

**Brief History of Ukraine**  
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**Acknowledgment**

All the information contained in this report is derived from the bibliography cited.

**Introduction**

The territory of Ukraine has been inhabited for at least forty-four thousand years. It is where the horse was first domesticated and a candidate site of the origins of the Proto-Indo-European language family. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, According to a popular and well established theory, the medieval state of Kievan Rus was established by the Varangians as the first historically recorded East Slavic state. In 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Slavic State emerged as a powerful nation in the middle Ages but disintegrated in the 12th century. In the Middle of the 14th century, present Ukrainian territories were under the rule of three external powers: the Golden Horde, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the Kingdom of Poland. In the 15th century, these countries (above) or these lands came under the rule of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland, Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth (since 1569), and Crimean Khanate.



Figure 1 - Map of Ukraine and Border Countries

1653 – 2012: The following is a summary of the sequence of Ukraine's history.

October 1, 1653: Russian parliament accepted annexation of Ukraine.

1654: The reconstituted Ukrainian state, having recently fought a bitter war with Poland, sought a treaty of protection with Russia. This agreement was known as the Treaty of Pereyaslav.

1667: After thirteen years of incessant warfare — the agreement was later superseded by the 1667 Polish-Russian Treaty of Andrusovo, which divided Ukrainian territory between the Commonwealth and Russia. *Lithuania, Poland and Russia signed the 13.5 year treaty at Andrusov, near Smolensk. Russia received Smolensk and Kiev.*

July 8, 1709: Peter the Great defeated Charles XII at Poltava, in the Ukraine, effectively ending the Swedish empire.

Late 17th century: Poland came to dominate western Ukraine while Russia dominated eastern Ukraine.

May 7, 1727: Jews were expelled from Ukraine by Empress Catherine I of Russia.

1763: Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula from Crimean Tartars and Ottoman Turks.

After the Partitions of Poland (1772–1795) and conquest of Crimean Khanate, Ukraine was divided between Russia and Austria, thus the largest part of Ukraine was integrated into the Russian Empire, with the rest under Austrian (known as Austro-Hungarian since 1849) control. A chaotic period of warfare ensued after the Russian Revolution, with internationally recognized establishment of an independent Ukrainian People's Republic. Independent Ukraine emerged from its own civil war.

1774: Crimean Khanate was vassal state of Ottoman Empire till 1774. It was finally dissolved by Russian Empire in 1783.

March 31, 1779: Russia and Turkey signed a treaty by which they promised to take no military action in the Crimea.

1783: Finally, Russia conquered Crimea. Catherine the Great also annexed Crimea to the Russian empire. Eighty-three percent of the residents were Tatars.

June 23, 1794: Empress Catherine II granted Jews permission to settle in Kiev.

18th Century: Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia was determined to absorb eastern Ukraine into Russia. Until the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Crimean Khanate maintained a massive slave trade with the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East, exporting about two million slaves from Russia and Ukraine over the period 1500-1700.

September 14, 1853: The Allies landed at Eupatoria on the west coast of Crimea. On September 20, the Allies defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma on the Crimean Peninsula.

March 28, 1854: During the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia. On September 14, Allied armies, including those of Britain and France, landed in Crimea.

October 25, 1854: During the Crimean War, a brigade of British light infantry was destroyed by Russian artillery as they charged down a narrow corridor in full view of the Russians. The Crimean War is largely remembered for the Charge of the Light Brigade, a hopeless but gallant British cavalry charge against a heavily defended Russian force. The Charge of the Light Brigade ended the battle, but Balaclava remained in the hands of the British-French Allies. On November 5, the British and French defeated the Russians at Inkerman, Crimea.

1855: The English Commons voted for an inquiry into the conduct of the Crimean campaign. Heavy French-British shelling of Sebastopol killed over 2000.

September 9, 1855: Sevastopol, under siege for nearly a year, fell to the Allies. France, England, the Ottoman Empire and Sardinia (as Italy was then known) defeated the Russians at Sevastopol in the decisive battle of the Crimean War.

March 30, 1856: Russia signed the Treaty of Paris ending the Crimean War. It guaranteed the integrity of Ottoman Turkey and obliged Russia to surrender southern Bessarabia, at the mouth of the Danube. The Black Sea was neutralized, and the Danube River was opened to the shipping of all nations.

October 1, 1898: Jews were expelled from Kiev, Russia.

1917: The Ukraine proclaimed independence from Russia.

1918: While Russia was engaged in civil war Ukraine became independent for a short time.

February 9, 1918: The city of Kiev was captured by the Bolsheviks.

February 20, 1918: The Soviet Red Army seized Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine.

February 22, 1918: Germany claimed the Baltic States, Finland and Ukraine from Russia.

March 3, 1918: The Germans captured the city of Kiev. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended Russian participation in World War I. Germany and Austria forced Soviet Russia to sign the Peace of Brest, which called for the establishment of five

independent countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was annulled by the November 1918 armistice. The treaty deprived the Soviets of White Russia.

1919: The Ukrainian–Soviet War followed, which resulted in the Soviet Army establishing control in a late 1919 Soviet victory.

15 December 1919: The Bolsheviks captured the city of Kiev for the third time.

April 27, 1920: Pogrom leader Petljora (Petlyura) declared Ukraine Independence.

May 6, 1920: The Polish Army captured the city of Kiev for the first time.

June 12, 1920: The Bolsheviks captured the city of Kiev for the fourth time.

1921: The Russians forced Ukraine to become part of the Soviet Union. Stalin decided that farms in the Ukraine should be collectivized. In other words peasants would be deprived of their land and livestock and made to work as farm laborers on land now owned by the state. Not surprisingly, many Ukrainian peasants bitterly resisted, even slaughtering their own livestock rather than hand it over to the state.

March 1921: In the course of the new Polish-Soviet War purpose, which changed from 1920, led to the signing of the Peace of Riga, and after the part of Ukraine west of Zbruch had been incorporated into Poland, the east became part of the Soviet Union as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

October 18, 1921: Russian Soviets granted Crimean independence. The Soviet government was hostile to Ukrainian language and Ukrainian culture; there were mass repressions of Ukrainian poets, historians and linguists.

May 25, 1926: Symon Petlyura (47), leader of Ukraine (pogroms), was assassinated.

1927: Josef Stalin purged much of the Tatar intelligentsia in the Crimea.

1928: In the first five-year plan, the industrial output of Ukraine quadrupled as the republic underwent a record industrial development. The massive influx of the rural population to the industrial centers increased the urban population from 19% to 34%.

1932: The Soviet government increased Ukraine's production quotas by 44%, ensuring that they could not be met. Soviet law required that the members of a collective farm would receive no grain until government quotas were satisfied. The authorities in many instances exacted such high levels of procurement from collective farms that starvation became widespread. Collective farms were given completely unrealistic quotas to fill. Soviet law decreed that the peasants would not be allowed to keep any grain until they had met their quotas. They could not, of course meet them so Soviet officials simply confiscated all the grain they wanted leaving the

peasants to starve. How many people died in this man-made famine is not known for sure, but it was probably about 7 million. This horrific artificial famine is called the Holodomor.

1932-1933: Stalin was determined to crush the Ukrainian peasants and he caused a terrible famine, called Holodomor, in Ukrainian, in 1932-33. He provoked what the Ukrainians called the Great Famine as part of his campaign to force Ukrainian peasants to give up their land and join collective farms.

1937-1939: However, Ukraine's suffering was not over. Stalin unleashed purges in which many Ukrainians were executed or sent to prison camps.

