

# **The Christ of Nations**

## **Part 1**

## **Preface**

The purpose of this paper is to expose the true nature of the evils that spill over from the heartland, and illustrate the grave threat they pose to the world. Throughout history, Poland has been at the forefront of this centuries-old battle. This part of the paper will cover central and eastern European history from the middle ages up to the great war, with a particular focus on Poland-Lithuania. The second portion will cover relevant geopolitics from the interwar period to the contemporary. While the department of this course is Polish studies, the history of Poles is so closely intertwined with the Balts, eastern Slav's, and Russians, that it's difficult to discuss one without the other, especially when all those countries where one country for 500 years, and part of Russia for almost another 200 years. While Poland managed to retain its identity under Russian yoke, many Ruthenians had lost theirs through generations of russification. Thus, Jozef Pilsudski, who was of Polish-Lithuanian identity, believed Poland had a civilizing mission in Ukraine.

Despite the xenophobic and nationalist undertones of some portions of this paper, it should not be misconstrued as promoting racism. In fact, the purpose of this paper is to promote tolerance, European multiculturalism, and unity, while denouncing the backward barbarism, anti-semitism, anti-europeanism, and overall intolerance of Russia, which seeks only to divide and conquer its neighbors, rather than befriend them. One cannot look at pre-20th century history through the tinted glasses of contemporary PC culture. During the cold war, Russophobia and anti-Russian sentiment was even encouraged in schools and universities, especially during the McCarthy era. The same is likely to become the case now with the second cold war. Hillary Clinton was often accused of Neo-McCarthyism in the past elections, whereas Donald Trump was heavily criticized for his apparent Russophilia.

Political correctness is also known as cultural Marxism, and its trademark is intolerance. PC is in fact a Russian ideology created to undermine Judeo-Christian values. The word “Racistov” or “Racist” was coined by one of the principal architects of the 74 year Soviet nightmare and founder of the Red army - Leon Trotsky.[3] For the longest time, this word has been the single most effective fear-inducing word in the neoconservative and leftist arsenal. For decades, they’ve successfully used it in the political arena to shut down debate, slander traditionalists, and leave opponents running for cover. Socially, they’ve caused even more damage by using it to brainwash impressionable young children and college students, to teach people to hate their nation, their culture, traditions, and worst of all, themselves. It was often used by Trotsky as a rallying cry for good Red Army communists to “embark upon murderous rampages against peoples who resisted having their traditional way of life paved over and replaced with an alien system”. [4]

In his book, Trotsky alluded to Slavophiles, who were a group of traditionalist Slavs who greatly valued their native culture and way of life, and desired to protect it. Trotsky on the other hand saw these people and others like them as an impediment to his internationalist communist plans for the world. Trotsky did not care one iota about the Russian Slavs whom supposedly he served. To him, Slavs that committed the "crime" of loving their own people, and trying to protect their culture and traditions were simply "backward" and "racist". [3] Today, the word's been expanded from just Slavs, to all white people, Slavic or otherwise, who refuse to submit to the vile Marxist internationalist plan to uproot and destroy their culture and traditions.

Leon Trotsky created a weapon that would arguably cause more damage to the West than Stalin and his successors' entire Soviet nuclear arsenal could have ever done. He invented a word that empowered literally the most rotten, traitorous weasels in the West to redefine those loyal to their own people, their culture, traditions, and way of life as the worst evil, and to send the government, mass media, and education system, on a royal crusade until they themselves and practically everyone around them actually believe it. This unholy creation would be repeated over and over again, until the West is demoralized and submits to the entire Trotskyist agenda, without a single shot fired.

We can already see the final stages of this playing out right now, with racial double standards, the creation of hate speech and racism laws in Europe, and most of all, the huge wave of Islamic terrorists, refugees and economic migrants flooding into the West, supported by Ultra-liberal western governments, which is radically altering the makeup and culture of those countries, and threatening their original populations with becoming a minority in their own nation within only a few decades. [38] Only the Central/Eastern European countries have enough common sense not to submit to this internationalist conspiracy. They've all endured communism, and know exactly what it's all about.

Furthermore, Russia has historically been one of the most anti-semitic countries. The protocols of the learned elders of Zion was fabricated by Russians as anti-Semitic propaganda. The same year it was published an anti-Jewish riot occurred in the Bessarabia governorate of the Russian empire, instigated by an anti-Semitic Russian newspaper.

The New York Times described the first Kishinev pogrom (there was more of them):

“ The anti-Jewish riots in Kishinev, Bessarabia, are worse than the censor will permit to publish. There was a well laid-out plan for the general massacre of Jews on the day following the Russian Easter. The mob was led by priests, and the general cry, "Kill the Jews," was taken- up all over the city. The Jews were taken wholly unaware and were slaughtered like sheep. The dead number 120 and the injured about 500. The scenes of horror attending this massacre are beyond description. Babies were literally torn to pieces by the frenzied and bloodthirsty mob. The local police made no attempt to check the reign of terror. At sunset the streets were piled with corpses and wounded. Those who could make their escape fled in terror, and the city is now practically deserted of Jews”

There were even Pogroms in Russian Poland and Ukraine that were orchestrated by Tsarist forces, with the sole conceivable purpose of creating bad blood between the Jewish and Catholic populations, as part of its divide and conquer strategy. In fact, the majority of Pogroms since the time of Ivan the Terrible up until the Kiev pogrom of 1919 (perpetrated by white Russian volunteers), all occurred in Russian territory. Coincidence?

## **Part 1**

Around 1060 years ago, a new kingdom had emerged in the heart of Europe. A Slavic nation, descended from the Sarmatians, and bestowed with the cursed destiny of defending Christian Europe's borders from swarms of Asiatic hordes for over a millennium. First from the Mongol's in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, then the Ottoman Turk's from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century, and finally the Russian's from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. However, Poland's massive contributions to European security are rarely acknowledged or appreciated by those it saved.

Over the centuries, Poland forged many friendship's, some of which are still alive and well today. The inspiration for the modern day Visegrad group traces its origins to a meeting of Bohemian, Polish, and Hungarian kings in Visegrad castle, 1335. In the middle ages, Poland joined in personal union's with Lithuania and Hungary, both vastly larger and more powerful than they are today. The Kingdom of Hungary included present-day Czechia, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, and Luxembourg, whereas Lithuania included all of what was once the Kievan Rus as well as parts of Muscovy.

