

EUROMAIDAN



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Director's letter

Greetings Delegates. Welcome to the Euromaidan committee at RGSSMUNVI! My name is Nichita Borodin, and I am overjoyed to present to the committee. This committee has been in the works for the past few months, and I am more than happy to bring it into fruition for RGSSMUNVI. As you work with fellow delegates over political differences, ideological disputes, or simply power, I ask that you keep in mind how MUN has affected your life, whether it has made you a better speaker, improved your confidence, or simply introduced you to some amazing people. Model UN has been a pivotal force in my high school experience, and will continue to do so for some time. I hope everyone has an amazing experience at RGSSMUNVI!

Equity message

RGSSMUNVI is dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for debates. We understand that specific topics within the wide range of debate cover sensitive issues regarding the real world. We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned positions equitably whilst communicating with staff and other representatives and responding to opposing viewpoints that others may voice.

This specific background guide contains, including but not limited to, topics pertaining to violence, fascism, humanitarian crises, human rights and war. We understand that these topics may distress some delegates, and while minimal, they should be only utilized as a point of discussion.

If, at any point in committee, a delegate feels uncomfortable with topics being discussed, the delegate is encouraged to reach out to their Chairs, Crisis Directors, and RGSSMUNVI's equity director.

RGSSMUNVI expects all delegates to conduct themselves in a respectful manner, keeping consideration towards others' boundaries. Debate should be productive, and respectful. At no point in time should delegates feel personally attacked, or unsafe. We want all delegates at RGSSMUNVI to feel safe and comfortable during the committee.

If a delegate breaches the equity terms they may be subjected to disciplinary action, disqualification or further disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Equity Director.

If you have any equity concerns, equity-based questions, or delegate conflicts at any point, please do email the Director of Equity, Jayin Hindocha at equity@rgssmunvi.com, or submit the Equity Form

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRcw5hJ0JzEiNBeMJ9VaCQZwKTwnBmIgArCUcxie9t9QrymA/viewform?usp=dialog>)

