

War I era was short-lived, due to the geo-politics of being between Russia and Poland. Surprisingly, the Ukrainian situation was summarized clearly by a Russian, Alexandr Herzen in the mid-1800's:

"And if Ukraine wishes to be neither Polish nor Russian? The solution seems to me simple. We have then to recognize Ukraine as a free and independent nation".

UKRAINE - A SUBMERGED AND CAPTIVE NATION

Today the Ukrainian people under Soviet Russian domination, are not free and cannot enjoy the blessings of the freedom and independence. So called Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is a captive and submerged nation - which suffered most of all enslaved nations. Ukrainian people is deprived of basic human rights. Liquidation of both Ukrainian Churches: orthodox and catholic, the man made famine 1932-33, the mass murder in Vynnytsia 1937-39, persecutions and deportations of large numbers of Ukrainian people to the concentration camps and economic exploitation - all were designed to suppress the will of Ukrainian people to national freedom and independence - but they failed. It was demonstrated by courageous struggle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) a powerful Ukrainian underground resistance movement which fought against both Nazis and Bolsheviks.

Russian Communists used old and tested methods of destroying of Ukrainian leaders in the foreign countries: in May 1926 Simon Petlura, head of the Directorate of Ukrainian National Republic, was killed in Paris, in May 1938 Col. Eugene Konovalts, head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists killed in Rotterdam, on October 15, 1959 Stepan Bandera, head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, was killed in Munich.

Recently Moscow renewed its traditional policy of Russification aiming at the cultural and linguistic genocide of Ukrainian people. A number of Ukrainian writers, poets and literary critics were arrested, sentenced and sent to concentration camps.

But the strong determination of Ukrainian people to be free and independent lives deep in the hearts and minds of the Ukrainian people.

All Ukrainians living in the free world are treasuring their historic and cultural traditions and heritage and are working to acquaint the world with Ukrainians history and culture.

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FACTS ABOUT UKRAINE AND THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE



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UKRAINE

The names "Ukraine" and "Ukrainians" are centuries old. As early as middle of XI century we find the word "ukraina" for the first time in the Sermons of Gregory the Theologian. Later it appears under year 1187 in the cronicle Kyivskyj Litopys. In western Europe it was used in various historic documents and descriptions of foreign travelers, in particular of french engineer Beauplan in his "Description d'Ukraine" in 1660 and in his maps (1648-1660).

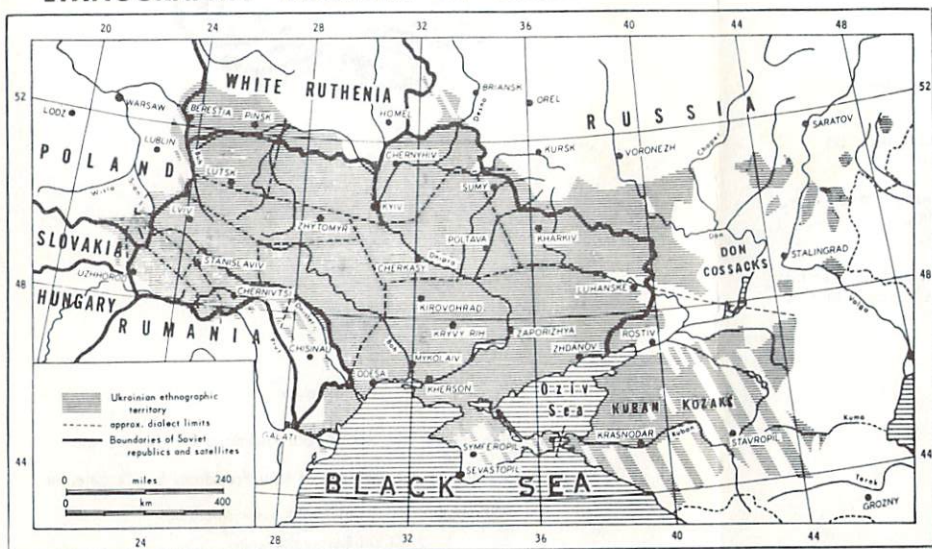
Another ancient and traditional name "Rus" dates back to the IX century. It was used to identify the first Kievan state "Kyivska Rus" and the people "Rusychi".

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION - AREA AND POPULATION

Ukraine is located in southeastern Europe. Ukrainian ethnic territory extends between 43° 20' and 53° north latitude and 20° 30' and 45° east longitude. It is bordered by the Black Sea and Oziv Sea in the south, Prypyat, Desna and Seym Rivers in the north, the southern Dniester River and the Carpathian Mountains in the West and the Caucasus Mountains and Don River in the east. It is surrounded by the neighboring countries: Romania and Hungary to the southwest, Poland to the west, Byelorussia to the north and Russia to the north and southeast.

The compact Ukrainian ethnographic territory which is inhabited by Ukrainian people for centuries, embraces 289,000 square miles and has population (1959) of 49 million. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which does not include all the Ukrainian ethnic territory, comprises 232,000 sq. miles and a population of 41,869,000 (according to the Soviet population census of 1959). On January 1, 1964, USSR had a population of 44,600,000 people, of which number Ukrainians constituted 77%, Russians 17%. The remaining 16% include minorities: Jews (1,025,800), Poles, Germans, Greeks, Bulgarians, Romanians, and Tatars. Outside of the political borders of USSR are 57,000 sq. miles of Ukrainian ethnic territory: in Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Byelorussia and Russia (southern regions of Belgorod, Kursk and Voronezh, also Don and Kuban areas). At least 7,500,000 Ukrainians are now living outside the compact Ukrainian ethnic territory. In the U.S.A. and Canada are living about 2,000,000 Ukrainians.