Poland participated in some of the early successful defensive crusades against invading Muslim's, much like it has in more recent times with NATO, such as the invasion of Iraq where Poland occupied the largest portion. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century during the Mongol invasions of Europe, Poland served as a buffer, and inflicted heavy casualties in the Battle of Legnica, which may have contributed to the Mongol's decision to withdraw. The Kievan Rus was too weak to resist the invasion by itself, so it was destroyed and enslaved by the Golden Horde, forced to pay tribute.

Soon thereafter came the successors of the Mongol-Tatar peoples. Some white nationalists have the delusion that Russian's are a purely European and Slavic race. While there are many Russians who are entirely European, there are also many of Mongoloid or Near Eastern ancestry, and many of mixed trans-racial identity much like in the America's. [17] As the eastern Slavic tribes expanded further eastward, they Slavicised the Uralic peoples. However, the gene pool of these peoples would eventually be heavily polluted through centuries of mass-rape and enslavement under Mongol yoke. The Grand Duchy of Moscow was mostly populated by Christianized Tatar-Mongols, who had simply taken Slavic names. The indigenous Slavic population left behind by the destruction of Kievan Rus had very quickly become a minority due to the large influx of such Christianized Asiatic nomads, as well as intermarriage between these Asians and Slav's. [5, 7, 16] All advanced city culture left behind by the Kievan Rus were destroyed, leaving little left that could be called civilization.

One cannot blame the backwardness of Russia on Communism. Russia has always been backward when compared to the West. One can simply look at former USSR or eastern bloc countries in Europe, which became functional and prosperous soon after being freed from Russian yoke. The only exceptions are Ukraine and Belarus, which have yet to fully throw off Russian influence. The Ukrainians and Belarusians are the only true heirs of the Kievan Rus - not Russia, as it claims to be. There are dramatic differences between Muscovy and Ruthenia.

The Muscovite's servility towards rulers is a typical oriental trait. Whereas in Ruthenia, they had Magdenburg Law, which was completely unknown in Muscovy. The Ruthenians were aware of their rights and freedoms, much like their western European counterparts. The inhabitants of Ruthenia were aware from the very beginning that they were very different from Muscovite-Russians. Thus, Ukraine's opposition towards Russia has deep historical roots.

The Orange revolution as well as the more recent conflict in Ukraine should not be seen merely in terms of geopolitics, but rather as a much deeper confrontation – the struggle of European Slav's against an alien power, not of Europe.

For Muscovy, Mongol domination would continue throughout the middle ages, when Russia was known as Great Tartary. In fact, it was called so up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The orthodox church regarded the fanatical Northern crusaders (Teutonic knights, Swedes, etc.) a greater threat to the Russian way of life than the Mongols, and relied on the Mongols for assistance and protection in fighting off the western invaders. In return, the Russians cooperated with their Mongol overlords, and helped them collect tribute from the Tatars. The Mongol occupation greatly impacted the development of Russia, including in areas of culture, military, architecture, transportation, and governance. In fact, Russian cities resembled Mongol cities far more than western cities. [20]

Once freed from Tatar yoke, the situation in Russia did not improve. Under Ivan III, Russia greatly expanded its territory further into the east, further increasing the Asiatic component of its population. However, during his reign, Russian lands experienced “a period of cultural depression, and spiritual bareness”, where freedom was stamped out, and the fruits of western knowledge and civilization were deprived from the country. [35] After Ivan III, life in Russia became even worse, with the ruthless reign of the first Tsar - Ivan IV the terrible, who exiled or executed nobles for the slightest provocation. His military conquests included the Astrakhan and Kazan khanates, which were incorporated into his Tsardom, and likewise forced to adopt Orthodox Christianity and Slavic names. In 1558, Ivan the Terrible's Russo-Tatar invasion of Livonia (modern day Latvia), was repulsed by a united coalition of Poland-Lithuania, Scandinavia, Transylvania, registered Cossacks, and foreign mercenaries from Hungary,



Bohemia, and Wallachia. Under Ivan IV's repressive police state, possibly his most vicious and brutal crime against humanity, he launched an attack on the city of Novgorod in 1570, with countless of its inhabitants massacred in the cruelest manner, properties destroyed, and 90% of its arable land burned, causing a major famine that killed countless more. [14, 15]

Even Russian historians like R. G. Skrynnikov say "the sack of Novgorod is the most repulsive episode in the brutal history of the oprichnina." Oprichnina was Ivan IV's policy which included institution of secret police, public executions, mass repressions, and confiscation of land from Russian aristocrats. Some sources say the casualties were as high as 60,000. The episode devastated Novgorod, making it lose its great economic and political importance, and reducing it to a mere provincial town. Some historians say the reasoning of this attack was Ivan's declining mental state, exacerbated by war with the Commonwealth and Sweden. However, there is evidence to suggest there was a conspiracy between the boyars and Archbishop of Novgorod, which desired to convert to Roman Catholicism and defect to the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth, to escape the insane tyranny of Ivan the terrible. [26] This was actually something Novgorod had tried before under Ivan III, who likewise subjugated the city. Novgorod was the only Slavic state not affected by the Mongol invasions, and hence was able to retain its white Slavic composition. Its customs, culture, and mentality of its inhabitants differed greatly from the rest of Muscovy. The Great Novgorod which was spared from Mongol invasion instead suffered destruction at the hands of Muscovites. [14, 15]

Many federal subjects of Russia today such as Altai, Bashkortostan, Buryatia, Crimea, Kalmykia, Tatarstan, Tuva, Siberia, Manchuria and many others, are predominantly Turkic, Tatar, or Mongolic. Likewise, many countries in its sphere of influence or its borders are Turkic or Mongolia itself. One thing is for certain, many of the Mongols violent, cruel, and belligerent

Asiatic tendencies were passed on to the Russians. [17] Every member of Russia – Khazan, Siberia, Tver, Novgorod, the Caucasus, etc. was violently conquered and absorbed by Moscow, rather than peacefully unified like the Commonwealth, Czechoslovakia, or Yugoslavia.