1939: After the 1939 invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian SSR's territory was enlarged westward.

March 5, 1940: Stalin among others signed an Order for the massacre at Katyn, Poland. Soviet agents shot 21,768 Polish military officers, intellectuals and priests who had been taken prisoner during the invasion. Between April and May some 25,700 (15,000) Polish citizens were massacred by the Soviets in the Katyn and Miednoje (Mednoye) forests on the outskirts of Moscow and at Kharkov in western Russia (later Ukraine).

1941: Germany invaded murdering millions of Ukrainians. When Nazi Germany with its allies invaded the Soviet Union, many Ukrainians and Polish people, particularly in the west where they had experienced two years of harsh Soviet rule, initially regarded the Wehrmacht soldiers as liberators.

September 19, 1941: Moreover, Ukraine saw some of the biggest battles of the war starting with the encirclement of Kiev (the city itself fell to the Germans and was later acclaimed as a Hero City) where more than 660,000 Russian troops were taken captive, to the fierce defense of Odessa and on to the victorious storming across the Dnieper River.

September 21, 1941: The German Army cut off the Crimean Peninsula from the rest of the Soviet Union.

May 8, 1942: German summer offensive opened in Crimea.

1943: The Germans were losing the war and the Red Army recaptured Kiev. Afterwards Stalin took reprisals against anyone he suspected of being disloyal or of collaborating with the Germans. All the Crimean Tartars were deported. Soviet forces reconquered Kiev. Soviet forces liberated Odessa from Nazis. The Red Army besieged and captured Sevastopol in the Crimea.

May 9, 1944: Russians recaptured Crimea by taking Sevastopol.

1948-1949, 1984-1985: In its capacity as a member of the UN, the Ukrainian SSR was an elected member of the United Nations Security Council. Over the next decades, the Ukrainian

republic not only surpassed pre-war levels of industry and production but also was the spearhead of Soviet power. Ukraine became the center of Soviet arms industry and high-tech research. Of the estimated eleven million Soviet troops who fell in battle against the Nazis, about 16% (1.7 million) were ethnic Ukrainians.

August 24, 1991: Ukraine officially declared itself an independent state, when the communist Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Ukraine proclaimed that Ukraine will no longer follow the laws of USSR and only the laws of the Ukrainian SSR, de facto declaring Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union.

December 2, 1991: Poland and Canada were the first countries to recognize Ukraine's independence (both). The Soviet Union formally ceased to exist on December 26, when the presidents of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia (the founding members of the USSR) met in Belovezh Pushcha to formally dissolve the Union in accordance with the Soviet Constitution. And, with this Ukraine's independence, was formalized de jure and recognized by the international community.

February 14, 1992: The former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan rejected a proposal for a unified army, sharply rebuffing Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin.

December 5, 1994: President Clinton, on a whirlwind visit to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Budapest, Hungary, urged European leaders to "prevent future Bosnians." In the so called Budapest memorandum Britain, Russia and the US affirmed their commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty and existing borders of Ukraine.

1996: Ukrainian men had one of the highest infertility rates in the world, ever since the Chernobyl disaster ten years ago. Nearly one of five Ukrainian babies dies shortly after birth, and there have been more deaths than births since 1990.

April 9, 1996: Drinking water in most of Ukraine's cities isn't potable because of industrial pollution and aging water pipes. Ukraine became a non-nuclear nation when it sent the last of its 1,900 strategic nuclear warheads it had inherited from the Soviet Union to Russia for dismantling.

June 3, 1996: A hepatitis epidemic has hospitalized nearly 3,000 residents of Sevastopol so far this year. All nuclear weapons have been transferred to Russia for dismantling. The US paid \$267 million for the removal.

June 28, 1996: Ukraine country adopted its constitution. It established a clear right to own private property, and Ukrainian as the only state language.

October 24, 1996: President Yeltsin of Russia and President Kuchma of the Ukraine agreed to divide the Black Sea Fleet.

1996-1998: Pavel Lazarenko was later accused of siphoning \$72.1 million in public funds into a series of Swiss bank accounts during this period.

January 19, 1999: From the Ukraine, it was reported that the number of HIV cases had risen to between 38,000 and 110,000. In 1994, 44 people tested positive.

February 19, 1999: The Ukraine Parliament withdrew the immunity of former Prime Minister Lazarenko and issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of embezzlement and misuse of government funds.

May 19, 1999: Ukrainian authorities arrested four Russian citizens who were attempting to smuggle 20 kg of “enriched uranium ore” to Western Europe.

December 1999: President Kuchma abolished over 10,000 Soviet-era collective farms. He decreed that the land be divided among the farm workers. The plots averaged 6 to 7.5 acres and the owners had the right to rent the land but not to sell it.

March 15, 2000: The IMF announced that Ukraine had provided false data on its currency reserves between 1996 and 1998 in order to get three loans approved. Former Ukraine Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko was indicted by a San Francisco grand jury for money laundering and transportation of stolen property. In 2003, he put up an \$86 million bail and was confined to a SF apartment. In 2004, a Federal judge in SF dismissed nearly half the charges against Lazarenko. On June 3, 2004, Lazarenko was convicted on 29 felony charges. His money laundering was guessed to be in excess of \$40 million.

July 2000: Ukraine’s President Kuchma authorized the sale of an advanced \$100 million radar system to Iraq in violation of UN sanctions. Evidence of the sale emerged in 2002. President Kuchma declared four villages near Mykolaiv an ecological disaster zone due to illnesses of some 400 residents since July 4. Chemical poisoning from Soviet era rocket fuel leaks was blamed.

November 2006: The Ukraine Parliament adopted a bill recognizing the Soviet-era forced famine as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

2007: Ukraine’s population numbered about 48 million. This included some 8 million ethnic Russians.

January 2008: A World Trade Organization (WTO) accession committee approved Ukraine's membership bid, clearing the way for the former Soviet republic to join the body. Russia's lower house of parliament annulled an agreement with Ukraine on using Soviet-built military radars, citing Kiev's bid to join NATO.

February 2009: Standard and Poor's said it had cut Ukraine's credit ratings to a level indicating vulnerability to default, amid worries over whether Kiev will receive the next slice of a vital IMF loan.

April 2009: Ukrainian officials said security agents arrested a regional lawmaker and two companions for trying to sell a radioactive substance that could be used in making a dirty bomb. The legislator in the western Ternopol region and two local businessmen were detained for trying to sell 8.2 pounds (3.7 kilograms) of radioactive material to an undercover agent of the security service.

November 2009: A San Francisco Federal judge reduced the 9-year sentence of Pavel Lazarenko (56), a former prime minister of Ukraine (1996-1997), by 11 months. The judge also imposed a \$9 million fine and nearly \$26 million in forfeitures to the US government, including the value of his sold Novato mansion. Lazarenko was sentenced in 2006 for money laundering and other charges. He was said to have amassed a \$250 million fortune in extortions following Ukraine's independence in 1992.

October 11, 2011: Ukraine's former PM Yulia Tymoshenko (50) was sentenced to 7 years in prison on charges of abuse of office in signing a gas deal with Russia, a verdict immediately condemned by the European Union as politically motivated. The sentence also included a 3-year ban on public office and a fine of \$190 million. The Czech Republic granted asylum to Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the husband of jailed former Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko. He requested asylum because a criminal investigation has been launched against him in Ukraine in an attempt to increase pressure on his jailed wife.

