

Ukraine

Ukraine

Україна ([Ukrainian](#))

[Flag of Ukraine](#)

[Flag](#)

[Coat of arms of Ukraine](#)

[Coat of arms](#)

Anthem: Державний Гімн України

Derzhavnyi Himn Ukrainy

"[State Anthem of Ukraine](#)"

[Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine](#)

shown in light green

Territory of Ukraine shown in dark green

Capital

and largest city

[Kyiv](#)

[49°N 32°E](#)

Official language

and national language

[Ukrainian](#)^[1]

[Ethnic groups](#) (2001)
^[2]

78% [Ukrainians](#)

17% [Russians](#)

4.9% [other](#)

Religion (2018)^[3]

87.3% [Christianity](#)

11.0% [no religion](#)

0.8% [other](#)

0.9% unanswered

[Demonym\(s\)](#)

[Ukrainian](#)

Government

Unitary [semi-presidential republic](#) under [dictatorship](#)

- [President](#)
- [Prime Minister](#)
- [Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada](#)

[Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#)

[Denys Shmyhal](#)

[Ruslan Stefanchuk](#)

Legislature

[Verkhovna Rada](#)

[Formation](#)

- [Kievan Rus'](#) 882
- [Galicia-Volhynia](#) 1199
- [Cossack Hetmanate](#) 18 August 1649

| | |
|---|---|
| • People's Republic | 20 November 1917 |
| • Soviet Republic | 10 March 1919 |
| • UN membership | 24 October 1945 |
| • Independence declared | 24 August 1991 |
| • Current constitution | 28 June 1996 |
| Area | |
| • Total | 603,628 ^[4] km ² (233,062 sq mi) (45th) |
| • Water (%) | 3.8 ^[5] |
| Population | |
| • 2024 estimate | Increase 33,365,000 ^[6] (36th) |
| • Density | 60.9/km ² (157.7/sq mi) (126th) |
| GDP (PPP) | |
| | 2024 estimate |
| • Total | Increase \$515.947 billion ^[6] (49th) |
| • Per capita | Increase \$15,464 ^[6] (102nd) |
| GDP (nominal) | |
| | 2024 estimate |
| • Total | Increase \$188.943 billion ^[6] (58th) |
| • Per capita | Increase \$5,663 ^[6] (111st) |
| Gini (2020) | Positive decrease 25.6 ^[7] low |
| HDI (2022) | Decrease 0.734 ^[8] high · 100th |
| Currency | Hryvnia (₴) (UAH) |
| Time zone | UTC+2 ^[9] (EET) |
| • Summer (DST) | UTC+3 (EEST) |
| Date format | dd.mm.yyyy |
| Driving side | right |
| Calling code | +380 |
| ISO 3166 code | UA |
| Internet TLD | .ua .ukr |

[National park](#) "Sviati Hory" (Holy Mountains), [Donetsk Oblast](#), Ukraine

Ukraine ([Ukrainian](#): Україна, [romanized](#): *Ukraina*, pronounced [\[ukreˈjinɐ\]](#) ([audio speaker icon listen](#))) is a [country](#) in [Eastern Europe](#). [Russia](#) is to the [north-east](#) of Ukraine, [Belarus](#) is to the [north-west](#), [Poland](#) and [Slovakia](#) are to the [west](#), [Hungary](#), [Romania](#), [Moldova](#) and self-proclaimed [Transnistria](#) are to the [south-west](#) and the [Black Sea](#) is to the [south](#).

Ukraine is a [republic](#). The capital of Ukraine is [Kyiv](#) ([Ukrainian](#): Київ). It was a part of the [Soviet Union](#) from 1922 until 1991.

Official language

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The official language of Ukraine is [Ukrainian](#) ([Ukrainian](#): українська мова, [ukrajin's'ka mova]). In the 2001 census, about 29% of people in Ukraine said that they consider [Russian](#) to be their main language. These two [East Slavic languages](#) are similar in some ways but different in other ways.^{[\[10\]](#)}

Division of Ukraine

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Ukraine is divided into 24 [oblasts](#) and one autonomous republic, with Kyiv City and Sevastopol having special status.