While practiced by most of the world at some point, and originating from Africa, slavery has always been a predominantly oriental enterprise. The Americans didn't capture their own slaves, but rather purchased them from Near Eastern slave traders. Today, slavery is still practiced throughout most of Asia, including Eurasia. Russian's should more appropriately be labeled slaver's, rather than Slav's. Despite Peter the Great's "abolition" of slavery by converting household slaves into serfs, Russia remains the 6<sup>th</sup> greatest holder of slaves, currently estimated at about 520,000. This is based on the global slavery index report which mentions poor living and working conditions of migrants, who aren't allowed a worker's permit, but continue working in Russia illegally for minimum wage or less. [21] In Muscovy, a slave's master had absolute power over their slave's life. They could kill them, or sell them to pay off their debts. Throughout history Russian lands served as a source of slave for outsiders, until well into the 16<sup>th</sup> century. [22]

By this time the Russian peoples were even selling off themselves to slavery, owing to extreme poverty and destitution. After the conquest of their lands, the Siberian natives were also kept as slaves or concubines, and sometimes prostituted to other men, or traded for commercial profit. Slavery remained a major institution in Russia until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when it was converted to serfdom. Most recent reports have identified slavery and human trafficking of Kazakhs and Uzbeks in contemporary Russia. [21]

One of the paradoxes of Polish and Ukrainian history is that quite often an event from the past gets blown out of proportion when it finds its way into the media coverage, whereas pivotal events which did make a great impact upon the local or even European history remain unknown to the general public. One of such events is the Battle of Syni Vody — Blue Waters, which was fought either in 1362 or 1363 (there is no final consensus among historians). [11,17]

It was fought between the forces of the Grand Duke of Lithuania Algirdas and the forces of the Golden Horde. The battle took place in Podolia, Ukraine. In spite of a tremendous impact on the history of Eastern Europe, Ukraine included, the battle somehow got lost in the annals of history, and is only known to a small circle of historians who specialize in Ukrainian and Lithuanian medieval studies. Had this battle been lost, the course of Ukrainian history would have been very different from the course it actually took, and Kiev, with some stretch of imagination, would have been a Muslim city. In fact, it was not only the destiny of Christian Orthodoxy in Ukraine that was at stake — the destinies of all of Europe hung in the balance. [11,17]

The Grand Duke of Lithuania Algirdas chose the ideal moment to strike at the faltering Golden Horde. His forces included warriors from both Lithuania and Rus. Together they faced the Golden Horde forces, the slavers of Ukraine. The armies clashed at the Syni Vody (Blue Waters) River, and the Grand Duke emerged victorious. Thanks to this victory, he expanded the lands he controlled well into the Ukrainian territory, with the lands of Kiev and Podolia becoming part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Mongol and Tatar rule was thus broken in these Ukrainian lands, and the Mongol-Tatar invasion of Europe was stymied. Ukraine was to remain a free Christian land. [17]

One can't help wondering why an event of such magnitude has remained overlooked if not totally ignored in history books. The answer can probably be found not so much in scarcity of documentary or physical evidence, but rather more in "ideological" motivations. In Soviet times, history was the one discipline hit hardest by Soviet ideology. Facts were ignored, whole chunks of history were interpreted in a way the Soviets thought suited their views of past events.

The Battle of Kulikovo, for example that was fought in September 1380, in which the Russians, led by Prince Dmitry, defeated the forces of the Golden Horde, led by Mamai, a Mongol general. This was trumpeted as a great event of a historic significance. But this victory was actually of very little political consequence — two years later, Tokhtamysh, the khan who overthrew Mamai in 1381, invaded Russia. He looted and burned Moscow, completely devastated the land, and forced the Muscovites to recognize Golden Horde suzerainty once again. [23] The Battle of Kulikovo, in imperial Russian and later soviet propaganda, was elevated to an earth-shaking event thanks to which Russia established itself as a major political force in Eastern Europe. Consequently, such events as the Battle of the Syni Vody despite it's great importance for the history of Eastern Slavs, was pushed into oblivion by Soviet censorship.

Since the Lithuanians, Belarusians and Ukrainians did not have their own independent states for ages, they lacked such powerful ideological tools as imperial propaganda, and thus couldn't promote their own views of historical events, or even properly study their historical legacy. The reinstitution of the importance of the Battle of the Syni Vody is an important step towards reconstruction of past event's in their true significance, for it was a pivotal event which resulted in the liberation of Ukraine from domination of the Golden Horde, by Lithuania. [12]

After integrating Kiev, Lithuania became a direct neighbor and rival to the joined Grand Duchy of Moscow, and would fight a long series of wars with them. This was how Ukraine originally came to be part of the Commonwealth, and partly why Poland and Lithuania joined together in union twenty years later out of mutual necessity. [17] If these three countries, surrounded by a multitude of foes, had instead stayed divided or fought amongst themselves, they would eventually be overpowered and devoured by those rival forces: Moscow, the Golden Horde, the Teutonic order, or the Sultanate... but together they would become massive and unconquerable.

Many people are surprised to learn that, until the mid-18th century, Poland was one of Europe's leading powers, controlling a vast territory stretching from the Baltic Sea in the north to well into southern Ukraine. At the pinnacle of its power it was known as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth or *Rzeczpospolita* in Polish. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was usually called the Most Serene Republic of Poland or *Serenissima Res Publica Poloniae* in Latin - the *lingua franca* of the commonwealth before it was replaced by French. Today, most English-speaking historians favor the simpler name of Commonwealth. This was an evolution of the personal union between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was the longest lasting union in Europe, binding the fate of its peoples for half a millennium.

At its greatest territorial extent, including vassals, it stretched over the present-day nations of Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, the Baltic states, Moldova, portions of Russia, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia, and Hungary. The Duchy of Courland & Semigalia (now a part of Latvia), even had a colony in the Caribbean – Tobago, now the independent republic of Trinidad & Tobago, first discovered by Christopher Columbus, who according to the thesis of historian

Manuel Rosa, was actually the son of a Polish king and a Portuguese noblewoman [27]. The colony was later destroyed, enslaved, and exploited by many western European colonial empires.

