

Acknowledgments

The idea of this book goes back to the workshop ‘*History goes Pop?*’ *On the Popularization of the Past in Eastern European Cultures*, which was organised by the editors at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) from 10–12 December 2019 in cooperation with the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL) as part of the BMBF research project “Designing the Past. Imagined History, Fiction and Memory in the Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian Cultures”, headed by Nina Weller.

Since then, the world and Europe have changed drastically: The corona pandemic, the protests and repressions in Belarus against critics of the regime, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war, and the authoritarian legislation in Russia against opponents of the war affected also the lives and works of the authors of this volume substantially. Ukrainian colleagues had to flee Russian bombings and war crimes, colleagues from Belarus and Russia emigrated because of repressions, while some stayed in their home countries sometimes under extremely challenging conditions. We are thus all the happier that most of the invited authors were able to contribute to the volume. However, due to the difficult personal situation of repression, war, flight and exile some had to resign, so the volume shows some imbalances in the representation of the various formats and forms of popular culture within the three countries. In this way, the book is also a document of the period of upheaval before and after the outbreak of full-scale war in February 2022.

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The transliteration of names and geographical designations follows the ALA-LC style standard (Library of Congress for Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian Cyrillic). For better-known names already introduced in English, however, we have used the internationally most common spelling. In case of Belarusian names, we sometimes also give the alternative variant Belarussian or Russian spelling in brackets.