About Ukraine

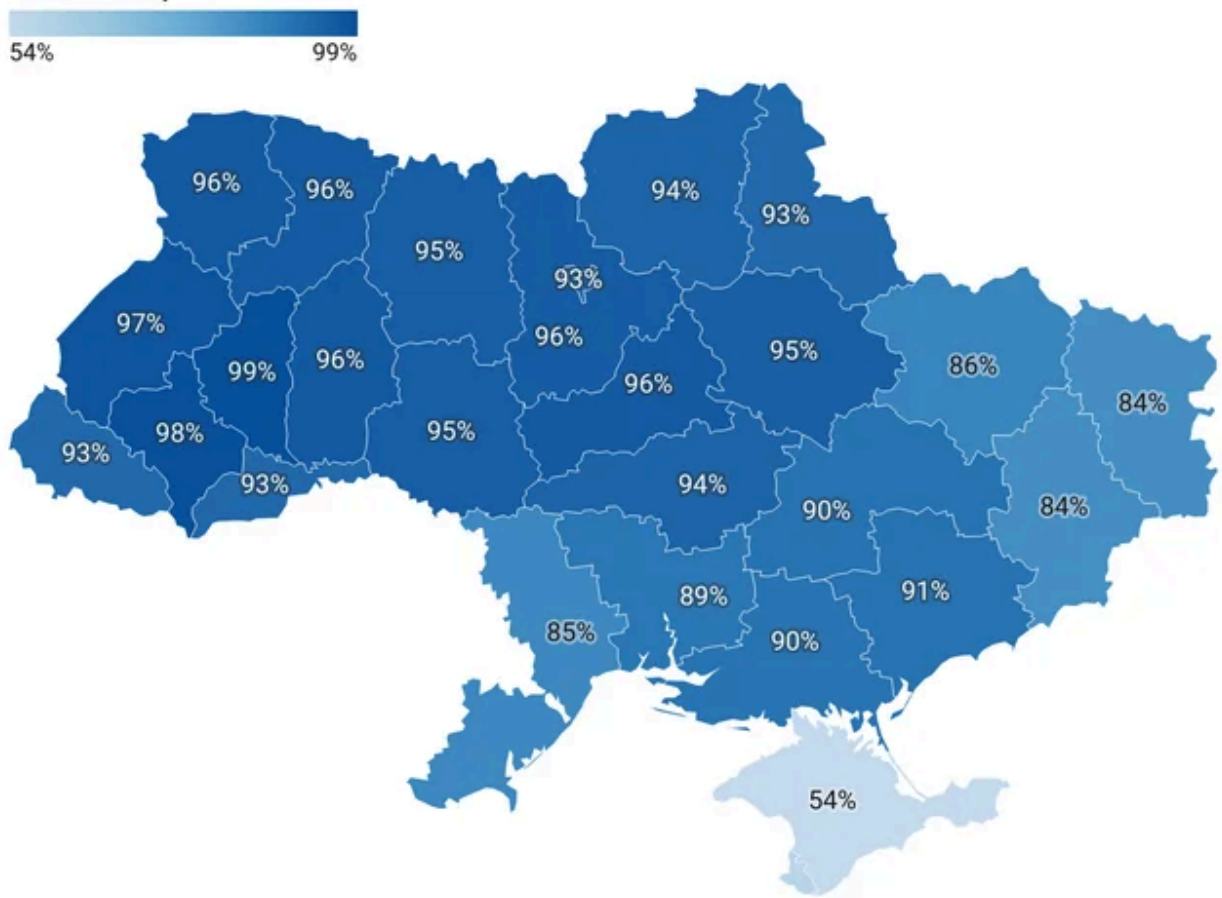
Independence

For Ukraine, the past two hundred years has it mostly existing under the occupation of a foreign country. After the Treaty of Riga in 1921, Ukraine was partitioned between numerous countries, the majority of the landmass going to the Soviet Union. Throughout this period, the idea of a free and independent Ukraine was crushed by the Soviet government, who intended on centralizing the state. However, Ukrainian nationalism never died, and within the crises of the Union in 1991, Ukraine declared independence with overwhelming support in a nationwide referendum on August 24, 1991.

Results of 1991 Ukrainian Independence Referendum

A majority of voters in every region (oblast) in Ukraine voted for independence from the collapsing Soviet Union in 1991.

