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Remembering Soviet Socialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Memory and the Soviet Legacy in Svetlana Alexievich's *Second-hand Time*

How do individuals construct memory of Soviet socialism in the space of post-Soviet society, and how do they represent the legacy of power and violence these memories address? In my paper, I approach these questions of post-Soviet society from the perspective of the discursive construction of memory in an analysis of Svetlana Alexievich's collection, *Second-hand Time* (2013; English edition 2016), her monumental farewell to the Soviet Union and its 'red man' that confronts the legacy of Soviet socialism and power in common post-Soviet space.

Writer, journalist, and Nobel laureate Alexievich's biography presents an amalgamation of Soviet identities: born in Soviet Ukraine, Belarusian by nationality, she writes in Russian and describes herself as a representative of the common post-Soviet socio-cultural space – one, she finds, that has yet to address the shared trauma of Soviet experience. Alexievich's work challenges the collective perception of this violent past, documenting the memories of individuals through series of direct interviews which she arranges in thematic volumes.

The theoretical framework of this research is informed by discourse analysis approaches drawn from Fairclough (1989, 1995), Wodak (1996; 2016) and others. As I examine Alexievich's *Second-hand Time*, I consider the ways in which its narratives give voice to the individual experience of common Soviet society and expand the discursive space of its legacy. Through the language of personal experience and reflection, the collection forms an overarching polyphonic narrative in which unresolved Soviet tensions are retrieved from the silence of private suffering and provided context – a collective acknowledgement of such residual sentiments as betrayal, victimhood, and injustice that, otherwise, accumulate within the ambivalent sense of Soviet socialist nostalgia and loss.

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