May 2012: Ukraine's jailed and ailing ex-PM Yulia Tymoshenko tentatively agreed to have her back condition treated at a local hospital under the supervision of a German doctor. Jailed former Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko went on a hunger strike after prison guards allegedly beat her. She had refused to be treated for a severe spinal condition at the Kharkiv clinic because she didn't trust government-appointed doctors.

June 2012: A Libyan military court handed stiff prison terms to 19 Ukrainians, three nationals from Belarus and two Russians accused of serving as mercenaries for ousted leader Moamer Kadhafi in Libya's conflict last year. One of the Russians, judged to have been the coordinator, was condemned to life imprisonment while the others were sentenced to 10 year's hard labor. The following is a brief summary of the Chernobyl Plant incident, Corruption Practices in Ukraine, the Russian Invasion of Crimea, and the Russian/Ukraine natural gas disputes.

### **Chernobyl Nuclear Plant**

In April 26, 1986, the town of Pripjat, Ukraine was the site of the Chernobyl disaster, which occurred when a nuclear plant exploded. The fallout contaminated large areas of northern



Ukraine and even parts of Belarus. Damage was estimated to be up to \$130 billion. By 1998 10,000 Russians “liquidators” involved in the cleanup had died and thousands more became invalids. It was later estimated that the released radioactivity was 200 times the combined bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The authorities tried to cover up the disaster and it caused much resentment. It was later found that Soviet scientists were authorized to carry out experiments that required the reactor to be pushed to or beyond its limits, with safety features disabled. That spurred a local independence movement called the Rukh that helped expedite the break-up of the Soviet Union during the late 1980s.

In April 28, 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the April 26 nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl, saying the accident damaged a reactor and that aid was being rendered to “those affected.” In June 15, 1986, Pravda announced that the high-level Chernobyl staff in Ukraine was fired.

In May 12, 1995, President Clinton, during a stopover in Ukraine, visited Babi Yar, where the Nazis massacred more than 30,000 Kiev Jews in 1941.

In December 1995, the Accord was signed in Canada. The country was committed to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the turn of the century. Closure is estimated to cost \$4 billion. The group of seven industrialized nations has offered \$2 billion in credits to reshape the energy sector. In 1996, Ukrainian men had one of the highest infertility rates in the world since the Chernobyl disaster ten years ago. Nearly one of five Ukrainian babies dies shortly after birth, and there have been more deaths than births since 1990.

In March 7, 1999, Ukraine restarted nuclear reactor No. 3 at Chernobyl following repairs that began December 15 (SFC, 3/8/99, p.A16). In July 31, 1999, the Ukraine and the US agreed to extend the nuclear weapon and ballistic missile dismantling program for 6 years. In November 26, 1999, reactor No. 3, the functioning power plant at Chernobyl and site of the 1986 accident, reopened.

In June 5, 2000, President Clinton met with President Kuchma in Ukraine, and Kuchma announced the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by December 15. Clinton pledged \$80 million to help pay the \$750 million cost to stabilize the sarcophagus of the ruined reactor.

The Chernobyl nuclear plant drew pledges of \$715 million from Western nations for a five-year project to replace the protective tomb built to close off the 1986 nuclear accident. In August 31, 2000, President Kuchma declared four villages near Mykolaiv an ecological disaster zone due to illnesses of some 400 residents since July 4.

On December 6, 2000, the last working reactor at Chernobyl was shut down due to a malfunction nine days before a scheduled permanent shut down. It was later powered back up prior to the official shut down. Chemical poisoning from Soviet era rocket fuel leaks was blamed.

In December 15, 2000, in Ukraine the last working nuclear plant at Chernobyl was shut down. It had recently undergone \$300 million in safety improvements. The destroyed reactor, which contained up to 66 tons of melted nuclear fuel and 37 tons of radioactive dust, was still leaking radiation. A new sarcophagus was expected to cost \$758 million.

In August 8, 2004, President Leonid Kuchma, joined by other top officials, attended the startup of nuclear reactor No. 2 at the Khmelnytsky plant in western Ukraine. In May 2005, the US and Ukraine signed an agreement to safeguard nuclear waste and upgrade storage facilities in Ukraine.

In April 2006, Greenpeace said in a new report that more than 90,000 people were likely to die of cancers caused by radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, countering a United Nations report that predicted the death toll would be around 4,000. Two British scientists reported that the long-term effects of the Chernobyl disaster could cause up to 66,000 extra deaths from cancer, 15 times more than UN officials predicted last year. Their report was titled "The Other Report on Chernobyl."

In February 2013, a 600-square-meter (6,500-square-foot) section of the roof over the turbine hall at the fourth power block at Chernobyl collapsed due to heavy snowfall. A new giant arch-shaped confinement is currently being constructed over the old sarcophagus. The construction of the new shelter was not affected by the accident. Ukrainian officials sought to reassure the public that radiation levels were unaffected at Chernobyl, and there was no safety threat after a partial roof collapse at the exploded nuclear power plant.

### **Corruption Practices in Ukraine**

In June 19, 1997, President Kuchma removed Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko under pressure from Western donors who saw him as an opponent to free-market policies. In 1998, the former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko purchased the former Eddie Murphy California Bay Area mansion for \$6.7 million. In 1999, he was detained by US authorities and transferred to a detention center in Dublin, CA to await a hearing on extradition charges filed by the Swiss government. Lazarenko maintained his affiliation with the Hromada Party and his position as candidate for presidency in the October elections.

In February 19, 1999, the Ukraine Parliament withdrew the immunity and issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of embezzlement and misuse of government funds. Ukrainian authorities on May 19, 1999 arrested four Russian citizens who were attempting to smuggle 20 kg of "enriched uranium ore" to Western Europe. In June 18, 1999, in California, Peter Kirichenko, a Ukrainian citizen was arrested in Tiburon. He was wanted by Swiss authorities for aiding former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko in a money laundering scheme.

In July 2000, Ukraine's President Kuchma authorized the sale of an advanced \$100 million radar system to Iraq in violation of UN sanctions. Evidence of the sale emerged in 2002.

In 2002, a European firm won a \$43 million settlement against the Ukraine state in a dispute over an oil-refinery contract. Ukraine refused to pay and the company seized two Russian transport planes, one in Canada and one in Brussels. In 2002, Semion Mogilevich, a Ukrainian businessman, and Igor Fisherman were indicted in Philadelphia on charges of money laundering and securities fraud in connection with the collapse of YBM Magnex, Inc. in which investors lost some \$150 million. In April 15, 2002, evidence was made public that President Kuchma in 2000 authorized the sale of an advanced \$100 million radar system to Iraq in violation of UN sanctions.

In October 15, 2002, a judge opened a criminal case against embattled Ukrainian President Leonid Juchma a day after U.S. and British experts began investigating allegations that he approved the sale of a radar system to Iraq. In November 17, 2002, Ukraine Pres. Leonid Juchma went to China seeking support for his request that U.N. inspectors verify that his government did not transfer radar systems to Iraq.

In February 2005, the Ukraine Parliament unanimously approved fiery opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko as PM, along with her government's new program to raise living standards, tackle corruption and set Ukraine on a westward course. A Ukraine intelligence official said secret indictments and arrests took place against at least 6 arms dealers accused of selling nuclear capable missiles to China and Iran. The Ukraine cabinet stripped former president Leonid Kuchma of a plush and widely criticized retirement package that featured a monthly pension, two cars, a government home and much more.

