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Facts About Ukraine



PAN AMERICAN UKRAINIAN CONFERENCE
NEW YORK
1950



Facts About Ukraine

Ukraine, a member of the United Nations is the largest non-Russian country under the domination of the Kremlin. The Ukrainians were the first people to see their country occupied by Red troops in 1920, after a long and determined resistance to the Red regime.

Today, after thirty years of subjection to communist rule, Ukraine once more claims the right to be heard by the free world. Let the facts about Ukraine speak for themselves.

TERRITORY

Geographically, Ukraine represents an area of over 250,000 sq. miles. Ukrainian ethnographical territory stretches from the Carpathians in the west to the river Don and the foothills of the Caucasus in the east. Touching Central Europe in the west and the threshold of Asia in the east, it spreads far beyond the frontiers of the present Ukrainian SSR which comprises only 227,000 sq. miles. There are large Ukrainian settlements in Soviet-Asia and in the Soviet Far Eastern territory.

In the west Ukraine borders on Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, to the north on Byelorussia and Russia, to the east on Russia, and the lands of the Kalmyks and the peoples of the Caucasus. In the south she has access to the Mediterranean, from her long and well-developed coast on the Black Sea. Ukraine's capital is Kiev which lies on the largest Ukrainian river, the Dnieper.

POPULATION

According to 1940 figures, the population of the Ukrainian SSR was over 40 million, 80% of it being Ukrainian. The density of population was given as 103 per sq. mile. Over 5 million Ukrainians live in the Soviet Central Asia, the Far Eastern territory and the Russian SFSR, and millions are in Soviet Forced Labor Camps. The total Ukrainian population of the USSR may be estimated at 40 million.

NATURAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

Ukraine is one of Europe's richest and industrially most developed countries. Its industrial might can be seen from the following figures for 1940:

| | mill. tons | % of USSR output |
|---------------|------------|------------------|
| Iron ore | 19 | 60 |
| Manganese ore | 1 | 35 |
| Pig iron | 9 | 60 |
| Steel | 8.6 | 47 |
| Coal | 90 | 55 |
| Coke | 17 | 75 |

The primary industrial region is that of the Donets Basin, one of the biggest coal and metallurgical production centres of the USSR. Of equally great

importance is Ukraine's machine-building, heavy, and light industries, its giant hydro-electric power plant, Dniprelstan, and its oil wells in Galicia. The railroads of Ukraine are the most developed in the whole USSR.

The industrial potential of the country is much greater, since it cannot be fully developed under the present imperialist policy of the USSR which, for purely strategic reasons, favors the building up of Asiatic regions to the disadvantage of Ukraine.

Ukraine, still known as "the granary of Europe," has become the bread-basket and sugar-bowl of Stalin's Empire. Its agricultural production, not fully developed because of the erratic methods used in Soviet agriculture, is still one of the highest in the world. In sugar-beet alone it amounts to 70%, and in grains to 21% of the total output of the USSR. In spite of severe livestock losses due to forced collectivization, the number of hogs in Ukraine constitutes 31.3% of the USSR's total.

Ukrainian peasants, who today represent 75% of the total population, belong to the most individualist and anti-communist elements in the USSR. Unlike the Russian peasantry, they never lived under the Tsarist "commune" system of land tenure, and they resisted heroically the forced collectivization of their land by the Soviets.

The industriousness of all classes of the Ukrainian people, their long record of resistance to Red imperialism, their deep love of their own country as well as their ancient bonds with the culture and way of life of Western Europe leave no doubt about their role in the future history of Europe and the world. They represent one of the greatest forces ready to take part in the creation of a democratic world order, once they are liberated from their Red oppressors and are free to create their own destiny as an independent nation.

UKRAINIAN STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Russian Empire collapsed in 1917. While in Russia the Provisional Government and later the Bolsheviks were the creators of a new revolutionary regime, in Ukraine a national revolution was in progress.

This came as a surprise to the Russian communists. It was clear that the Ukrainians, who for centuries had been desperately fighting against the Russian domination over their country, had taken the chance which history gave them in 1917 and were forming a *Ukrainian National Republic*.