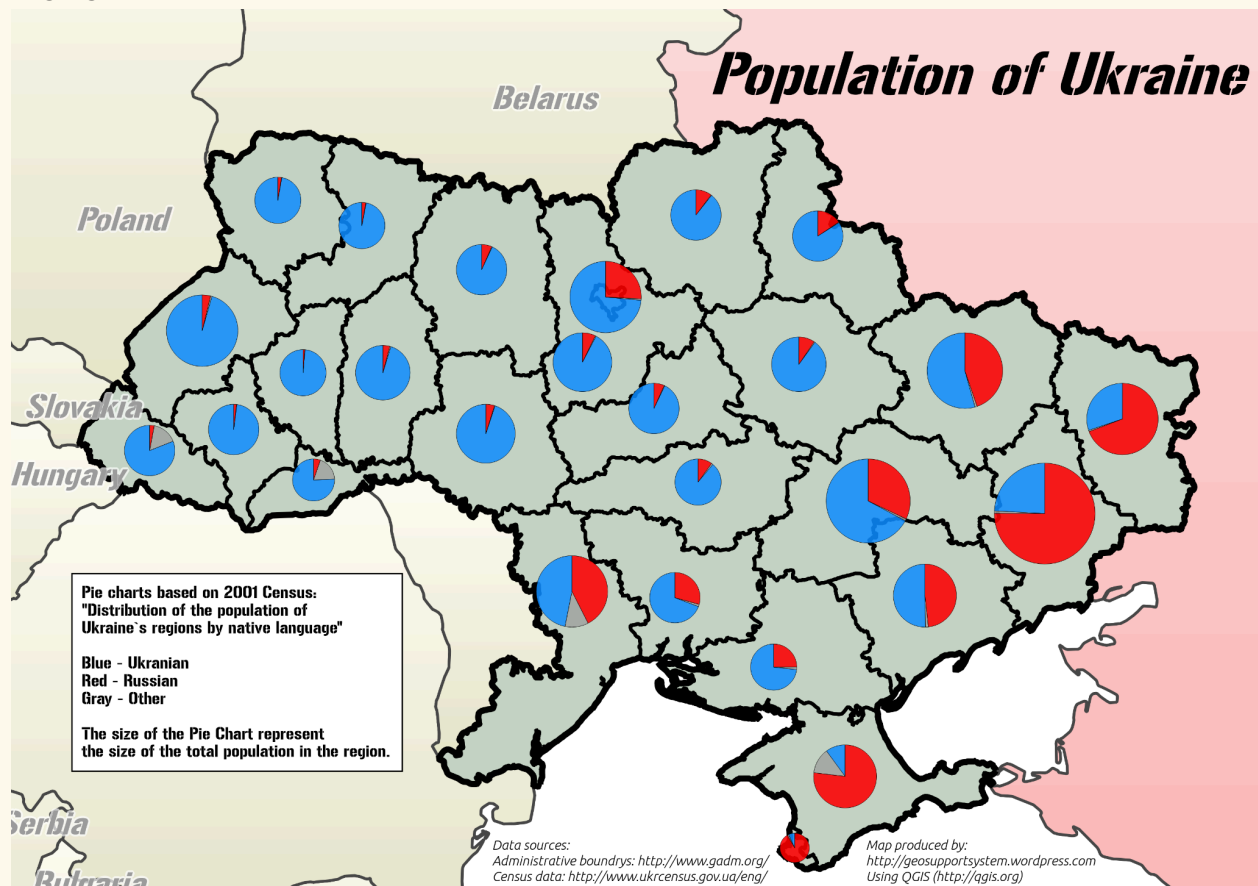
Votes for Independence



Map: u/academiaadvice • Source: Government of Ukraine

However, Ukraine bears many of the scars of the Soviet Union. Widespread corruption, government ineffectiveness, a free floating currency in crisis, and a severe language and culture divide kneecapped the new republic, some of which still affecting the country to this day.

Ukraine is a diverse country, with Ukrainian speakers primarily in the west and Russian speakers mainly in the east. The term ‘Russian speakers’ or ‘ethnic Russians’ refers to the population that is unable to speak Ukrainian, and only speaks Russian. These people may support Russia, and often use Russian language news stations such as RT.



However, speakers of Russian may not explicitly support Russia, and maps only tell a small part of the story. Many ethnic and religious minorities are present throughout the nation. The conflict is less **ethnicity** such as Yugoslavia, and more so **culture**, as it is in places such as the USA. The cities of the east such as Donetsk and Luhansk were formerly the USSR's industrial areas, nowadays the rust belt, akin to Chicago in the USA.

Oligarchy

An oligarchy, in the Ukrainian definition, refers to how a large portion of the ‘people’s deputies’ (the equivalent of a member of parliament) are commonly owners of large businesses or entire sectors. The reason for this is ‘parliamentary privilege’, which is a rule that active deputies can not be prosecuted for any crimes unless the rest of parliament agrees to strip them of said privilege. Even ‘clean’ business owners want this privilege to stop themselves from being maliciously prosecuted by an oligarch from a

competing business. For this reason, the people's deputies are composed almost entirely of big business. Whether to change this has been a point of contention for some time, with some supporting change to prevent having people above the law, while opponents believe this will open up to more malicious prosecution.

