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Post-Socialist Transformation in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Eastern Europe



**Museum of
occupations. Tallinn.**



**Kyiv,
Ukraine.**



**Kharkiv,
Ukraine. 2014**



Minsk, Belarus, 1938-now



Pensa, Russia, 2015



Lipetsk, Russia, 2015

25 years after the fall of the USSR could be considered as a good time to answer the following question: Starting from the same system of institutions, social structure and dominant culture, why did Ukraine, Belarus and Russia experience different trajectories of social development? What is common and what differs in the post-socialist transformation in Eastern Europe and the European post-USSR countries? My sociological arguments focus on three levels of explanation: culture, structure and agency. The first one is the difference in visions of the

soviet past and desirable future, hence vision of the transformation strategy. The second one focuses on the social cost of the institutional changes, measured by growth of inequalities and changes in the quality of life. The third one is related to social actors – including elites, opposition groups, the politically active minority as well as the passive majority. Differences on these three levels to a large extent explain the different societal trajectories of post-socialist transformation in Eastern Europe.