The largest cities of Ukraine

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The largest cities in Ukraine are:

- [Kyiv](#) (from the late 9th century was the capital of [Kyivan Rus](#); the capital of Ukraine since the restoration of the independent Ukrainian state in 1919)
- [Kharkiv](#) (was the capital of [USSR](#) in 1919—1934)
- [Dnipro](#)
- [Odesa](#)
- [Zaporizhia](#)
- [Lviv](#)

Name origin

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The name "Ukraine" (u-krayina) has usually been interpreted as "edge" or "borderland", but this an alternative interpretation as "territory" has been proposed. Language specialists are still searching for evidence of the history of the meaning of the word.

It was first used in reference to a core part of the territory of Kyivan Rus in the 12th century. In English, the historical region was usually known as "the Ukraine". Since independence in 1991, adding "the" is no longer proper style for referring to the country.

History

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Ancient times

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Many different tribes lived on the territory of modern Ukraine since pre-historical times. Most historians believe that the Great [Steppe](#) at the North of the [Black Sea](#) was a homeland of all [Indo-European](#) and [Indo-Iranian languages](#). Some believe it was also the birthplace of the whole European population. Wends, [Goths](#), [Huns](#), Sclaveni, Avars, and other tribes and tribal groups fought among themselves, joined unions, terminated, and assimilated each other.

By the middle of the 4th century AD, Antes joined other tribes and established a state under their rule. Their state fell under the pressure of [Avars](#) in 602 AD and their name was longer mentioned. Since the 7th century over 10 tribal groups joined under the name "Slavs" and made their own state named Rus. The chronicles mention three centers that formed this state: Kuyavia (Kyiv land with Kyiv itself), Slavia ([Novgorod](#) land), and Artania (exact location unknown).

Historians still argue about whether Kyiv was founded by Slavs themselves, or they just captured the [Khazar](#) fortress which was located on the bank of the [Dnieper](#) river, but since the 10th century, it became the capital of the largest and most powerful state in Eastern Europe.

Kyivan Rus

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[Kyivan Rus](#), is the medieval state of Eastern Slavs.^[11] Established by the Slavic with the help of the Varangian squads whose force was used to integrate separate tribes and their lands into one powerful state. Varangian princes, who ruled Rus from its first years were gradually assimilated by natives, but the [dynasty](#) started by semy-legendary Rurik survived and continued to govern their separate principalities even after the collapse of Rus.

At an early stage of its existence Rus destroyed such powerful states as the Khazar Khaganate and Old Great [Bulgaria](#). Rus princes successfully fought against the [Byzantine Empire](#), whose emperors had to pay [tribute](#) to them. Rus' finally disintegrated into separate principalities.

In the reign of [Volodymyr the Great](#) (980-1015) the Kyivan State almost finished its expansion. It occupied the territory from Peipus, [Ladoga](#) and Onega lakes in the north to the River Don, Ros, Sula, [Southern Bug](#) in the south, from the Dniester, the Carpathians, the Neman, Western Dvina River in the west to the Volga and the Oka River in the east, its area became about 800,000 km². Although some of his predecessors already accepted Christianity for themselves, Volodymyr decided to convert the entire population of the state to the new religion. Partially with the help of Byzantine missionaries preachers, partly by the brutal violence, he finally made all Kyiv population to be baptized. For this action, the Ukrainian, and later the [Russian Orthodox Churches](#) canonized him under the name of Vladimir the Baptist.

During the reign of [Yaroslav the Wise](#), (1019-1054), Rus reached the zenith of its cultural development and military power. Rus raised the prestige of Eastern Slavs in Europe, improved the international significance of Kyiv. Rus influenced the political relations in all of Europe, Western Asia, and the Middle East. Kyivan princes supported the political, economic, dynastic relations with France, Sweden, England, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Byzantium.

The Rus state also ruled non-Slavic people ([Finno-Ugric](#) population of the North, Turkic of the East and South, Balts of the West, etc.). Those people gradually assimilated with the Slavs, and with each other, establishing a framework for the future emergence of three new Eastern-Slavic peoples.

