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‘War’ and ‘occupation’ chronotopes in Danish and Belarusian history.

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

I have chosen these two universal notions in order to compare the Danish and Belarusian narratives about a threat of losing sovereignty and occupation. As small and medium-sized nations, Belarusians and Danes are highly dependent on their alliances and external environment. Similar geopolitical dilemmas that Denmark faced earlier in history are relevant for Belarus after gaining its independence. One of them is dealing with big neighbours by means of balancing, hedging or bandwagoning.

For Belarusians, the trauma of the Second World War has always been a source of victimhood narrative. Partisan movement struggling against occupation was characteristic for both countries, although in different ways and scale. For Denmark, for instance, helping the Jews to escape to Sweden across Oresund is a central theme of this struggle, which underlines the action space of a small country under occupation as well as its adherence to universal human rights values.

With Russia’s war against Ukraine in 2022, Belarus finds itself in a similar position that Denmark was in 1940 in spite of the protests in 2020. It is therefore relevant for Belarus to analyse how Denmark managed to 're-brand' its image towards the end of the war and become a founding member of the United Nations in spite of several years of collaboration.

Likewise, it is worthwhile noting that Belarus and Ukraine in spite of being Soviet Republics, were invited to become the founding members of the UN due to their contribution into the fight against fascism. In reality, it was Stalin's logic to ensure more loyal votes towards the Soviet Union in the UN General Assembly, which was accepted by the allies. By this, the foundations of Belarus' international image were laid, which are strong enough to persist to this day.

With this paper, I will analyse the impact of ‘war’ and ‘occupation’ narratives on shaping the present and future national identities of Denmark and Belarus.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion