

# UKRAINE

A Short History of the Name  
From 1187 A.D. to 1994

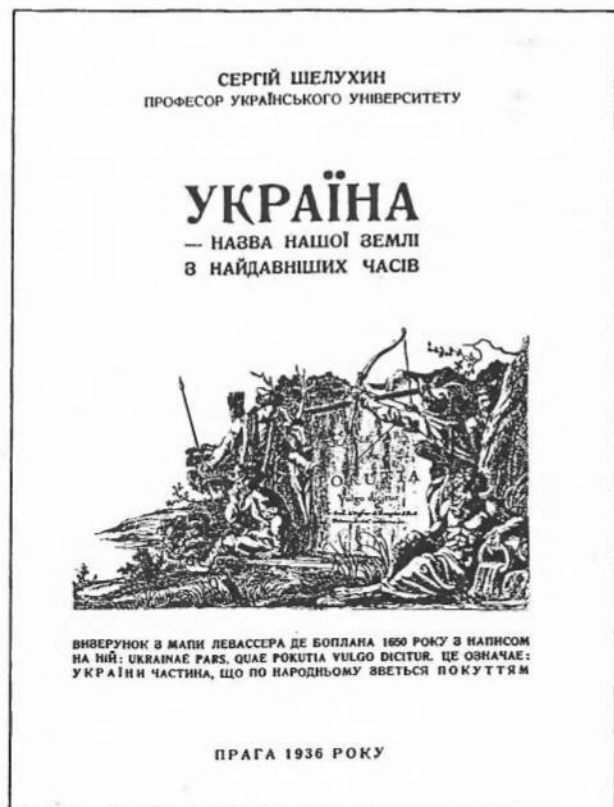
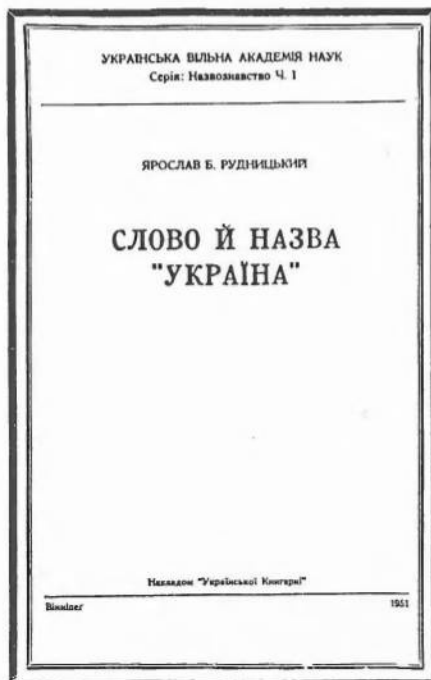
# УКРАЇНА



There is not, there never has been, there never could be a Ukrainian nationality. Ukraine—*oukraïna, okraïna*—in the Slav languages is exactly the equivalent of the word *mark, marche* (border) in the tongues of the West, and there has therefore been a Polish Ukraine, as also many others in divers times and places which were Russian. But the term Ukraine alone does not correspond to any entity, political, historical, or ethnical. Used in this way, it has no meaning, and in another way, applied to actual facts, it is an anachronism. In former days it was specially used of the Russian lands on the two sides of the lower Dnieper, which Lithuania ceded to Poland as related above. The Lithuanian State, after its union with Poland, kept a large measure of autonomy. It was therefore inevitable that the provinces ceded to Poland should claim the same privilege. The Polish government put itself in the wrong by refusing this legitimate claim. Revolts were the result. They were powerfully supported in the seventeenth century by the Cossacks of the neighbouring region, who possessed a strong military organization and advanced communal tendencies, and they succeeded in forming several autonomous States, of which the protectorate was often the subject of dispute between Poland, Muscovy,

### Famous Last Words...

This page from the book *Poland the Unknown* by the Polish writer K. Waliszewski (London: Heinemann, 1919) is a very good example of the kind of misinformation promoted against Ukraine.



The two major studies of the name Ukraine are *Ukraine: The Name of Our Land from the Earliest Times* by S. Shefukhin (Prague 1938), right, and *The Term and Name Ukraine*, by Jaroslav B. Rudnyckij (Winnipeg 1951).

Toronto-Scranton: Forum & Ukrainian Fraternal Assn, 1994

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# UKRAINE

A Short History of the Name  
From 1187 A.D. to 1994

# УКРАЇНА

by Andrew Gregorovich

**U**KRAINE, THE LAND and state of the Ukrainian nation, is the largest country in Europe by area, and one of the newest independent countries in the world. It is located in Eastern Europe North of the Black Sea between the Carpathian Mountains and the Don River. In ancient times it was known by several names such as Cimmeria (Conan the Barbarian was a Cimmerian). Alania, Antia, Roxolania, Amazonia (the legendary Amazon female warriors lived in Ukraine), Scythia, Sarmatia and finally, about 800 A.D., Rus!

During the medieval period (800-1240), Kiev, the present day capital of Ukraine, was the center of a powerful kingdom called Rus, or Ruthenia in Latin. Originally the name Rus applied to the area bounded by three cities on Ukrainian territory: Kiev, Chernihiv and Pereyaslav. As Rus grew, other lands came to be included with the original Rus. The word *Rus* is pronounced *roos* with a soft s (represented by the apostrophe for the soft mark, which we will dispense with) or like *nuce* in the word *truce*.

The origin of the name *Rus* has not yet been completely determined by scholars. However, we know it was used in the 800s because Byzantine treaties with Kiev in 860 include the name Rus. Theories about the name include the idea that the name *ruotsi* came from Scandinavia with the Viking (Varangian) invaders in the 9th century. Another view is that it came from the river Rus or Ros in Ukraine. Rus was used to designate both the land and the people. The people of the Rus Kingdom, originally the Slavic tribe of Poliany centered on Kiev, were called Rusyns, Rusichi, and Rusniaks. These names survived for Ukrainians in western Ukraine well into this century. Some historians have recently used the spelling *Rusian* (with one s) for the people of medieval Rus but it is too easily confused with today's name *Russian*.

Old maps of the western area around Lviv also often carried the names *Chervona* or *Red Rus* and, North of it into Belarus, *Chorna* or *Black Rus*. Sometimes these were mis-translated into English as *Red Russia* and *Black Russia* although they were never Russian. These names merely indicated a relationship with ancient Rus. *Belarus* or *White Rus*' (formerly *Belorussia* or *White Russia*) is the name of a separate Slavic nation north of Ukraine. It should be mentioned that the name *Roxolani* used on Ukrainian territory probably came from *rukhs-alans* meaning "light Alans."

# Україна

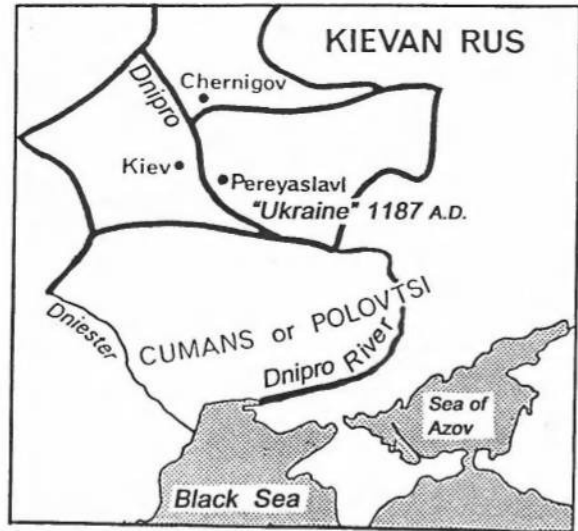
## Ukraine Name First Used in 1187 A.D.

It was in the year 1187 that the historical chronicles first used the name *Ukraine* for the territory of Rus which is South of Kiev. The Chronicler wrote that when *Kniaz* (King) *Vladimir Hlibovich* of *Pereyaslav* died, "Ukraine mourned for him greatly."

У НЕМ ЖЕ УКРАЇНА МНОГО ПОСТОНА ❖

The origin of the name *Ukraine* (*Ukraina*, pronounced oo-kra-yee-na in Ukrainian) has been derived by scholars from the Slavic languages. The word *kraina* in Ukrainian means simply "country" and *kraiaty* means "to cut off" as, for example, a piece of land. Some scholars find the origin of the name *Ukraine* in these words.

The most probable origin for the name *Ukraine* is *borderland* since "u kraina" and "v kraina" means *at the edge* or *border of the country* in Ukrainian.



It appears that in its first known use in the year 1187 in the *Ipatievskia Chronicle* it was used to denote the southern borderland area of *Kievan Rus*. It was not the borderland of *Moscovy-Russia* nor of *Poland* as has sometimes been suggested. Later the free *Cossacks*, the *Zaporozhians*, who established their powerful army and fortresses on the lower *Dnipro River* (the northern border of the *Crimean Tatars* and the *Turkish Empire*), strengthened the idea of *Ukraine* as the borderland.

The Russian word *okraina* denotes borderland but 17th century maps clearly shown both *Ukraina* and *Vkraina* for *Ukraine* as well as the Russian word *okraina* for borderland in southern *Moscovy-Russia* on the same map. *Ukraine* first lost the meaning "borderland" about 800 years ago to become a proper name for the territory which was part of the heart of the medieval state of *Rus*. In 1213 the historical chronicle uses the phrase "all *Ukraine*" in relation to *King Danylo* which indicates a definite geographical if not political territory.