ETHNOGRAPHIC TERRITORY OF UKRAINE



Map: H. Kolody

NATIONAL EMBLEMS

COAT OF ARMS: The Trident (Tryzub), a three-pronged spear, has been used as Ukrainian national emblem for centuries. It was used originally by the rulers of the Kievan Rus. The gold and silver coins of Volodymyr the Great (979-1015), the Grand Prince of Kyiv, bear the trident. After the proclamation of Ukrainian National Republic on January 22, 1918 the trident was adopted as the national seal and official Coat of Arms of Ukraine.

FLAG: Ukrainian national flag, adopted on March 22, 1918 by Ukrainian National Republic, consists of two equal rectangular stripes placed horizontally with light blue above yellow.

The Soviets banned the trident and light blue and yellow flag substituting them with the Communist hammer and sickle and the red banner. The trident and blue and yellow flag, however, have been perpetuated as the national emblems by the UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) and they are considered as such by all Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian national anthem "Sche ne wmerla Ukraina" (Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished) is used since 1864.

PEOPLE

The basic ethnic substratum, from which the Ukrainian people was formed were the ancient inhabitants of the Neolithic Trypillian culture (5000-1800 B.C.). They were living in the settled and relatively stable communities in the fertile steppe and forested areas north of the Black Sea and on both sides of middle Dnieper. The Trypillians were engaged mainly in agriculture, cattle raising and also developed domestic crafts of weaving and pottery making (ceramics).

LANGUAGE

The Ukrainian language which is spoken today by about 45 million people belongs as an independent and original unit to the Slavic group of Indo-European languages.

Ukrainian which is one of the worlds most melodic languages is based on the Cyrillic alphabet.

RELIGION

Christianity became the official state religion of Kievan Rus in 988 under the reign of Volodymyr the Great.



The overwhelming majority of Ukrainians are Orthodox 76%. 13.5 % are Ukrainian Catholic (of eastern rite), 2.3 % are Jewish and 8.2 % are protestants, Baptists, Mennonites and Moslems.

ECONOMY

Ukraine is a rich country with very fertile black soil which is famous for its agricultural production - was called "breadbasket of Europe". Ukraine is abundant in natural resources: coal, oil, salt, manganese ore and iron ore are some of Ukraine's most valuable assets.

HISTORY

There have been three salient periods of statehood and national independence in Ukrainian history.

The first period was when Ukraine, known as Kievan Rus, was a powerful state in Eastern Europe, lasting from the 9th to the 14th centuries. Kiev, the capital, gained the appellation of "Mother of the Rus cities". It is significant to remember that during this period that Ukrainian institutions embraced many greek influences and that these forces developed in a "south-to-north" manner, appearing first in nations such as Bulgaria and then only much later being borrowed by settlers much farther north in Moscow. Encyclopedia Britannica states succinctly: "Kievan Rus was the cradle of the Ukraine-Rus, while Moscow was the centre around which the Russian State was built". Archaeological and anthropological findings indicate adequate data to clearly distinguish Ukraine as an entity in itself. The end of the Kievan state is linked with the decay of Bizantium and the ebb of the Scandinavian wave of expansion, both of which robbed the capital on the Dniπρο of its importance as a center of trade.

The Kozak period of Ukrainian independence extended from the middle of the 17th century to the end of the 18th century. During this period the Ukrainian people freed themselves from Polish rule by national and social uprisings. The continuity in Ukrainian history is frequently sustained by reflections upon the spirit that was supplied by Kozak frontier equality. Kozak free ways of life posed the threats to both the aristocratic feudal order in Poland and to the despotism of the Muscovite Russian state. Bohdan Khmelnytskyj, Hetman from 1648 until 1657, fought hard to insure the autonomy of Ukraine with noteworthy success; however, being caught between the firing lines, Turks and Poles, he was compelled to solicit aid from the Russians who deceived him with the Treaty of Pereyaslaw in 1654.

After Bohdan Khmelnytskyj, Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709) was perhaps the strongest individual personality in the heroic Kozak period. He built many churches and endeavored to spread education, but his attempts to consolidate the privileged position of the Kozak upper stratum caused discontent. When possibilities for throwing off the Russian yoke appeared favorable, both Mazepa and companion Charles XII of Sweden were surprised by a rapid invasion staged by Peter I and were beaten at the Battle of Poltava in 1709. Mazepa and Charles XII fled to Turkey where the latter died in the same year of 1709.

It is interesting to note that the third or modern period of Ukrainian sovereignty (1917-1920) had some connections with Turkey. In the book by Allen and Whitehead, "The Great War, - The Original German Plan and its Culmination" it is stated (p.401):

A deputation (from Ukraine) came to Constantinople and issued an address to the Ottoman nation, declaring that Russia had always been the enemy of Turkey, that the treatment of Mohammedans in Russia was inhuman, and that 30,000,000 people in Ukraine looked for deliverance from oppression to Turkey, the old ally of the Cossacks of that region.

Such data is cited to clarify the confusing interpretations of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March, 1918) that ofttimes fail to trace the continuity in the quest for freedom for Ukrainians. The names of Khmelnytskyj, of the Kozaks of the Sich, etc., were spontaneously echoed when the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires collapsed during the first World War. The Ukrainian Republic of the World