The commonwealth was the largest and one of the most populous countries in Europe. It was also the most progressive, democratic, and multicultural - a melting pot of many diverse cultures and ethnicities. A literal paradise for Jews. Racism, sexism, ablism, and other forms of discrimination were relatively non-existent. Von Moltke who was a German Field Marshal, during the time of Bismarck, stated that "Poland before her partitions was the most civilized country in Europe". Slavery, practiced everywhere else, was never practiced in the commonwealth. While western Europe was fighting religious sectarian wars, burning witches, and trying to exorcise mental illnesses, the commonwealth enjoyed an unprecedented degree of religious freedom.

The Golden liberties had granted all nobles equal status, even those that did not possess any land or wealth. Foreign kings were often elected, which although tending to serve their own countries, the szlachta actually had the power to overrule the king. An effective, but sometimes paralyzing check on power. Noteworthy is that even lowly serfs and peasants had the opportunity for ennoblement if they displayed great bravery or valor in battle... Although the front line was always spearheaded by the noble knights. The commonwealth's military was virtually unmatched. The winged hussars dominated the European battlefield for centuries, playing a decisive role in many pivotal battles such as the battle of Vienna in 1683, where the advance of the Ottoman Turks who had never been defeated until this point, was finally stopped dead in its tracks, thus saving Christian Europe from Islamic rule.

The Commonwealth's first freely-elected king & grand duke of the commonwealth was Henry III of France, from the House of Valois. A French king was chosen to make the commonwealth more acceptable to the Ottoman's, with whom the commonwealth had an alliance with at the time. His reign lasted less than 2 years, before he fled to his home country to assume the French throne. However, his short reign had a profound impact on not only him, but for French culture in general. France at the time was plagued by religious warfare. Henry had previously taken an active part in the French wars of religion, and was the royal-family member most responsible for the St. Bartholomew's day massacre, where up to 30,000 huguenots were killed, according to French historian Thierry Wanegffelen. [30]

But after seeing this nearly utopian society of unparalleled freedom and tolerance, he had realized that religious tolerance was the only way to bring peace to France again. Thus, upon his return to France, an edict was signed with the Huguenots, which granted many freedoms, concessions, and restitutions to them. Many new technologies from the commonwealth were also introduced by Henry, such as septic facilities, baths, and forks, all things universally associated with modern western civilization. [30]

Where Hitler, Charles XII, and Bonaparte failed, Poland was the only power to successfully contain and conquer Russia. When Ivan IV had died without heir, leaving the throne vacant, Russia entered the so-called Time of Troubles in the early 17th century. Poland hoping to fill the vacancy and bring peace to eastern Europe, decided to invade Muscovy in support of its candidate for Tsar. The Polish forces wrecked both the Muscovite and Swedish armies, while sustaining hardly any casualties, and occupied Moscow for years. Despite the support of many Russian boyars, it fell short of incorporating Muscovy into the commonwealth, but at least managed to gain some of its largest cities including Smolensk and Bryansk. Yet historians rarely

call the commonwealth an “empire”, because the country did not fight wars if they could be avoided. It had no imperialistic ambitions and no desire to meddle in the politics of other countries, as the Russians always did and still do to this day, even meddling in US & EU elections.

A few years before this war, the commonwealth joined with the Swedish empire in a short-lived personal union. For the few years this union existed, the Baltic sea was an internal lake of the commonwealth. The Polish-Lithuanian-Swedish commonwealth could have easily taken the still weak Muscovy. Unfortunately, this union soon fell apart, and would eventually lead to a devastating, but avoidable war known as the Deluge. Vast parts of the commonwealth, critical to agriculture/economy, were occupied, scorched, and razed by invading Swedish and Russian forces. The Commonwealth position was further weakened by a string of losses in the Russo-Polish War (1654–67). The Tsar felt threatened by the Treaty of Hadiach, which weakened his hold on Cossacks. The Russians saw the treaty as an act of war, and even before it was ratified, sent an army into Ukraine.

Simultaneously the Lithuanian aristocratic Radziwill family betrayed Poland, and attempted to end the Polish-Lithuanian union and instead join the Swedish empire. To make matters even worse, the Cossacks rebelled yet again at the worst possible time, and managed to break away from the commonwealth, being effectively tricked into “joining” the Russian empire. The Cossacks refused to forfeit their way of life, which mostly consisted of raiding and pillaging Crimean lands. This was the point at which the Ukrainian peoples moved in with Russia. Ironically, the Russian way of dealing with unruly Cossacks wasn’t nearly as gentle as the commonwealth’s method.



Since breaking away from the commonwealth, the Cossacks would desperately struggle with the Russian and Ottoman empires, as well as Crimea, to retain their unique identity. They would be exploited far worse by the Russians and Ottomans, than they ever were by the commonwealth – whose attempts at converting the militant orthodox Cossacks into uniates serfs was forced upon the commonwealth by political pressure from the two aforementioned empires, whose lands the Cossacks constantly raided. This would become evident once the Russian's enacted the same policy of enserfment, but without the benefits.

More Cossack rebellions would follow. In the Palej uprising against the crown, the Cossacks were angered by the peace treaty with Ottoman Turkey. As a result, rebellious Cossacks massacred all the Polish Szlachta, Catholic Priests, and Jews in the area's they controlled, and allowed Tsar Peter to take over major portions of right-bank Ukraine. Fearing Semen Paliy's popularity, ataman Ivan Mazepa exiled him to Siberia in 1705. There was a failed attempt to break away from Russia in 1708.

Immediate catalysts for this rebellion were the constraints and fears of living in Peter's police state, abscondment of countless serfs, and the abandonment of major cities such as Moscow and St. Petersburg. Peter was perceived as an evil antichrist. After the rebellion ended with the death of Cossack leader Bulavin, some groups would emigrate to Poland, which stood in stark contrast to the police state of Russia. While others escaped to Austria and Crimea, which was also preferable. A year after this rebellion, the disastrous battle of Poltava took place in the Cossack Hetmanate, where Russia destroyed the Swedish continental army. This battle marked the decline of the Swedish empire and the loss of autonomy for the Cossack hetmanate.

