

The article addresses the possibility of the cultural creation of national identity in the former Soviet republics of Belarus and Kazakhstan which have been affected by ecological catastrophes (Chernobyl and the Aral Sea). In the beginning, it gives an overview on the shifting cultural responses to catastrophes in late Socialism before generally discussing the possibility of giving meaning to catastrophes. In its main analysis, it focuses on Svetlana Aleksievich's meaning to time, space and social bonds which have been transformed through the ecocide.