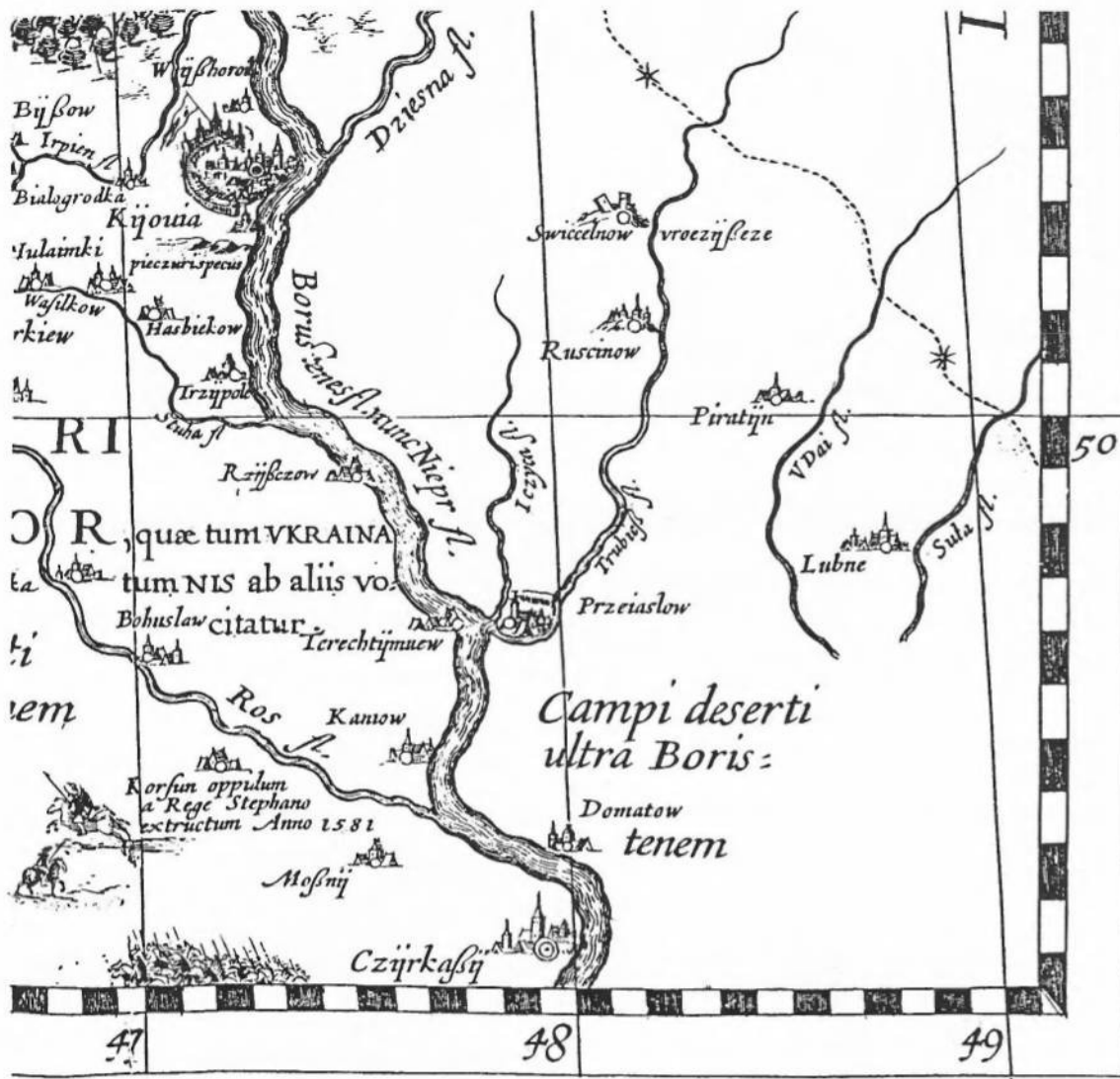
## A Concise Definition of Ukraine

**U.kraine** (yoo kraine), *n.* An independent country in central and eastern Europe north of the Black Sea. The name *Ukraine* is from the Ukrainian word *УКРАЇНА* (*Ukraina*) first used in historical chronicles in 1187 A.D. and in English in 1651. Its origin is from the Ukrainian *u krai* meaning on the edge or border (*ukraina* = borderland) or *kraina* meaning country. *Ukraine* is a rich agricultural region and a highly industrialized country of 52,239,000 (1993 est.) of about 223,000 sq. miles. (608,000 sq. km.) making it the largest country in Europe by territory. Consists of 25 regions (*oblasts*) including *Kiev*, *Odessa*, *Crimea*, *Kharkiv*, *Lviv*, *Poltava*, etc. Capital: *Kiev* with 2,700,000 pop. (*Kyiv* in Ukrainian; pronounced *Kay-yeew*). Official name: *Ukraine*. Great *Ukraine* (*Velyka Ukraina*) is the name of central and eastern *Ukraine*. Left Bank *Ukraine*: area east of the *Dnipro* (*Dnieper*) River; Right Bank *Ukraine*: area west of the *Dnipro* River. The correct normal usage for *Ukraine* in English is without the definite article *the*.

**U.krain.i.an** (yoo krain e an), *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to *Ukraine*, its people, or their language. ---*n.* 2. A native or inhabitant of *Ukraine* (1732) *n.* 3. The second largest Slavic language, related to *Polish* and *Russian*, which uses the *Cyrillic* alphabet developed from *Greek*. *n.* 4. Also formerly called *Ruthene*, *Ruthenian*, *Rusin*, *Rusyn*, *Rusinian*, *Rusich*, *Rusniak*, *Cossack*, *Kozak*, *Malo-Russian*, *Little Russian* (derogatory & obsolete), and *Carpatho-Rusin*.

**Vkra.i.na.** *n.* 1. Variant spelling of *Ukraine*. 2. Other variations are: *Ukraina*, *Vkraina*, *Vkrainia*, *Ukrainia*, *Ukrane*, *Uckrania*, *Ukrain*, *Ukraine*, *Ucrane* and *Urkran*. 3. Old names for the territory of *Ukraine* include: *Ancient*: *Cimmeria*, *Scythia*, *Sarmatia*, *Roxolania*, *Alania*, *Amazonia*, *Antia*. *Medieval* names: *Rus*, *Kievan Rus*, *Ruce*. *Seventeenth century* names: *Cossackia*, *Land of the Cossacks*, *Hetmanate*, *Taurica Chersonesus*. A.G. ■

# VKRAINAINA



A. Gregorovich Library



## Ukraine on First Map

The name Ukraine (VKRAINAINA) first appeared on a printed map in 1613. The map *Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae* was drawn by Tomasz Makowski in 1595, engraved by Hessel Gerardus and published in 1613 by Willem Janszoon Blaeu in Amsterdam. Reproduced here in original size, the text says "Outer Volhynia, which sometimes is called UKRAINE, and other times the Flatland."



The first map with the name Ukraine in the title frame was engraved by Hondius (Danzig 1648) for Beauplan's *Delineatio Generalis* general map of Ukraine. Guillaume Le Vasseur Sieur de Beauplan from France was a military engineer and cartographer who spent seventeen years (1630-1647) in Ukraine. His maps were extremely detailed and highly accurate at the time. For over a century his maps formed the foundation of all major maps of Ukraine.

The name *Ukraine* was first used to denote a part of the Kievan Rus Kingdom a half a century before the Mongol-Tatar armies founded by Genghis Khan destroyed Kiev in 1240 A.D. So the use of *Rus* and *Ukraine* overlapped by half a century. Since the 1600s some historians have used the term *Rus-Ukraine* for the medieval state founded about 800 A.D. with its capital in Kiev. This is in contrast to the equivalent term *Moscovy-Russia* for the state which grew in the North, much later after Moscow was founded in 1147. When Kiev was destroyed by the Mongols the name *Rus* went westward to the Ukrainian territory of Halych-Volynia not eastward to Vladimir-Suzdal (Russia) and thus it has survived in Transcarpathian Rus (Carpatho-Ukraine) to the present day.

