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Part Four: Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary

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Unlike the rest of *Comics of the New Europe*, this concluding section is comprised of essays addressing four individual nations in the region. The comics scenes represented range from the relatively large and long-established (Poland) to the small and recent (Ukraine). Akin to the countries already examined, these scenes have common roots in 19th-century satirical journals, if not earlier. National traditions developed unevenly through the first and second world wars; the period of communist repression set into motion different modes of circulation within the Eastern bloc which permitted state-approved publications such as *Pif*, the children's journal of the French Communist party, to move from West to East. After the fall of the wall post-1989, and in Ukraine's case, post-1991, an initial euphoria among small publishers resulted in the brief flowering of independent comics, followed by a disappointing crash due to the tumult of market reforms. In the post-socialist present day, comics houses that publish in their respective national languages must also compete with the influence of transnational corporate media.¹

As with the other chapters in this book, the editors see the four essays that follow as shedding light on graphic narrative works which many outside this part of the world have never seen. They each open a dialogue. Along with the other artists, works and national comics scenes discussed throughout this volume, we very much look forward to subsequent scholars following up on such conversations in the years and decades to come.

Note

- 1 Each of the four essays in this section takes up these common strands and sets off in its own direction. For more comprehensive accounts of comics history in Poland, see Marek Misiora's *Bibliografia komiksów wydanych w Polsce w latach 1905 (1858)-1999* [Bibliography of Comics Published in Poland between 1905 (1858)-1999] and the ongoing comics studies journal *Zeszyty Komiksowe* [Comics Notebooks]; on comics in Hungary, see Szép, Eszter, ed. *Kép-regény-történet: A kilencedik művészet ikonjai Magyarországon*. [The History of Comics: The Ninth Art and Its Icons in Hungary.]; on comics in Romania: Ciobotariu, Alexandru and Dodo Niță. *Istoria benzii desenate românești, 1891-2010* [History of the Romanian Cartoon, 1891-2010]; and on comics in Ukraine: see Pivtorak, Yuliya. "Contemporary Ukrainian Comics: Dimensions of a Hero" and Alaniz, José, "Eastern/Central European Comics."