Side note: starting in the 18th century, there was a considerable infusion of European blood and culture into Russia, under Peter I, who proclaimed the Russian empire, and oriented it toward the West. Indeed, it was only then that it began to be called Russia (Rossiya), with its associated demonym. Russian historians actively promoted the false idea that Russia is the rightful heir of the Kievan Rus, in order to ideologically justify its conquests under the motto of “gathering the ancient lands of Rus”. However, this “Europeanization,” only occurred on the surface, and Russia essentially distinctly remained a non-European society, where a European elite minority ruled over a predominantly oriental population.

The Zaporozhian Sich, which was temporarily granted self-governing autonomy within Russia would eventually be cancelled, disbanded, and destroyed by the Russian government. Catherine II of Russia officially abolished the institute of Hetman in 1764, and then incorporated it as the Little Russia Governorate or Novorossiia, which would be ruled by a Russian general Pyotr Rumyantsev - much like Putin is still trying to do now in Ukraine, likely inspired by Catherine.

Their only recourse was resettling on the Danube under Ottoman protection. Some would serve the Sultan, while others refused and settled in Bessarabia instead. For those Danubian Sich Cossacks who refused to follow the sultan, their fate was tragic. The Sultan called upon the Janissary corps to raze the Sich, massacre its population, burn down its churches, and sent to forced labor deep in Turkey (sound familiar?). All the Danubian Cossacks would once again find themselves fleeing tyranny and exploitation, and not all managed to escape the Sultan’s vengeance.

Over the years, they would be joined by other peasant's fleeing serfdom in the Russian empire. These Cossacks and peasants consolidated their powers under Pugachev to stand up to Catherine's oppressive reign, and stop her attempts to cancel the self-governing of Sich. The rebellion would be crushed, with 10,000 rebels savagely killed by the Russian army. Yet Catherine regarded the whole situation as a joke. After the rebellion failed, she would cut Cossack privileges even further, and set up more garrisons across Russia. At this point, the Cossacks thoroughly disillusioned by Russian and Ottoman empires would have probably preferred to return to the commonwealth... but unfortunately that was no longer an option.

The Commonwealth was reduced to a protectorate of Russia, and Catherine the Great had already partitioned it, taking Kiev, Czernigow, and other voivodeships the Cossacks could have settled. To make matters worse, while Poland was engaged in the civil war of the Bar confederation, another Cossack rebellion against the crown had occurred in 1768, which were both incited by the meddling Russians to further divide and weaken the commonwealth, as well as gain an excuse to intervene militarily, and perhaps also wipe out some troublesome Cossacks.

This uprising resulted in the mass murder of an estimated 200,000 Poles, Jews, Uniates, and priests. The Koliyivshchyna rebellion was eventually crushed by the Russian armies, (with many hangings, quarterings, impalings, and decapitations), and they were there to stay. It is worth noting that the election of the last Polish king, Stanislaw August Poniatowski - who is widely criticized for allowing the partitions - was marred by Russian involvement. Which supported him politically, financially, and even militarily to scare away any contenders. This draws modern day parallels to the aforementioned Russian meddling in western elections, like that of Donald Trump. Many other tactics and strategies utilized by Putin are clearly inspired by

past Russian rulers like Catherine the Great or Joseph Stalin, whom the Russian peoples still admire.

Since the Swedes and Russians wreaked destruction across the commonwealth, and the Cossacks switched sides, the commonwealth would only get weaker, as if one of its vital organs were removed. This internal weakness would ultimately result in the partitions by emerging imperial powers – Prussia, Russia, and Austria, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The only countries to protest the partitions were Spain, Denmark-Norway, and the Ottoman and Persian empires. The latter two coincidentally declared war on the Russian empire, but unfortunately lost. Perhaps if Poland had earlier forged a more long-lived alliance with the Ottoman empire as the ‘Sick Men of Europe’, it could have helped stave off each other’s dissolution.

Many attempts were made to restore the commonwealth. First with Kosciuszko, then with Bonaparte, and later with a series of uprisings in the 19th century. Together the Polish, Lithuanian, and Ruthenian peoples would struggle 123 years to regain independence from Russia, Prussia and Austria, or much longer in the case of Ukraine. This struggle actually continues today, as the former commonwealth countries strive to gain independence, retain sovereignty, or attain energy independence from Russia.

Polish romantics often referred to their homeland as *the Christ of Nations* or *the Christ of Europe* crucified a result of the partitions of Poland. The partitions came to be seen in Poland as a Polish sacrifice for the security for Western civilization. Their own unsuccessful struggle for independence from foreign imperialist powers had served as an expression of faith in Poland’s ultimate *Rising* (from the dead). The concept, which identified Poles collectively with the messianic suffering of the Crucifixion, saw Poland as destined, like Christ, to once again return

to glory. This idea has roots going back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in the days of the Ottoman expansion and wars against the invading Muslim's.

Long before Poland was partitioned the szlachta developed a vision of Roman Catholic Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth as a nation destined to wage war against Turks, Tatars, Russians, and other foreign Asiatic invaders, in the defense of Western Christian civilization. The victory at Vienna in 1683, against the Turks by Jan III Sobieski, is a key element in the Polish view as a guardian of Europe.

Some attempts at restoration sought to recreate the commonwealth in the new form of The Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian commonwealth, where Ruthenia would be incorporated as an equal partner to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the Kingdom of Poland. This was first considered as an option by Bogdan Khmelnytski, but not attempted until the Kosciuszko uprising in 1794. It was attempted again in the November and January uprisings. Though not all Rusyn's/Cossacks fought to restore the commonwealth. Some fought for the Russian empire, and this division within Ukraine would persist in future conflicts for independence. Bogdan also considered joining the Ottoman orbit, similar to the Romanian principalities and the Crimean Khanate, but we all saw how that turned out.

Khmelnytski's appeals to Moscow are what eventually lead to the incorporation of Ukraine into Russia, and subsequently the Polish-Muscovite war, which marked the rise of Muscovy as a great power. The short-lived autonomy granted to the Hetmanate was merely a dangling carrot, so they could exploit Ukraine for its territorial depth, ample manpower, and arable land for centuries. This was actually something that the Commonwealth offered in the Treaty of Hadiach, which would have elevated Ruthenia and its peoples to a much higher status than a mere temporarily semi-autonomous protectorate of Muscovy.