As the power of Moscow grew and that of Kiev diminished, the Tsars of Moscow slowly built their empire by acquiring the former territories of Kievan-Rus' and laying claim to the name *Rus* which eventually came down to us in the form *Rossia* or *Russia* in English. It was Tsar Peter "the Great" who officially changed the name of the state from *Moscovy* to the Russian Empire in 1713 and 1721. *Rus* then, is not the same as modern Russia. Russians today call themselves by the form of the name *Russkii* meaning "belonging to Rus" rather than a noun such as *Rusyn* which Ukrainians used in the Austrian Empire until 1918.

### Name Ukraine on Maps

The first printed map which included the name Ukraine (VKRAINA) was *Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae* prepared in 1595 and printed in Amsterdam in 1613 by Willem Blaeu. In the bottom right corner of the map is the Latin text: *Volynia Ulterior quae tum VKRAINA tum Nis ab aliis vocitatur* meaning "Outer Volynia, which is sometimes called UKRAINE, and sometimes the Flatland (or Steppe)." It should be mentioned that Professor Shelukhin in his large work on the name *Ukraine* (Prague 1936) reproduces a map on page 165 with UCKRANIA which he claims is from 1580. This map was actually printed in the 18th century.

Ukraine, with its boundaries clearly marked, appeared on a great many maps in the 17th and 18th centuries. The first map to use Ukraine in the title was *Delineatio Generalis Camporum Desertorum vulgo Ukraina*, by Guillaume de Beauplan (Danzig 1648). His French map *Carte d'ukranie* (Rouen 1661) was intended to be included in his famous book *Description of Ukraine*. Two beautifully detailed and accurate maps of Beauplan's, although his name did not appear on them, were *Typus Generalis Vkrainae* (Amsterdam: Jansson, 1657-62) and *Typus Generalis Ukrainae* (Oxford, England: Moses Pitt, 1680).

### Ukraine: Land of the Cossacks

Many maps in the 17th and 18th centuries established the name "Ukraine The Land of the Cossacks" on the country of that time. The first known map to describe Ukraine as the *Land of the Cossacks* was by the French cartographer Sanson who put UKRAINE PAYS DES COSAQUES on his *Tartarie Europeenne* (Paris 1665). In 1674 he also published *La Russie Noire . . . Vulgairement Connue sous le Nom d'VKRAINE OU PAYS DES COSAQUES* (Paris). This means "Black Russia . . . commonly known under the name of UKRAINE or the LAND OF THE COSSACKS."



ABOVE: Ukrainian Cossack leaders surround the cartouche of the map *Typus Generalis Ukrainae* based on Beuplan first published by Jan Jansson in 1657 or 1659 with the spelling *Vkrainae* and reprinted 1680 by Moses Pitt in Oxford, England.  
 BELOW: "Ukraine which is the Land of the Cossacks." The beautiful 1710 map in Latin published by Homann in Nurnberg. The spelling *Vkrania* was also used on other maps in the 18th century.



One of the most beautiful maps was J.B. Homann's *VKRANIA quae et TERRA COSACCORUM* (Nuremberg 1710), the Latin title meaning "VKRANIA which is the LAND OF THE COSSACKS." Christoph Weigel published the map *Ukrania seu Cosacorum* (Nuremberg early 1700s) meaning "Ukrania or Cossackia." The English cartographer Thomas Jefferys put the phrase UKRAIN LAND OF THE OLD COSSACKS on several of his maps. There seems to be no map which calls Russia the land of the Cossacks.



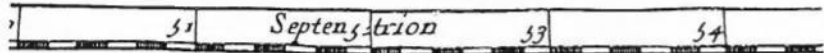
Ukrain Land of the Old Cossacks. Enlarged detail from a map by Thomas Bowen, London, 1729. T. Jefferys used the same title.

Maps by J. Blaeu, P. van der Aa (*UKRAINE Grand Pays de la RUSSIE ROUGE*, Leiden 1729); F. Santini, M. Seutter, H. Du Sauzet (*DESCRIPTIO UKRANIAE*, Amsterdam 1735); M. Seutter and T. Lotter *Amplissima UCRAINIAE Regio*, (Augsburg mid 1700s); Robert de Vaugondy (Ukrayne); and F. de Wit (*VKRAINIA*) all showed Ukraine prominently. J. Blaeu's *Ukrainae Pars quae Kiovia Palatinatus*, a Beauplan map, was published in Amsterdam in his *Atlas Maior*, 1658-72. Map titles above are in italics and regular type is used for names appearing on maps. Many of these maps have been published in *FORUM* magazine.

It was the rise of the powerful Cossack army in Ukraine, known as the Zaporozhian Kozak Host, which popularized the name Ukraine throughout Europe in the 17th century. There are hundreds of English, Dutch, French, German, Austrian and Italian maps from 1613 to 1800 with the name Ukraine prominently used in a variety of spellings.



The German "History of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Cossacks" by J.C. Engel, 1796.



RIGHT: A French map title from 1674 published by Sanson in Paris. It concludes with the lines "Commonly Known under the Name of VKRAINE or the LAND OF THE COSSACKS."

LA RUSSIE NOIRE ou POLONOISE  
qui Comprend les PROVINCES  
DE LA RUSSIE NOIRE de VOLHYNIE et de PODOLIE  
divisées en leurs Palatinats  
Vulgairement Connues sous le Nom  
D'UKRAINE ou PAYS DES COSAQUES

Par les S<sup>rs</sup> SANSONS  
1674.



England's first reference to Ukraine apparently was in the newspaper *Mercurius Politicus* of London for July 3-10, 1651. The text reads: ". . . Prince Ratzwil from Littaw is falne into the Cossacks Country, called Ukrain, and hath taken the chief city thereof called Kiew."