The Kyivan State was an eastern outpost of European [Christendom](#), it kept the movement of nomad hordes to the West, and reduced their onslaught against Byzantium and Central European countries.

After the death of Mstyslav Volodymyrovych (1132), Rus lost its political unity and finally was divided into 15 principalities and lands. Among them, Kyiv, Chernyiv, Volodymyr-Suzdal, [Novgorod](#), [Smolensk](#), Polotsk, and Halycian lands and principalities were most large and powerful.

Major political conditions of fragmentation were:

- The succession among the princes of Kyivan State was different: in some regions lands passed from father to son, in others from the older to the younger brother, etc.
- The political relationship between individual fiefdoms and private lands was weakened, and the better development of certain lands led to the formation of local separatism;
- In some regions the local aristocracy required a strong prince to rule, in order to protect their rights. On the other hand, while the feudal princes and [boyars](#) real power increased, and the power of the Grand Prince decreased, more and more nobles felt priority of their local interests above national ones;
- There was not created their own dynasty in the Kyiv principality, because all the princely families struggled with each other for possession of Kyiv ;
- Nomads dramatically intensified their expansion to Kyivan lands.

While Kyiv was the center of all social, economic, political, cultural, and ideological life in the country for a long time before, other centers have competed with it since the mid-12th century. There were old powers (Novgorod, Smolensk, Polotsk), as well as new ones...

Numerous princely feuds, large and small wars between different lords, were tearing Rus. However, the ancient Ukrainian state did not fall apart. It only changed the form of its government: The personal monarchy was replaced by the federal one, Rus came to be co-ruled by the group of the most influential and powerful princes. Historians call this way of governing "the collective suzerainty." The Principality of Kyiv remained a national center and the residence of bishops.

In 1206 the new powerful military-feudal Mongolian state headed by [Genghis Khan](#) started the war of conquest against his neighbors. In 1223 in the battle near the Kalka River, 25,000 Tatar-Mongols won a crushing victory over the squads of Southern Rus Princes, who were unable to come together even in the face of grave danger. Under the leadership of Batu, Genghis Khan's grandson, from 1237 to 1238, they conquered Riazan, Volodymyr, Suzdal, and Yaroslavl lands.

In 1240, they attacked Kyiv. The city was plundered and destroyed. According to the legend, the enemy saved governor Dimitri's life for his personal courage in the battle. Then Kamenetz, Iziaslav, Volodymyr, and Halych lost against invaders. Batu was able to attach most of Rus to his empire, the [Golden Horde](#), which covered the whole territory from the Urals to the Black Sea,

After the fall of Kyivan State, the political, economic, and cultural center of Ukrainian lands was transferred to the Halycian-Volyn Land. In 1245 Prince Danylo of Halych had to admit his dependence on the [Golden Horde](#). Hoping to get help from Catholic Europe in his struggle for independence, he also made a secret alliance with Poland, Hungary, Masovia, and the [Teutonic Knights](#). In 1253 he received the crown from Pope Innocent IV and became a King of Rus. In 1259, due to the lack of military aid from the West, the king was forced to re-recognize the supremacy of the Horde. His successor, Lev I had to take part in the Tartar campaigns against Poland and Lithuania.

In 1308 the government moved to Danylo's grandchildren - Andrew and Lev II, who started the new struggle against the Golden Horde allied with the Teutonic knights and princes of Mazowia. However, after their death the last monarch Yuri II again had to claim himself as the Golden Horde vassal. He was murdered in 1340 and his death gave the rise to Poland and Lithuania (the neighbors who had a dynastic right for the throne of Rus) to start a war for the Halycian-Volyn heritage. In 1392 Galicia, with Belz and Chelm Lands were finally incorporated to the Kingdom of Poland and Volhynia to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

At the end of the 14th century, Ukrainian territories were divided between different states. Lithuania seized Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Volyn Lands. Poland ruled in Halycian and Podolian. Southern Ukraine was under the rule of the Crimean Khanate (formed in 1447) and the Eastern under the power of Muscovy. In 1569 Lithuania and Poland merged to the united state called

Commonwealth (Polish: Rzeczpospolita) to deal with neighbors, as a result, the central Ukrainian lands of Lithuania came under Polish control.

