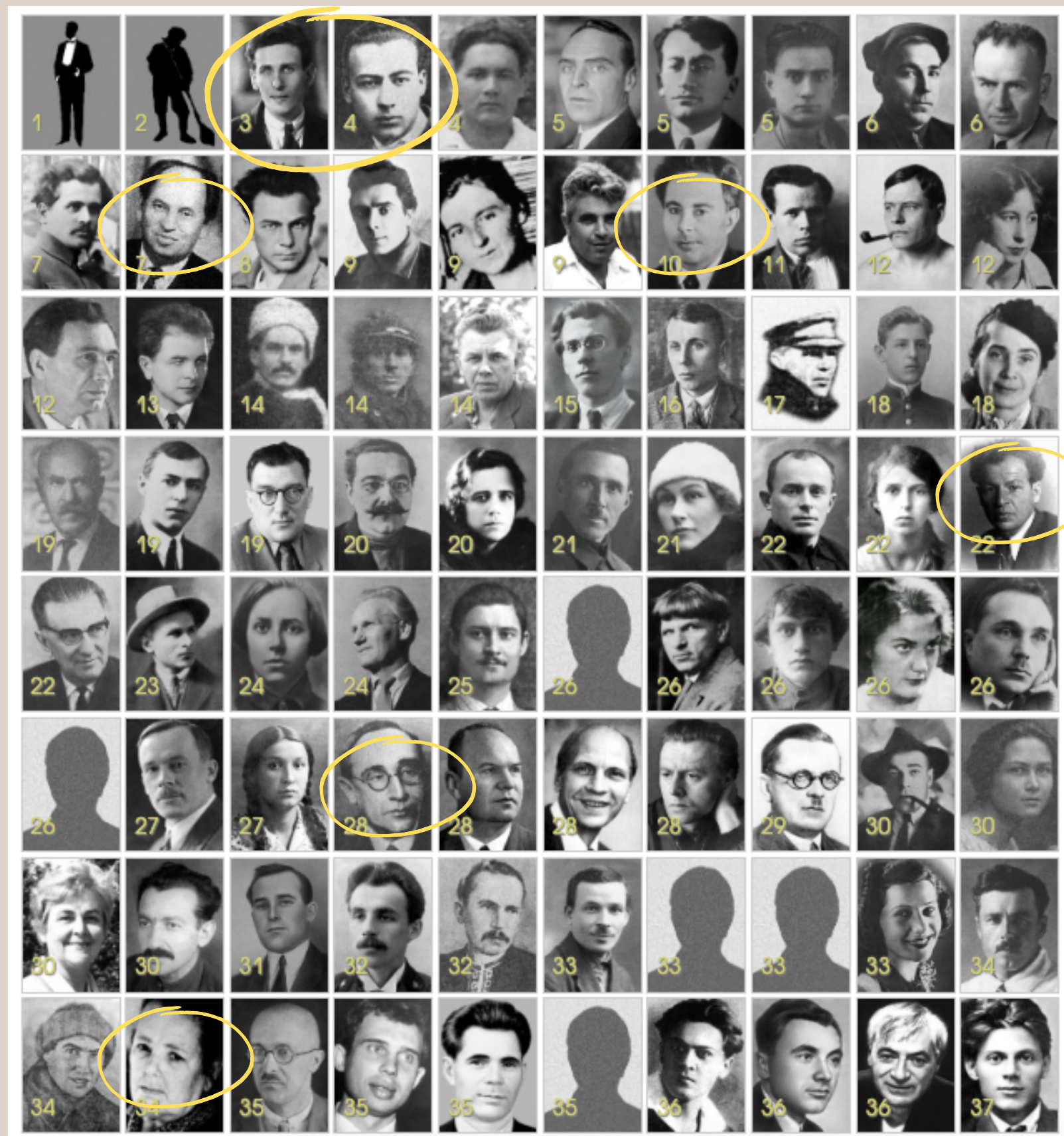




# Making of Soviet Ukrainian Jew: the case of Ivan Kulyk

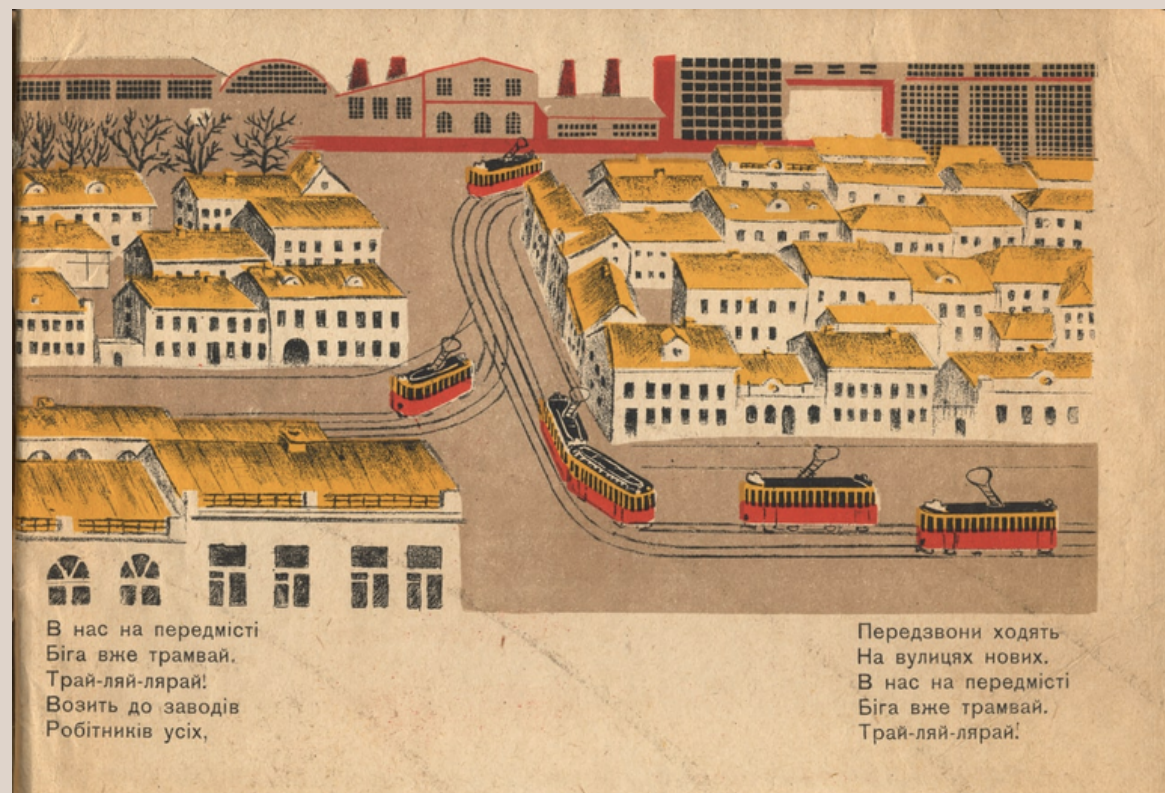


Peaceful co-existence in the "Slovo" ("Word") house