Edward Brown in a 1672 book *A Discourse . . . of the Cossacks*, published in London wrote: "Although *Ukraine* be one of the most remote Regions of *Europe*, and the *Cossackian* name very Modern: yet hath that Countrey been of late the Stage of *Glorious Actions*, and the Inhabitants have acquitted themselves with as great Valour in Martial Affairs, as any Nation whatsoever . . ." The original book which Brown translated from French was *Histoire de la Guerres des Cosaques contre la Pologne*, by Pierre Chevalier (Paris 1663).

ful, and so is Russia (i.e. Western Ukraine – A.G.) and Podolia, and if the earth be never so little cultivated, it produceth all sort of grain so plentifully, that the inhabitants know not for the most part what to do with it."

The famous French philosopher Voltaire in his book *The History of Charles XII* (London 1732) wrote: "*Ukrania* has always inspired to be free; but being surrounded by Moscovy, the dominions of the Grand Signior, and Poland, it has ever been obliged to seek for a protector, and consequently a master, in one of those three States" (p.165-6) Voltaire also said that Hetman Mazepa's growing influence "obliged the Czar to make him Prince of *Ukrania*" (p.166).

The people of Ukraine were usually called Cossacks by writers but Voltaire seems to have been the first to use the

A  
DISCOURSE  
OF THE  
*Original, Countrey, Manners,  
Government and Religion*  
OF THE  
COSSACKS,  
With another of the Precopian  
TARTARS.  
And the HISTORY of the  
WARS of the COSSACKS  
AGAINST  
POLAND.

London, Printed by T. N. for Helms Kew, at the  
Signe of the Ship in the Upper Part of the  
New Exchange. 1672.



Although *Ukraine* be one of the most remote Regions of *Europe*, and the *Cossackian* name very Modern; yet hath that Countrey been of late the Stage of *Glorious Actions*, and the Inhabitants have acquitted themselves with as great Valour

### Chevalier's 1663 Account of Ukraine

"The Countrey Inhabited by the *Cossacks* is called *Ukrain*, which signifies the Frontier; it extends itself beyond *Volhinia* and *Podolia*, and maketh a part of the Palatinates of *Kievia* and *Braclaw*. Some years since they made themselves master of these Provinces, and of part of *Black Russia* (*Western Ukraine and Belarus – A.G.*), which they have been forced to quit. This Countrey lieth between the 51 and 48 degrees of Latitude, below which there is nothing but desert Plains as far as the *Black Sea*, which on one hand are extended to the *Danube*, and on the other to *Palus Maeotis* (*Sea of Azov – A.G.*), the grass of which Countrey groweth to an incredible length. *Ukrain* is very fruit-

ful, and so is Russia (i.e. Western Ukraine – A.G.) and Podolia, and if the earth be never so little cultivated, it produceth all sort of grain so plentifully, that the inhabitants know not for the most part what to do with it."

word Ukrainian in English: His reference to "The *Ukrainians*" (p.166) is the first use of the name Ukrainian in the English language known to this writer. The Swede Philip von Strahlenberg also used the word *Ukrainians* in his book *An Historico-Geographical Description of the North and Eastern Parts of Europe and Asia* (London, 1738): "The *Scythian* and *Magogean* Names being common to several Nations, who have had their Proper Names besides, is agreeable to what is practiced, in our Times. For thus the *Malorosiskian Cossacks*, in . . . *Ukraine*, or *Lesser Russia* . . . have properly two Names, viz. *Ukrainians* and *Cossacks*, and are, however, in general, called *Cosacks* . . ." (p.43).

ment. cantons, that  
 lie near the ... neither plant nor  
 sow, lest the *Tartars* of *Bougiac*, *Precop*, and  
*Moldavia*, who subsist by robbery, should carry  
 off their harvests.

*Ukrania* has always aspired to be free; but  
 being surrounded by *Moscovy*, the dominions  
 of the Grand Signior, and *Poland*, it has ever

M 3 been

Pages from Voltaire's History of Charles XII King of  
 Sweden (London: C. Davis, 1732.)

ABOVE: The famous quotation "Ukraine has always  
 aspired to be free."

BELOW: The first known use of the word Ukrainian  
 (Ukrainians) in the English language.

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been obliged to seek for a protector, and consequently a master, in one of those three States. 'Twas first put under the protection of *Poland*, which carried it over them with too high a hand; they then applied to the *Moscovite*, who governed them as slaves, as much as possible. The *Ukrainians* had the privilege at first of chusing a Prince under the name of General, but they were soon after deprived of this right, and the General nominated by the court of *Moscow*.

This Place was then filled by a Prince  
 named *Mazeppa*, born



Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky of the Zaporozhian  
 Cossacks in 1648 won the independence of Ukraine from  
 Poland and used the name Ukraine for his state. In this  
 1651 portrait he is called Duke of the Ukrainian  
 (Ukraynen) people (plebis).

XXI. THE *Scythian* and *Magogean* Names being common to  
 several Nations, who have had their Proper Names besides, is  
 agreeable to what is practised, in our Times. For thus the *Ma-*  
*lorofiskian* *Cossacks*, in the *Ukraine*, or *Lesser Russia*, who are dis-  
 tinguished into *Burghers* and *Cossacks*, have properly two Names,  
*viz.* *Ukrainians* and *Cossacks*, and are, however, in general, called  
*Cossacks*, which, strictly speaking, belongs not to the *Burghers*,  
 because they are not inrolled under the Standard. The *Usbecks*,  
 likewise, are distinguish'd into *Bucharian Burghers* or *Ulajeti*

The passage is from the book *An Historico-Geographical Description of the North and Eastern Parts of Europe  
 and Asia*, by Philip John von Strahlenberg. London: 1738. It says the people of Ukraine "have properly two  
 Names" these are "Ukrainians and Cossacks" but are generally called *Cossacks*.