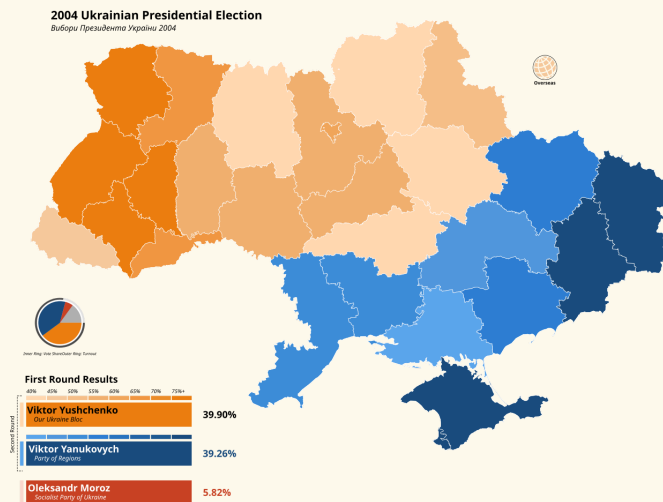
Orange Revolution

In 2004, Ukraine held its fourth ever election. The candidates most likely to win were Viktor Yushchenko, and Viktor Yanukovich. Both ran on a policy of bringing Ukraine closer to European integration, but Yanukovich's campaign was strongly supported by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Yanukovich relied on his stronghold in the eastern, Russian speaking population. Yushchenko ran on an anti-corruption, anti-cronyism policy. Yanukovich used the cultural difference between Russians and Ukrainians to drive a wedge between the candidates. Media also played a role, as many media companies receiving funding from Russia wanted Yanukovich to win, so they allegedly donated as much as \$600M to his campaign and got the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church to endorse him. Despite all this it seemed likely that Yushchenko would win anyway. In a last ditch effort, he was nearly assassinated by (allegedly) the Security Service of Ukraine.

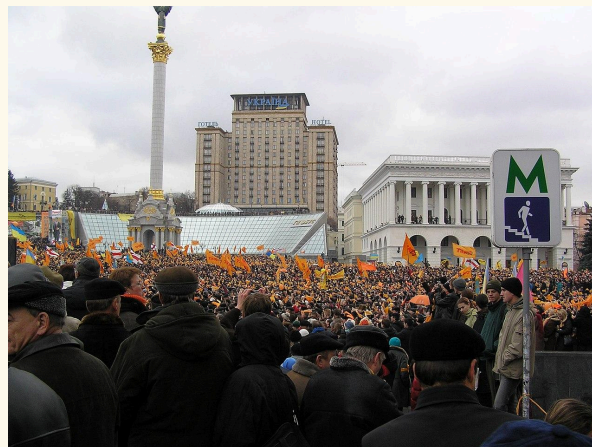


^ Yushchenko with severe chloracne, a sign of dioxin poisoning.

Even with all this, Yushchenko was still leading the elections in the first round.



In response, Yanukovich chose to organise a large scale operation to defraud the vote. Ballot stuffing, intimidation at voting booths and huge numbers of new voters appearing on the electoral rolls was all reported in Yanukovich's strongholds in the east. However, these efforts, along with the actions taken to tamper with the results were so transparently trying to rig the outcome, that they led to massive protests appearing throughout the country. The protests took the form of sit-ins, mass demonstrations, and civil disobedience. Protestors wore the colour of orange, symbolising Yushchenko's party, filling the streets to demand a recount of the vote.



These protests were successful, and led to a recount, with Yushchenko prevailing as the real victor. Thus, Viktor Yushchenko became the third president of Ukraine, with Yulia Tymoshenko becoming his prime minister. The issue is that Yushchenko and Tymoshenko despise each other, and can not work together.

The government did not last long, quickly getting into power struggles, conflicts, and active sabotage by the end of the term. This set the perfect stage for Yanukovich to make a comeback. He successfully mounted a campaign showcasing the failures of the Yushchenko government, and won in the 2010 election. His campaign made a promise that he would both get Ukraine into the EU, while not triggering Russia. The Orange revolution had severely affected relations with Russia, slashing exports and hurting the economy. Yanukovich positioned himself as 'Russia's guy', the perfect candidate. This was successful, and he won with 49.55% of the vote. Yanukovich had become Ukraine's 4th president.

