

Abstract

Since time immemorial, political entities, be they states or not, have used the past to create narratives attempted to support their domestic and foreign policies, as well as to shape or re-shape collective identities. In recent times it has been small screen that turned out to be one of the most popular and effective tools of public history in terms of reaching general audience. The purpose of this paper will be to analyse two TV series based on medieval history and produced by public televisions from Spain and Poland: «Isabel» and «The Crown of Kings (Korona Królów)». The former depicts the rule of two monarchs, Isabelle of Castile (1451-1504) and Ferdinand of Aragon (1452-1516), whose marriage initiated the raise of modern Spain. The latter shows the reign of Casimir the Great of Poland (1310-1370), the last Piast who strengthened his kingdom internally and externally by means of reforms and realistic foreign policy. The paper will examine these two productions focusing on their contemporary background, (hi)storytelling and message(s) and with regard to struggle over recent past and identity that both states have experienced in last decades since their transitions towards democracy.