## Little Russia

From 1654 the Moscovite (Russian) Imperial government increased its hold over Ukraine's territory, history and heritage and introduced as official usage in that year "Malorussia" or "Little Russia." This was actually an old ecclesiastical term *Mikra Rusia* (Little Rus) from the 14th century. The Patriarch of Constantinople about 1300 established the title *Metropolitan of Little Rus* for the territory of Volynia, Kholm, Peremyshl, Lutsk and Turov.

Lancelot Lawton, the English historian, explained the relationship between Great Russia and Little Russia very well: "The designation 'Great Russia' is applied by Russians to the territory where they live, and that of 'Little Russia' to the territory where the Ukrainians live. Frequently it is intended that the comparison which these terms imply should be derogatory to the Ukrainians.

"Actually, the designations 'Great Rus' and 'Little Rus' are of Byzantine origin. In 1299, when Maxim, the Metropolitan of Kiev, left for Vladimir, and later, when his successor Peter removed to Moscow, the Patriarch of Constantinople, and also the Byzantine Emperor, began to refer to the Metropolia of Kiev as 'Little Rus.' According to Greek understanding, 'Little Rus' meant 'Rus Proper' as distinct from 'Great Rus' which comprised outlying territories."

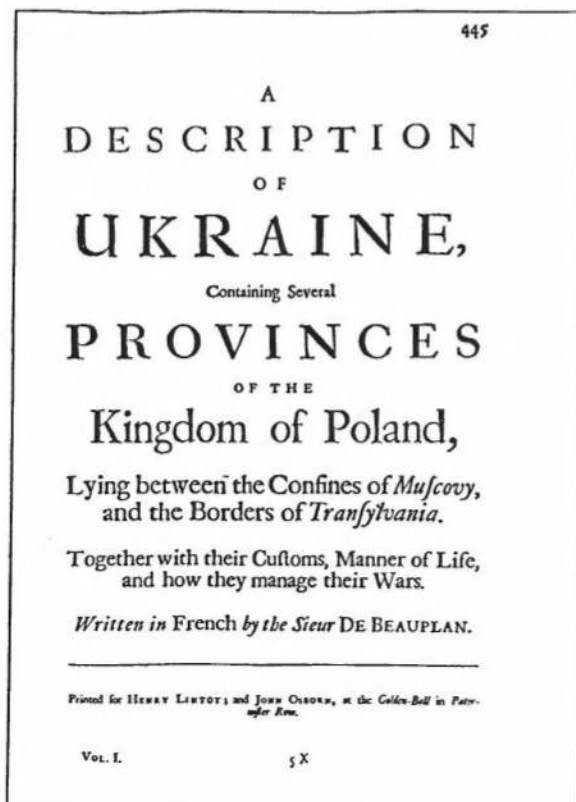
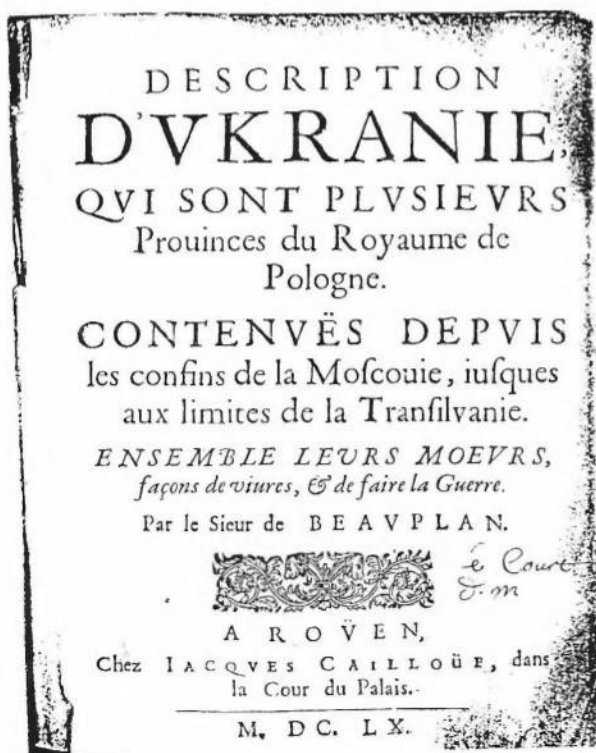
In 1335 Duke Yuri II called himself *Dux Russiae Minoris*. Moscow adopted Little Russia as a new political term to designate all Ukraine. Actually the "Little Russians" or Ukrainians are a taller people physically than the so-called "Great" Russians. Today *Maloros* or *Little Russians* is unacceptable for Ukrainians and is only used as a derogatory term for Ukrainians who have been russified. The term *Great Russian*, meaning Russian, is obsolete and meaningless today.

Survival and the spread of the term Ukraine can be traced to two great names. In the early 1600s the French military engineer and cartographer Guillaume Le Vasseur Sieur de Beauplan made the first survey and created the first definitive maps of Ukraine. His 1648 map *Delineatio . . . Ukraina* was copied by many cartographers and printed in many versions for more than a century. He also published a book *Description de l'Ukraine* (*Description of Ukraine*, Rouen 1660) which appeared in many European languages including English. Incidentally, in the 1500s Ukrainian students at the Sorbonne University in Paris were registered in Latin as "natione Ruthena de Ucraina."

By the end of the 18th century the Russian Imperial Government had effectively eliminated the name Ukraine from official international usage as well as every vestige of autonomy although Russia in 1654 had fully guaranteed autonomy to Ukraine. The name *Ukraina* or *Ukraine* survived through the 19th century in the nation's memory both in its epic songs and the immortal poetry of a great poet.

Under Russian autocracy and censorship the name Ukraine was slowly disappearing except in folk songs. It was a genius in the person of the great poet Taras Shevchenko who resurrected the old name Ukraine and re-established its popularity among the common people through his book of poetry *Kobzar* (Minstrel) published in 1840. It is interesting that he called the people *Kozaks* (Cossacks) and never used *Ukrainians*.

