[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-pc1](/wiki/Template:Pp-pc1) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates)

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**Ukraine** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk), [tr.](/wiki/Romanization_of_Ukrainian) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:IPA-uk](/wiki/Template:IPA-uk)) is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) in [Eastern Europe](/wiki/Eastern_Europe),[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) [bordered](/wiki/State_Border_of_Ukraine) by [Russia](/wiki/Russia) to the east and northeast, [Belarus](/wiki/Belarus) to the northwest, [Poland](/wiki/Poland) and [Slovakia](/wiki/Slovakia) to the west, [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary), [Romania](/wiki/Romania), and [Moldova](/wiki/Moldova) to the southwest, and the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) and [Sea of Azov](/wiki/Sea_of_Azov) to the south and southeast, respectively. Ukraine is currently in [territorial dispute](/wiki/Territorial_dispute) with Russia over the [Crimean Peninsula](/wiki/Crimean_Peninsula) which [Russia annexed in 2014](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation) but which Ukraine and most of the international community recognise as Ukrainian. Including Crimea, Ukraine has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), making it the largest country entirely within [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and the [46th](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) largest country in the world, and a population of about 44.5 million, making it the [32nd](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) most populous country in the world.

The territory of modern Ukraine has been inhabited since 32,000 BC. During the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), the area was a key centre of [East Slavic culture](/wiki/List_of_Slavic_cultures), with the powerful state of [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus') forming the basis of Ukrainian identity. Following its fragmentation in the 13th century, the territory was contested, ruled and divided by a variety of powers, including [Lithuania](/wiki/Lithuania), Poland, the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary), and Russia. A [Cossack republic](/wiki/Cossack_Hetmanate) emerged and prospered during the 17th and 18th centuries, but its territory was eventually split between Poland and the Russian Empire, and later submerged fully into Russia. Two brief periods of independence occurred during the 20th century, once near the end of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) and another during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), but both occasions would ultimately see Ukraine's territories conquered and consolidated into a [Soviet republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_Soviet_Socialist_Republic), a situation that persisted until 1991, when Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union in the aftermath of [its dissolution](/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union) at the end of the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War).

Following independence, Ukraine declared itself a [neutral state](/wiki/Neutral_state),[[5]](#cite_note-5) but nonetheless formed a limited military partnership with the Russian Federation, other CIS countries and a [partnership with NATO](/wiki/Partnership_for_Peace) since 1994. In the 2000s, the government began leaning towards NATO, and a deeper cooperation with the alliance was set by the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan signed in 2002. It was later agreed that the question of joining NATO should be answered by a national referendum at some point in the future.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Former [President](/wiki/Ukrainian_President) [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych) considered the current level of co-operation between [Ukraine and NATO](/wiki/Ukraine–NATO_relations) sufficient,<ref name=NATOTAK>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> and was against Ukraine joining NATO.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In 2013, protests against the government of President Yanukovych broke out in downtown Kiev after the government made the decision to suspend the [Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement](/wiki/Ukraine-European_Union_Association_Agreement) and seek closer economic ties with Russia. This began a several-months-long wave of demonstrations and protests known as the [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan), which later escalated into the [2014 Ukrainian revolution](/wiki/2014_Ukrainian_revolution) that ultimately resulted in the overthrowing of Yanukovych and the establishment of a new government. These events precipitated the [annexation of Crimea by Russia](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation) in March 2014, and the [War in Donbass](/wiki/War_in_Donbass) in March 2014; both are still ongoing [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of). On 1 January 2016, Ukraine joined the [Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area](/wiki/Deep_and_Comprehensive_Free_Trade_Area) with the European Union.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Ukraine has long been a global [breadbasket](/wiki/Breadbasket) because of its extensive, fertile farmlands, and it remains one of the world's largest [grain exporters](/wiki/Grain_trade).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) The diversified [economy of Ukraine](/wiki/Economy_of_Ukraine) includes a large [heavy industry](/wiki/Heavy_industry) sector, particularly in aerospace and industrial equipment.

Ukraine is a [unitary republic](/wiki/Unitary_state) under a [semi-presidential system](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) with [separate powers](/wiki/Separation_of_powers): [legislative](/wiki/Legislature), [executive](/wiki/Executive_branch), and [judicial](/wiki/Judicial) branches. Its capital and largest city is [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev). Ukraine maintains the second-largest [military](/wiki/Military_of_Ukraine) in Europe, after that of Russia, when reserves and paramilitary personnel are taken into account.[[11]](#cite_note-11) The country is home to 42.5 million people (excluding [Crimea](/wiki/Autonomous_Republic_of_Crimea)).[[12]](#cite_note-12) 77.8% of whom are [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians) by ethnicity, followed by a sizeable minority of [Russians](/wiki/Russians) (17.3%) as well as [Romanians](/wiki/Romanians)/[Moldovans](/wiki/Moldovans), [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians), [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars), and [Hungarians](/wiki/Hungarians). [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_language) is the [official language](/wiki/Official_language) of Ukraine; its alphabet is [Cyrillic](/wiki/Ukrainian_alphabet). The dominant religion in the country is [Eastern Orthodoxy](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), which has strongly influenced [Ukrainian architecture](/wiki/Ukrainian_architecture), [literature](/wiki/Ukrainian_literature) and [music](/wiki/Music_of_Ukraine).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) There are different hypotheses as to the etymology of the [name *Ukraine*](/wiki/Name_of_Ukraine). According to the older and most widespread hypothesis, it means "borderland",[[13]](#cite_note-13) while more recently some linguistic studies claim a different meaning: "homeland" or "region, country".[[14]](#cite_note-14) "The Ukraine" was once the usual form in English[[15]](#cite_note-15) but since the [Declaration of Independence of Ukraine](/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_of_Ukraine), "the Ukraine" has become much less common in the [English-speaking world](/wiki/English-speaking_world), and style-guides largely recommend not using the definite [article](/wiki/Article_(grammar)).[[16]](#cite_note-16)<ref name=UKrW812991TU>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|Gold](/wiki/File:Фрагменты_Пекторали.jpg) [Scythian](/wiki/Scythia) pectoral, or neckpiece, from a royal [kurgan](/wiki/Kurgan) in [Pokrov](/wiki/Pokrov,_Ukraine), dated to the 4th century BC

[Neanderthal](/wiki/Neanderthal) settlement in Ukraine is seen in the Molodova archaeological sites (43,000–45,000 BC) which include a mammoth bone dwelling.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) The territory is also considered to be the likely location for the human [domestication of the horse](/wiki/Domestication_of_the_horse).[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) Modern human settlement in Ukraine and its vicinity dates back to 32,000 BC, with evidence of the [Gravettian culture](/wiki/Gravettian_culture) in the [Crimean Mountains](/wiki/Crimean_Mountains).<ref name=orig>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref><ref name=bbc>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> By 4,500 BC, the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) [Cucuteni-Trypillian Culture](/wiki/Cucuteni-Trypillian_culture) flourished in a wide area that included parts of modern Ukraine including [Trypillia](/wiki/Trypillia) and the entire [Dnieper](/wiki/Dnieper)-[Dniester](/wiki/Dniester) region. During the [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age), the land was inhabited by [Cimmerians](/wiki/Cimmerians), [Scythians](/wiki/Scythians), and [Sarmatians](/wiki/Sarmatians).[[23]](#cite_note-23) Between 700 BC and 200 BC it was part of the Scythian Kingdom, or [Scythia](/wiki/Scythia).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Later, colonies of [Ancient Greece](/wiki/Ancient_Greece), [Ancient Rome](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) and the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), such as [Tyras](/wiki/Tyras), [Olbia](/wiki/Olbia,_Ukraine) and [Chersonesus](/wiki/Chersonesus), were founded, beginning in the 6th century BC, on the northeastern shore of the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea), and thrived well into the 6th century AD. The [Goths](/wiki/Goths) stayed in the area but came under the sway of the [Huns](/wiki/Huns) from the 370s AD. In the 7th century AD, the territory of eastern Ukraine was the centre of [Old Great Bulgaria](/wiki/Old_Great_Bulgaria). At the end of the century, the majority of Bulgar tribes migrated in different directions, and the [Khazars](/wiki/Khazars) took over much of the land.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Golden Age of Kiev[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|upright|The baptism of the Grand Prince Vladimir led to the adoption of Christianity in](/wiki/File:Vasnetsov_Bapt_Vladimir.jpg) [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus').

The Kievan Rus' was founded by the [Rus' people](/wiki/Rus'_people), who settled around [Ladoga](/wiki/Staraya_Ladoga) and [Novgorod](/wiki/Novgorod), then gradually moved southward eventually reaching Kiev about 880. Kievan Rus' included the western part of modern Ukraine, and [Belarus](/wiki/Belarus). The larger part was on the territory of the modern Russian Federation. According to the [*Primary Chronicle*](/wiki/Primary_Chronicle) the Rus' elite initially consisted of [Varangians](/wiki/Varangian) from [Scandinavia](/wiki/Scandinavia).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

During the 10th and 11th centuries, it became the largest and most powerful state in Europe.<ref name=cia>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It laid the foundation for the national identity of Ukrainians and Russians.[[24]](#cite_note-24) [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), the capital of modern Ukraine, became the most important city of the Rus'.

[thumb|Principalities of](/wiki/File:Principalities_of_Kievan_Rus'_(1054-1132).jpg) [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus'), 1054–1132

The Varangians later assimilated into the Slavic population and became part of the first Rus' dynasty, the [Rurik Dynasty](/wiki/Rurik_dynasty).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Kievan Rus' was composed of several [principalities](/wiki/Principality) ruled by the interrelated Rurikid [*knyazes*](/wiki/Knyaz) ("princes"), who often fought each other for possession of Kiev.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The Golden Age of Kievan Rus' began with the reign of [Vladimir the Great](/wiki/Vladimir_the_Great) (980–1015), who [turned Rus' toward Byzantine Christianity](/wiki/Christianization_of_Kievan_Rus'). During the reign of his son, [Yaroslav the Wise](/wiki/Yaroslav_the_Wise) (1019–1054), Kievan Rus' reached the zenith of its cultural development and military power.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The state soon fragmented as the relative importance of regional powers rose again. After a final resurgence under the rule of [Vladimir II Monomakh](/wiki/Vladimir_II_Monomakh) (1113–1125) and his son [Mstislav](/wiki/Mstislav_I_of_Kiev) (1125–1132), Kievan Rus' finally disintegrated into separate principalities following Mstislav's death.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The 13th century [Mongol invasion](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Rus') devastated Kievan Rus'. Kiev was totally [destroyed in 1240](/wiki/Siege_of_Kiev_(1240)).[[25]](#cite_note-25) On today's Ukrainian territory, the principalities of [Halych](/wiki/Principality_of_Halych) and [Volodymyr-Volynskyi](/wiki/Volhynia) arose, and were merged into the state of [Galicia-Volhynia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia-Volhynia).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Danylo Romanovych](/wiki/Daniel_of_Galicia) (Daniel I of Galicia or Danylo Halytskyi) son of [Roman Mstyslavych](/wiki/Roman_the_Great), re-united all of south-western Rus', including Volhynia, Galicia and Rus' ancient capital of Kiev. Danylo was crowned by the [papal](/wiki/Pope) [archbishop](/wiki/Archbishop) in [Dorohychyn](/wiki/Drohiczyn) 1253 as the first [King](/wiki/Monarch) of all Rus'. Under Danylo's reign, the Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia was one of the most powerful states in east central Europe.[[26]](#cite_note-26)

### Foreign domination[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Following the](/wiki/File:Rzeczpospolita2nar.png) [Mongol invasion](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Rus'), much of Ukraine was controlled by Lithuania (from the 14th century on) and after the [Union of Lublin](/wiki/Union_of_Lublin) (1569) was included in the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish–Lithuanian_Commonwealth), illustrated here in 1619.