Topic I: Alignment

“Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.” - Nikita Krushchev

After the Soviet Union was dissolved, a community known as the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) took its place. The most important part of this commonwealth was to provide a competitor to the European Union, which had helped the economy of several European nations. Most of the former soviet republics joined the commonwealth, minus the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania).

European Union membership is popular among the Ukrainian nationalists in the west, and Kyiv's upper middle class. It is not as supported by the Russian speakers in the east. The case for joining the EU is that

1. Poland, the Baltic States, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia joined the EU almost immediately after the Soviet Union collapsed, and are now much wealthier per capita than Ukraine
2. Joining the EU significantly diminishes the influence of Ukrainian oligarchs because their power is primarily limited to a Ukrainian context. While their businesses may be large within Ukraine, they are relatively small on a European scale. This means that Ukrainian oligarchs lack the economic leverage to exert the same level of pressure or influence on European bureaucrats.
 - a. The oligarchs are also in favour of joining the EU, as what they may lose in influence, they instead are able to integrate with legitimate European businesses, and make much more profit.

For these reasons, many politicians are in support of the EU. However, Russia would prefer Ukraine to align itself with its Eurasian Economic Union, an union controlled by Russia.

The most important issue is convincing the EU to take Ukraine seriously, while simultaneously not provoking Russia. It is a thin tightrope to traverse, and Yanukovich has already fallen off of it before. Ukraine remains economically dependent on Russian exports and imports, and suddenly cutting them or heavy tariffs/sanctions being applied suddenly would certainly lead the government's popularity to fall. Yanukovich was elected on a promise of moving Ukraine towards the EU. Should he fail, the result will not be pretty.

Guiding questions:

1. Should Ukraine align itself with the EU, Russia or non-alignment?
2. Should Ukraine pursue NATO membership or attempt to de-escalate with Russia?
 - a. If Ukraine pursues NATO membership, how should they approach this without provoking Russia?
3. Can Russia be trusted?

Topic II: Euromaidan Protests

"Likes do not count. Time to get out of Facebook and onto the streets." - Mustafa Nayem

In March 2012, the European Union and Ukraine put forward a conditional 'Association Agreement' under which Ukraine could pursue closer economic and political cooperation with the European Union if Ukraine addressed issues regarding its "stark deterioration of democracy and the rule of law". The signing of such an agreement would mark a major milestone in Ukraine's journey towards full EU membership. Following the initiation of the agreement, Ukraine's government, with support of president Viktor Yanukovich, made significant strides towards meeting the EU criteria for the ratification of the agreement.

In August 2013, as a response to the rapid progress of Ukraine towards the ratification of the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement, the Russian Federation changed its customs regulations on imports from Ukraine, halting all trade from Ukraine into Russia. As a result, Ukrainian exports dropped \$1.4 billion USD or ~10% from 2012.

On November 21, 2013, the Ukrainian Government suspended its preparations to sign the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement, with a statement from the government stating that "The Ukrainian government will suspend the negotiations for signing the Association Agreement with the EU, until we find a solution for the situation is found and when the drop in industrial production and our relations with CIS countries are compensated by the European market."

At the November 28–29 EU summit in Vilnius, where the agreement was expected to be finalized, Ukraine did not sign the deal. President Yanukovich later claimed he was pressured by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who allegedly threatened to occupy Crimea and parts of southeastern Ukraine if the agreement was signed. During this period, pro EU protesters began to organize a protest in support of the Association Agreement and set out three demands:

1. Form a coordinating committee to communicate with the European community.
2. To state that the president, parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers aren't capable of carrying out a geopolitically strategic course of development for the state and calls for Yanukovich's government's resignation.
3. Demand the cessation of political repressions against EuroMaidan activists, students, civic activists and opposition leaders.