In Kiev prosecutors said Ukrainian weapons dealers smuggled 18 nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China in 2001 during former President Leonid Kuchma's administration. In May 2005, Austrian authorities reported the break up a major human trafficking ring led by Romanian, Moldovan and Ukrainian criminals who smuggled more than 5,000 East Europeans to the West, many enduring horrific conditions in tiny hiding spaces in cars, trucks and trailers. A Federal judge in SF tossed out half of the convictions against former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko in a multi-count money-laundering and fraud verdict, but refused to grant a new trial.

In 2006, Mogilevich was under investigation for possible links to natural gas deals between Russia and Ukraine. In 2006, Lazarenko was sentenced for money laundering and other charges. He was said to have amassed a \$250 million fortune in extortions following Ukraine's independence in 1992.

In July 2007, Israeli police said nine Israelis suspected of trafficking in organs and humans have been arrested and remain in custody. The case was opened when an Israeli woman filed a police complaint charging that she was not paid after her kidney was removed in Ukraine. In November 2007, two Hungarians and a Ukrainian were arrested in eastern Slovakia and Hungary in an attempted sale of a kilo (2.2 lbs) of uranium, material believed to be from the former Soviet

Union. Police said it was enriched enough to be used in a radiological "dirty bomb." In April 2009, Ukrainian officials said security agents have arrested a regional lawmaker and two companions for trying to sell a radioactive substance that could be used in making a dirty bomb. The legislator in the western Ternopol region and two local businessmen were detained last week for trying to sell 8.2 pounds (3.7 kilograms) of radioactive material to an undercover agent of the security service.

In September 2010, the FBI and its counterparts in Ukraine, the Netherlands and Britain took down a cyber-theft ring they first got wind of in May 2009 when a financial services firm tipped the bureau's Omaha, Nebraska office to suspicious transactions. Since then, the FBI's Operation Trident Breach has uncovered losses of \$14 million and counting.

In June 2011, Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko went on trial on charges of abuse of office, insisting during a chaotic hearing that the case is a plot by the nation's president to keep her out of politics. In October 11, 2011, Ukraine's former PM Yulia Tymoshenko (50) was sentenced to 7 years in prison on charges of abuse of office in signing a gas deal with Russia, a verdict immediately condemned by the European Union as politically motivated. The sentence also included a 3-year ban on public office and a fine of \$190 million.

Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich, facing harsh Western criticism, said that he backed legal reforms that could allow the release of imprisoned former PM Yulia Tymoshenko. The Czech Republic granted asylum to Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the husband of jailed former Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko. He requested asylum because a criminal investigation had been launched against him in Ukraine in an attempt to increase pressure on his jailed wife.

In January 2011, Ukraine's state prosecutor's office announced new criminal charges against former PM Yulia Tymoshenko over the alleged illegal purchase of 1,000 vehicles in the run-up to the 2010 presidential election.

In March 2011, Former Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma said he had been charged in the 2000 slaying of investigative reporter Heorhiy Gongadze. Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko went on trial on charges of abuse of office, insisting during a chaotic hearing that the case is a plot by the nation's president to keep her out of politics.

Over 5,000 opposition activists rallied on the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union, protesting the arrest of former PM Yulia Tymoshenko and demanding early elections. One frequently-cited example of Yanukovich's alleged attempts to centralize power is the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko.

In May 2012, Ukraine jailed an ailing ex-PM Yulia Tymoshenko tentatively agreeing to have her back condition treated at a local hospital under the supervision of a German doctor. In June 2012, a Libyan military court handed stiff prison terms to 19 Ukrainians, three nationals from Belarus and two Russians accused of serving as mercenaries for ousted leader Moamer Kadhafi

in Libya's conflict last year. One of the Russians, judged to have been the coordinator, was condemned to life imprisonment while the others were sentenced to 10 years' hard labor.

Switzerland, Austria and Liechtenstein moved to freeze assets and bank accounts of up to 20 Ukrainians including ousted president Viktor Yanukovich and his son after Ukraine's new rulers said billions had gone missing. Switzerland froze the assets and bank accounts of nine more Ukrainians, including another son of ousted president Viktor Yanukovich and the son of a former prime minister, all of whom are suspected of human rights abuses and misuse of state funds.

The EU prepared a \$15 billion aid package to Ukraine and froze the assets of 18 people blamed for looting the treasury of the nearly bankrupt country.

In August 2012, Ukraine's highest court upheld the guilty verdict against former PM Yulia Tymoshenko, who is in jail on abuse of office charges. In September 2012, Ukraine's jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko exhorted her country to "rise up" against President Viktor Yanukovich's party in next month's parliamentary election.

In January 2013, Ukrainian authorities formally notified jailed former PM Yulia Tymoshenko that she is a suspect in the murder of Yvhen Scherban, a businessman and lawmaker, his wife and two other people in 1996. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said he had no legal powers to allow jailed rival Yulia Tymoshenko to go abroad for medical treatment as some European governments have urged, but hinted compromise might be found if the law was changed.

In March 2014, Switzerland froze the assets and bank accounts of nine more Ukrainians, including another son of ousted president Viktor Yanukovich and the son of a former prime minister, all of whom are suspected of human rights abuses and misuse of state funds. Russia vetoed a UN resolution declaring the March 15 referendum on the future of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula illegal, but close ally China abstained in a show of Moscow's isolation.

### **Russian Invasion of Crimea**

In the 18th century, Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia was determined to absorb eastern Ukraine into Russia. Until the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Crimean Khanate maintained a massive slave trade with the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East, exporting about two million slaves from Russia and Ukraine over the period 1500-1700.

In 1763, Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula from Crimean Tartars and Ottoman Turks. In 1783, finally Russia conquered Crimea. Catherine the Great also annexed the Crimea to the Russian empire. Eighty-three percent of the residents were Tatars.

In July, 1853, supported by Britain, the Turks took a firm stand against the Russians, who occupied the Danubian principalities (modern Romania) on the Russo-Turkish border. The Crimean War got under way in October. It was fought mainly on the Crimean Peninsula

between the Russians and the British, French, and Ottoman Turkish, with support by the army of Sardinia-Piedmont. The war aligned Anglican England and Roman Catholic France with Islam's sultan-caliphs against the tsars, who saw themselves as the world's last truly Christian emperors.

In September 20, 1853, the Allies defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma on the Crimean Peninsula.

March 28, 1854: During the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia. On September 14, 1854, the Allied armies, including those of Britain and France, landed in Crimea. In October 25, 1854, during the Crimean War, a brigade of British light infantry was destroyed by Russian artillery as they charged down a narrow corridor in full view of the Russians. The Crimean War is largely remembered for the Charge of the Light Brigade, a hopeless but gallant British cavalry charge against a heavily defended Russian force. The Charge of the Light Brigade ended the battle, but Balaclava remained in the hands of the British-French Allies.

Florence Nightingale and her nurses arrived in Crimea. In November 5, 1854, the British and French defeated the Russians at Inkerman, Crimea. In 1855, the English Commons voted for an inquiry into the conduct of the Crimean campaign. In June 17, 1855, heavy French-British shelling of Sebastopol killed over two thousand. In September 9, 1855, Sevastopol, under siege for nearly a year, fell to the Allies. France, England, the Ottoman Empire and Sardinia (as Italy was then known) defeated the Russians at Sevastopol in the decisive battle of the Crimean War. In November 26, 1855, several thousand people staged a parade and banquet at South Park, SF, to celebrate the Allied victory over the Russians in the Crimean War, the capture of the Malakoff fortress in Sevastopol.

In March 30, 1856, Russia signed the Treaty of Paris ending the Crimean War. It guaranteed the integrity of Ottoman Turkey and obliged Russia to surrender southern Bessarabia at the mouth of the Danube. The Black Sea was neutralized, and the Danube River was opened to the shipping of all nations.

