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### **World War 2 in Ukraine: The incompatible accounts by Soviet authors and their Soviet translators**

The *Great Patriotic War*, i.e. the period between the beginning of the German invasion of the USSR in June 1941 and the capitulation of the German army in May 1945, became one of the most popular themes of Soviet fiction, and published were only the works which described the “heroic fight and victory of the Soviet people, led by the Communist Party, over fascism” according to the norms of the socialist realism. However, even such ideologically correct texts by Ukrainian authors were censored in Russian translations, as in the case with the novels by Sava Holovanivskyi and Oles Honchar, where we can observe numerous manipulations of fragments depicting the Soviet Army, behaviour of Soviet citizens on the German-occupied territories, displays of Ukrainian patriotism, and manifestations of *ideologically hostile* values.

It is of great interest that Aleksandr Fadeev’s *Molodaia Gvardiia* (The Young Guard), one of the major Russian war novels, republished in the USSR 276 times with the total print run of over 26 million copies, and its Ukrainian translation of Oleksandr Ilchenko present the pictures of WW2 in Eastern Ukraine that are almost identical—except for the perspective on the *Ukrainian question*. Unlike Fadeev’s text, where Ukrainian is defined as a *govor* (dialect) and Donbas is referred to as a Russian territory, Ilchenko’s translation defines Donbas as a part of Ukraine and Ukrainian as a language.

Based on a comparative analysis of the accounts of WW2 in Ukraine presented by Ukrainian and Russian literati in their original writing and translations, I intend to demonstrate the nuances of censoring Russian and Ukrainian translations in the USSR and scrutinize translators’ role in manipulating the texts.

#### **Bio-note**

Nataliia Rudnytska is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine). Her research focuses on ideological aspects of translation and history of Ukrainian translation. Her recent publications include *Translation and the Formation of the Soviet Canon of World Literature in Translation Under Communism*, edited by Christopher Rundle, Anne Lange, and Daniele Monticelli (2022), *Contesting Ukrainian Nationhood: Literary Translation and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict* (Respectus Philologicus 2022), *(Post)Soviet Russia vs the West: The Ideological Enemy’s Image in English Translations of Fiction* (Vertimo studijos 2023), *Literary Translation and Elimination of the Soviet Ideology in Contemporary Ukraine* (Academic Journal of Modern Philology 2023).