Historian Andrew Wilson has called this "one of the great 'What-ifs?' of Ukrainian and East European history", noting that "If it had been successfully implemented, the Commonwealth would finally have become a loose confederation of Poles, Lithuanians and Ruthenians. The missing Ukrainian buffer state would have come into being as the Commonwealth's eastern pillar. Russian expansion might have been checked and Poland spared the agonies of the Partitions ". [36]

However, the Cossacks regarded it as “Too little, too late”, and avariciously refused to return the lands they seized during the Khmelnytski uprising. In the end, Russia was victorious, as seen in the 1667 Treaty of Andrusovo and the 1686 Eternal Peace. Ukrainian Cossacks fell under the Russian sphere of influence, with far fewer privileges under the Hetmanate than would have been granted under the treaty of Hadiach. By the end of the 18th century, Cossack political influence has been almost completely destroyed by the Russian Empire.

During the Russo-Turkish war (1828-1829), the Danubian Sich was “forgiven” by the Tsar, given amnesty, and allowed to return to their “home”. The Cossacks were allowed to return under the condition that they would serve only the Tsar, and would continue to live and die for him. The Danube host was renamed Novorossiia host, and this last Cossack host was finally disbanded under Alexander II’s reforms in 1868. This ended all Cossack presence in the Budjak area, and the former Cossacks would continue to serve the Tsar under civil administration. The Cossacks which had fought all those years to preserve their identity, instead gave their lives for the country that would destroy it. Today’s efforts to re-create the Cossack lifestyle have made little progress.

In his book, *Essay on Diplomacy* (1827), published only in 1830, Adam Jerzy Czartoryski observed that, "Having extended her sway south and west, and being by the nature of things unreachable from the east and north, Russia becomes a source of constant threat to Europe." He argued that she would've done better cultivating "friends rather than slaves." He also identified a future threat from Prussia, and urged the incorporation of East Prussia into a resurrected Poland, something which should have been done long ago. Today, the only part of East Prussia not under Polish control is the valuable, yet dangerous Kaliningrad exclave, which now hosts nuclear missile sites and advanced area denial weapons system. The exclave extracts up to 98% of the world's amber supply.

The November uprising of 1830, which involved not only Poles, but also the Lithuanians, and Ukrainians, was an unfortunate failure. Although many battles were tactically successful, the resisting armies failed to exploit them and continue pursuit of retreating Russian forces. This mistake would again be repeated in future conflicts with Russia, but for political rather than logistical reasons. Its lack of success can also be attributed to bad timing, lack of western support, as well as being outnumbered. However, had the campaign been managed more skillfully, despite the inequality in resources, Congress Poland would still have a very good chance of holding its own against the Russian onslaught. Around 30% of Russian troops were untrained. If Poland had initiated the uprising two years earlier, when Russia was experiencing setbacks in Turkey, and if the line of battle had been established in Lithuania, then the uprising might have even been successful.

In the aftermath of the failed uprising, in 1831, there was an attempt to recreate the Treaty of Hadiach, to throw off the partitions of Poland. The planned convention in Hadiach was declared illegal by the Russians, who stationed close to 2,000 soldiers there to ensure that no meetings or demonstrations take place and blocked passage through nearby bridges. Despite these precautions, a mass and celebration involving 15–20,000 people and over 200 priests (both Catholic and Orthodox) took place near Hadiach. Congress Poland's limited autonomy was stripped away, its universities closed down, and henceforth Poland was decreed as an integral part of Russia, known simply as Russian Poland - all very much like what happened to the Ukraine. The failure of the west to support Poland in its 1830 uprising led to the development of the view that Poland was betrayed, suffering, a "Christ of Nations" paying for the sins of Europe. In "Księgi narodu polskiego i pielgrzymstwa polskiego" Mickiewicz detailed his vision of Poland as a Messiah and Christ of Nations, that would save mankind.

“And Poland said, ‘Whosoever will come to me shall be free and equal for I am FREEDOM.’ But the Kings, when they heard it, were frightened in their hearts, and they crucified the Polish nation and laid it in its grave, crying out "We have slain and buried Freedom." But they cried out foolishly ...For the Polish Nation did not die. Its body lieth in the grave; but its spirit has descended into the abyss, that is, into the private lives of people who suffer slavery in their own country ... For on the Third Day, the Soul shall return to the Body; and the Nation shall arise and free all the peoples of Europe from Slavery.” [36]

In Mickiewicz's vision, the suffering and persecution of the Poles was to bring salvation to other persecuted nations, just as the death of Christ, crucified by his neighbors, brought redemption to mankind. After the November Uprising, the great emigration (first wave) of Polish political elites also occurred, and much of the ideological and political activity of Polish



intelligentsia would be done outside of the Polish partitions, with many going to France, which was seen by the Poles as a bastion of liberty in Europe.

Adam Jerzy Czartoryski was one of these elites, who after sacrificing half his fortune to support the uprising had fled to the UK, where he continued advancing the Polish cause with the help of many influential Scottish friends. Between the November and January Uprisings, he advocated the idea of resurrecting an updated Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He connected Polish efforts for independence with similar movements in other subjugated European countries, as well as the Caucasus - which adhered to the Polish motto, "For our freedom and yours".

The Caucasus is another geopolitical fault line torn between the imperialistic ambitions of both the Russian, Ottoman, and Persian empires. Circassia was the first Caucasian country to experience Russian belligerence. Lasting over a century, from 1763 to 1864, Circassia resisted Russian conquest, but eventually succumbed due to the Russians overwhelming numerical superiority. Nearly all of the Circassian's were ethnically cleansed or expelled from their homeland. Circassian historians cite casualties figures around the 4 million mark, with an additional 500,000 deported to the Ottoman or Persian empires. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Russian census only recorded 150,000 Circassian's remaining in the conquered region. The little known Circassian genocide is not often talked about, but deserves as much recognition as the Armenian genocide committed by Turkey or the Holocaust.

Georgia was annexed into the Russian empire in 1801. Then beginning in 1817, Russia invaded the rest of the Caucasus. By 1864, despite fierce resistance, nearly all of the Caucasus was annexed into the Russian empire. Those that managed to regain their independence are now heavily destabilized, and kept in a constant state of conflict. While many like the Chechens, Abkhazians, and others are still fighting for it. During this period of aggressive expansion,

Russia's conquests were not limited to the Balkans and the Caucasus, but it also conquered much of Central Asia, including the Kazakh's and Kyrgyz. Most of these countries are still in Russia's sphere of influence.

