

Renata Pomarańska

**MARTYRDOM OF POLES IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN BORDERLANDS IN THE
YEARS 1939-1945. SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY
(summary of the doctoral dissertation)**

In the doctoral thesis *Martyrdom of Poles in the south-eastern borderlands in the years 1939-1945. Sociological study*, research was carried out based on the major works of Polish borderland literature (prose), and historical realities. The main problem of this study brings us to the question: What is the martyrdom of Polish borderland population during 1939-1945? This question demands details in the following queries: What are the main features of the social, spatial, cultural and geopolitical south-eastern borderlands of the Second Republic? Was integral Ukrainian nationalism the main source of the martyrdom of Poles? From whom, did the Poles living in south-eastern borderlands in the years 1939-1945, experience persecution and murder? What was the process and forms of mass murder against the Polish population in the prose of Borderlands? What are the factors affecting the contemporary Polish-Ukrainian relations?

In the study of these problems bibliography was used, which consists of: the scientific literature, literary sources, popular scientific literature and journalistic work related to the subject matter. It uses the materials from the Internet, and although they are not priority texts, they proved to be useful.

Numerous sociological methods have been used in the study, among which we distinguish between fundamental and auxiliary methods. They were applied in relation to sociology, history and literature. Basic methods used in the dissertation constitute: content analysis, analysis of private documents, historical-comparative method and biography. Further methods like: the analysis of the existing sources, synthesis of the gathered material and the description method and data examination, also turned out to be useful.

The dissertation was structured, starting with the introduction of the theme outlining the main issues and its purpose. The first chapter focuses on discussing the concept of work as well as explaining the subject of the sociology of literature, explication and justification of the topic, an explanation of terms related to the topic of the thesis, its issues, methods and criteria for analysis of historical and sociological literature. Additionally, two schemes were added in this chapter, depicting the main problem of the thesis together with

specific and subordinated issues as well as the similarities and differences between historical realities and the reality of the literature.

The second chapter introduces the concepts of theory conflicts shown by some of their creators. The third chapter is devoted to general characteristics of the south-eastern Borderlands from the historical perspective. It presents the geographical location together with its history focusing on the period concerning World War II. Finally, the life of dwellers living in the period of the Second Polish Republic was characterised, in terms of gender, age, social background, place of residence, including the religious beliefs and ethnic belonging. The fourth chapter introduces the integral Ukrainian nationalism, which is the main source of the genocide. This section shows the general characteristics of the Ukrainian nationalism, on the ground of other neo-pagan nationalism, as well as the ideology and the doctrine of Ukrainian nationalism created by Dmytro Dontsov and his followers. Moreover, it presents the goals, objectives and the programme of nationalism and its practical implementation. The fifth chapter deals with the course of events in the south-eastern borderlands, 1939-1945. The structure of this chapter incorporates three basic themes: the first Soviet occupation (1939-1941), the German occupation (1941-1944) and the second Soviet occupation (1944-1945). Chapter six, the most comprehensive in this dissertation, presents the manifestations of the martyrdom of the Polish population in the south-eastern borderlands created in the borderland fiction. In the body of this dissertation the following issues have been discussed: a vision of the borderland community before the outbreak of World War II, Ukrainian nationalist organizations, the Ukrainian transformation of attitudes in relation to the Poles and other nations at the beginning of the occupation, and the collaboration of Ukrainians with the Soviets and the Germans. It also handles the ideology of OUN, the doctrine of Ukrainian Nazism and its implementation, individual and mass violence with particular cruelty, mixed Polish-Ukrainian families drama and attempts to provide assistance to the Poles, the indoctrination of ordinary Ukrainian peasants by the Ukrainian Nazis and the participation of Greek Catholic and Orthodox clergy in the genocide of Poles, as well as the experiences of the borderland writers creating the image of Polish martyrdom there. These topics have been presented by works of borderland writers. The seventh chapter introduces conditions and factors affecting the contemporary Polish-Ukrainian relations and the role of literature. This chapter mainly focuses on Polish-Ukrainian relations, which is highly influenced by the rebirth of nationalism in Ukraine. In order to achieve this, the influence of "Kultura", the Polish authorities and opinion-forming elites, the role of borderland literature and contemporary Ukrainian nationalism have been discussed here. The completion of the

dissertation contains conclusions resulting from the study. The whole work finishes with a list of tables, graphs and diagrams and a list of abbreviations, bibliography and appendix, having selected documents related to the topic of work and developed on the basis of A. Korman's summary of the most cruel ways of killing Poles by the UPA and the administrative map of the Second Republic together with the marked places depicting the martyrdom of Poles.

This study does not exhaust the issues related to martyrdom. Therefore, when describing the issue it should be remembered that although the genocide as a historical fact has been proven, it still requires a thorough follow-up and deeper explanations.

This dissertation poses serious challenges and opens up new research perspectives of the martyrdom of the Borderland people issues in the light of not only history and sociology, but mainly in literature. The results achieved allow us further exploration in the field of sociology. The study on the martyrdom of Poles in the south-eastern borderlands in the years 1939-1945, carried out on the basis of research material, which is the borderland prose, enables us to diagnose the problem of martyrdom in sociological terms. Similar studies should be performed on the basis of poetry of borderland artists, amongst which one should enumerate the following ones: Sigmund Ruml, Andrew Kuśniewicz, Andrew Chciuk and Marian Hemar. This is a challenge to be continued and a future task for those interested in the subject.