In the mid-14th century, upon the death of [Bolesław Jerzy II of Mazovia](/wiki/Bolesław_Jerzy_II_of_Mazovia), king [Casimir III of Poland](/wiki/Casimir_III_of_Poland) initiated campaigns (1340–1366) to take Galicia-Volhynia. Meanwhile, the heartland of Rus', including Kiev, became the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, ruled by [Gediminas](/wiki/Gediminas) and his successors, after the [Battle on the Irpen' River](/wiki/Battle_on_the_Irpen'_River). Following the 1386 [Union of Krewo](/wiki/Union_of_Krewo), a [dynastic union](/wiki/Dynastic_union) between Poland and Lithuania, much of what became northern Ukraine was ruled by the increasingly Slavicised local Lithuanian nobles as part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and by 1392 the so-called [Galicia–Volhynia Wars](/wiki/Galicia–Volhynia_Wars) ended. Polish colonisers of depopulated lands in northern and central Ukraine founded or re-founded many towns. In 1430 [Podolia](/wiki/Podolia) was incorporated under the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland as [Podolian Voivodeship](/wiki/Podolian_Voivodeship). In 1441, in the southern Ukraine, especially Crimea and surrounding steppes, [Genghisid](/wiki/Genghisid) prince [Haci I Giray](/wiki/Haci_I_Giray) founded the Crimean Khanate.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:BChmielnicki.jpg)[Bohdan Khmelnytsky](/wiki/Bohdan_Khmelnytsky), [Hetman](/wiki/Hetmans_of_Ukrainian_Cossacks) of Ukraine, established an independent Ukraine after the [uprising in 1648](/wiki/Khmelnytsky_Uprising) against [Poland](/wiki/Polish–Lithuanian_Commonwealth).

In 1569 the [Union of Lublin](/wiki/Union_of_Lublin) established the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, and much Ukrainian territory was transferred from Lithuania to the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland, becoming Polish territory de jure. Under the demographic, cultural and political pressure of [Polonisation](/wiki/Polonisation) begun already in the late 14th century, many landed gentry of Polish [Ruthenia](/wiki/Ruthenia) (another name for the land of Rus) converted to Catholicism and became indistinguishable from the [Polish nobility](/wiki/Polish_nobility).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Deprived of native protectors among Rus nobility, the commoners (peasants and townspeople) began turning for protection to the emerging [Zaporozhian Cossacks](/wiki/Zaporozhian_Cossacks), who by the 17th century became devoutly [Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church). The Cossacks did not shy from taking up arms against those they perceived as enemies, including the Polish state and its local representatives.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Formed from [Golden Horde](/wiki/Golden_Horde) territory conquered after the [Mongol invasion](/wiki/Mongol_invasion#European_vassals) the [Crimean Khanate](/wiki/Crimean_Khanate) was one of the strongest powers in Eastern Europe until the 18th century; in 1571 it even [captured and devastated Moscow](/wiki/Russo-Crimean_War_(1571)).[[29]](#cite_note-29) The borderlands suffered annual [Tatar invasions](/wiki/Crimean-Nogai_raids_into_East_Slavic_lands). From the beginning of the 16th century until the end of the 17th century, Crimean Tatar [slave raiding](/wiki/Slave_raiding) bands[[30]](#cite_note-30) exported about 2 million slaves from Russia and Ukraine.[[31]](#cite_note-31) According to [Orest Subtelny](/wiki/Orest_Subtelny), "from 1450 to 1586, eighty-six [Tatar raids](/wiki/Tatar_invasions) were recorded, and from 1600 to 1647, seventy."[[32]](#cite_note-32) In 1688, Tatars captured a record number of 60,000 Ukrainians.[[33]](#cite_note-33) The Tatar raids took a heavy toll, discouraging settlement in more southerly regions where the soil was better and the growing season was longer. The last remnant of the Crimean Khanate was finally conquered by the Russian Empire in 1783.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The [Taurida Governorate](/wiki/Taurida_Governorate) was formed to govern this territory.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Location_of_Cossack_Hetmanate.png) [Cossack Hetmanate](/wiki/Cossack_Hetmanate) is considered as a direct ancestor of today's Ukraine.

In the mid-17th century, a Cossack military quasi-state, the [Zaporozhian Host](/wiki/Zaporozhian_Host), was formed by [Dnieper Cossacks](/wiki/Dnieper_Cossacks) and by Ruthenian peasants who had fled Polish [serfdom](/wiki/Serfdom).[[35]](#cite_note-35) Poland exercised little real control over this population, but found the Cossacks to be a useful opposing force to the [Turks](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and [Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Khanate),[[36]](#cite_note-36) and at times the two were allies in [military campaigns](/wiki/Ottoman_wars_in_Europe).[[37]](#cite_note-37) However the continued harsh [enserfment](/wiki/Serf) of peasantry by Polish nobility and especially the suppression of the Orthodox Church alienated the Cossacks.<ref name=britcos>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The Cossacks sought representation in the Polish [Sejm](/wiki/Sejm_generalny), recognition of Orthodox traditions, and the gradual expansion of the [Cossack Registry](/wiki/Registered_Cossacks). These were rejected by the Polish nobility, who dominated the Sejm.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 1648, [Bohdan Khmelnytsky](/wiki/Bohdan_Khmelnytsky) and [Petro Doroshenko](/wiki/Petro_Doroshenko) led the [largest of the Cossack uprisings](/wiki/Khmelnytsky_Uprising) against the Commonwealth and the Polish king [John II Casimir](/wiki/John_II_Casimir).[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### The Ruin[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Marten's_Poltava.jpg) [Battle of Poltava](/wiki/Battle_of_Poltava) in 1709, as depicted by [Denis Martens the Younger](/wiki/Denis_Martens_the_Younger), 1726

In 1657–1686 came "[The Ruin](/wiki/The_Ruin_(Ukrainian_history))", a devastating 30-year war amongst Russia, Poland, Turks and Cossacks for control of Ukraine, which occurred at about the same time as the [Deluge](/wiki/Deluge_(history)) of Poland. [Khmelnytsky](/wiki/Bohdan_Khmelnytsky), deserted by his Tatar allies, suffered a crushing [defeat at Berestechko](/wiki/Battle_of_Berestechko), and turned to the Russian tsar for help. In 1654, Khmelnytsky signed the [Treaty of Pereyaslav](/wiki/Treaty_of_Pereyaslav), forming a military and political alliance with Russia that acknowledged loyalty to the tsar. The wars escalated in intensity with hundreds of thousands of deaths. Defeat came in 1686 as the "[Eternal Peace](/wiki/Eternal_Peace_Treaty_of_1686)" between Russia and Poland divided the Ukrainian lands between them.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 1709, Cossack Hetman [Ivan Mazepa](/wiki/Ivan_Mazepa) (1639–1709) defected to [Sweden](/wiki/Sweden) against Russia in the [Great Northern War](/wiki/Great_Northern_War) (1700–1721). Eventually Peter recognized that to consolidate and modernize Russia's political and economic power it was necessary to do away with the [hetmanate](/wiki/Cossack_Hetmanate) and Ukrainian and Cossack aspirations to autonomy. Mazepa died in exile after fleeing from the [Battle of Poltava](/wiki/Battle_of_Poltava) (1709), where the Swedes and their Cossack allies suffered a catastrophic defeat.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|left|upright|The first page of the](/wiki/File:Pylyp-orlyk-constitution-1710.jpg) [Bendery Constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pylyp_Orlyk). This copy in Latin was probably penned by Hetman [Pylyp Orlyk](/wiki/Pylyp_Orlyk). The original is kept in the [National Archives of Sweden](/wiki/National_Archives_of_Sweden).

The [Constitution of Pylyp Orlyk](/wiki/Constitution_of_Pylyp_Orlyk) or Pacts and Constitutions of Rights and Freedoms of the Zaporizhian Host was a 1710 constitutional document written by [Hetman](/wiki/Hetman) [Pylyp Orlyk](/wiki/Pylyp_Orlyk), a [Cossack](/wiki/Cossack) of Ukraine, then within the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish-Lithuanian_Commonwealth).[[39]](#cite_note-39) It established a standard for the [separation of powers](/wiki/Separation_of_power) in government between the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches, well before the publication of [Montesquieu's](/wiki/Montesquieu) [*Spirit of the Laws*](/wiki/The_Spirit_of_the_Laws). The Constitution limited the executive authority of the hetman, and established a democratically elected [Cossack](/wiki/Cossack) parliament called the General Council. Pylyp Orlyk's [Constitution](/wiki/Constitution) was unique for its historic period, and was one of the first state constitutions in Europe.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The hetmanate was abolished in 1764; the [Zaporizhska Sich](/wiki/Zaporizhian_Sich) abolished in 1775, as Russia centralised control over its lands. As part of the [partitioning of Poland](/wiki/Partitions_of_Poland) in 1772, 1793 and 1795, the Ukrainian lands west of the Dnieper were divided between Russia and Austria. From 1737 to 1834, expansion into the northern Black Sea littoral and the eastern [Danube](/wiki/Danube) valley was a cornerstone of Russian foreign policy.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Kirill_Razumovsky_Tokke.jpg)[Kyrylo Rozumovskyi](/wiki/Kyrylo_Rozumovskyi), the last Hetman of left- and right-bank Ukraine 1750–1764 and the first person to declare Ukraine to be a sovereign state.

