# Textbooks As Propaganda in Poland Under Communist Rule 1944 - 1989

The communist regime in Poland used textbooks as a powerful tool of propaganda to indoctrinate young people with its ideology. Textbooks were carefully crafted to promote the communist worldview, glorify the Soviet Union, and demonize the West.



One of the most striking features of communist textbooks was their emphasis on class struggle. Students were taught that society was divided into two main classes: the proletariat (working class) and the bourgeoisie (capitalist class). The proletariat was portrayed as the oppressed class, while the bourgeoisie was seen as the enemy.

Textbooks also glorified the Soviet Union and its leader, Joseph Stalin. Students were taught that the Soviet Union was a paradise for workers and peasants, and that Stalin was a wise and benevolent leader. The West, on the other hand, was portrayed as a decadent and imperialist society. The use of propaganda in textbooks had a profound impact on Polish students. It helped to create a generation of young people who were loyal to the communist regime and its ideology. It also contributed to the isolation of Poland from the West and the perpetuation of the Cold War.

#### Examples of Propaganda in Polish Textbooks

- A history textbook from 1949 stated that "the Soviet Union is the fatherland of the working people of the whole world." (pg. 12)
- A geography textbook from 1956 described the United States as a "hotbed of imperialism and war." (pg. 150)
- A civics textbook from 1962 praised the communist system as "the most just and humane social order." (pg. 200)

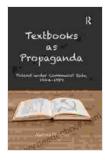
#### The Impact of Propaganda on Polish Students

The use of propaganda in textbooks had a significant impact on Polish students. It helped to create a generation of young people who were loyal to the communist regime and its ideology. It also contributed to the isolation of Poland from the West and the perpetuation of the Cold War.

Studies have shown that students who were exposed to communist propaganda in textbooks were more likely to support the regime and its policies. They were also more likely to have negative views of the West and to believe that the Soviet Union was a superior society.

The impact of propaganda on Polish students is a reminder of the power of education to shape young minds. It is important to be aware of the potential for propaganda in textbooks and other educational materials, and to ensure that students are exposed to a variety of perspectives. The use of textbooks as propaganda was a key part of the communist regime's strategy to control Polish society. By indoctrinating young people with its ideology, the regime was able to create a generation of loyal supporters and to perpetuate its rule for over 40 years.

The legacy of communist propaganda in Poland is still felt today. Many Poles who were educated under the communist regime still hold negative views of the West and believe that the Soviet Union was a superior society. It is important to remember the lessons of the past and to be vigilant against the use of propaganda in education.



#### Textbooks as Propaganda: Poland under Communist

Rule, 1944–1989 by Joanna Wojdon

****	5 out of 5
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