and fruitful cooperation

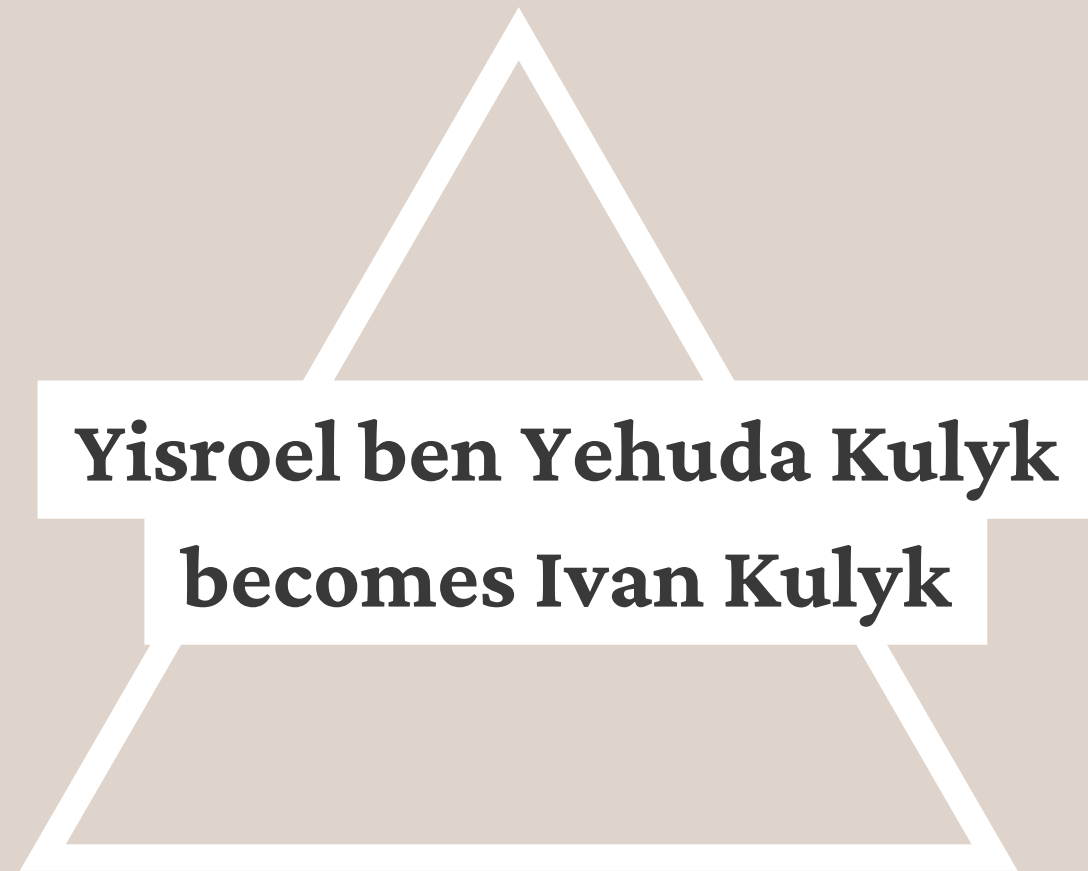




Yiddishization as a successful project:  
 adoption and re-translation of Soviet  
 values by Jewish writers