Lithuanians and Poles controlled vast estates in Ukraine, and were a law unto themselves. Judicial rulings from [Cracow](/wiki/Cracow) were routinely flouted, while peasants were heavily taxed and practically tied to the land as [serfs](/wiki/Serf). Occasionally the landowners battled each other using armies of Ukrainian peasants. The Poles and Lithuanians were Roman Catholics and tried with some success to convert the Orthodox lesser nobility. In 1596, they set up the "Greek-Catholic" or [Uniate Church](/wiki/Ukrainian_Greek_Catholic_Church); it dominates western Ukraine to this day. Religious differentiation left the Ukrainian Orthodox peasants leaderless, as they were reluctant to follow the Ukrainian nobles.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Cossacks led an uprising, called [Koliivshchyna](/wiki/Koliyivschyna), starting in the Ukrainian borderlands of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1768. Ethnicity was one root cause of this revolt, which included Ukrainian [violence](/wiki/Massacre_of_Uman) that killed tens of thousands of Poles and Jews. Religious warfare also broke out among Ukrainian groups. Increasing conflict between Uniate and Orthodox parishes along the newly reinforced Polish-Russian border on the [Dnieper River](/wiki/Dnieper_River) in the time of [Catherine II](/wiki/Catherine_II_of_Russia) set the stage for the uprising. As Uniate religious practices had become more Latinized, Orthodoxy in this region drew even closer into dependence on the Russian Orthodox Church. Confessional tensions also reflected opposing Polish and Russian political allegiances.[[41]](#cite_note-41) After the [Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Empire](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Empire) in 1783, [New Russia](/wiki/New_Russia) was settled by Ukrainians and Russians.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Despite promises in the Treaty of Pereyaslav, the Ukrainian elite and the Cossacks never received the freedoms and the autonomy they were expecting. However, within the Empire, Ukrainians rose to the highest Russian state and [church](/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) offices.[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) At a later period, [tsarists](/wiki/Tsarist) established a policy of [Russification](/wiki/Russification), suppressing the use of the Ukrainian language in print and in public.<ref name=censor>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

### 19th century, World War I and revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|1904 map showing separate countries of Little Russia, South Russia and West Russia prior to unification into Ukraine.](/wiki/File:1904_Map_showing_Ukraine_region_before_unification.pdf) [thumbnail|Ukraine according to an old postal stamp from 1919 that was reprinted in 2008.](/wiki/File:Mapa_from_Ukraine_postcard_1919.jpg)

In the 19th century, Ukraine was a rural area largely ignored by Russia and Austria. With growing urbanization and modernization, and a cultural trend toward [romantic nationalism](/wiki/Romantic_nationalism), a Ukrainian [intelligentsia](/wiki/Intelligentsia) committed to national rebirth and social justice emerged. The serf-turned-national-poet [Taras Shevchenko](/wiki/Taras_Shevchenko) (1814–1861) and the political theorist [Mykhailo Drahomanov](/wiki/Mykhailo_Drahomanov) (1841–1895) led the growing nationalist movement.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

After the [Russo-Turkish War (1768–1774)](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1768–1774)), [Catherine the Great](/wiki/Catherine_the_Great) and her immediate successors encouraged German immigration into Ukraine and especially [into Crimea](/wiki/Crimea_Germans), to thin the previously dominant Turk population and encourage agriculture.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Beginning in the 19th century, there was migration from Ukraine to distant areas of the Russian Empire. According to the 1897 census, there were 223,000 ethnic Ukrainians in [Siberia](/wiki/Siberia) and 102,000 in [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia).[[43]](#cite_note-43) An additional 1.6 million emigrated to the east in the ten years after the opening of the [Trans-Siberian Railway](/wiki/Trans-Siberian_Railway) in 1906.[[44]](#cite_note-44) [Far Eastern](/wiki/Russian_Far_East) areas with an ethnic Ukrainian population became known as [Green Ukraine](/wiki/Green_Ukraine).[[45]](#cite_note-45) Nationalist and socialist parties developed in the late 19th century. Austrian [Galicia](/wiki/Galicia_(eastern_Europe)), under the relatively lenient rule of the [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburgs), became the centre of the nationalist movement.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Ukrainians entered [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) on the side of both the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers), under Austria, and the [Triple Entente](/wiki/Triple_Entente), under Russia. 3.5 million Ukrainians fought with the [Imperial Russian Army](/wiki/Military_history_of_Imperial_Russia), while 250,000 fought for the [Austro-Hungarian Army](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Army).[[46]](#cite_note-46) [Austro-Hungarian](/wiki/Austria-Hungary) authorities established the Ukrainian Legion to fight against the Russian Empire. This became the [Ukrainian Galician Army](/wiki/Ukrainian_Galician_Army) that fought against the Bolsheviks and Poles in the post-World War I period (1919–23). Those suspected of Russophile sentiments in Austria were treated harshly.[[47]](#cite_note-47) [thumb|left|Ukraine in 1918](/wiki/File:Ukrainian_State_1918.5-11.png)

World War I destroyed both empires. The [Russian Revolution of 1917](/wiki/Russian_Revolution_of_1917) led to the founding of the Soviet Union under the [Bolsheviks](/wiki/Bolshevik), and subsequent [civil war in Russia](/wiki/Civil_war_in_Russia). A Ukrainian national movement for self-determination re-emerged, with heavy Communist and Socialist influence. Several Ukrainian states briefly emerged: the internationally recognized [Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_People's_Republic) (**UNR**, the predecessor of modern Ukraine, was declared on 23 June 1917 proclaimed at first as a part of the Russian Republic; after the [Bolshevik Revolution](/wiki/Bolshevik_Revolution), the Ukrainian People's Republic proclaimed its independence on 25 January 1918), the [Hetmanate](/wiki/Ukrainian_State), the [Directorate](/wiki/Directorate_of_Ukraine) and the pro-Bolshevik [Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_Soviet_Socialist_Republic) (or Soviet Ukraine) successively established territories in the former Russian Empire; while the [West Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/West_Ukrainian_People's_Republic) and the [Hutsul Republic](/wiki/Hutsul_Republic) emerged briefly in the Ukrainian lands of former Austro-Hungarian territory.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Act Zluky](/wiki/Act_Zluky) (Unification Act) was an agreement signed on January 22, 1919 by the [Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_People's_Republic) and the [West Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/West_Ukrainian_People's_Republic) on the [St. Sophia Square](/wiki/Saint_Sophia_Cathedral_in_Kiev) in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

This led to civil war, and an [anarchist](/wiki/Anarchism) movement called the [Black Army](/wiki/Black_Guards) or later [The Revolutionary Insurrectionary Army of Ukraine](/wiki/The_Revolutionary_Insurrectionary_Army_of_Ukraine) developed in Southern Ukraine under the command of the anarchist [Nestor Makhno](/wiki/Nestor_Makhno) during the [Russian Civil War](/wiki/Russian_Civil_War).[[48]](#cite_note-48) They protected the operation of "[free soviets](/wiki/Soviet_(council))" and [libertarian](/wiki/Libertarian_socialism) [communes](/wiki/Communes) in the [Free Territory](/wiki/Free_Territory), an attempt to form a [stateless](/wiki/Stateless_society) [anarchist](/wiki/Anarchism) society from 1918 to 1921 during the [Ukrainian Revolution](/wiki/Ukrainian_War_of_Independence), fighting both the tsarist [White Army](/wiki/Armed_Forces_of_South_Russia) under [Denikin](/wiki/Anton_Denikin) and later the [Red Army](/wiki/Red_Army) under [Trotsky](/wiki/Leon_Trotsky), before being defeated by the latter in August 1921.

Poland defeated Western Ukraine in the [Polish-Ukrainian War](/wiki/Polish-Ukrainian_War), but failed against the Bolsheviks in [an offensive against Kiev](/wiki/Kiev_Offensive_(1920)). According to the [Peace of Riga](/wiki/Peace_of_Riga), western Ukraine was incorporated into Poland, which in turn recognised the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in March 1919. With establishment of the Soviet power, Ukraine lost half of its territory to Poland, Belarus and Russia, while on the left bank of [Dniester](/wiki/Dniester) River was created Moldavian autonomy. Ukraine became a founding member of the [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics](/wiki/Union_of_Soviet_Socialist_Republics) in December 1922.<ref name=Britannica>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Western Ukraine, Carpathian Ruthenia and Bukovina[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|upright|](/wiki/File:Huculy_1933,_Verkhovyna_district.jpg)[Hutsuls](/wiki/Hutsuls), living in [Verkhovyna](/wiki/Verkhovyna), c. 1930 The war in Ukraine continued for another two years; by 1921, however, most of Ukraine had been taken over by the Soviet Union, while Galicia and Volhynia (West Ukraine) were incorporated into independent Poland. [Bukovina](/wiki/Bukovina) was annexed by Romania and [Carpathian Ruthenia](/wiki/Carpathian_Ruthenia) was admitted to the [Czechoslovak Republic](/wiki/First_Czechoslovak_Republic) as an autonomy.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

A powerful underground Ukrainian nationalist movement arose in Poland in the 1920s and 1930s because of Polish national policies, which was led by the Ukrainian Military Organization and the [Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)](/wiki/Organization_of_Ukrainian_Nationalists). The movement attracted a militant following among students. Hostilities between Polish state authorities and the popular movement led to a substantial number of fatalities, and the autonomy which had been promised was never implemented. A number of Ukrainian parties, the Ukrainian Catholic Church, an active press, and a business sector existed in Poland. Economic conditions improved in the 1920s, but the region suffered from the Great Depression in the 1930s.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Inter-war Soviet Ukraine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Urban population of Ukraine in 1925](/wiki/File:Национальный_состав_населения_городов_УССР_в_1925.gif)[Template:Colorbox](/wiki/Template:Colorbox) Ukrainian  
[Template:Colorbox](/wiki/Template:Colorbox) Russian  
[Template:Colorbox](/wiki/Template:Colorbox) Jewish The [Russian Civil War](/wiki/Russian_Civil_War) devastated the whole [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire) including Ukraine. It left over 1.5 million people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless in the former Russian Empire territory. Soviet Ukraine also faced the [Russian famine of 1921](/wiki/Russian_famine_of_1921) (primarily affecting the Russian [Volga](/wiki/Volga_Region)-[Ural](/wiki/Ural_(region)) region).[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) During the 1920s,[[51]](#cite_note-51) under the Ukrainisation policy pursued by the national Communist leadership of [Mykola Skrypnyk](/wiki/Mykola_Skrypnyk), Soviet leadership encouraged a national renaissance in the [Ukrainian culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Ukraine) and [language](/wiki/Ukrainian_language). [Ukrainisation](/wiki/Ukrainisation) was part of the Soviet-wide policy of [Korenisation](/wiki/Korenisation) (literally *indigenisation*).[[52]](#cite_note-52) The Bolsheviks were also committed to [universal health care](/wiki/Universal_health_care), education and social-security benefits, as well as the right to work and housing.[[53]](#cite_note-53) [Women's rights](/wiki/Women's_rights) were greatly increased through new laws.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Most of these policies were sharply reversed by the early 1930s after [Joseph Stalin](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin) became the *de facto* communist party leader.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:DneproGES.jpg)[Dnieper Hydroelectric Station](/wiki/Dnieper_Hydroelectric_Station) under construction circa 1930.

