) after the march along the central part of the city. Almost nobody could survive and escape. Now there is a monument and a park dedicated to this tragedy in Kyiv.

- (5) Armija Krajowa and UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) were Polish and Ukrainian insurgent armies, which wanted to restore Polish and Ukrainian countries. Both armies were fighting against Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. War created a cruelty which disturbed normal relations and provoked masacre and growth of nationalism. In this case in 1943-1944 "Rzeź Vołynska" happened, when Polish and Ukrainian insurgents killed civil people in Vołyn region.
- (6) Secret contract beetween Pilsudski and Petlura was made in Warsaw. It was an agreement in 1920 against bolsheviks. They have been connected by one common enemy. Poland was stronger than Ukraine, so Ukraine agreed to give back Wolyn and Galicia. Now we understand, that we need to use dialogue to solve all problems. We forgive and we ask to forgive us in return.



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(7) Taras Shevchenko was a Ukrainian poet, writer, artist, public and political figure, as well as folklorist and ethnographer. His literary heritage is regarded to be the foundation of modern Ukrainian literature and, to an large extent, the modern Ukrainian language. Shevchenko is also known for many masterpieces as a painter and an illustrator.

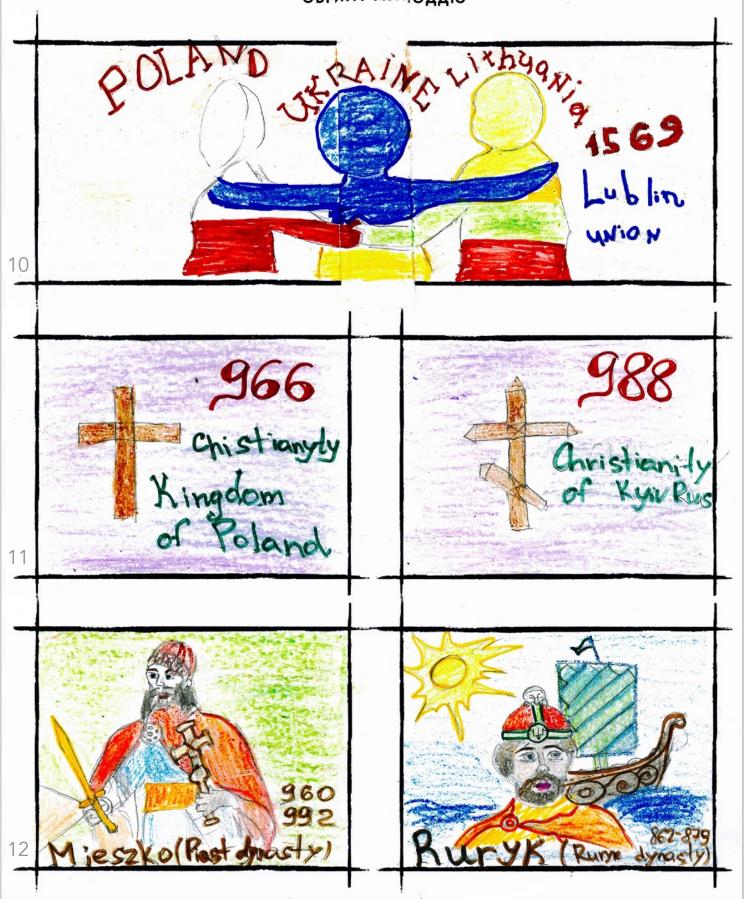
Adam Bernard Mickiewicz was a Polish poet, dramatist, essayist, publicist, translator, professor of Slavic literature, and political activist. He is regarded as national poet in Poland, Lithuania and Belarus. Both of them had a great influence on development of literature and language of countries, which they represent.

- (8) Hands that torn up Ukraine state in 17 century (B. Hmelnitskiy country), than later did the same in 18 century with Poland. It's one of the most tragic events of our both nation's history.
- (9) The battle of Vienna, 1683 The Ottomans was an expansionist empire. They wanted not only to wipe out Christendom in Europe, but also spread Muslim Faith as well. It wasn't the first attempt to seize Vienna. When they came they said: "Accept Islam and live in peace under the Sultan!" Vienna didn't. Over the next 2 months there was a resistance from Austrias side; supplies of the Ottomans were running out and with the help of Polish King John III Sobieski Vienna survived. This defeat destroyed the morale of the Ottoman Empire.



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- (10) The Union of Lublin was signed in July 1 in 1569 in Lublin, Poland. It was a creation of Polith-Lithuaninan Common State. The teritory of Ukraine was also the part of this state. It was affected on Polish and Ukrainan people a lot. This is the reason why we have a lot of common things in culture.
- (11) Christianity has started on our terrains in 10th century. In 966 Polish Prince Mieszko I (from Piast dynasty) received a baptism from Rome. On Kievan Rus christianity has started in 988 thanks to Vlodimir (from Rurik dynasty) who received a baptism from Constantinopole
- (12) On the last picture you can see the first emperors of Kingdom of Poland and Kyivan Rus Mieszko and Ruryk. These two people played a great role in the history of both countries, because they founded two great dynasties (Piasty and Rurykovychi). It was Mieszko who gave the name for Poland country and Polish people, and it was Ruryk who brought the coat of arms to Rus and started the formation of the country as one.

We showed you the history of Ukrainian-Polish relationship from the end to the very beginning in order to demonstrate you that we have the same roots. Our history was long and difficult, because each of us protected the rights of his own country. However, despite of all tragic events, we should build friendly and sustainable relationships between modern Poland and modern Ukraine.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Institute for Labour Market Development - Polish organization established to help young people improve their labor market situation. Our work focused on development of innovative methods of continuing adult education and the transition from the education system to professional activity.



NGO Development and Initiative - Ukrainian organization that aims to promote active citizenship, sustainable development and borderless Europe, youth mobility, youth employment and entrepreneurship.