The next quest for sovereignty of the Poles, as well as many other downtrodden European peoples was the Spring of Nations. While there wouldn't be another big violent uprising in Russian Poland for several decades, there was instead a revolution in Krakow (1846) and later Poznan (1848), as well as the bloody Galician slaughter (1846) of thousands of Polish nobles by Ukrainian peasants, encouraged by the Austrians.

Some Ukrainians who had remembered Tadeusz Kosciuszko's promise to end serfdom, had instead sided with the nobles. It is important to mention now that this is another repeating pattern in Polish-Ukrainian-Russian history. While some Ukrainians have the common sense to side with the Poles, it is always never enough. Too often it's the case, that more Ukrainians side with their oppressive captors. No matter if it's the Austrians, German's, Turks, or Russians. Almost as if they were suffering some kind of mass Stockholm syndrome.

During this slaughter, nearly 500 manors were razed, and many crops burned, resulting in famine for both Ukrainians and Poles, to the delight of the partitioning powers. Eventually the uprising was brutally crushed. Nobles were flagellated, and the peasants likewise punished. For the Szlachta, this event was a hard lesson that class lines are a powerful force, and that peasants can't be expected to support a case of independent Poland or even Ukraine without being educated and reformed. Although the Krakow uprising, aimed at democratic reform, had failed, and resulted in the loss of its status as a free city, it had also planted the seeds of what would soon sprout into the Spring of Nations.

This set of revolutions saw many downtrodden nations attempt to break free from their imperialist masters – The Poles, Ruthenians/Ukrainians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovak's, Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, Romanians, and many others. While it resulted in little political change, it made significant sociocultural changes. It is worth noting the Hungarian revolution, which was supported by many peoples, including the Poles, Rusyns/Ukrainians, Saxons, Croats, Slovenes, Bulgarians, and others. Just when things were looking up for the Magyars, the revolution was totally crushed by a massive joint Austro-Russian army of 370,000. The Polish General and mutual Polish-Hungarian national hero Jozef Bem, defeated a Russian army of 8,000 and forced the remaining 2,000 Russian survivors out of Transylvania, back into Wallachia.

Later he even managed to capture the city of Temesvar from the Austrians, as well as defeat the Russians in Negyszeben. Despite these, and other initial victories, the revolution was hopeless and ultimately doomed to failure. The Russian's had stifled another nation's struggle for independence, by intervening in a situation they had nothing to do with. Russia never even liked Austria.

Adam Czartoryski aspired above all else to reconstitute —with British, French, and Turkish support—a Commonwealth federated with the Poles, Lithuanians, Rusyn's, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians and all the South Slavs of the future Yugoslavia. Poland, in his concept, could have mediated the conflicts between the Slav's and Hungary, and between Romania and Hungary. The plan seemed achievable in the Springtime of Nations, but of course, foundered on lack of western support, as well as the rise of German nationalism. His idea could be seen as a precursor to Pilsudski's Miedzymorze (Intermarium) federation and Prometheist program.

In the Crimean war Russia had sought to expand it's already vast empire at the expense of the declining Ottoman empire. Fortunately for the Turk's the expansion was thwarted by the western powers – France, Britain, and Sardinia. This wars proves that the western powers did have the power to help the Poles and other pygmies of Europe in their uprisings. The truth is they couldn't care less, and would rather help their own imperialist kind, even if it's the Ottoman empire. Their main concern was maintaining the concert of nations, so no empire is more powerful than they are. Little did they know this would eventually lead to not only the decline of their own empires, but also the destruction and decline of all Europe. Amidst this war, there was a Cossack revolt and national awakening in Ukraine, which spread across the whole of the Kiev and Chernigov governorates.

It was led by peasants and found great support among Ukrainian landowners. Polish-Ukrainian writer Michal Czajkowski, who had fought in every past Polish insurrection, organized an Ottoman-Cossack unit, fought in the Balkans during the Crimean war, and planned to invade Ukraine from the south. However, he never got the chance due to conflicts with Paris. It wouldn't have worked without French support, even if the Russian armies were already decimated and demoralized. Czajkowski was not discouraged, and continued to work for both the resurrection of Poland and Cossack Ukraine until 1872. He was friends with many prominent Polish romantics, including Mickiewicz, and his writings had a profound influence on younger generations of Poles in Ukraine. [37]

After the Russia's defeat in the Crimean war, the empire was politically and economically weakened, and unrest started in the former Commonwealth. Russia tried to replace its through conscription of young people in the former Commonwealth, which resulted in mass protests, that eventually led to patriotic riots, and ended in armed clashes with the imperial Russian army. In

1861, The idea of the Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian commonwealth had once again returned during a patriotic demonstration in Horodlo. The Szlachta of Poland, Lithuania, and Ruthenia announced The Second Union of Horodlo, which proposed the commonwealth of three nations, with a new coat of arms combining three symbols representative of each. This would be the basis of the underground government throughout the period of resistance.

By 1863, the unrest had erupted into a full-blown uprising, with over 200,000 Poles, Lithuanians, and Belarusians joining the fight. It even attracted volunteers from other partitions. However, many Cossacks still served the Russian's, and peasant's loyalty was bought by the Tsar through reforms which gave them incentive to abandon the rebels. Without mass peasant support, the uprising had little chance of success, even with the early victories. Western powers protested, but refused to provide any military assistance.... and so yet another uprising had been brutally crushed, with harsh reprisals. Many Polish-Lithuanian nobles here hanged, exiled to Siberia, or stripped of their estates and forced to pay indemnity.

With this subsequent defeat, one would imagine the Commonwealth peoples would fall into a state of despair. The exact opposite had occurred, with the era of Polish positivism, which lasted until the turn of the century. This was a sociocultural movement questioned the wisdom of resistance, and instead focused on constructive “organic work”, through gradual improvement of culture, economy, etc. to strengthen the Polish peoples and increase their social cohesiveness. Agriculture and industry were reformed, granting increased economic productivity.

Perhaps the most important was compulsory education for the illiterate peasantry, which repeatedly betrayed the nobility out of ignorance, despite their common heritage. It established equal rights for all members of the society, and assimilated the Jewish minority. Most

importantly, the movement focused on maintaining Polish identity, which was at risk of being lost through russification.