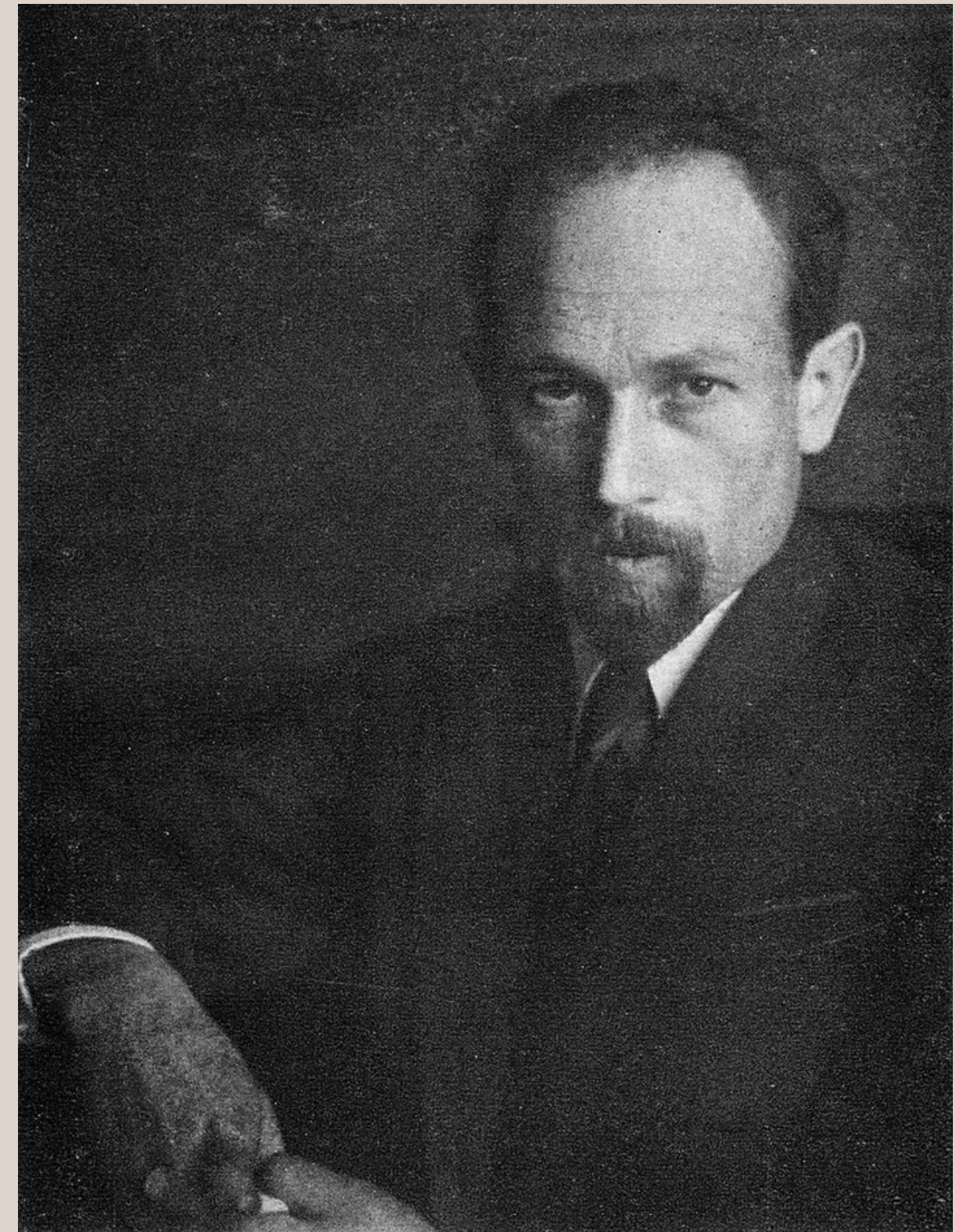


**Communist**



**Jew**

**Ukrainian**



1897

## Jewish childhood

Born to a Jewish religious family, raised in a shtetl, where he developed interest to Ukrainian culture

1920-1930s

## Ukrainian career

Became a big boss in cultural life of Ukrainian SSR, headed the Union of Ukrainian Soviet Writers and the Partvydav

1914

## Emigration

Transformative experience of witnessing sufferings of Pennsylvania miners, formation of Marxist class-sensitive identity

1937

## Great Purges

Allegedly confessed to participating in counter-revolutionary activity of "Ukrainian nationalists"



Jewish neighborhood in Uman, 1910s



Coal Mine in Pencilvania

**“What a strange country is this America: near the Statue of Liberty there is a prison; people do not live in houses; there are no Indians around (why do they lie about them in books?); instead there are those ‘fakers,’ and ‘scabs’ (there is nothing about them in Mayne Reid), and one can work here and still die of hunger.”**

-Ralf K. Rolinato [Ivan Kulyk], *The Adventures of Vasyl Rolenko*, 1929

How the Indians and brother-Métis  
Followed **the white leader Riel**,  
How Riel was caught and hanged  
Where the rocks stopped the prairies.

the leader of  
anticolonialist revolts in  
Canada

How the Almighty Voice, the chief  
Fought the British once and again,  
And how willfully the Red race  
Fought and fell.

Jewish and Ukrainian origins

**The same way my nation  
(Which one of them was mine?)**

Looked for its right to exist  
In its own memories.

colonial past

- "Prairies", 1927

Ukrainian = revolutionary =  
anti-imperial = universal

Hey, my fertile Alberta,  
**Makhno will come for you!**

Whatever you do  
But you will rise renewed!

Hey, my British Columbia,  
Your forests and marshes  
Will soon learn the jokes  
Of the **Volhynia guerilla!**

*-From the Series "Canada", 1927*



"...I became so close to Ukrainian nationalists that when Kost Kotko and Yalovy offered me, **a Jew**, to join the Ukrainian nationalist counter-revolutionary organization, I saw it as a nomination for the role of "**savior**" **of the Ukrainian people**. It appealed to my ambition.

Without thinking, I agreed to participate in the organization...", 1937

# Bibliography

Magocsi, Paul Robert and Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern. *Jews and Ukrainians: a millennium of co-existence*. University of Toronto Press, 2016.

Petrovsky-Shtern, Yohanan. *Anti-Imperial Choice: The Making of the Ukrainian Jew*. Yale University Press, 2009.