

There is nothing more powerful

than an idea whose time has come **Victor Hugo**

Migration and National Identity Building. A look at the ups and downs of Polish history.

Key issues:

- Nationalism, national identity, nation building process, civic-ethnic typology
- Migration and social change
- Symbolic construction of identity
- Nationalism: open, inclusive, outward-looking, progressive/offensive
- Nationalism: closed, exclusive, inward-looking, reactionary/defensive

Nationalism:

Modernistic and constructivist perspective:

19th century: essential time for nationbuilding

Eric Hobsbawm, Ernst Gellener, Benedict Anderson

‘invented traditions’, ‘nationalism creates nations’, ‘imagined communities’

National identity: Ethnic vs. civic

Lack of state, weak bourgeoisie, peripheral location, closed elites, protestanism

Poland in the end of 18th century

- Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth lost its state
- Society divided into three estates: noblemen, peasantry and bourgeoisie (ethnic division)
- Noblemen divided into aristocracy and gentry

Migration and social change

Arnold von Gennyp, Victor Turner, Edith Turner

Rite of passage: separation, transition, reincorporation

Emigration: preliminal, liminal phase: antistructure,
between and betweex, communitas, emotional
energy

Immigration: the other, unknown, anxiety, insecurity,
Add Swinder – culture as ‘tool-kit’

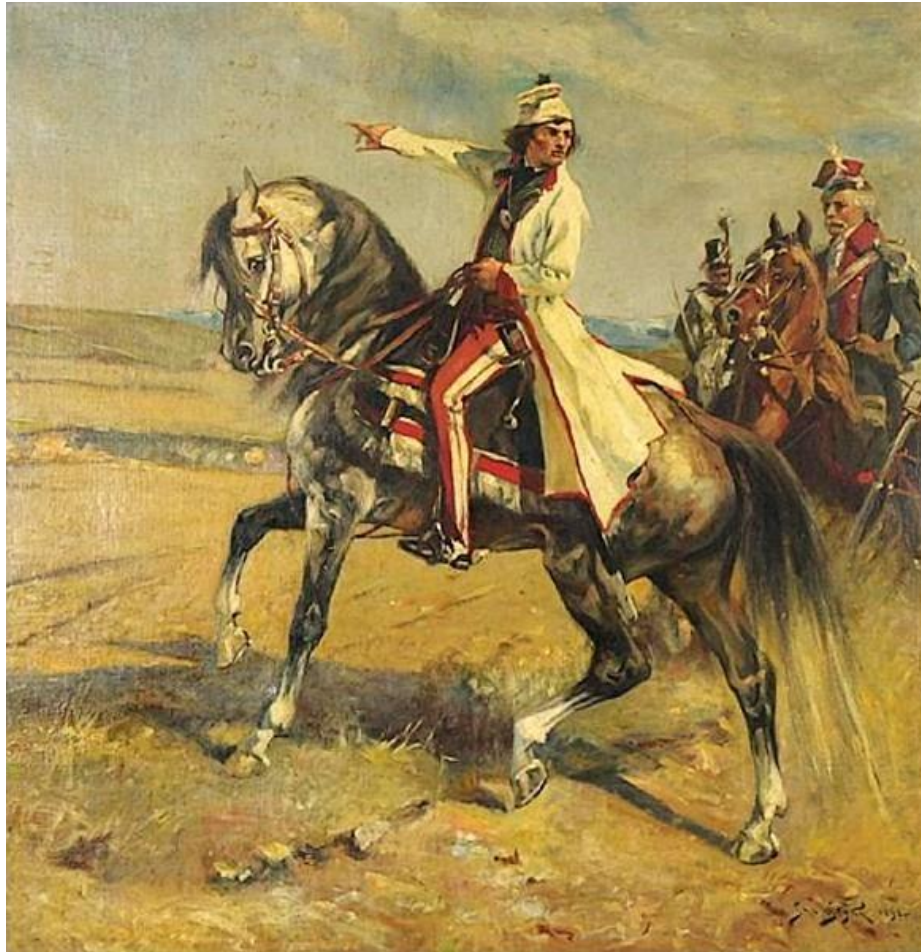
Culture as ‘tool-kit’

People can create new symbols in order to transgress social boundaries and create ‘imagined community’

People can use old symbols to defend social boundaries and stigmatise the other

Symbols – condensation and multivocality: represent and unify a rich diversity of meanings; the same symbol understood by different people in different ways.

(Un)known migrant



From real to symbolic power



Kosciuszko Mound



Prehistoric tradition:



Peasant/national hero:



And his followers:



A very symbolic song 'Dabrowski's mazurka'

- Poland has not yet died,
So long as we still live.
What the foreign power has seized from us,
We shall recapture with a sabre.
- March, march, Dąbrowski,
To Poland from the Italian land.
Under your command
We shall rejoin the nation.
- We'll cross the Vistula, we'll cross the Warta,
We shall be Polish.
Bonaparte has given us the example
Of how we should prevail.

A very symbolic image



JAN HENRYK DĄBROWSKI.

Wyżół do Penamie.

1807.

A very symbolic poem

Pan Tadeusz

Lithuania, my country! You are as good as health:
How much one should prize you, he only can tell
Who has lost you. Your beauty and splendour I view
And describe here today, for I long after you.
Meanwhile, bear my soul heavy with yearning's dull pain.