BELOW: Beauplan's famous *Description of Ukraine* in French (Rouen 1660) and English (early 1700s).





Taras Shevchenko

As the national poet of Ukraine Shevchenko, in his *Kobzar*, established the name Ukraine on such a firm foundation that in this past century it has survived all Russian attempts to eradicate it and has replaced all other names including "Little Russia" "South Russia" "New Russia" and "West Russia" used by the Russian government and "Ruthenia" used by the Austrian Empire.

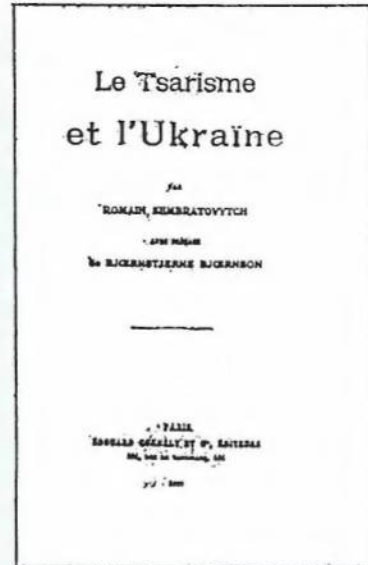
Україна

Word Ukraine (Ukraina) written by Taras Shevchenko on March 16, 1858. From his *Bilsha Knyzhka*, poem to A.O. Kozachkovsky.

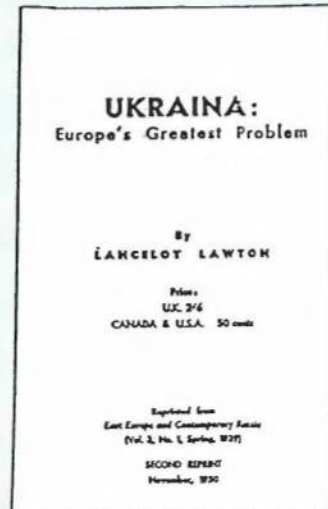
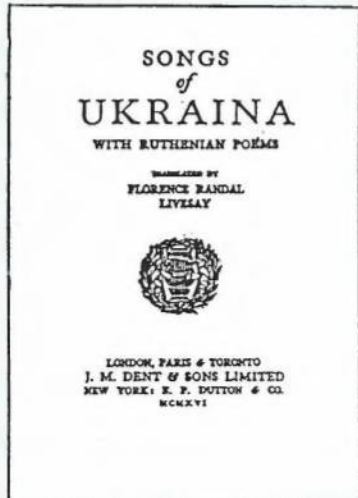
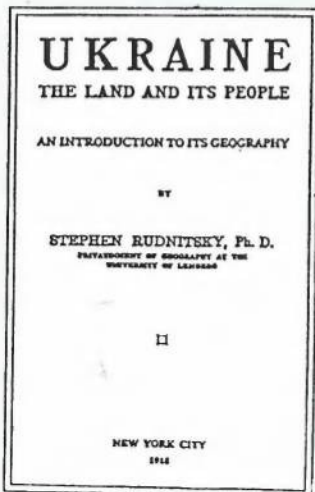
### III.

Мені однаково ли буде  
 Зжити в українні ти ти.  
 Чи ото згадає ли забуде  
 мене в снігу напушини  
 однаковицько мені.  
 Вє неволи вирисє моє гужини,  
 И поплаканний своїми  
 Вє неволи тилуги ушри  
 и все вє совои забєри  
 Малоє смуду непожину  
 на нашій славітій українні  
 на нашій невоій землі.  
 И не памєти батєво єх синомє  
 нежє аєс єтєови молєб  
 Молєб єтєу за Україну  
 його залугилє колєсє.  
 Мєнє однаково ли буде  
 тєої єтєє молєтєєкє ли ти...  
 Та ти однаково мєнє  
 Яжє українну вєтєє мєдє  
 приплєтєє лужєвє и вє огни  
 и окридемоучо збудєтє,  
 вєєє тєє однаково мєнє.

RIGHT: Shevchenko's poem "It is all the same to me," with Ukraine appearing four times (lines 2, 11, 15, 20). He used *Vkraina*, *Ukraina* and *ukraina*. Reproduced original size from *Bilsha Knyzhka*.



Since 1660 the name Ukraine has appeared in the titles of many books and journals. Center is the famous booklet *Independent Ukraine*, by Mykola Mikhnovsky (1873-1924) published by the Revolutionary Ukrainian Party in Lviv, 1900, calling for the independence of Ukraine. From top left: journals entitled *Ukraine* edited by M. Hrushevsky and E. Borschak (Paris). Examples of French (1907) and German (1915) books.



At the dawn of the 20th century the submerged nationalities of Europe began to emerge from the shadows of the Empires and Ukraine was among them. In 1917, during the revolution sweeping Eastern Europe Ukraine declared its existence and independence under the official name *Ukrainska Narodna Respublika* (Ukrainian National Republic). The Russian Bolsheviks sponsored a competing government which emerged in the USSR as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. From 1920 to 1991 the Ukrainian SSR was an internationally recognized political entity. In 1945 the Ukrainian SSR became a charter member of the United Nations and legally, according to international law, an independent state. In fact, however, it was tightly ruled by the totalitarian Kremlin in Moscow. On August 25, 1991 the Ukrainian SSR disappeared into history and a new, truly independent state emerged which was officially named UKRAINE.

When Ukrainian immigrants came to Canada and the United States in the late 1800s they generally identified themselves by the province they came from such as Bukovina or Galicia or by old regional names such as Lemko, Boyko, Rusin, Rusyn, Rusniak, and Ruthene. Some of them even used the official government terms "Ruthenian" and "Little Russian" or the word *tuteshny*, meaning simply "from here." Others used the church designations Greek Catholic or Greek Orthodox to describe themselves although they were actually Ukrainian Catholic or Ukrainian Orthodox and not Greek at all.