In October 29, 1914, a Turkish fleet including two German cruisers stormed the Black Sea and bombarded Odessa, Sevastopol and Theodosia. In October 18, 1921, Russian Soviets granted Crimean independence. In 1927, Josef Stalin purged much of the Tatar intelligentsia in the Crimea.

In September 21, 1941, the German Army cut off the Crimean Peninsula from the rest of the Soviet Union. However, by 1943 the Germans were losing the war and the Red Army recaptured Kiev. Afterwards Stalin took reprisals against anyone he suspected of being disloyal or of collaborating with the Germans. All the Crimean Tartars were deported. In May 8, 1942, the German summer offensive opened in Crimea. However by 1943 the Germans were losing the war and the Red Army recaptured Kiev on 6 November 1943. Afterwards Stalin took reprisals against anyone he suspected of being disloyal or of collaborating with the Germans. All the Crimean Tartars were deported.

In 1944, Josef Stalin deported some 250,000 Tatars from Crimea to Uzbekistan. They did not begin to return home until the fall of the Soviet Union. The Red Army besieged and captured Sevastopol in the Crimea. In May 9, 1944, Russians recaptured Crimea by taking Sevastopol. In 1954, the Russian-populated oblast of Crimea was transferred from the Russian to the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. Ukraine expanded to the south.

In December 1, 1991, the Ukrainian voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum formalizing independence from the Soviet Union. Over 90% of Ukrainian citizens voted for independence, with majorities in every region, including 56% in Crimea, which had a 75% ethnic Russian population.

In June 3, 1996, a hepatitis epidemic hospitalized nearly 3,000 residents of Sevastopol. All nuclear weapons were transferred to Russia for dismantling. The US paid \$267 million for the removal. President Yeltsin of Russia and President Kuchma of the Ukraine agreed to divide the Black Sea Fleet.

In December 2005, Ukraine reported its first outbreak of bird flu, discovered among some 1,500 dead chickens and geese in the Black Sea region of Crimea. Ukraine said it had detected the highly pathogenic type of bird flu that is dangerous to humans, the strain known as H5N1. The September outbreak was located in several villages in the Crimean peninsula where about 2,500 birds died within hours.

In February 2006, a senior Russian official said Russia will not pay more to base its Black Sea Fleet in a Ukrainian port, rebuffing Ukrainian demands and setting the stage for the latest dispute between the ex-Soviet neighbors. In June 2006, US troops were sent to the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea to prepare for joint war games and left Ukraine after two weeks of protests organized by pro-Russian parties that prevented them from carrying out their mission.

Russia's parliament granted President Vladimir Putin in 2014 permission to use the country's military in Ukraine and also recommended that Moscow's ambassador be recalled from Washington over comments made by President Obama. Ukrainian PM Arseniy Yatsenyuk opened a Cabinet meeting in Kiev by calling on Russia not to provoke discord in Crimea.

Ukraine's new PM Arseniy Yatsenyuk and world leaders urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to pull back his military as hundreds of armed men surrounded a Ukrainian military base in Crimea. Ukraine's Navy Chief announced he had switched allegiance to the pro-Russian authorities of the flashpoint peninsula of Crimea, a day after he was appointed to the post by interim leader Oleksandr Turchynov.

In Ukraine, pro-Russian demonstrators occupied the first floor of the regional government building in Donetsk, the latest in days of rallies that Kiev says were organized by Moscow as a pretext to invade. Interfax news agency quoted a source in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry as saying Russia's Black Sea Fleet told Ukrainian forces in Crimea to surrender on March 4 or face

a military assault. The OSCE said it deployed in Ukraine, but Russian objections meant the body had yet to agree on a full-scale mission. The UN said 16,000 Russians were deployed in Crimea.

In March 2014, the Obama administration slapped new visa restrictions against pro-Russian opponents to the new Ukraine government in Kiev as lawmakers in Crimea declared their intention to split from Ukraine and join Russia instead. They scheduled a referendum in 10 days for voters to decide the fate of the disputed peninsula. Russia's parliament, clearly savoring the action, introduced a bill intended to make this happen. European leaders said Russia will face sanctions over its military incursion in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula unless it withdrew its troops or engaged in credible talks to defuse the situation. The EU froze the assets of ousted Ukraine leader Viktor Yanukovich, ex-premier Mykola Azarov, and 16 former ministers, businessmen and security chiefs, all on grounds of fraud.

Poland's defense minister said a mission of observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had been stopped from entering Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula by unidentified men in military fatigues. Russia rallied support for a Crimean bid to secede from Ukraine, with Russia's top lawmaker assuring her Crimean counterpart that the region would be welcomed as "an absolutely equal subject of the Russian Federation." Russia said that Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) observers, who were barred from Crimea, had failed to obtain "official invitations" from the Crimean authorities.

Ukraine's top security body said that it and the national news agency has been hit by cyber-attacks, the latest suffered by state organizations since the start of the crisis over Crimea. Russia was reported to be reinforcing its military presence in Crimea as Moscow's foreign minister ruled out any dialogue with Ukraine's new authorities, whom he dismissed as puppets. Warning shots were fired when an unarmed OSCE military observer mission was turned back while trying to cross into Ukraine's Crimea region.

Russians took over a Ukrainian border post on the western edge of Crimea, trapping about 15 personnel inside. Germany's Angela Merkel delivered a rebuke to President Vladimir Putin, telling him that a planned Moscow-backed referendum on whether Crimea should join Russia was illegal and violated Ukraine's constitution.

Russian troops opened fire with automatic rifles during a takeover of a Ukrainian naval post in Crimea. Ukraine's interim leaders established a new National Guard and appealed to the United States and Britain for assistance against what they called Russian aggression in Crimea under a post-Cold War treaty. The parliament of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula voted for full independence from Ukraine in preparation for a referendum to join Russia. France threatened sanctions against Moscow. Gunmen took over air traffic control of the airport in the regional capital Simferopol and refused landing rights to a flight from the Ukrainian capital.

The European Commission agreed to extend nearly 500 million euros worth of trade benefits to Ukraine, removing duties on a wide range of agricultural goods, textiles and other imports in an



effort to support the Ukrainian economy. G7 leaders called on Russia to stop all efforts to "annex" Ukraine's Crimea region.

Ukraine's parliament appealed to the UN to discuss the occupation by Russian forces of its Crimea peninsula and said it reserved the right to ask individual countries for help in resolving the issue. A man (22) was stabbed to death in Donetsk in clashes between pro-Russian protesters and a crowd favoring European integration and denouncing Russian forces' seizure of Crimea.

EU officials said they have drawn up a list of 120-130 names of Russians who could be hit with travel bans and asset freezes to punish Russia for its seizure of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Russia called on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send its observers to monitor Crimea's controversial referendum on independence from Ukraine. Ukraine's military scrambled aircraft and paratroops to repel an attempt by Russian forces to enter a long spit of land belonging to a region adjacent to Crimea. Russian forces seized a natural gas distribution station in Strelkova, about 10 km outside Crimea.

Ukraine's political opposition sought to rally people against a decision by President Viktor Yanukovich to allow the Russian Navy to stay in Ukraine's Crimea until 2042.

In Ukraine pro-Russian demonstrators occupied the first floor of the regional government building in Donetsk, the latest in days of rallies that Kiev says are organized by Moscow as a pretext to invade. Interfax news agency quoted a source in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry as saying Russia's Black Sea Fleet told Ukrainian forces in Crimea to surrender by 5 am on March 4 or face a military assault. The OSCE said it will start deploying in Ukraine late today, but Russian objections mean the body has yet to agree on a full-scale mission. The UN said 16,000 Russians have been deployed in Crimea.