Starting from the late 1920s with a [centrally planned economy](/wiki/First_five-year_plan_(Soviet_Union)), Ukraine was involved in [Soviet industrialisation](/wiki/Industrialization_in_the_USSR) and the republic's industrial output quadrupled during the 1930s.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The peasantry suffered from the [programme of collectivisation](/wiki/Collectivisation_in_the_USSR) of agriculture which began during and was part of the [first five-year plan](/wiki/First_five-year_plan_(Soviet_Union)) and was enforced by regular troops and [secret police](/wiki/Cheka).[[52]](#cite_note-52) Those who resisted were [arrested and deported](/wiki/Population_transfer_in_the_Soviet_Union) and agricultural productivity greatly declined. As members of the collective farms were not allowed to receive any grain until sometimes unrealistic quotas were met, millions starved to death in a [famine](/wiki/Droughts_and_famines_in_Russia_and_the_Soviet_Union) known as [Holodomor](/wiki/Holodomor) or "Great Famine".[[55]](#cite_note-55) Scholars are divided as to whether this famine fits the definition of [genocide](/wiki/Genocide), but the [Ukrainian parliament](/wiki/Ukrainian_parliament) and other countries have declared it as such.[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label)

The Communist leadership perceived famine as a means of class struggle and used starvation as a punishment tool to force peasants into collective farms.[[56]](#cite_note-56) [right|thumb|upright|Two future leaders of the](/wiki/File:Khrushchev_and_Brezhnev.jpg) [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), [Nikita Khrushchev](/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev) (pre-war [CPSU](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_the_Soviet_Union) chief in Ukraine) and [Leonid Brezhnev](/wiki/Leonid_Brezhnev) (an engineer from [Dniprodzerzhynsk](/wiki/Dniprodzerzhynsk)) depicted together.

Largely the same groups were responsible for the mass killing operations during the civil war, collectivisation, and the [Great Terror](/wiki/Great_Purge). These groups were associated with [Yefim Yevdokimov](/wiki/Yefim_Yevdokimov) (1891–1939) and operated in the Secret Operational Division within General State Political Administration ([OGPU](/wiki/State_Political_Directorate)) in 1929–31. Evdokimov transferred into Communist Party administration in 1934, when he became Party secretary for [North Caucasus Krai](/wiki/North_Caucasus_Krai). He appears to have continued advising Joseph Stalin and [Nikolai Yezhov](/wiki/Nikolai_Yezhov) on security matters, and the latter relied on Evdokimov's former colleagues to carry out the mass killing operations that are known as the Great Terror in 1937–38.[[57]](#cite_note-57) On 13 January 2010, Kiev Appellate Court posthumously found Stalin, [Kaganovich](/wiki/Lazar_Kaganovich) and other Soviet Communist Party functionaries guilty of [genocide](/wiki/Genocide) against Ukrainians during the Holodomor famine.[[58]](#cite_note-58)

### World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Following the [Invasion of Poland](/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland) in September 1939, [German](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) and [Soviet](/wiki/Soviet_Army) troops divided the territory of Poland. Thus, Eastern [Galicia](/wiki/Galicia_(Eastern_Europe)) and [Volhynia](/wiki/Volhynia) with their Ukrainian population became reunited with the rest of Ukraine. For the first time in history, the nation was united.[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60) In 1940, the Soviets annexed [Bessarabia](/wiki/Bessarabia) and northern [Bukovina](/wiki/Bukovina). The Ukrainian SSR incorporated northern and southern districts of Bessarabia, northern Bukovina, and the [Hertsa region](/wiki/Hertsa_region). But it ceded the western part of the [Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic](/wiki/Moldavian_Autonomous_Soviet_Socialist_Republic) to the newly created [Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic](/wiki/Moldavian_Soviet_Socialist_Republic). These territorial gains of the USSR were internationally recognized by the [Paris peace treaties of 1947](/wiki/Paris_Peace_Treaties,_1947).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|left|upright|Ukrainian-born Soviet Marshal](/wiki/File:Semyon_Konstantinovich_Timoshenko_(1895-1970),_Soviet_military_commander.jpg) [Semyon Timoshenko](/wiki/Semyon_Timoshenko)

[German armies](/wiki/Wehrmacht) [invaded the Soviet Union](/wiki/Operation_Barbarossa) on 22 June 1941, initiating four years of [total war](/wiki/Total_war). The [Axis](/wiki/Axis_Powers) allies initially advanced against desperate but unsuccessful efforts of the [Red Army](/wiki/Red_Army). In the encirclement [battle of Kiev](/wiki/Battle_of_Kiev_(1941)), the city was acclaimed as a "[Hero City](/wiki/Hero_City)", because of its fierce [resistance](/wiki/Battle_of_Kiev_(1941)). More than 600,000 Soviet soldiers (or one-quarter of the [Soviet Western Front](/wiki/Soviet_Western_Front)) were killed or taken captive there, with many suffering [severe mistreatment](/wiki/German_mistreatment_of_Soviet_prisoners_of_war).[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) Although the majority of Ukrainians fought in or alongside the Red Army and [Soviet resistance](/wiki/Soviet_partisans),[[63]](#cite_note-63) in Western Ukraine an independent [Ukrainian Insurgent Army](/wiki/Ukrainian_Insurgent_Army) movement arose (UPA, 1942). Created as forces of [Ukrainian Government in exile](/wiki/President_of_Ukraine_(in_exile)),[[64]](#cite_note-64) it fell under the influence of the underground ([Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists](/wiki/Organization_of_Ukrainian_Nationalists), OUN) which had developed in [interwar Poland](/wiki/Second_Polish_Republic) as a radical reaction to [Polish policies towards the Ukrainian minority](/wiki/History_of_the_Ukrainian_minority_in_Poland#Policies_of_Józef_Piłsudski_and_the_"Volhynia_Experiment"). Both supported the goal of an [independent Ukrainian state](/wiki/Declaration_of_Ukrainian_Independence,_1941) on the territory with Ukrainian ethnic majority. Although this brought conflict with Nazi Germany, at times the [Melnyk](/wiki/Andriy_Atanasovych_Melnyk)-wing of OUN allied with the Nazi forces. Some UPA divisions also carried out the [massacres of ethnic Poles](/wiki/Massacres_of_Poles_in_Volhynia_and_Eastern_Galicia),[[65]](#cite_note-65) which brought reprisals.[[66]](#cite_note-66) After the war UPA continued to fight the USSR till the 1950s.[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68) At the same time, the [Ukrainian Liberation Army](/wiki/Ukrainian_Liberation_Army), another nationalist movement, fought alongside the Nazis.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Ruined_Kiev_in_WWII.jpg)[Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) suffered significant damage during [World War II](/wiki/Eastern_Front_(World_War_II)), and was occupied by [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) from 19 September 1941 until 6 November 1943.

In total, the number of ethnic Ukrainians who fought in the ranks of the Soviet Army is estimated from 4.5 million[[63]](#cite_note-63) to 7 million.[[69]](#cite_note-69)[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) The [pro-Soviet partisan](/wiki/Soviet_Partisans) guerrilla resistance in Ukraine is estimated to number at 47,800 from the start of occupation to 500,000 at its peak in 1944; with about 50% being ethnic Ukrainians.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Generally, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army's figures are unreliable, with figures ranging anywhere from 15,000 to as many as 100,000 fighters.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72) Most of the Ukrainian SSR was organised within the [Reichskommissariat Ukraine](/wiki/Reichskommissariat_Ukraine), with the intention of exploiting its resources and eventual German settlement. Some western Ukrainians, who had only joined the Soviet Union in 1939, hailed the Germans as liberators. Brutal German rule eventually turned their supporters against the Nazi administrators, who made little attempt to exploit dissatisfaction with Stalinist policies.<ref name=ww2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Instead, the Nazis preserved the collective-farm system, carried out [genocidal policies](/wiki/Mass_graves_in_the_Soviet_Union) against [Jews](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Ukraine), [deported millions of people to work in Germany](/wiki/OST-Arbeiter), and began a depopulation program to prepare for German colonisation.[[73]](#cite_note-73) They blockaded the transport of food on the Kiev River.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The vast majority of the fighting in World War II took place on the [Eastern Front](/wiki/Eastern_Front_(World_War_II)).[[75]](#cite_note-75) By some estimates, 93% of all German casualties took place there.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The total losses inflicted upon the Ukrainian population during the war are estimated [between 5 and 8 million](/wiki/World_War_II_casualties_of_the_Soviet_Union),[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78) including an estimated one and a half million Jews killed by the [Einsatzgruppen](/wiki/Einsatzgruppen),[[79]](#cite_note-79) sometimes with the help of local collaborators. Of the estimated 8.7 million Soviet troops who fell in battle against the Nazis,[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82) 1.4 million were ethnic [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians).[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[82]](#cite_note-82)[Template:Ref labelTemplate:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) [Victory Day](/wiki/Victory_Day_(Eastern_Front)) is celebrated as one of ten Ukrainian national holidays.[[83]](#cite_note-83)

### Post-World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The republic was heavily damaged by the war, and it required significant efforts to recover. More than 700 cities and towns and 28,000 villages were destroyed.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The situation was worsened by a [famine](/wiki/Famine) in 1946–47, which was caused by a drought and the wartime destruction of infrastructure. The death toll of this famine varies, with even the lowest estimate in the tens of thousands.[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87)In 1945, the Ukrainian SSR became one of the founding members of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) organization,[[88]](#cite_note-88) part of a special agreement at the [Yalta Conference](/wiki/Yalta_Conference).[[89]](#cite_note-89) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Sergey_Korolyov_140-190_for_collage.jpg)[Sergey Korolyov](/wiki/Sergey_Korolyov), a native of [Zhytomyr](/wiki/Zhytomyr), the head [Soviet rocket engineer](/wiki/Soviet_space_program) and designer during the [Space Race](/wiki/Space_Race)

