

This critical overview is the first comprehensive attempt to discuss the cultural innovations emerging from the two major national cultures of the former communist world in the final decades of the twentieth century in the context of global sociocultural changes associated with postmodernity and postcoloniality. Vitaly Chernetsky explores how in Russia this has manifested itself in the subversive dismantling of the totalitarian linguistic regime and the foregrounding of previously marginalized subject positions. In Ukraine, work in these areas shows how the traumas of centuries of colonial oppression are being overcome through the carnivalesque decrowning of ideological dogmas and an affirmation of a new type of community, most recently demonstrated in the peaceful Orange Revolution of 2004.