

Popular Culture in 1970s and 1980s Poland

Argument

In the early 1970s entertainers of popular culture in Poland were limited by the fear of punishment by the government and were heavily influenced by propaganda. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, entertainers began to utilize music and comedy to form an awareness of propaganda. The transformation of popular culture from being obedient to propaganda, into being critical of the government aided the liberation of Poland from communism by helping change the outlook Poles had on the government.

1970s Magazine “Przekroj”

Przekroj was a weekly magazine published from 1947 to 2012. It contained articles on fashion, movies, and politics. In 1970 Vladimir Lenin turned 100 years old and the magazine celebrated with a reoccurring article titled “Lenin Zywy” (Living Lenin). This article speaks about Lenin's time in Poland. It contains excerpts of his essays and praises his atheist views.. It is a form of propaganda to tie Poles to the legacy of Lenin.



1970s Comedies

Many comedy groups traveled throughout Poland in the 1970s, one was Kabaret pod Egida.. This kabaret was well known for its skits that implicitly mocked the government but became most famous for the song “Zeby Polska, byla Polska” (So Poland could be Poland). This song was written in 1976 by Jan Pietrzak. The song became the anthem of Solidarity. This song calls people to fight for Poland to be free by reminding Poles of Poland's former glory. .It also addresses Poles from all over the world.

1980s Music



The band Dezerter formed in 1981 in Warsaw. Their song “Spytaj Milicjanta” became an anthem for the youth. Its sarcastic tone causes the youth to understand that the police, an entity of the government, was in control of everything.. The bands rebellious views led them to have a secret meeting with Solidarity and Church leaders to discuss how they could aid the anti-communist movement in 1983.

References

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