The Obama administration slapped new visa restrictions against pro-Russian opponents to the new Ukraine government in Kiev as lawmakers in Crimea declared their intention to split from Ukraine and join Russia instead. They scheduled a referendum in 10 days for voters to decide the fate of the disputed peninsula. Russia's parliament, clearly savoring the action, introduced a bill intended to make this happen.

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The European Commission agreed to extend nearly 500 million euros worth of trade benefits to Ukraine, removing duties on a wide range of agricultural goods, textiles and other imports in an effort to support the Ukrainian economy. G7 leaders called on Russia to stop all efforts to "annex" Ukraine's Crimea region. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said it is sending a new team to observe military developments in tense regions of Ukraine and that the new team's mandate has been extended beyond Crimea to eastern Ukraine. Pro-Russian forces rebuffed previous attempts to monitor Crimea.

European Union member states agreed on the wording of sanctions on Russia, including travel restrictions and asset freezes against those responsible for violating the sovereignty of Ukraine. Ukraine's military scrambled aircraft and paratroops to repel an attempt by Russian forces to enter a long spit of land belonging to a region adjacent to Crimea. Russian forces seized a natural gas distribution station in Strelkova, about 10 km outside Crimea.

Russia vetoed a UN resolution declaring the March 15 referendum on the future of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula illegal, but close ally China abstained in a show of Moscow's isolation.

### **Russian/Ukraine Natural Gas Disputes**

In 2005, a highly publicized dispute over natural gas prices took place, involving Russian state-owned gas supplier Gazprom, and indirectly involving many European countries which depend on natural gas supplied by Russia through the Ukrainian pipeline.

January 1, 2005: Ukraine was forecast for 7% annual GDP growth with a population at 46.9 million and GDP per head at \$1,630 (Econ, 1/8/05, p.90). In December 2005, Russia bought up gas supplies from Turkmenistan to prevent Ukraine from getting them. Russia was demanding a quadruple increase in gas prices. President Vladimir Putin ordered Russia's state-owned natural gas monopoly to supply Ukraine with natural gas at the current price for three months, if the government in Kiev immediately agreed to a big price hike to take effect later.

In January 3, 2005: Ukraine gave in and agreed to pay Turkmenistan a third more for natural gas following a shut-off. Five days later, Viktor Yanukovich resigned from office and his cabinet was dismissed.

In January 2006, Russia's natural gas monopoly halted sales to Ukraine in a price dispute and began reducing pressure in transmission lines that also carry substantial supplies to Western Europe. Supplies of natural gas to Poland have been hit by cuts imposed by Russia on the amount of gas entering the pipeline system in neighboring Ukraine. Russia's state-controlled natural gas monopoly accused Ukraine of diverting about \$25 million worth of Russian gas intended for other customers, a day after Moscow halted deliveries to Kiev in a price dispute whose effects were spreading across Europe. A heavily-criticized Russia promised to restore full gas supplies to Europe after Germany warned that its dispute with Ukraine over deliveries could hurt its long-term credibility as an energy supplier.

Russian and Ukrainian officials agreed to resume talks on resolving a dispute over the price of natural gas that has reverberated across the continent and left Ukraine cut off from its supplies. The Russian and Ukrainian natural gas companies agreed on a plan to resume gas shipments to Ukraine that allowed both sides to claim victory after a commercial and political dispute that had raised fears of gas shortages in Europe.

Ukraine's Parliament fired the Cabinet because of a new deal with Russia that nearly doubled what Ukraine pays for natural gas. PM Yuri Yekhanurov and the justice minister, however, said the vote was nonbinding and vowed that the current Cabinet would continue working. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said that his country should produce its own nuclear fuel for power plants. A compromise was reached, and in early 2010 a further agreement was signed locking the price of Russian gas at \$100 per 1,000 cubic meters in an exclusive arrangement.

In February 2006, Russia and Ukraine announced the signing of an agreement finalizing their compromise on natural gas prices. A senior Russian official said Russia will not pay more to base its Black Sea Fleet in a Ukrainian port, rebuffing Ukrainian demands and setting the stage for the latest dispute between the ex-Soviet neighbors.

In January 2007, Ukraine's PM Yanukovich said that he is working to complete a pipeline to carry Caspian-region oil directly to the EU. In September 2007, Ukrainian officials signed a \$505 million contract with a French-led consortium for construction of a new shelter for the Chernobyl reactor, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. In October 2007, Ministers from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine signed a deal to build an oil pipeline linking the Black and Baltic seas.

In February-March 2008, Russia agreed to eliminate a murky middleman company from its gas trade with Ukraine in exchange for 50% share of Ukraine's domestic gas market. Russia quelled protests in Moscow following the elections and reduced natural gas supplies to Ukraine over

\$600 million in alleged nonpayment for past deliveries. Ukraine's natural gas company warned that if Russia further cuts its gas supplies, it could begin diverting shipments intended for Western Europe. Russia's state gas monopoly announced that it was ending a reduction in natural gas supplies to Ukraine after the two countries' presidents and gas company chiefs reached an agreement aimed at ending a debt and contract dispute. In October 2008, Russia's foreign minister said Moscow wants to negotiate an extension of its lease at Ukraine's Black Sea port of Sevastopol. The move would keep Russia's Black Sea Fleet in the port where it has been stationed for centuries.

In October 2008, the Ukrainian government issued a decree saying two state banks would lend state energy company Naftogaz Ukraine up to \$2 billion to pay its arrears to Russia's Gazprom. Disagreements remained on future gas costs. In December 2008, Russian energy giant Gazprom threatened to cut gas deliveries to Ukraine on January 1 if a new contract is not signed by then for 2009 but pledged to honor its supply obligations to Europe.

Russian gas flows to four European Union countries fell to normal levels after Moscow cut off supplies to Ukraine in a pricing row with no talks in sight to resolve the dispute. Bulgaria's Bulgargaz joined energy firms in Poland, Romania and Hungary in saying they had noted falls in supply.

Russia asked the EU to provide monitoring of Ukraine's gas transit system and charged Ukraine was stealing gas bound for Europe, as Kiev leveled its own charges. Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller said that the state-controlled company wanted \$450 per 1,000 cubic meters, up from its last offer of \$418. The reductions in gas supplies spread to the Czech Republic and Turkey. A natural gas crisis loomed over Europe as a contract dispute between Russia and Ukraine shut off Russian gas supplies to six countries and reduced gas deliveries to several others. Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Croatia and Turkey all reported a halt in gas shipments.

The EU said Russia and Ukraine will accept using international monitors to verify the transit of natural gas from Russia through Ukraine's pipelines. Russia's gas giant Gazprom completely stopped sending gas to European consumers. Eighty percent of Russian gas shipped via Ukraine. Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly said it would restore supplies to Europe through Ukraine, cut off after a dispute between Moscow and Kiev, as soon as international monitors are in place.

Russia and the EU took a step toward securing the resumption of gas flow to Europe when the two signed a deal on monitoring the supplies through Ukraine. PM Vladimir Putin said Russia will restart gas supplies to Europe once an EU-led monitoring mission begins to track gas transit via Ukraine. Ukraine and the EU struck an agreement to try to resume Russian supplies through Ukraine to Europe. Russia's state-run monopoly Gazprom announced it will resume shipping

natural gas to Europe, where tens of thousands of homes and buildings have been left without heat in freezing weather.