Much of the confusion over the name Ukraine and the names for the Ukrainian people are due to the ignorance of the people themselves who had been deprived of knowledge of their national heritage. More was probably due to the intentional disinformation over the centuries of the

Russian government and Polish authorities who denied the existence of a separate Ukrainian nation. Two examples may be offered:

The Russian Minister of the Interior, Count Peter Valuyev, in 1863 declared: "There is not, there never has been and there never could be a Ukrainian language." He used the term *malorossiiski* for Ukrainian. In 1919, an entire year after Ukraine had declared its independence on January 22, 1918, the Polish historian K. Waliszewski published his book *Poland the Unknown* in which he stated "There is not, there never has been, there never could be a Ukrainian nationality."

Some Americans and Canadians to this day are still puzzled where all the Galicians and Bukovinians, Ruthenians, Rusyns, Lemkos, and Boykos of the early 1900s disappeared. What happened is that almost all of them recognized that their language, culture and heritage were Ukrainian and have now identified themselves with the two million Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian Americans.

Perhaps Bedwin Sands writing in 1914 expressed it best. He said: Ukraine is a very vast, very fertile, and very beautiful country that does not exist. The name does not appear upon any modern English map. It is not recognized by diplomats; it was banned by Russians and Austrians alike. But, ladies and gentlemen, the word (Ukraine) does exist, buried in the hearts of nearly 36,000,000 people – and what is more alive than the thoughts of 36,000,000 people?

Today independent Ukraine, with 52 million people and the largest territory of any country in Europe, has taken its proper place on the map of Europe. The centuries long dream of her people has finally been fulfilled; the most beautiful word in the Ukrainian language now appears on all maps of the world: UKRAINE



A first day cover with a stamp honoring the trident state emblem and the national flag of independent Ukraine.

# Ukraine or “the Ukraine”?

by Andrew Gregorovich

**T**HE NAME UKRAINE, which first appeared in the historical chronicles in 1187, has been common in the English language for almost 350 years. In the earliest years it appeared without the definite article “the” but in this century the definite article increasingly preceded the name Ukraine.

First of all we might note that the Ukrainian language has no articles so this is not a factor except indirectly. The reason for this is that many Ukrainian immigrant scholars, due to their imperfect knowledge of English, used the form “the Ukraine” in their books thus helping to perpetuate this usage.

Does English grammar require the definite article *the* before Ukraine? Ukraine is the name of an independent country. There are only two groups of countries which require the article in English: Those with plural names such as the United States or the Netherlands. The others have names with adjectival or compound forms which require the article, such as the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada, or the Ukrainian SSR.

English grammar does not require a definite article before the names of singular countries such as England, Canada or Ukraine.

Geographical regions such as the Arctic, the Atlantic, the North, the West, and the prairies all require the definite article, but these are not countries. Since 1917 Ukraine has had very definite borders so it cannot be regarded as merely a region. Some people have mistakenly thought that Ukraine is a general word meaning “the borderland,” “the steppes” or “the prairies,” which would require the article. A few neanderthal writers in the past have even promoted “the Ukraine” to reflect the original meaning “the borderland” in order to diminish the international political stature of Ukraine. They betrayed their ignorance of Ukraine, or their bias against it, with this usage. See for example, the view of Robert O. Grover in the *U.S. News & World Report* (Dec. 9, 1991).

Is there any other reason to use the definite article in English with Ukraine? Usage has been suggested as a reason but this cannot be accepted today since the majority of books and newspapers do not use it.

For example, the authoritative five volume *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* edited by Danylo Struk and published by the University of Toronto Press does not use it. The article is not used by such prominent publications as *The Ukrainian Quarterly* (New York), *Ukrainian Review* (London, England), *Forum Ukrainian Review* (Scranton, Pa.),

*Ukrainian Voice* (Winnipeg), *Ukrainian Echo* (Toronto), *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* (Toronto), *Ukrainian News* (Edmonton) or *News From Ukraine* (Kiev). In fact, today there is no Ukrainian periodical in English which uses the article although *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* once forced it on scholarly contributors.

But what about the regular daily press in the USA, Canada and England? Even *The New York Times* (which once required it in its *Style Guide*) does not use it now. Neither do *The Times* (London), *The Economist* (London), *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Newsweek* or *Macleans*. News services such as Canadian Press, Reuters, CNN and Associated Press do not use the article. When the December 1991 referendum confirmed the independence of Ukraine the White House in Washington, D.C. officially announced that it would discontinue use of the definite article before the name Ukraine.

Even the computer age has ruled that “the” Ukraine is wrong in English. *Gram•mat•ik*, the very popular grammar and style checker for computers by Reference Software International of San Francisco, uses Ukraine without the article and labels “the Ukraine” as a mistake of grammar.

There appears to be virtually no grammatical or logical reason to use the definite article before the name Ukraine. But it is still encountered occasionally because of habit or because the writer is careless or ignorant about Ukraine. Sir Bernard Pares the eminent English historian of Russia suggested that “the Ukraine” came from French usage. We say *la France*, *le Canada* and *l’Ukraine* in French but not ‘the France,’ ‘the Canada’ or ‘the Ukraine’ in the English language. The definite article *the* does not add anything to the meaning or clarity when used before the proper noun Ukraine.

Now, the exception to the rule. Yes, it is possible for “the Ukraine” to be correct in English but it is a very rare usage in apposition to contrast the past with the present. For example, one could correctly say, “The America of George Washington is not the America of Bill Clinton” as well as “The Ukraine of Shevchenko is not the Ukraine of Kravchuk.”

We may conclude then, that the use of the definite article in English before the name Ukraine is awkward, incorrect and superfluous. Writers who care about good style in their English grammar and the correctness of their language will always avoid the use of “the Ukraine” and use only the simpler and correct “Ukraine.” ■

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