The date for the first meeting of the Ukrainian Constituent Assembly was fixed for January 1918. This act coupled with the disarmament of the Bolsheviks in Ukraine, was regarded as a challenge by the Bolshevik government, which consequently declared war on Ukraine. In order, however, to deceive the outside world and to create the impression that they were not aggressors, the Bolsheviks set up a puppet Soviet-Ukrainian government in Kharkiv and in this way found justification to invade Ukraine in the name of this Moscow-created pseudo-government which did not represent the Ukrainian people.

The superior forces of the Red Army, under the command of Gen. Muravyev invaded Ukraine. The commander as well as his army were Russian, not Ukrainian. The Bolsheviks during their occupation of Ukraine found so little sympathy among the Ukrainian population, that they had to use every means in their power to compel the conquered Ukrainians by force to accept the Soviet rule. It is important to bear in mind that Ukraine was conquered by military force as well as by the fifth column and that the Ukrainian resisted the occupation of their country by the Red Army in every possible way.

The end of the fighting of the Army of the Ukrainian Independent Republic was marked by the well-known "Winter Campaign" of 1921.

The first years of the new Soviet regime in Ukraine were marked by ruthless terror on the part of the occupying troops. Ukraine was virtually under the Russian military rule. *This is how Ukraine became Soviet Ukraine!*

RED REGIME IN UKRAINE

In spite of the military victory, the Soviets had to face serious difficulties in governing Ukraine. Those Ukrainian communists—the fifth column—who gave them their support, hoping for an autonomous Soviet Ukrainian Republic, were soon disappointed in their hopes. They were all entirely liquidated in the early 1930s when Ukraine was once again subjected to Red terror. At the time of the first Five Year Plan and the forced collectivization, the Ukrainian workers, peasants, and intelligentsia rose united to oppose the Soviet policy. The purges and large-scale deportations were conducted under the personal supervision of the highest Party officials—the Russian Postyshev and Kaganovich. It is they and their Kremlin masters who must be held responsible for the terrible famine in Ukraine in 1932—33 which took a toll running in millions of lives for the barbarous destruction of Ukrainian learning, science, and religion, for the persecutions of hundreds of thousands of innocent and peace-loving people.

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Today, another Communist Party official, a colleague of Mr. Stalin, Dymitri Manuilski is a "representative" of the Ukrainian SSR. His deputies are present now at Lake Success. The "sovereign" Soviet Republic has found indeed a suitable "representative" Manuilski, the man who in 1918 sat as a member of the Russian delegation in negotiations with the Ukrainian Government, has reappeared to "represent" a fictitious government which exists only at the convenience of Mr. Vyshinsky.

The so-called "representatives" and "government" of the Ukrainian SSR *do not and can not represent the Ukrainian people.*

Knowing that our Ukrainian kinsmen, at present citizens of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, are not able to speak freely, we, Americans of Ukrainian origin, raise our voice and ask:

Is Ukraine — formally a member of the United Nations — really an independent state?

Where are the Ukrainian diplomatic representatives abroad?

Why doesn't Ukraine control her own finances?

Why are Ukrainian priests, peasants, workers, and intellectuals kept in Soviet concentration camps?

Demand a free Ukrainian representative at the United Nations!



Extension of remarks of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.,
Fifth District - Michigan.

January 24, 1955

*Speeches
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Mr. Speaker -

The traditional observance of the proclamation of Ukrainian Independence (January 22, 1918) presents an opportunity for American citizens to assure to all escapees from tyranny scattered throughout the world their sympathy, and their determination to continue the struggle for the freedom of all people.

This America believes: "That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." This applies to men both behind and outside the Iron Curtain.

We hear much of "peaceful co-existence" today. Everyone of us wants peace. To be realistic we must recognize that we do exist in a world divided into two great ideological camps. And we can hardly demand that every people and every nation adopt our form of government or our way of life. Yet, we must strive in every legitimate way to assist those who would bring freedom to nations enslaved, or to peoples oppressed.

There are those who say that the internal rule of the Communists is none of our concern. To a displaced person this must have a strange sound. Furthermore, that attitude cannot be defended if we understand the fundamental philosophies of democracy and communism. If democracy means any-



thing, it means a firm faith in the inherent infinite worth of the individual, in the innate dignity of the human being. If we honestly believe this, we will not be satisfied until the worth and dignity of every human being in the world is recognized, and that human being is permitted to live and act freely.