The protesters further stated that they would gather on December 1 at the Maidan square in Kyiv to announce their further course of action.

Meanwhile 'compensation' which was sought by Ukraine to offset the costs of the EU deal came in the form of a US\$50+ billion loan which was rejected by both the IMF and the EU. The IMF offered a US\$4 Billion loan under the condition that the Ukrainian government would make major budget cuts while also conducting incremental increases to gas prices with a final target being a 40% in rates. The EU offered a US\$838 million loan with the condition of major reforms to Ukrainian laws and regulations. The Russian Federation, on the other hand, offered a US\$15 billion loan with no legal reform preconditions.

However, Russia had shown a willingness to sanction Ukraine as they did during the Orange Revolution, and may not keep its word.

The protests first began after a Facebook post rallied people to the Maiden square. They originally started due to Yanukovich's sudden decision to not sign the EU-Ukraine association agreement,

but they quickly expanded into a country wide phenomenon having their say on oligarchs, corruption, and the general poor state of the economy. These protesters are now camping out near Kyiv, demanding an end to the terrible state of affairs. Camps have been created throughout the capital, the largest on Maiden square. Although life has seemingly gone as normal outside the protest zones, there is no guarantee this will last.

Currently the only thing stopping the protestors from attacking government positions is the police forces known for being brutal, and the far right militias who are possibly being paid by some in the government.

The government has three options from here; A Tiananmen Square style crackdown, which would certainly lead to US sanctions, government repression, and rights being curtailed, giving into the protesters, leading to Russian sanctions, an unstable economy, and likely the end of the Yanukovich presidency, or some sort of compromise. Whatever the option will be, it must be made fast, as years of mismanagement has led to the patience of these protests running thin.

Guiding Questions:

1. What deal should Ukraine take?
2. How does Ukraine get the funds it needs from the western world?
3. How should Ukraine approach the protests?

Character Guide

The following is a list of characters in committee, with a position and a business, if any, they control. Not all characters may be assigned.

Neutral characters

These characters may have a preference for a side but can swing with some convincing.

Oleh Tyahnybok

The leader of the Svoboda party, he was born in Lviv and is a well known ultranationalist. He currently holds a significant amount of support among nationalists in Ukraine and would consider giving up any Ukrainian territory to another country treason. He considers Russia to be the biggest outside threat to Ukraine, but is also opposed to joining the EU.

Natalia Korolevska

One of the richest Ukrainians, Natalia holds significant positions in the food industry, but is also the leader of the social democrat 'Ukraine - Forward!' party. She remains a neutral figure and may choose how the party reacts in this crisis.

Petro Symonenko

The leader of the Ukrainian Communist party, Petro Symonenko, remains to be seen if he will ally with Russia or attempt to forge a new future. So far, the Ukrainian Communists are against both the current regime and the protests.

Andriy Biletsky

A former member of the predecessor to the Svoboda party, Andriy Bieltsky is a Ukrainian nationalist hailing from Kharkiv. He is ready to fight to protect Ukraine, but it remains to be seen from whom.

Yanukovych Allied

These characters are allied with Yanukovych's party

Viktor Yanukovych

Viktork Yanukovych is the current embattled president of Ukraine. His leadership is shaky, and after not signing the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement, is facing large protests in Kyiv. How he chooses to handle the situation may shape the future of Ukraine.

Mykola Azarov

Mykola Azarov is the current Prime Minister of the Ukrainian Government and Parliament (Verkhovna Rada). He wields influence on how the People's Deputies, many of which representing business interests, move the country forward. He is also capable of appointing or removing Ministers of the government.

Vitaliy Zakharchenko

The minister of Internal affairs, Vitaliy Zakharchenko is in charge of protecting citizens and their liberties, but also has the power to deploy the gendarmerie. The minister is also capable of deploying the militsiya, a police force who is known for brutality, corruption, and excessive force.