Etymology

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Rus, or The Kyivan State, **Latin**: *Ruthenia*, **Greek**: Ρωσία; often misspelled as "Kievan State" or even "Kievan Rus", using Russian spelling of its capital Kyiv (**Russian**: Киев ['kiɛf]).

As for the origin and definition of the name "Rus", there is no consensus among researchers. Several versions exist:

- **Normans (Vikings)**, tribes who called themselves Ruses, and founded a state among Slavs, which naturally was called 'Rus Land'. This theory originated in the 17th century and was called the 'Norman theory'. Its authors are German historians G. Bayer and G. Miller, their followers and associates are called 'Normanists';
- Ruses were a Slavic tribe that lived in the middle reaches of the Dnieper;
- Rusa - the Proto-Slavic language word which means 'river';

Ukrainian historians generally adhere to anti-Norman opinion, while not denying the contribution **Varangians** in the process of formation of the Rus state system. Russ, or The Rus Land in their opinion means:

- The name of the territory where Kyiv, Chernigov and Pereiaslav are located (Polans, Severians, Drevlians tribes);
- The name of the tribes who lived on the banks of the rivers Ros, Rosava, Rostavytsia, Roska, etc.
- The name of the Kyivan state itself since the 9th century.

Cossackian State

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At the end of the 15th century, the groups of warriors who called themselves **Cossacks** appeared on the territory between the borders of Lithuania, Muscovy, and the Crimea, in the "wild **steppes**" of Zaporizhia. From the 16th century, the Sich became their military centre. Zaporizhian Cossacks participated in the wars on the side of the Commonwealth: the Livonian War (1558-1583), the Polish-Muscovite War (1605-1618), Khotyn war (1620-1621), and Smolensk war (1632-1634). Cossacks also organized their own campaigns in Moldavia, Muscovy, and Crimea, on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria and in Asia Minor for **looting**. They willingly became **mercenaries**, particularly during the **Thirty Years' War** (1618-1648).

Due to the legal and social oppression of the nobility Cossacks repeatedly revolted. The largest rebellions were raised under the guidance of Kosynskiy (1591-1593), Nalyvaiko (1594-1596), Zhmaylo (1625), Fedorovych (1630), Sulima (1635), Pavlyuk (1637), and Ostryanin (1638). Cossacks, again and

again, defended the rights of the Ukrainian population in the Commonwealth who experienced religious and national oppression regularly.

For the conflict in the 1850s see [Crimean War](#).

20th century

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In 1917 an independent [Ukrainian People's Republic](#) was established. The [Red Army](#) captured it and made it into the [Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic](#).

[Soviet Russia](#) in the 1920s encouraged the [Ukrainian language](#) and [Ukrainian culture](#). In the 1930s this policy changed to making the Ukrainians into Russians. There were mass repressions of Ukrainian poets, historians, and linguists. As in other parts of the [Soviet Union](#), although mostly in Ukraine, millions of people starved to death in 1932 and 1933.

During the first years of [World War II](#), Ukrainian [nationalists](#) collaborated with Nazis against [Soviet Union](#) hoping to reestablish Ukrainian independence or to get autonomy under the authority of Germany. Nationalists took part in mass murders of Jews, Roma people, and other victims of the Nazi regime. However, hopes of independence were ruined and Ukrainian nationalists created [Ukrainian Insurgent Army](#) which fought against [Nazi Germany](#) but against the [Soviet Union](#) (mainly Soviet partisans) for the most part. They failed to get [independence](#). Most Ukrainians fought on the side of the Soviet Union and participated in the liberation of Ukraine from Nazi Germany.

In 1986, the fourth reactor at the [Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant](#) exploded as a result of an improper test. The accident contaminated large portions of northern Ukraine and southern Belarus with [uranium](#), [plutonium](#), and radioactive isotopes. It was one of only two [INES](#) level 7 accidents (the worst level) in the history of nuclear power, the other being the [Fukushima nuclear disaster](#) in Japan.