This is not to advocate preventive war nor rash and unintelligent action, but it is to warn all despots that we will continue to strive for justice and decency for all mankind.

There are good and noble people in my District who dream of the day when their captive homelands will be free again. They are working and preparing for that day. Such men were Thomas Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, and Sygmund Rhee of Korea. To these good people and all like them we pledge our help and our cooperation in securing a body of free nations in a free world.



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The Honorable G. R. Ford, Jr.
House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

In recent months the vague and confused discussion of "peaceful coexistence" has unfortunately bred the erroneous impression abroad, in the minds of emigres and escapees from the enslaved nations and to some degree behind the Iron Curtain, that we are abandoning the captive nations of Eastern Europe. This disquieting development has been of grave concern to this committee which is exerting every effort to combat it.

To further this endeavor we plan to utilize the traditional observance of the proclamation of Ukrainian Independence (January 22, 1918) as an occasion for the unending reaffirmation of our active faith in the eventual liberation of all the enslaved nations in the communist empire. The perspective of this committee, as consistently reflected in the testimonies of its representation on such varied subjects as the Genocide Convention, the Wherry Resolution, the Mutual Security Act, the House Investigation of Communist Aggression etc., has always been founded on the common plight and hopes of all the captive nations in Europe and Asia.

Representing ultimately the vital interests of our Nation, you could assist us greatly in this task by issuing a short statement in the suggested vein above, on or about January 22, for publication in the Congressional Record. Your statement and those of others would then be extracted by us and assembled for publication in pamphlet form to distribute abroad and even behind the Iron Curtain. The more we obtain, the more impressive our showing.

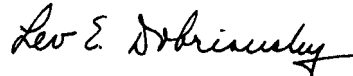
Whether or not any of your constituents happen to be of ancestry related to any of the captive nations, we earnestly believe that your transcendent convictions in the expansion of freedom and winning the minds of men will alone determine your generous assistance of a private organization dedicating its resources to these ends. To aid in the preparation of

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your statement, we are enclosing relevant material containing certain basic facts about Ukraine which you will doubtlessly find helpful.

With most grateful thanks for your cooperation and best wishes for a highly constructive session, I am

Sincerely yours,



Lev E. Dobriansky
Georgetown University

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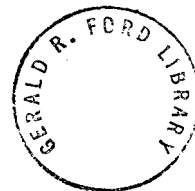


SUMMARY

The centuries-old struggle for freedom and independence on the part of the Ukrainian nation constitutes an impressive chapter in the annals of human history. This indomitable will for national freedom clearly crystallized itself in the old Ukrainian Kievan state from the ninth to the fourteenth century, in the Ukrainian Kozak state from 1648 to 1783, and more recently in the Ukrainian National Republic from 1917 to 1920. As one of the first victims of Soviet imperialism, Ukraine, since the very inception of alien Bolshevik tyranny, has proved to be the Achilles Heel of the Soviet Union. The destruction of its national churches, the horrible man-made famine of 1932-33, the mass murder at Vinnitsia in 1937-39, and the vast purges and deportations decreed by Moscow have failed to exterminate the spiritual and moral resources for national freedom in Ukraine. The historic capital of Kiev, with centuries of rich tradition and culture conserved in its vaults, still symbolizes today the indestructible hope and passion of a nation destined to be sovereign, free and independent.

During the Second World War millions of Ukrainian patriots seized the short-lived opportunity of the German invasion to realize once again this hope, only to be frustrated in their valiant efforts by the scourge of another imperialism. But this unbending will continues to be strong and powerful in the epic struggle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) against the evil forces of Soviet imperialism, and in the resistance of the Ukrainian people.

As a nation of over 40 million people - the largest non-Russian nation behind the European Iron Curtain - Ukraine stands as one of our most important and natural allies in the eventual defeat of Soviet imperialism. Its historic claim to national freedom and independence cannot be ignored. Its place as a sovereign and equal partner in the mutual construction of the free Europe of tomorrow must be assured, if the foundation of permanent peace among freedom-loving nations is to be impregnable.



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Mr. Speaker:

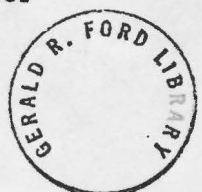
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