The Volhynia Massacre in Polish textbooks (2012-2023)

Bachelor thesis

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Abstract

This bachelor's thesis examines the evolution of interpretations of the Volhynia massacre in Polish history textbooks between 2012 and 2023, with the aim of showing how the changes in these narratives and the changing political interpretations of this historical event correlate over time. In the first part, the author sets out the key theoretical concepts and parameters of the debate on the interpretation of violence, which serve as a starting point for the analysis later in the thesis. The second part outlines the details of the academic and political debate on the Volhynia massacre as an event and as an object of the politics of memory. In the last part, the author then moves on to an analysis of the textbooks. Aware of the outlined context of the previous chapters, she then analyses the changing interpretations of the textbooks in selected aspects and then answers the research question.

Keywords: Volhynia massacre, textbook, Poland, interpretation of history, agency, influence of politics, development of narratives