Under the second Soviet occupation repressions against Ukrainian nationalists continued and lasted till the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the Soviet epoch, Ukraine was renamed to so-called a "[Soviet Socialist Republic](#)" incorporated into [Soviet Union](#). Independence day — 24 August 1991

Modern independence

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President elections: 1 December 1991, July 1994, October-November 1999, October-December 2004, January 2010

Parliament elections: March 1994, March 1998, March 2002, March 2006, September 2007 (prematurely), October 2012

Constitution of Ukraine was adopted by Parliament ([Verkhovna Rada](#)) 28 July 1996 with changes 8 December 2004.

The political demonstrations in autumn-winter 2004 after the Presidential elections gathered millions of people all over the country. On November 26, 2004, [Victor Yushenko](#) lost the Ukrainian presidential election ([Viktor Yanukovich](#) was declared the winner). However, Yushenko and his followers argued that the election had been corrupted. They argued that the election results had been falsified by the Ukrainian government, in support of the opposing candidate [Victor Yanukovich](#).^[12] They organized political demonstrations in autumn-winter 2004 that gathered millions of people all over the country. They called the demonstrations *The Orange Revolution* ([Ukrainian](#): Помаранчева революція). Former [Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko](#) was an important ally of [Victor Yushenko](#) during the demonstrations. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine ordered the second round of elections, which Yushenko won.

See the main article: [Euromaidan](#)

Big pro-[European Union](#) protests called Euromaidan ([Ukrainian](#): Євромайдан) began in November 2013 and made the President go away in February.

Russian invasion of Crimea

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In March 2014, [Russia](#) invaded [Crimea](#), holding a referendum in which the people voted overwhelmingly to become independent from Ukraine and join the Russian Federation. Despite the criticisms from certain countries, the majority of Crimean residents welcomed the return to their Russian roots.
^{[13][14]}

After some conflicts, the regions of [Donetsk](#) and [Luhansk](#) declared independence from Ukraine; they are known as the [Donetsk People's Republic](#), and [Luhansk People's Republic](#).

In 2016, the [New Safe Confinement](#) was built to cover the remains of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and prevent radiation from escaping.

Russian invasion in Ukraine

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See the main article: [2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

On 24 February 2022, [Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) announced a invasion of Ukraine with the goal to protect Russian citizens. Till now

Ukrainians are dying from the russian war ^[15] Russia invaded Ukraine from many different directions and from the air using missiles.^[16]

Economy

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In 2023, media said that "Ukraine's top ten [manufacturing](#) [companies or] leaders earned a total" of (\$8.3 billion, or) Hr.317.53 billion "in profits in 2023, according to [Opendatabot](#)".^[17]

In regard to [minerals](#) that have not been taken out of the [ground](#): "Ukraine holds the largest [titanium reserves](#) in Europe ... 7 percent of the world's reserves" and [lithium](#) reserves, almost 500,000 tons.^[18]

Presidents of Ukraine

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

See the main article: [President of Ukraine](#)

The current president is [Volodymyr Zelensky](#) since 2019.

Related pages

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [List of rivers of Ukraine](#)
- [Ukraine at the Olympics](#)
- [Ukraine national football team](#)

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Dependencies

[Akrotiri and Dhekelia](#)¹ - [Azores](#)⁵ - [Ceuta](#)^{5, 6} - [Faroe Islands](#)⁵ - [Gibraltar](#)⁵ - [Greenland](#)^{5,2} - [Guernsey](#) - [Jan Mayen](#) - [Jersey](#) - [Isle of Man](#) - [Melilla](#)^{5,6} - [Svalbard](#)

Other Countries

[Abkhazia](#)^{1,3} - [Kosovo](#)³ - [South Ossetia](#)^{1, 3} - [Transnistria](#) - [Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus](#)^{1,3}

1. [Transcontinental country](#)/territory that is part of both Europe and Asia. 2. Territory or with territory geographically part of North America. 3. Partially recognized. 4. Not all dependent territories are listed. 5. Territory has some form of self-rule. 6. Territory or with territory geographically part of Africa.

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