

Collective memory. Historical past. Social criticism. Myths of national suffering.  
V4 countries. Literature and film.

In post-communist Central European countries the interpretation of the past is still often generated by myths, self-pity, martyrdom, and the denial of one's own fault. *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, a conscious, critical examination of the historical past, which is present in German language and literature, is almost absent in Hungarian, Slovak, Polish and Czech politics, culture, literature and films. The present study deals with cultural and political strategies, applied in films and literary texts of V4 countries, which critically process taboos, related to the national past. The study examines the issue of the historical self-criticism in Polish, Czech (Josef Urban's novels *Habermannův mlýn* – Habermann's Mill, 2001 and *7 dní hríchů* – The 7 Days of Sin, 2012 and their film adaptations directed by Juraj Herz and Jiří Chlumský) and Hungarian (Tibor Cseres's novel *Hideg napok* – Cold Days, 1964 and its 1966 film adaptation directed by András Kovács) literature and films.

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