Leonid Kozhara

Leonid Kozhara is critical to securing support from other countries, as he is the Minister of Foreign affairs. He is likely to be in close contact with foreign powers either securing their support or warning them not to interfere.

Anatolii Mohyliov

Anatolii Mohyliov is the Prime minister of Crimea, a region of Ukraine with a very large pro Russian population, and holds influence over how the region may act in the future. He is also sympathetic to Russian influence.

Margarita Simonyan

Margarita Simonyan is the Editor-in-Chief for RT (Russia Today), a news agency controlled by the Russian government. It has recently come under fire for promoting Russian government narratives. However, many people in the eastern Russian speaking regions trust it, and will listen to what it says. For this reason, Margarita Simonyan is able to control the media's narrative over the situation.

Maiden Allied

These characters are opposed to Yanukovych's party

Yulia Tymoshenko

Yulia is the leader of the Batkivshchyna party which is very popular among Ukraine's nationalist community in the east. She positioned herself as the leader of the protests during the Orange revolution and successfully led the charge to redo the elections. She continues to be a leading opposition leader after being arrested by Yanukovych on charges widely considered to be politically motivated.

Vitali Klitschko

A former boxer, Vitali Klitschko is a big supporter of EU membership, and has positioned himself as a key figure in the protests. He is ready to fight for the freedom of Ukraine to choose its own path towards the EU and is one of the leading figures in the fight against Yanukovych's government.

Petro Poroshenko

Petro Poroshenko is one of the most prominent Ukrainian oligarchs, having wide reaching investments in candy, and media. He is estimated to have assets worth over \$1 billion USD. In addition to this, Petro Poroshenko is also one of the most ardent supporters of the Euromaidan protests, providing both financial and political support to the movement.. He has control over a number of news stations, and considers Russia a major threat, despite conducting quite a bit of business with the country.

Andriy Sadovyi

Elected Mayor of Lviv in 2006, Andriy Sadovyi is a proponent of the western Ukrainian nationalist opinion and is in support of Yulia Tymoshenko. He is very popular in his district.

Ruslana Lyzhychko

Known professionally as just Ruslana, she is a popular musician, having performed in Eurovision many times. She has a strong support for the protests, and wants to see them succeed. She may use her skills in music to help this goal.

Tetiana Chornovol

Tetiana Chornovol is a highly regarded journalist in Ukraine. She is known for taking direct action, and has positioned herself as one of the leaders of the protests. She is able to use her contacts to influence the media's perspective on the situation.

Foreign Figures

Vladimir Putin

Vladimir Putin is a man who has worked in the upper echelons of Russian politics for the past few decades. He was elected for his third term in 2012, an election marked with allegations of fraud and vote tampering. He has a strong influence over Russia's oligarchs and politics. He also leads the direction of a country with what is widely believed to be the second most powerful military on the planet.

Sergey Glazyev

Sergey Glazyev currently works as the Adviser to the President of Russia, and is able to influence the direction of the president and therefore the country. He is also in charge of creating an alternative to the EU for Ukraine to join.

Patriarch Kirill

Patriarch Kirill, secular name Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev, is the Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus', the most popular religious organisation in Russia, with considerable influence over Ukraine. He is also a close ally of Vladimir Putin and suspected to have been a KGB spy back in the Soviet days. Regardless, he is the leader of a religion with millions of members, and can exert control from this.

Barack Obama

Barack Obama became the President of the United States in 2012, elected on a policy focused on domestic issues. The leader of a country at the forefront of the 'free world', he will be instrumental in how much help Ukraine will have in defending against any threats.

Joe Biden

Joe Biden was Obama's running mate in 2012, becoming the vice president after his victory. The vice president is generally assumed to be more focused on foreign issues, especially in eastern Europe, to counter a possibly resurging Russia.

Herman Van Rompuy

Herman Van Rompuy is the first permanent President of the EU. In this role, he steers the direction of the European parliament. For this, he is strongly in support of EU enlargement, but may see Ukraine as more of a burden than an opportunity.

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