Russia and Ukraine hotly blamed each other as Russia restarted natural gas supplies but little or no gas flowed toward Europe. EU officials watched in dismay and criticized both nations for their intransigence.

January 14-20, 2009: Russia and Ukraine wrangled over gas supplies again. Bulgaria and Slovakia, cut off by the row for a freezing week, launched missions to plead for Russian gas flow to be restored. Ukraine rejected Russia's latest request to pipe natural gas westward to increasingly frustrated EU consumers, deepening the bitter economic and political dispute that has paralyzed energy shipments to Europe.

Russia and Ukraine held gas crisis talks in Moscow that the European Union said were the "last and best chance" to resolve the row that has left Europe struggling without key gas supplies. Russia and Ukraine announced a deal to end the bitter dispute that has blocked Russian natural gas from Europe following talks between Russian PM Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko.

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Russia and Ukraine announced a deal to end the bitter dispute that has blocked Russian natural gas from Europe following talks between Russian PM Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko. Under the terms, Ukraine will pay 20 percent less than the European "market price" price for gas this year, which Russia says is \$450 per 1,000 cubic meters. That's more than twice as much as the \$179.50 Ukraine paid in 2008.

Russia and Ukraine signed a deal that restores natural gas shipments to Ukraine and paves the way for an end to the nearly two-week cutoff of most Russian gas to a freezing Europe. Russian gas reached Europe via Ukraine for the first time in two weeks after Moscow and Kiev ended a contract row that cut supplies to about 20 European countries.

In March 2009, Ukrainian masked and armed security agents searched the headquarters of Naftogaz, Ukraine's natural gas company, in a raid that the firm said threatened a deal with Russia over the shipment of gas supplies to Europe. The raid was said to be connected to a criminal investigation launched this week into the alleged diversion of some 7.4 billion hryvna (\$900 million) in Russian gas by officials at Naftogaz. Ukraine's Naftogaz paid its February bill

for Russian gas just hours after President Putin said Russia would halt supplies if Ukraine failed to meet a March 7 deadline.

In May 2009, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev challenged the EU leaders meeting at a summit in Khabarovsk to help Ukraine pay its gas bills in order to prevent disruption of Russian supplies to Europe. Libya and Ukraine signed deals to cooperate in both peaceful civilian nuclear energy and in defense during a visit by Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko.

In September 2009, Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko said Russia and Ukraine have resolved a long standing dispute over natural gas supplies, after meeting her Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at a resort on the Baltic coast in northern Poland.

In April 2010, the presidents of Ukraine and Russia agreed to extend the stay of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol to 2042 after the existing lease expires in 2017. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that Kiev will receive large discounts on gas shipments in return for certainty over the base's future, \$100 for every 1,000 cubic meters of gas or 30 percent if the benchmark price falls below \$330.

In September 2011, Ukraine opened shale gas development to Western giants, assigning its first exploration contract to the Anglo-Dutch firm Shell in a deal worth up to \$800 million (555 million euros).

In February 2012, Ukraine's government blamed Russia for natural gas shortages in some European countries as a severe cold spell grips the region. Germany, Italy and Austria have reported cutbacks in Russian gas supplies, but Russia's energy giant Gazprom has blamed them on Kiev, accusing Ukraine of siphoning off gas destined for European consumers. In February 2013, Ukraine reached a tentative agreement with Turkmenistan to resume imports of natural gas from the energy-rich Central Asian nation. Completion of the deal would require the consent of Kazakhstan and Russia as transit nations. Russian PM Dmitry Medvedev says Russia will ask Ukraine to start pre-paying for gas supplies in case Ukraine doesn't settle outstanding debts. He was reacting to a complaint of Alexei Miller, chief executive of Russian gas giant Gazprom, who said Ukraine owes Russia \$882 million for the August deliveries and was due to pay for it by October 1.

In March 2014, Vladimir Putin said that Moscow reserves the right to use its military to protect Russians in Ukraine but voiced hope it won't need to do so as he accusing the West of encouraging an "unconstitutional coup." Russia's state-controlled natural gas giant Gazprom said it will cancel.

### **The Foundation of Christianity and the Jewish Expulsion of Ukraine**

In 800 AD, the Khazars founded the kingdom in the southeastern part of today's Europe, near the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus. The kingdom included western Kazakhstan, and parts of eastern Ukraine, Azerbaijan, southern Russia, and Crimea.

Around 800 AD, the kingdom converted to Judaism. In 988, in western Ukraine during the time of empire of Great Moravia, under Vladimir I Ukraine, the formal governmental acceptance of Christianity in Rus' occurred. Prince Vladimir of Kiev accepted Byzantine Orthodoxy. This is the traditional date for the beginning of Russian Christianity. The major cause of the Christianization of Kievan Rus' was the Grand-Duke, Vladimir the Great (Volodymyr). His Christian interest was a mid-wife by his grandmother, Princess Olga.

In February 25, 1418, at the Constance church synod, the Orthodox Metropolitan of Kiev and Lithuania, Gregory Camblak proposed a union between the Orthodox and Catholic Church.

In 1470, Lithuania took control of the state of Volynia in northern and northwestern Ukraine, including the region around Kiev (Rus'), and the rulers of Lithuania then adopted the title of the ruler of Rus'. Poland took control of the region of Galicia. Following the union between Poland and Lithuania, Poles, Germans, Lithuanians and Jews migrated to the region.

New schools spread the ideas of the Renaissance; Polish peasants arrived in great numbers and quickly became mixed with the local population; during this time, most of Ukrainian nobles became polonized and converted to Catholicism, and while most Ruthenian-speaking peasants remained within the Eastern Orthodox Church, social tension rose. In 1653, the greater portion of the population rebelled against dominantly Polish Catholic rule. In the late 17th century, Poland came to dominate western Ukraine while Russia dominated eastern Ukraine. In May 7, 1727, Jews were expelled from Ukraine by Empress Catherine I of Russia.

During the 1772-1795 periods, after the Partitions of Poland and conquest of Crimean Khanate, Ukraine was divided between Russia and Austria, thus the largest part of Ukraine was integrated into the Russian Empire, with the rest under Austrian (known as Austro-Hungarian since 1849) control.

Russia, fearing separatism, imposed strict limits on attempts to elevate the Ukrainian language and culture, even banning its use and study. This led to an exodus of a number of Ukrainian intellectuals into Western Ukraine. However, many Ukrainians accepted their fate in the Russian Empire and some were to achieve a great success there. A chaotic period of warfare ensued after the Russian Revolution, with an internationally recognized establishment of an independent Ukrainian People's Republic. Independent Ukraine emerged from its own civil war.

In October 16, 1810, Rabbi Nachman was renowned for his mystical interpretations of Jewish texts and his belief that higher spirituality could be achieved through a combination of prayer, meditation and good deeds. On his deathbed, he is said to have promised to be an advocate for anyone who would come and pray beside his tomb.

In 1871, a pogrom took place against the Jews in Odessa and the governor made no effort to suppress it. In May 5, 1881, Anti-Jewish rioting took place in Kiev, Ukraine. In May 3, 1898,

Golda Mier (d.1978), 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Israel (1969-1974) and the first woman PM, was born in Kiev, Ukraine. “Whether women are better than men, I cannot say – but I can say they are certainly no worse.” In October 1, 1898, Jews were expelled from Kiev, Russia. In 1905, another large pogrom (organized killing of minorities) took place against the Jews in Odessa, Ukraine. Many began to leave, mainly for the USA. In July 23, 1906, pogroms took place against Jews in Odessa.