Some younger people did not entirely agree with this strategy, and favored more active resistance. not only in the former commonwealth, but among the Russian peasantry as well. The late 1870's-1890's saw the rise of revolutionary nationalist/socialist organizations, which believed in the efficacy of terrorism. The most famous of these was Narodnaya Volya. One member of this terror cell, a Polish nobleman named Ignacy Hryniewiecki, even managed to assassinate Tsar Alexander II with a bomb. This however, did not have any appreciable effect, because the next Tsar Alexander was even worse than the last one, and scrapped many his predecessors planned reforms, which would have benefitted the peasantry. Many other major parties were formed during this period, which would be precursors to parties that came into play after the Great War, such as the Polish League (National Democracy) or the Polish & Jewish Socialist parties, and Marxist parties.

At the turn of the century, the Russian rape of Manchuria had set the stage for the pivotal Russo-Japanese war in 1904-1905, which would mark the decline of the Russian empire, and the rise of communism. The shocking defeat of the Russian's by the Japanese, which decimated the Russian pacific fleet, had shown the entire world the weakness of the Russian empire. This also led to widespread revolution throughout the empire, including Poland. Workers, with many pent-up political frustrations, who were treated horribly in factories, went on strike, petitioned, and protested peacefully... and so the Tsar, Nicholas II, responded the only way he knew how – Massacre the rebels. Much in the same way as Nicholas I suppressed the Decembrists in 1825. Nicholas managed to stave off the communist revolution for a while, but there was no escaping the inevitable.

Starting in 1908, with a great war looming, the Poles began organizing secret paramilitary organizations, like the Union of Active Struggle, in the Kingdom of Galicia & Lodomeria (Austrian partition), so they could be ready and prepared to seize independence when the opportunity presented itself. One of its most important members Jozef Pilsudski, had already predicted that the imperial powers would destroy themselves. Germany would destroy Russia, Russia would destroy Austria, and the allied powers would destroy Germany... but it would still be necessary to fill the vacuum left behind, or the former commonwealth would lose its only decent opportunity for restoration.

Indeed, Pilsudski was a man of great vision and foresight, as it would all come to pass. However, Pilsudski actually had much greater plans, which would not be realized within his lifetime. Speaking of course, of Prometheism and the Intermarium federation. The only way the newly liberated nations could maintain their independence and prosper, is if they all unified, combining their economic and military power into a force to be reckoned with, and feared by foreign invaders looking to exploit them once more. This was something attempted in the past as this paper discusses, but never achieved.

Without going any further into Pilsudski's unrealized projects in this portion of the paper, we should examine these past failures, and what lessons or contemporary parallels Pilsudski could have drawn from them. As Pilsudski argued, Russia is the greatest threat facing Europe. If peace is ever to be achieved, the most belligerent empire in modern history must be dismembered, by supporting secessionist groups within its confines, while concurrently creating a unified block of power capable of, resisting, containing and eventually challenging the Soviet Union. Jozef Pilsudski adhered to the view of the Poland as western shield, and also saw it as

having a “civilizing mission” in the east, much like Polish romantics who believed they were the chosen people with a destiny to civilize the eastern Slavs.

In past attempts at restoration of the commonwealth, or creation of a (con)federation of nation states, it's always been lack of western support that made it too difficult to achieve. This would turn out to be a major factor for the failure of Pilsudski's project. But we should not blame the west for its apathy and indifference toward the East. Why should Portugal care about Ukraine or Lithuania, and vice versa? Even now with NATO and the EU, it's unlikely Spain or even Britain will contribute much to the defense of Poland or the Baltics in case of Russian invasion. Thus, any further attempts should not rely the whims of the west, but rather the independent strength, will and determination of these threatened and oppressed nations, to unite and vanquish its common foe through gradual disintegration. Such a federation would require not only political and economic, but also a centralized military - if they ever hoped to match Russian military potential.

The one nation that could make or break a restored commonwealth is Ukraine. Without the territorial depth, manpower, ports, agricultural potential, and other resources. Poland could not resist the eastern threat for long, Time and time again, the Ukrainians have rejected freedom and independences, instead siding with their oppressors. Pilsudski actually desired an independent Ukraine, which could – if it chose – join his federation, or at least act as a buffer nation. It would take them until 2014 to realize the folly of their irrational decisions, which had not yet been realized in Pilsudski's time. This necessitated the invasion and partition of Bolshevik Ukraine, with the few Ukrainian supporters of Petliura that took Pilsudski's side.



The illogical choices consistently made by Ukraine can possibly be explained as lack of a sizable political or intellectual elite, as well as ignorance of the predominantly uneducated peasant, worker & Cossack population, which was easily fooled by the sly cunning Russians with their base empty promises. Apparently, positivism had not reached that far east in Ukraine, and eastern Ukrainian identity fell victim to Russification and/or communist indoctrination. Had all of Ukraine supported Pilsudski's mission, there would have been a free independent Ukraine with an eastern border stretching all the way to Kirghizstan.

Another factor to consider is that some of these nations, under Russian yoke for so long, want to preserve their identity, and may not be willing to hand over independence to another immediately after its acquisition. The Lithuanians naively did not want to trade certain forced russification for possible voluntary polonization. But as they would learn less than two decades later, they really had no choice but to choose or lose... and if Pilsudski failed to incorporate Lithuania, it would become a barrier to incorporating Latvia, which was more than willing to join.

Trivial territorial disputes between Hungary and its neighbors, as well as Poland with Czechoslovakia, would result in yet another barrier to major obstacle to intermarium. Czartoryski's proposal planned to address this problem, but with the failure to restore the kind of commonwealth he envisioned, it was futile. Some of these old territorial disputes are still relevant today. Hungarian politicians won't attend Romanian events, because they are "traumatized by the loss of Transylvania". The further balkanization of the Balkans, have created several more disputes, whose resolution is like putting back together a shattered glass with one's bare hands. The block of weakness created by the allies in the interwar period would have been much easier to glue together.

All these nations would need to set aside their petty squabbles, until their mutual enemy,  
- which has committed far greater atrocities and injustices to them, than they ever have to each  
other – is destroyed from within.

To be continued...

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