While it's true that we all from old Adam have come,
Yet I've heard that the peasants are issue of Ham,
Jews of Japhet, we gentry from eldest of brothers,
Are of Sem, and as eldest rule over the others.

A very patriotic Jew

The blow struck with such skill, with such force unsurpassed,
That the strings rang out boldly, like trumpets of brass,
And from them to the heavens that song wafted, cherished,
That triumphal march: Poland has never yet perished!
...March Dąbrowski to Poland! – The audience entire
Clapped, and all "March Dąbrowski!" cried out as a choir.

Cymbalon concert, Jankiel:

General, long Litwa awaited the news

Of your coming, as of the Messiah we Jews

Very patriotic music

Cannons hidden in flowers

Folk and gentry culture in one

Revolutionary Etude or Etude on the Warsaw
Bombardment

For Friderik List

For our freedom and yours

Chopin's internationalism



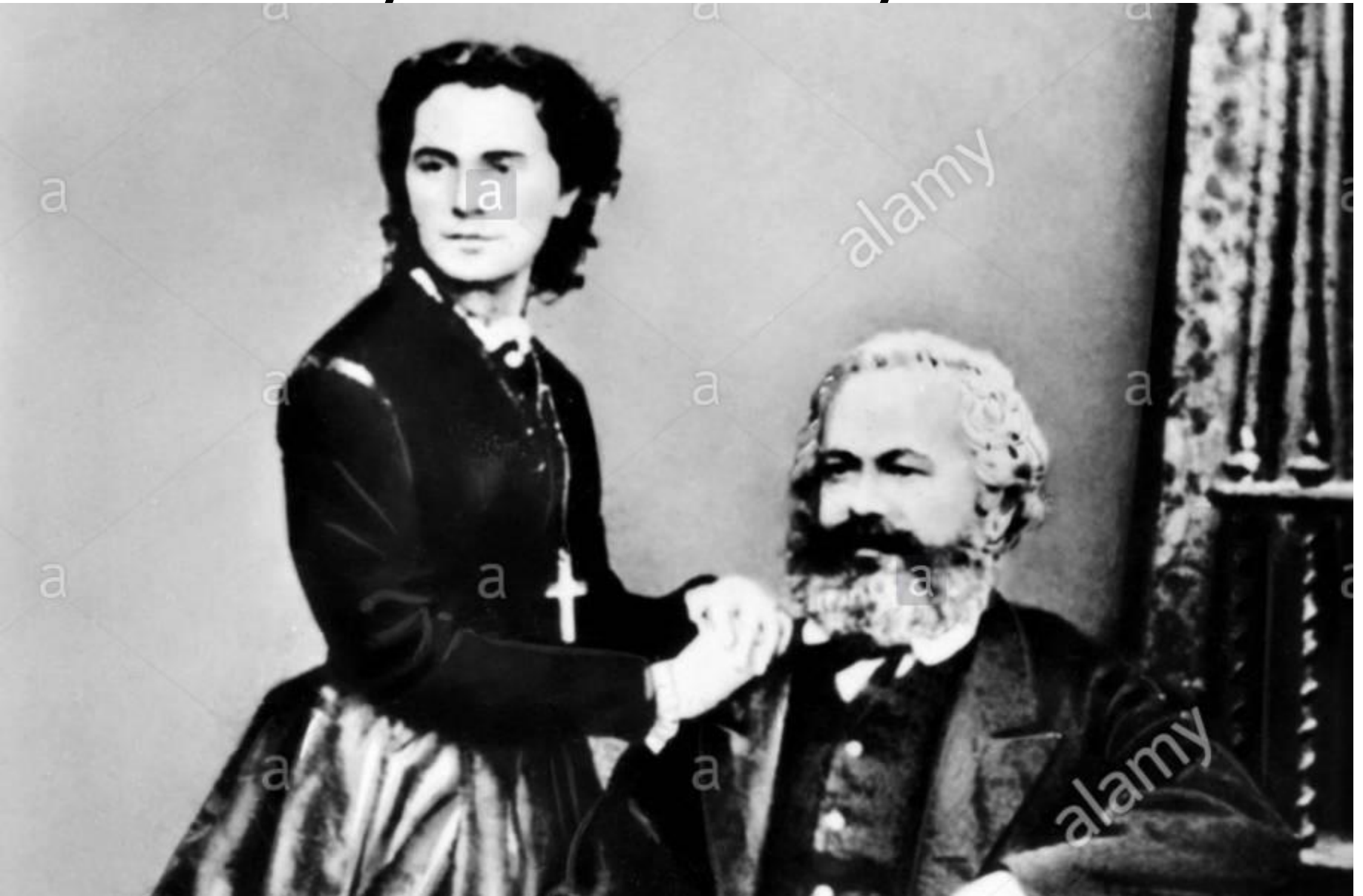
Professional revolutionaries



A very progressive hero



Very revolutionary hereos



Tool kit to defend boundaries against immigrants

Late 19th century and new national imaginary:

Trilogy, Deluge, Quo Vadis, Teutonic Knights.

Poland as antemurale, bulwark of Europe,

Fortress besieged – Henryk Sienkiewicz Nobel
Prize

Poland fights with everybody: Sweden, Russia,
Turks, Ukraine, Germans (infidels)

To lift-up the hearts of the Polish nation











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DURING THE WARSAW UPRISING GERMANS KILLED 160 000 PEOPLE. THOUSANDS OF THEM WERE CHILDREN

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