Post-war [ethnic cleansing](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) occurred in the newly expanded Soviet Union. As of 1 January 1953, Ukrainians were second only to Russians among adult "[special deportees](/wiki/Forced_settlements_in_the_Soviet_Union)", comprising 20% of the total.[[90]](#cite_note-90) In addition, over 450,000 ethnic [Germans](/wiki/History_of_Germans_in_Russia,_Ukraine_and_the_Soviet_Union) from Ukraine and more than 200,000 [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars) were victims of [forced deportations](/wiki/Population_transfer_in_the_Soviet_Union).[[90]](#cite_note-90) Following the death of [Stalin](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin) in 1953, [Nikita Khrushchev](/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev) became the new leader of the USSR. Having served as First Secretary of the [Communist Party of Ukrainian SSR](/wiki/Communist_Party_(Bolsheviks)_of_Ukraine) in 1938–49, Khrushchev was intimately familiar with the republic; after taking power union-wide, he began to emphasize the friendship between the Ukrainian and Russian nations. In 1954, the 300th anniversary of the [Treaty of Pereyaslav](/wiki/Treaty_of_Pereyaslav) was widely celebrated. [Crimea](/wiki/Crimean_Oblast) was [transferred](/wiki/1954_transfer_of_Crimea) from the [Russian SFSR](/wiki/Russian_SFSR) to the [Ukrainian SSR](/wiki/Ukrainian_SSR).[[91]](#cite_note-91) By 1950, the republic had fully surpassed pre-war levels of industry and production.[[92]](#cite_note-92) During the 1946–1950 [five-year plan](/wiki/Five-Year_Plan_(USSR)), nearly 20% of the Soviet budget was invested in Soviet Ukraine, a 5% increase from pre-war plans. As a result, the Ukrainian workforce rose 33.2% from 1940 to 1955 while industrial output grew 2.2 times in that same period.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Soviet Ukraine soon became a European leader in industrial production,[[93]](#cite_note-93) and an important centre of the Soviet [arms industry](/wiki/Arms_industry) and high-tech research. Such an important role resulted in a major influence of the local elite. Many members of the Soviet leadership came from Ukraine, most notably [Leonid Brezhnev](/wiki/Leonid_Brezhnev). He later ousted Khrushchev and became the Soviet leader from 1964 to 1982. Many prominent Soviet sports players, scientists, and artists came from Ukraine.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

On 26 April 1986, a reactor in the [Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant](/wiki/Chernobyl_Nuclear_Power_Plant) exploded, resulting in the [Chernobyl disaster](/wiki/Chernobyl_disaster), the worst [nuclear reactor](/wiki/Nuclear_reactor) accident in history.[[94]](#cite_note-94) This was the only accident to receive the highest possible rating of 7 by the [International Nuclear Event Scale](/wiki/International_Nuclear_Event_Scale), indicating a "major accident", until the [Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster](/wiki/Fukushima_Daiichi_nuclear_disaster) in March 2011.[[95]](#cite_note-95) At the time of the accident, 7 million people lived in the contaminated territories, including 2.2 million in Ukraine.<ref name = Chernobyl.info>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

After the accident, the new city of [Slavutych](/wiki/Slavutych) was built outside the exclusion zone to house and support the employees of the plant, which was decommissioned in 2000. A report prepared by the [International Atomic Energy Agency](/wiki/International_Atomic_Energy_Agency) and [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) attributed 56 direct deaths to the accident and estimated that there may have been 4,000 extra cancer deaths.[[96]](#cite_note-96)

### Independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|Ukrainian President](/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_848095_Signing_the_Agreement_to_eliminate_the_USSR_and_establish_the_Commonwealth_of_Independent_States.jpg) [Leonid Kravchuk](/wiki/Leonid_Kravchuk) and President of the Russian Federation [Boris Yeltsin](/wiki/Boris_Yeltsin) signed the [Belavezha Accords](/wiki/Belavezha_Accords), [dissolving the Soviet Union](/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union), 8 December 1991 On 16 July 1990, the new parliament adopted the [Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine](/wiki/Declaration_of_State_Sovereignty_of_Ukraine).[[97]](#cite_note-97) This established the principles of the self-determination, democracy, independence, and the priority of Ukrainian law over Soviet law. A month earlier, a [similar declaration](/wiki/Declaration_of_State_Sovereignty_of_the_Russian_Soviet_Federative_Socialist_Republic) was adopted by the parliament of the [Russian SFSR](/wiki/Russian_SFSR). This started a period of confrontation with the central Soviet authorities. In August 1991, a conservative faction among the Communist leaders of the Soviet Union [attempted a coup](/wiki/Soviet_coup_attempt_of_1991) to remove [Mikhail Gorbachev](/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev) and to restore the Communist party's power. After it failed, on 24 August 1991 the Ukrainian parliament adopted the [Act of Independence](/wiki/Act_of_Independence_of_Ukraine).[[98]](#cite_note-98) A [referendum](/wiki/Ukrainian_independence_referendum,_1991) and the [first presidential elections](/wiki/Ukrainian_presidential_election,_1991) took place on 1 December 1991. More than 90% of the electorate expressed their support for the Act of Independence, and they elected the chairman of the parliament, [Leonid Kravchuk](/wiki/Leonid_Kravchuk) as the first [President of Ukraine](/wiki/President_of_Ukraine). At the [meeting in Brest](/wiki/Belavezha_Accords), Belarus on 8 December, followed by the [Alma Ata](/wiki/Alma_Ata) meeting on 21 December, the leaders of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine formally dissolved the Soviet Union and formed the [Commonwealth of Independent States](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States) (CIS).[[99]](#cite_note-99) Ukraine was initially viewed as having favourable economic conditions in comparison to the other regions of the Soviet Union.[[100]](#cite_note-100) However, the country experienced deeper economic slowdown than some of the other [former Soviet Republics](/wiki/Former_Soviet_Republics). During the recession, Ukraine lost 60% of its GDP from 1991 to 1999,<ref name=IMF>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[101]](#cite_note-101) and suffered five-digit inflation rates.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Dissatisfied with the economic conditions, as well as the amounts of crime and [corruption in Ukraine](/wiki/Corruption_in_Ukraine), Ukrainians protested and organized strikes.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The Ukrainian economy stabilized by the end of the 1990s. A new currency, the [hryvnia](/wiki/Ukrainian_hryvnia), was introduced in 1996. After 2000, the country enjoyed steady [real economic growth](/wiki/Real_GDP) averaging about seven percent annually.[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105) A new [Constitution of Ukraine](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ukraine) was adopted under second President [Leonid Kuchma](/wiki/Leonid_Kuchma) in 1996, which turned Ukraine into a [semi-presidential republic](/wiki/Semi-presidential_republic) and established a stable political system. Kuchma was, however, criticised by opponents for corruption, [electoral fraud](/wiki/Electoral_fraud), discouraging free speech and concentrating too much power in his office.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Ukraine also pursued full nuclear disarmament, giving up the third largest nuclear weapons stockpile in the world and dismantling or removing all strategic bombers on its territory.[[107]](#cite_note-107)

### Orange Revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|Protesters at](/wiki/File:Joesjtsjenko_Marion_Kiev_2004.jpg) [Independence Square](/wiki/Maidan_Nezalezhnosti) on the first day of the [Orange Revolution](/wiki/Orange_Revolution)

In 2004, [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych), then Prime Minister, was declared the winner of the [presidential elections](/wiki/Ukrainian_presidential_election,_2004), which had been largely rigged, as the [Supreme Court of Ukraine](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Ukraine) later ruled.[[108]](#cite_note-108) The results caused a public outcry in support of the opposition candidate, [Viktor Yushchenko](/wiki/Viktor_Yushchenko), who challenged the outcome. This resulted in the peaceful [Orange Revolution](/wiki/Orange_Revolution), bringing Viktor Yushchenko and [Yulia Tymoshenko](/wiki/Yulia_Tymoshenko) to power, while casting Viktor Yanukovych in opposition.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Activists of the Orange Revolution were funded and trained in tactics of political organisation and [nonviolent resistance](/wiki/Nonviolent_resistance) by Western pollsters[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) and professional consultants[Template:Who](/wiki/Template:Who) who were partly funded by Western government and non-government agencies but received most of their funding from domestic sources.[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)<ref name=ORRNC>[The Colour Revolutions in the Former Soviet Republics: Ukraine](http://www.academia.edu/1098375/The_Colour_Revolutions_in_the_Former_Soviet_Republics_Successes_and_Failures) by Nathaniel Copsey, [Routledge](/wiki/Routledge) Contemporary Russia and Eastern Europe Series (page 30-44)</ref> According to [*The Guardian*](/wiki/The_Guardian), the foreign donors included the [U.S. State Department](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State) and [USAID](/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development) along with the [National Democratic Institute for International Affairs](/wiki/National_Democratic_Institute_for_International_Affairs), the [International Republican Institute](/wiki/International_Republican_Institute), the [NGO](/wiki/Non-governmental_organisation) [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House) and [George Soros's](/wiki/George_Soros) [Open Society Institute](/wiki/Open_Society_Institute).[[110]](#cite_note-110) The [National Endowment for Democracy](/wiki/National_Endowment_for_Democracy) has supported democracy-building efforts in Ukraine since 1988.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Writings on [nonviolent struggle](/wiki/Nonviolent_resistance) by [Gene Sharp](/wiki/Gene_Sharp) contributed in forming the strategic basis of the student campaigns.<ref name=APOR291011>[Russia, the US, "the Others" and the "101 Things to Do to Win a (Colour)Revolution": Reflections on Georgia and Ukraine](http://www.academia.edu/1068864/Russia_the_US_the_Others_and_the_101_Things_to_Do_to_Win_a_Colour_Revolution_Reflections_on_Georgia_and_Ukraine) by Abel Polese, [Routledge](/wiki/Routledge) (26 October 2011)</ref>

Russian authorities provided support through advisers such as [Gleb Pavlovsky](/wiki/Gleb_Pavlovsky), consulting on blackening the image of Yushchenko through the state media, pressuring state-dependent voters to vote for Yanukovich and on vote-rigging techniques such as multiple '[carousel voting'](/wiki/Carousel_voting) and 'dead souls' voting.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Yanukovych returned to power in 2006 as Prime Minister in the [Alliance of National Unity](/wiki/Alliance_of_National_Unity),[[113]](#cite_note-113) until [snap elections in September 2007](/wiki/Ukrainian_parliamentary_election,_2007) made Tymoshenko Prime Minister again.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Amid the [2008–09 Ukrainian financial crisis](/wiki/2008–09_Ukrainian_financial_crisis) the Ukrainian economy plunged by 15%.<ref name=FT\_2013>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> [Disputes with Russia](/wiki/Russia–Ukraine_gas_disputes) briefly stopped all gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006 and again in 2009, leading to gas shortages in other countries.[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116) [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych) was [elected President in 2010](/wiki/Ukrainian_presidential_election,_2010) with 48% of votes.[[117]](#cite_note-117)

### Euromaidan and 2014 revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Details](/wiki/Template:Details) [thumb|Pro-EU demonstration in Kiev, November 27, 2013, during](/wiki/File:Euromaidan_01.JPG) [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan)

