

Explaining why artists produce representations of war: the Transnistrian conflict in theater

(For the full paper, please contact the author)

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Abstract

This paper analyses the play *This Country Forgot About Us* (*Țara asta a uitat de noi*) written and staged to commemorate the end of the Transnistrian war. The play is based on true events: the occupation of a building in Bender, Transnistria in 1992, and the occupation of another building in Chisinau in 2000 from a group of veterans. The first part evokes the hardness of the war in Transnistria, while the second part elaborates a critique of the government. National identity issues emerge from the historical background that the text evokes. This paper applies Pierre Bourdieu's theory on the cultural and artistic field and aims to explain why some artists (and not others) in post-Soviet Moldova produce representations of the Transnistrian war. It is based on direct observation of performances, interviews gathered in the field, internet theatrical reviews and other primary sources. The findings will help scholars understand the role artists play in 'semi-democracies' in Eastern Europe and beyond.