In August 10, 1919, the Ukrainian National Army massacred 25 Jews in Podolia, Ukraine. In August 31, 1919, The Ukrainian (Petlyura) Army recaptured Kiev. Petlyura’s Ukrainian Army killed 35 members of a Jewish defense group.

Despite the ongoing Soviet Union-wide anti-religious campaign, the Ukrainian national Orthodox Church was created called the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC). The Bolshevik government initially saw the national church as a tool in their goal to suppress the Russian Orthodox Church, always viewed with the great suspicion by the regime, for its being the cornerstone of pre-revolutionary Russian Empire and the initially strong opposition it took towards the regime change. Therefore, the government tolerated the new Ukrainian national church for some time and the UAOC gained a wide following among the Ukrainian peasantry.

In 1930, mass arrests of the hierarchy and clergy of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church culminated in the liquidation of the church. During 1939-1945, in WW II, the Germans and Ukrainians used Transdnistria as a killing field to purge Europe of some 150,000 Jews. In 1941, Germany invaded murdering millions of Ukrainians. When Nazi Germany, with its allies, invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, many Ukrainians and Polish people, particularly in the west where they had experienced two years of harsh Soviet rule, initially regarded the Wehrmacht soldiers as liberators. Some Ukrainian activists of the national movement hoped for a momentum to establish an independent state of Ukraine. German policies initially gave some encouragement to such hopes through the vague promises of sovereign ‘Greater Ukraine’ as the Germans were trying to take advantage of anti-Soviet, anti-Ukrainian, anti-Polish, and anti-Jewish sentiments.

During the 1941-1942 period, according to the researcher Rolf Michaelis who is referring to the SS-Hauptamt’s document No.8699/42, the Police Battalion “Ostland” (Field Post Number 47769) resided in the Reichskommissariat Ukraine and was one of the main executioners of the Jews. The Police Battalion “Ostland” was an Ordnungspolizei unit that served in World War II under the command of the Schutzstaffel. On June 25, 1941, the Germans invaded Dubno, Poland, and encouraged the Ukrainians to do whatever they wanted to 12,000 Jews living there. In July 1941, Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky, leader of the Greek Catholics, greeted the German army for liberation from Russia. In July 21, 1941, 200 Jewish Torahs were burned in Ukraine.

In September 26, 1941, in Ukraine, some 33,711 Jews of Kiev were killed over three days before Yom Kippur in the ravine at Babi Yar by the Nazis. Over the next two years some 100-200 thousand more people, mostly Jews, were killed at the site. Thirty thousand Jews were gunned down in Kiev when Henrich Himmler sent four strike squads to exterminate Soviet Jewish



civilians and other “undesirables. Three thousand seven hundred Jews were buried, some still alive, at Babi Yar ravine (near Kiev) Ukraine.

During the October 1941-1942 period, the battalion established was responsible in carrying out punitive duties. The battalion was sent to Lviv (Lwów). At the time, roughly half of Równe’s inhabitants were Jewish. The battalion established was responsible to carry out punitive duties. The battalion was sent to Lviv (Lwów). At the time, roughly half of Równe’s inhabitants were Jewish. In October 3, 1941, all elderly Jewish men of Kerenchug Ukraine were killed by the SS. In October 8, 1941, the Germans arrived in Mariupol, Ukraine, and immediately instituted anti-Jewish measures. In 1941, thousands of Jews were killed in Ivano Frankivsk, Ukraine, by men of the Security Police assisted by members of the German Order Police and the railroad police.

The Germans forces in Mariupol, Ukraine, murdered some 9,000 local Jews. During the October 22-23, 1941 period, some 39,000 Jews were killed by Romanian troops over two days in Odessa. Many of them were burned to death in a public square or in warehouses that were locked shut. Altogether some 90,000 Jews were killed in Odessa. In October 25, 1941, 16,000 Jews were massacred in Odessa, Ukraine.

In November 1941, Nazis in the Ukraine set up a concentration camp near the village of Gvozdavka-1, near Odessa, and killed about 5,000 Jews. Their mass grave was found in 2007. In November 6, 1941, Einsatz death groups killed some 18 thousand Jews of Rovno, Ukraine. “Einsatzgruppen” were special soldiers who followed the fighting forces and “cleaned up” the area. During November 6-8, 1941, about 23,000 of these people were taken to a pine grove in Sosenki and slaughtered by the 1<sup>st</sup> company of the Police Battalion “Ostland.” A ghetto was established for the remaining ca 5,000 Jews.

During the December 1941-January 1942 period, a massacre of Jews began when Romanian and Ukrainian troops nailed shut one of the pigsties doors and windows in Bogdanovka, then torched it, burning all inside alive. The killing went on for three weeks in late December 1941 and early January 1942. An estimated 48,000 people were killed. In 1941, Ukraine was occupied by Nazi Germany, being liberated in 1944.

In May 11, 1942, one thousand Jews were executed in Minsk. During the June 27-28, 1942 periods, 8,000 Jews were executed near the town of Slonim. As reported on July 28, 1942, ca 6,000 Jews were executed in Minsk. In July 13, 1942, 5,000 Jews of Rovno, Polish Ukraine, were executed by Nazis. During the July 13-14, 1942 period, the remaining population of the Równe ghetto – about five thousand Jews were sent by train some 70 kilometers north to Kostopil (Kostopol) where they were murdered by the 1<sup>st</sup> company of the Police Battalion “Ostland” in a quarry near woods outside the town. On July 15, 1942, another thousand Jews were executed in the same place. In November, the Police Battalion Ostland, together with an artillery regiment and three other German Ordnungspolizei battalions, burned down 50 villages and over 1,500 people executed.

During March 1943 and the end of 1944, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army committed several massacres on Polish civilian populations in Volhynia and Eastern Galicia having signs of

genocide (massacres of Poles in Volhynia and Eastern Galicia). The death toll numbered up to 100,000, mostly children and women. In 1943, some 35,000 Poles in Lviv were massacred by extreme Ukrainian nationalists. Poland opened investigations around 2001.

In the 1950s, total civilian losses during the War and German occupation in Ukraine are estimated at seven million, including over a million Jews shot and killed by the Einsatzgruppen. In October 15, 1959, Stepan Bandera (b. 1909), a Ukrainian nationalist, was assassinated in Munich by a KGB agent who used a spray gun to fire cyanide gas into his face. In 2010, Ukraine President Yushchenko issued a decree posthumously awarding the nation's highest award to Bandera weeks before his term ended in February. Yushchenko called Bandera a patriot, but the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a leading Jewish rights group, said Bandera's followers were linked to the deaths of thousands of Jews. In April 2010, a court overturned the decree.

In June 23, 2001, Pope John Paul II began his five-day visit to Ukraine, where the Greek Catholic Church had five million followers who observed Byzantine rites but were loyal to Rome. He hoped to mend a rift with the Eastern Orthodoxy. In June 25, 2001, Pope John Paul II visited Babi Yar where some 200,000 Jews and other Nazi victims are buried. Pope John Paul II visited the site of a Nazi massacre of at least 100,000 Jews.

In October 2005, Pope Benedict XVI named five new saints at the close of a 3-week Synod of Bishops. They included: Josef Bilczewski, Archbishop of Lviv, who was greatly admired by Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Jews alike during World War II and the Rev. Zygmunt Gorzowski, who founded the Congregation for the Sisters of St. Joseph to care for the sick and poor.

In July 2009, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, led solemn prayers in Kiev on the first day of a 10-day visit aimed at reasserting Moscow's dominance over church leaders in Ukraine.

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