The [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan) ([Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk), literally "Eurosquare") protests started in November 2013 after the president, [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych), began moving away from an association agreement that had been in the works with the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and instead chose to establish closer ties with the Russian Federation.<ref name=bbc20131217>[Stand-off in Ukraine over EU agreement](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25182823), [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News) (17 December 2013)</ref>[[118]](#cite_note-118) Some Ukrainians took to the streets to show their support for closer ties with Europe.[[119]](#cite_note-119) Meanwhile, in the predominantly Russian-speaking east, a large portion of the population opposed the *Euromaidan* protests, instead supporting the Yanukovych government.[[120]](#cite_note-120) Over time, *Euromaidan* came to describe a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine,[[121]](#cite_note-121) the scope of which evolved to include calls for the resignation of President Yanukovych and [his government](/wiki/Second_Azarov_Government).<ref name=reuters20131212>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Violence escalated after 16 January 2014 when the government accepted new [Anti-Protest Laws](/wiki/Anti-protest_laws_in_Ukraine). Violent anti-government demonstrators occupied buildings in the centre of Kiev, including the Justice Ministry building, and riots left 98 dead with approximately fifteen thousand injured and 100 considered missing[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123)[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125) from 18 to 20 February.[[126]](#cite_note-126)[[127]](#cite_note-127) Owing to the violent protests, Members of Parliament voted on 22 February to remove the president and set [an election](/wiki/Ukrainian_presidential_election,_2014) for 25 May to select his replacement.[[128]](#cite_note-128) [Petro Poroshenko](/wiki/Petro_Poroshenko), running on a pro-European Union platform, won with over fifty percent of the vote, therefore not requiring a run-off election.[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) Upon his election, Poroshenko announced that his immediate priorities would be to take action in the civil unrest in Eastern Ukraine and mend ties with Russian Federation.[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) Poroshenko was inaugurated as president on 7 June 2014, as previously announced by his spokeswoman Irina Friz in a low-key ceremony without a celebration on [Kiev's](/wiki/Kiev) [Maidan Nezalezhnosti](/wiki/Maidan_Nezalezhnosti) square (the center of the [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan) protests[[132]](#cite_note-132)) for the ceremony.[[133]](#cite_note-133)[[134]](#cite_note-134) In October 2014, Ukrainians voted to keep Poroshenko in power.[[135]](#cite_note-135)

### Civil unrest and Russian intervention[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

The ousting[[136]](#cite_note-136) of Yanukovich prompted Vladimir Putin to begin preparations to annex Crimea on 23 February 2014.[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138) Using the Russian naval base at Sevastopol as cover, Putin directed Russian troops and intelligence agents to disarm Ukrainian forces and take control of Crimea.[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140)[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) After the troops entered Crimea,[[143]](#cite_note-143) a controversial [referendum](/wiki/Crimean_referendum,_2014) was held on 16 March 2014 and the official result was that 97 percent wished to join with Russia.[[144]](#cite_note-144) On 18 March 2014, Russia and self-proclaimed Republic of Crimea signed a [treaty of accession of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation#Accession_treaty_and_aftermath) in the Russian Federation. The UN general assembly responded by passing [resolution 68/262](/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_68/262) that the referendum was invalid and supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine.[[145]](#cite_note-145) Separately, in the [Donetsk](/wiki/Donetsk) and [Luhansk](/wiki/Luhansk) regions, armed men declaring themselves as local militia seized government buildings, police and special police stations in several cities and held unrecognised [status referendums](/wiki/Donbass_status_referendums,_2014).[[146]](#cite_note-146) The insurgency was led by Russian emissaries [Igor Girkin](/wiki/Igor_Girkin)[[147]](#cite_note-147) and [Alexander Borodai](/wiki/Alexander_Borodai)[[148]](#cite_note-148) as well as militants from [Russia](/wiki/Russia), such as [Arseny Pavlov](/wiki/Arseny_Pavlov).[[149]](#cite_note-149) Talks in [Geneva](/wiki/Geneva) between the EU, Russia, Ukraine and USA yielded a Joint Diplomatic Statement referred to as the [2014 Geneva Pact](/wiki/2014_Geneva_Pact)[[150]](#cite_note-150) in which the parties requested that all unlawful militias lay down the arms and vacate seized government buildings, and also establish a political dialogue that could lead to more autonomy for Ukraine's regions. When [Petro Poroshenko](/wiki/Petro_Poroshenko) won the presidential election held on 25 May 2014, he vowed to continue the military operations by the Ukrainian government forces to end the armed insurgency.<ref name=G26514P>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> More than 9,000 people have been killed in the military campaign.[[151]](#cite_note-151) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:OSCE_SMM_monitoring_the_movement_of_heavy_weaponry_in_eastern_Ukraine_(16705750566).jpg)[OSCE](/wiki/OSCE) SMM monitoring the movement of heavy weaponry in eastern Ukraine, 4 March 2015

In August 2014, a bi-lateral commission of leading scholars from the United States and Russia issued the Boisto Agenda indicating a 24-step plan to resolve the crisis in Ukraine.[[152]](#cite_note-152) The Boisto Agenda was organized into five imperative categories for addressing the crisis requiring stabilization identified as: (1) Elements of an Enduring, Verifiable Ceasefire; (2) Economic Relations; (3) Social and Cultural Issues; (4) Crimea; and, (5) International Status of Ukraine.[[152]](#cite_note-152) In late 2014, Ukraine ratified the [Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement](/wiki/Ukraine–European_Union_Association_Agreement), which Poroshenko described as Ukraine's "first but most decisive step" towards EU membership.[[153]](#cite_note-153) Poroshenko also set 2020 as target for [EU membership application](/wiki/Ukraine–European_Union_relations).[[154]](#cite_note-154) In February 2015, after a summit hosted in Belarus, Poroshenko negotiated a ceasefire with the separatist troops. This included conditions such as the withdrawal of heavy weaponry from the front line and decentralisation of rebel regions by the end of 2015. It also included conditions such as the Ukrainian control of the border with Russia in 2015 and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Ukrainian territory. The ceasefire began at midnight on 15 February 2015. Participants in this ceasefire also agreed to attend regular meetings to ensure that the agreement is respected.[[155]](#cite_note-155) On January 1, 2016, Ukraine joined the [Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area](/wiki/Deep_and_Comprehensive_Free_Trade_Area) with European Union,[[8]](#cite_note-8) which aims to modernize and develop Ukrainian economy, governance and rule of law to EU standards and gradually increase integration with the EU [Internal market](/wiki/Internal_market).[[156]](#cite_note-156)

## Historical maps of states[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Several states have existed on the territory of present-day Ukraine since its foundation. Most of these territories have been located within [Eastern Europe](/wiki/Eastern_Europe). However, as depicted in the maps here, they have at times extended well into [Eurasia](/wiki/Eurasia) and [Southeastern Europe](/wiki/Southeastern_Europe). At other times there has been no distinct Ukrainian state, its territories having been annexed by its more powerful neighbours.

<gallery> File:001 Kievan Rus' Kyivan Rus' Ukraine map 1220 1240.jpg|Historical map of Kievan Rus', last 20 years of the state (1220–1240). File:Kingdom of Galicia Volhynia Rus' Ukraine 1245 1349.jpg|The [Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia–Volhynia) or Kingdom of Halych-Volynia (1245–1349). File:Grand Duchy of Lithuania Rus and Samogitia 1434.jpg|Historical map of [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Lithuania), Rus' and Samogitia until 1434. File:Polish Lithuanian Ruthenian Commonwealth 1658 historical map.jpg|Proposed [Polish–Lithuanian–Ruthenian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish–Lithuanian–Ruthenian_Commonwealth) or Commonwealth of Three Nations (1658). File:007 Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate and Russian Empire 1751.jpg|Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate and territory of Zaporozhian Cossacks under rule of [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire) (1751). </gallery>

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and with a coastline of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), Ukraine is the world's [46th-largest country](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_area) (after [South Sudan](/wiki/South_Sudan), before [Madagascar](/wiki/Madagascar)). It is the largest wholly European country and the [second largest country](/wiki/Europe#Territories_and_regions) in Europe (after the European part of Russia, before [metropolitan France](/wiki/Metropolitan_France)).[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label)[[157]](#cite_note-157) It lies between latitudes [44°](/wiki/44th_parallel_north) and [53° N](/wiki/53rd_parallel_north), and longitudes [22°](/wiki/22nd_meridian_east) and [41° E](/wiki/41st_meridian_east).

The landscape of Ukraine consists mostly of fertile plains (or [steppes](/wiki/Steppes)) and plateaus, crossed by rivers such as the [Dnieper](/wiki/Dnieper_River) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), [Seversky Donets](/wiki/Seversky_Donets), [Dniester](/wiki/Dniester) and the [Southern Buh](/wiki/Southern_Bug) as they flow south into the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) and the smaller [Sea of Azov](/wiki/Sea_of_Azov). To the southwest, the [delta](/wiki/Danube_Delta) of the [Danube](/wiki/Danube) forms the border with Romania. Its various regions have diverse geographic features ranging from the highlands to the lowlands. The country's only mountains are the [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains) in the west, of which the highest is the [Hora Hoverla](/wiki/Hora_Hoverla) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and the [Crimean Mountains](/wiki/Crimean_Mountains) on Crimea, in the extreme south along the coast.[[158]](#cite_note-158) However Ukraine also has a number of highland regions such as the Volyn-Podillia Upland (in the west) and the Near-Dnipro Upland (on the right bank of Dnieper); to the east there are the south-western spurs of the Central Russian Uplands over which runs the border with Russian Federation. Near the Sea of Azov can be found the Donets Ridge and the Near Azov Upland. The [snow melt](/wiki/Snow_melt) from the mountains feeds the rivers, and natural changes in altitude form a sudden drop in elevation and create many opportunities to form [waterfalls](/wiki/Waterfalls_of_Ukraine).

<gallery> File:Говерла з Кукула.jpg|View of [Carpathian National Park](/wiki/Ukrainian_Carpathian_mountains) and [Hoverla](/wiki/Hoverla) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the highest mountain in Ukraine File:Карпатский 05.jpg|View of [Carpathian National Park](/wiki/Ukrainian_Carpathian_mountains) File:Південне Демерджі на світанку.jpg| Dawn on South Demerdji, [Alushta](/wiki/Alushta), [Crimea](/wiki/Crimea) File:Flag colors.jpg|Typical agricultural landscape of Ukraine, [Kherson Oblast](/wiki/Kherson_Oblast) File:Тиха бухта10.jpg|View of "Tykhaya Bay" near [Koktebel](/wiki/Koktebel) on [Crimea's](/wiki/Crimean_Peninsula) [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) coast File:Кінбурнська коса восени.jpg|[Kinburn sandbar](/wiki/Kinburn_Spit), [Ochakiv](/wiki/Ochakiv) Raion, [Mykolaiv Oblast](/wiki/Mykolaiv_Oblast) File:Швидка квітнева вода.jpg| Balkhovitin, Zuivskyi regional landscape park, [Donetsk Oblast](/wiki/Donetsk_Oblast) </gallery>

Significant natural resources in Ukraine include iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, salt, sulphur, graphite, titanium, magnesium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber and an abundance of arable land. Despite this, the country faces a number of major environmental issues such as inadequate supplies of potable water; air and water pollution and deforestation, as well as radiation contamination in the north-east from the [1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant](/wiki/Chernobyl_disaster). [Recycling toxic household waste](/wiki/Hazardous_Waste_Recycling) is still in its infancy in Ukraine.[[159]](#cite_note-159)

### Soil[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

From northwest to southeast the soils of Ukraine may be divided into three major aggregations: a zone of sandy podzolized soils; a central belt consisting of the black, extremely fertile Ukrainian ([chernozems](/wiki/Chornozem)); and a zone of chestnut and salinized soils.[[160]](#cite_note-160) As much as two-thirds of the country's surface land consists of the so-called black earth ([chornozem](/wiki/Chornozem)), a resource that has made Ukraine one of the most fertile regions in the world and famously called a "breadbasket."[[161]](#cite_note-161) These ([chornozem](/wiki/Chornozem)) soils may be divided into three broad groups: in the north a belt of the so-called deep chernozems, about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) thick and rich in humus; south and east of the former, a zone of prairie, or ordinary, chernozems, which are equally rich in humus but only about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) thick; and the southernmost belt, which is even thinner and has still less humus. Interspersed in various uplands and along the northern and western perimeters of the deep chernozems are mixtures of gray forest soils and podzolized black-earth soils, which together occupy much of Ukraine's remaining area. All these soils are very fertile when sufficient water is available. However, their intensive cultivation, especially on steep slopes, has led to widespread soil erosion and gullying.

The smallest proportion of the soil cover consists of the chestnut soils of the southern and eastern regions. They become increasingly salinized to the south as they approach the Black Sea.[[160]](#cite_note-160)

### Biodiversity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Ukraine is home to a very wide range of animals, fungi, microorganisms and plants.

#### Animals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Ukraine is divided into two main zoological areas. One of these areas, in the west of the country, is made up of the borderlands of Europe, where there are species typical of mixed forests, the other is located in eastern Ukraine, where steppe-dwelling species thrive. In the forested areas of the country it is not uncommon to find lynxes, wolves, wild boar and martens, as well as many other similar species; this is especially true of the [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains), where a large number of predatory mammals make their home, as well as a contingent of brown bears. Around Ukraine's lakes and rivers beavers, otters and mink make their home, whilst within, carp, bream and catfish are the most commonly found species of fish. In the central and eastern parts of the country, rodents such as hamsters and gophers are found in large numbers.

#### Fungi[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

More than 6,600 [species](/wiki/Species) of [fungi](/wiki/Fungus) (including [lichen](/wiki/Lichen)-forming species) have been recorded from Ukraine,[[162]](#cite_note-162)[[163]](#cite_note-163) but this number is far from complete. The true total number of fungal species occurring in Ukraine, including species not yet recorded, is likely to be far higher, given the generally accepted estimate that only about 7% of all fungi worldwide have so far been discovered.[[164]](#cite_note-164) Although the amount of available information is still very small, a first effort has been made to estimate the number of fungal species endemic to Ukraine, and 2217 such species have been tentatively identified.[[165]](#cite_note-165)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Ukraine map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Ukraine_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Ukraine has a mostly [temperate](/wiki/Temperate_climate) [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate), although the southern coast has a [humid subtropical climate](/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate).[[166]](#cite_note-166) [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) is disproportionately distributed; it is highest in the west and north and lowest in the east and southeast. Western Ukraine receives around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of precipitation annually, while Crimea receives around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Winters vary from cool along the Black Sea to cold farther inland. Average annual temperatures range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the north, to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the south.[[167]](#cite_note-167)

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| Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for the seven largest cities in Ukraine[[168]](#cite_note-168) | | | | |
| **Location** | **July (°C)** | **July (°F)** | **January (°C)** | **January (°F)** |
| [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) | 25/16 | 78/61 | –1/−6 | 30/21 |
| [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv) | 26/16 | 79/61 | −2/−7 | 28/19 |
| [Dnipropetrovsk](/wiki/Dnipropetrovsk) | 28/18 | 83/65 | 0/−5 | 32/21 |
| [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa) | 27/18 | 80/65 | 2/−2 | 36/27 |
| [Donetsk](/wiki/Donetsk) | 27/16 | 81/61 | –1/–6 | 29/20 |
| [Zaporizhia](/wiki/Zaporizhia) | 28/16 | 83/61 | –0/−5 | 31/21 |
| [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv) | 24/13 | 75/56 | 0/–6 | 32/21 |

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Ukraine is a republic under a mixed semi-parliamentary [semi-presidential system](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) with separate [legislative](/wiki/Legislative_branch), [executive](/wiki/Executive_branch), and [judicial branches](/wiki/Judicial_branch).

### The Constitution of Ukraine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|In the modern era, Ukraine has become a much more democratic country](/wiki/File:Ukrainian_parliamentary_election,_2007.jpg)[[169]](#cite_note-169)[[170]](#cite_note-170)[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172)

With the proclamation of its independence on 24 August 1991, and adoption of a constitution on 28 June 1996, Ukraine became a semi-presidential republic. However, in 2004, deputies introduced changes to the Constitution, which tipped the balance of power in favour of a [parliamentary system](/wiki/Parliamentary_system). From 2004 to 2010, the legitimacy of the 2004 Constitutional amendments had official sanction, both with the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and most major political parties.[[173]](#cite_note-173) Despite this, on 30 September 2010 the Constitutional Court ruled that the amendments were null and void, forcing a return to the terms of the 1996 Constitution and again making Ukraine's political system more presidential in character.

The ruling on the 2004 Constitutional amendments became a major topic of political discourse. Much of the concern was based on the fact that neither the Constitution of 1996 nor the Constitution of 2004 provided the ability to "undo the Constitution", as the decision of the Constitutional Court would have it, even though the 2004 constitution arguably has an exhaustive list of possible procedures for constitutional amendments (articles 154–159). In any case, the current Constitution could be modified by a vote in Parliament.[[173]](#cite_note-173)[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175)[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify)

On 21 February 2014 an agreement between President Viktor Yanukovych and opposition leaders saw the country return to the 2004 Constitution. The historic agreement, brokered by the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), followed protests that began in late November 2013 and culminated in a week of violent clashes in which scores of protesters were killed. In addition to returning the country to the 2004 Constitution, the deal provided for the formation of a coalition government, the calling of early elections, and the release of former Prime Minister [Yulia Tymoshenko](/wiki/Yulia_Tymoshenko) from prison.[[176]](#cite_note-176) A day after the agreement was reached the Ukraine parliament dismissed Yanukovych and installed its speaker [Oleksandr Turchynov](/wiki/Oleksandr_Turchynov) as interim president[[177]](#cite_note-177) and [Arseniy Yatsenyuk](/wiki/Arseniy_Yatsenyuk) as the [Prime Minister of Ukraine](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ukraine).[[178]](#cite_note-178)

### The president, parliament and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|Presidential administration building](/wiki/File:Pres-adm-ukraine-2008.jpg) [thumb|Cabinet of Ministers building](/wiki/File:Pechersk_28_09_13_077.jpg)

The [President](/wiki/President_of_Ukraine) is elected by popular vote for a five-year term and is the formal [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state).[[179]](#cite_note-179)Ukraine's legislative branch includes the 450-seat [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) parliament, the [Verkhovna Rada](/wiki/Verkhovna_Rada).[[180]](#cite_note-180) The parliament is primarily responsible for the formation of the executive branch and the [Cabinet of Ministers](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Ministers_of_Ukraine), headed by the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ukraine).[[181]](#cite_note-181) However, the President still retains the authority to nominate the Ministers of the Foreign Affairs and of Defence for parliamentary approval, as well as the power to appoint the [Prosecutor General](/wiki/Prosecutor_General_of_Ukraine) and the head of the [Security Service](/wiki/Security_Service_of_Ukraine).

Laws, acts of the parliament and the cabinet, presidential decrees, and acts of the [Crimean parliament](/wiki/Verkhovna_Rada_of_Crimea) may be abrogated by the [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Ukraine), should they be found to violate the constitution. Other normative acts are subject to judicial review. The [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Ukraine) is the main body in the system of courts of general jurisdiction. Local self-government is officially guaranteed. Local councils and city mayors are popularly elected and exercise control over local budgets. The heads of regional and district administrations are appointed by the President in accordance with the proposals of the Prime Minister. This system virtually requires an agreement between the President and the Prime Minister, and has in the past led to problems, such as when President Yushchenko exploited a perceived loophole by appointing so-called 'temporarily acting' officers, instead of actual governors or local leaders, thus evading the need to seek a compromise with the Prime Minister. This practice was controversial and was subject to Constitutional Court review.

Ukraine has a large number of political parties, many of which have tiny memberships and are unknown to the general public.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Small parties often join in multi-party coalitions (electoral blocs) for the purpose of participating in parliamentary elections.

### Courts and law enforcement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Klov_Palace._Listed_ID_80-382-0462._-_8_Pylypa_Orlyka_Street,_Pechersk_Raion,_Kiev._-_Pechersk_28_09_13_396.jpg)[Klovsky Palace](/wiki/Klov_Palace), home to the [Supreme Court of Ukraine](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Ukraine)

The courts enjoy legal, financial and constitutional freedom guaranteed by Ukrainian law since 2002. Judges are largely well protected from dismissal (except in the instance of gross misconduct). Court justices are appointed by presidential decree for an initial period of five years, after which Ukraine's Supreme Council confirms their positions for life. Although there are still problems, the system is considered to have been much improved since Ukraine's independence in 1991. The Supreme Court is regarded as an independent and impartial body, and has on several occasions ruled against the Ukrainian government. The [World Justice Project](/wiki/World_Justice_Project) ranks Ukraine 66 out of 99 countries surveyed in its annual Rule of Law Index.[[182]](#cite_note-182)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Патрульний_автомобіль_київської_поліції.jpg)[National Police of Ukraine](/wiki/National_Police_of_Ukraine) was formed on 3 July 2015, as part of the post-Euromaidan reforms. [Prosecutors](/wiki/Prosecutor) in Ukraine have greater powers than in most European countries, and according to the [European Commission for Democracy through Law](/wiki/European_Commission_for_Democracy_through_Law) 'the role and functions of the Prosecutor's Office is not in accordance with [Council of Europe](/wiki/Council_of_Europe) standards".[[183]](#cite_note-183) The criminal judicial system maintains an average [conviction rate](/wiki/Conviction_rate) of over 99%,[[184]](#cite_note-184) equal to the conviction rate of the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), with<ref name=Moskal>[Moskal: 'Rotten to the core'](http://wayback.archive.org/web/20100331193916/http://www.kyivpost.com/news/business/bus_focus/detail/62565/), Kyiv Post (25 March 2010)</ref> suspects often being incarcerated for long periods before trial.<ref name=rotten>[Jackpot](http://wayback.archive.org/web/20100329145022/http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/62564), Kyiv Post, 25 March 2010</ref> On 24 March 2010, President Yanukovych formed an expert group to make recommendations how to "clean up the current mess and adopt a law on court organization".[[185]](#cite_note-185) One day later, he stated "We can no longer disgrace our country with such a court system."[[185]](#cite_note-185) The criminal judicial system and the prison system of Ukraine remain quite punitive.

Since 1 January 2010 it has been permissible to hold court proceedings in Russian by mutual consent of the parties. Citizens unable to speak [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_language) or Russian may use their native language or the services of a translator.[[186]](#cite_note-186)[[187]](#cite_note-187) Previously all court proceedings had to be held in Ukrainian.

Law enforcement agencies in Ukraine are organised under the authority of the [Ministry of Internal Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Internal_Affairs_of_Ukraine). They consist primarily of the national police force *(*[*Мiлiцiя*](/wiki/Militsiya)*)* and various specialised units and agencies such as the [State Border Guard](/wiki/State_Border_Guard_Service_of_Ukraine) and the [Coast Guard](/wiki/Ukrainian_Sea_Guard) services. Law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, faced criticism for their heavy handling of the 2004 [Orange Revolution](/wiki/Orange_Revolution). Many thousands of police officers were stationed throughout the capital, primarily to dissuade protesters from challenging the state's authority but also to provide a quick reaction force in case of need; most officers were armed.<ref name=NYTSBU>C. J. Chivers, [BACK CHANNELS: A Crackdown Averted; How Top Spies in Ukraine Changed the Nation's Path](http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9503E2DE1238F934A25752C0A9639C8B63), [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times), 17 January 2005.</ref> Bloodshed was only avoided when Lt. Gen. [Sergei Popkov](/wiki/Sergei_Popkov) heeded his colleagues' calls to withdraw.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is also responsible for the maintenance of the [State Security Service](/wiki/Security_Service_of_Ukraine); Ukraine's domestic intelligence agency, which has on occasion been accused of acting like a [secret police](/wiki/Secret_police) force serving to protect the country's political elite from media criticism. On the other hand, however, it is widely accepted that members of the service provided vital information about government plans to the leaders of the Orange Revolution to prevent the collapse of the movement.

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In 1999–2001, Ukraine served as a non-permanent member of the [UN Security Council](/wiki/UN_Security_Council). Historically, Soviet Ukraine joined the United Nations in 1945 as one of the original members following a Western compromise with the Soviet Union, which had asked for seats for all 15 of its union republics. Ukraine has consistently supported peaceful, negotiated settlements to disputes. It has participated in the quadripartite talks on the conflict in Moldova and promoted a peaceful resolution to conflict in the post-Soviet state of Georgia. Ukraine also has made a substantial contribution to UN [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) operations since 1992.

[thumb|Leaders of](/wiki/File:Normandy_format_talks_in_Minsk_(February_2015)_03_cropped.jpeg) [Belarus](/wiki/Belarus), [Russia](/wiki/Russia), [Germany](/wiki/Germany), [France](/wiki/France), and Ukraine at [Minsk II](/wiki/Minsk_II) summit, 2015. [thumb|In January 2016, Ukraine joins the](/wiki/File:EU_DCFTA_EFTA.svg) [Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area](/wiki/Deep_and_Comprehensive_Free_Trade_Area) (green) with the EU (blue), established by [Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement](/wiki/Ukraine–European_Union_Association_Agreement) Ukraine currently considers Euro-Atlantic integration its primary foreign policy objective,[[188]](#cite_note-188) but in practice it has always balanced its relationship with the European Union and the United States with strong ties to Russia. The [European Union's](/wiki/European_Union) [Partnership and Cooperation Agreement](/wiki/Partnership_and_Cooperation_Agreement) (PCA) with Ukraine went into force on 1 March 1998. The European Union (EU) has encouraged Ukraine to implement the PCA fully before discussions begin on an association agreement, issued at the EU Summit in December 1999 in [Helsinki](/wiki/Helsinki), recognizes Ukraine's long-term aspirations but does not discuss association. On 31 January 1992, Ukraine joined the then-Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (now the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Cooperation_in_Europe) (OSCE), and on 10 March 1992, it became a member of the [North Atlantic Cooperation Council](/wiki/North_Atlantic_Cooperation_Council). [Ukraine–NATO relations](/wiki/Ukraine–NATO_relations) are close and the country has declared interest in eventual membership.[[188]](#cite_note-188) This was removed from the government's foreign policy agenda upon election of [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych) to the presidency, in 2010.[[188]](#cite_note-188) But after February 2014's [Yanukovych ouster](/wiki/2014_Ukrainian_revolution) and the (denied by Russia) following Russian military intervention in Ukraine Ukraine renewed its drive for NATO membership.[[188]](#cite_note-188) Ukraine is the most active member of the [Partnership for Peace](/wiki/Partnership_for_Peace) (PfP). All major political parties in Ukraine support full eventual integration into the European Union. The Association Agreement with the EU was expected to be signed and put into effect by the end of 2011, but the process was suspended by 2012 because of the political developments of that time.[[189]](#cite_note-189) The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Ukraine long had close ties with all its neighbours, but [Russia–Ukraine relations](/wiki/Russia–Ukraine_relations) became difficult in 2014 by the [annexation of Crimea](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation), energy dependence and payment disputes.

Ukraine is included in the European Union's [European Neighbourhood Policy](/wiki/European_Neighbourhood_Policy) (ENP) which aims at bringing the EU and its neighbours closer.

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The system of Ukrainian subdivisions reflects the country's status as a [unitary state](/wiki/Unitary_state) (as stated in the country's constitution) with unified legal and [administrative](/wiki/Local_government) regimes for each unit.

Ukraine consists of 27 regions which are twenty-four [oblasts](/wiki/Oblast) (provinces) and one [autonomous republic](/wiki/Autonomous_republic) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), [Crimea](/wiki/Autonomous_Republic_of_Crimea). Additionally, the cities of [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), the capital, and [Sevastopol](/wiki/Sevastopol), both have a special legal status. The 24 oblasts and Crimea are subdivided into 490 [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) (districts) and city municipalities of regional significance, or second-level administrative units. The average area of a Ukrainian raion is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert); the average population of a raion is 52,000 people.[[191]](#cite_note-191) [Populated places in Ukraine](/wiki/Populated_places_in_Ukraine) are split into two categories: urban and rural. Urban populated places are split further into cities and [urban-type settlements](/wiki/Urban-type_settlement) (a Soviet administrative invention), while rural populated places consist of villages and settlements (a generally used term). All cities have certain degree of self-rule depending on their significance such as national significance (as in the case of Kiev and Sevastopol), regional significance (within each oblast or autonomous republic) or district significance (all the rest of cities). City's significance depends on several factors such as its population, socio-economic and historical importance, infrastructure and others.

Following the [2014 Crimean crisis](/wiki/2014_Crimean_crisis), [Crimea](/wiki/Autonomous_Republic_of_Crimea) and [Sevastopol](/wiki/Sevastopol) became [de facto](/wiki/De_facto) administrated by the Russian Federation, which [claims them](/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation) as the [Republic of Crimea](/wiki/Republic_of_Crimea) and the [federal city](/wiki/Federal_cities_of_Russia) of [Sevastopol](/wiki/Sevastopol). They are still recognised as being Ukrainian territory by the majority of the international community. [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Oblasts of Ukraine](/wiki/Template:Oblasts_of_Ukraine)

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### Armed forces[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Commander of the Ukrainian contingent in](/wiki/File:Kissing_the_flag.jpg) [Multi-National Force – Iraq](/wiki/Multi-National_Force_–_Iraq), kisses his country's flag.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited a 780,000-man military force on its territory, equipped with the third-largest [nuclear weapons arsenal](/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_and_Ukraine) in the world.[[192]](#cite_note-192)[[193]](#cite_note-193) In May 1992, Ukraine signed the [Lisbon Protocol](/wiki/Lisbon_Protocol) in which the country agreed to give up all nuclear weapons to Russia for disposal and to join the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](/wiki/Nuclear_Non-Proliferation_Treaty) as a non-nuclear weapon state. Ukraine ratified the treaty in 1994, and by 1996 the country became free of nuclear weapons.<ref name=milgov>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Ukraine took consistent steps toward reduction of conventional weapons. It signed the [Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe](/wiki/Treaty_on_Conventional_Armed_Forces_in_Europe), which called for reduction of tanks, artillery, and armoured vehicles (army forces were reduced to 300,000). The country plans to convert the current [conscript](/wiki/Conscript)-based military into a professional [volunteer military](/wiki/Volunteer_military).[[6]](#cite_note-6) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Het'man_Sahaidachnyi_ide_na_chornomu_mori_2012-07-17.jpg)[Ukrainian frigate Hetman Sahaydachniy (U130)](/wiki/Ukrainian_frigate_Hetman_Sahaydachniy_(U130))

Ukraine has been playing an increasingly larger role in peacekeeping operations. On Friday 3 January 2014, the Ukrainian frigate *Hetman Sagaidachniy* joined the European Union's counter piracy [Operation Atalanta](/wiki/Operation_Atalanta) and will be part of the EU Naval Force off the coast of [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) for two months.[[194]](#cite_note-194) Ukrainian troops are deployed in [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo) as part of the [Ukrainian-Polish Battalion](/wiki/Polish-Ukrainian_Peace_Force_Battalion).[[195]](#cite_note-195) A Ukrainian unit was deployed in [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon), as part of [UN Interim Force](/wiki/United_Nations_Interim_Force_in_Lebanon) enforcing the mandated ceasefire agreement. There was also a maintenance and training battalion deployed in [Sierra Leone](/wiki/Sierra_Leone). In 2003–05, a Ukrainian unit was deployed as part of the [Multinational force in Iraq](/wiki/Multinational_force_in_Iraq) under Polish command. The total Ukrainian armed forces deployment around the world is 562 servicemen.[[196]](#cite_note-196) Military units of other states participate in multinational military exercises with Ukrainian forces in Ukraine regularly, including [U.S. military](/wiki/U.S._military) forces.[[197]](#cite_note-197) Following independence, Ukraine declared itself a neutral state.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The country has had a limited military partnership with Russian Federation, other CIS countries and a [partnership with NATO](/wiki/Partnership_for_Peace) since 1994. In the 2000s, the government was leaning towards NATO, and a deeper cooperation with the alliance was set by the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan signed in 2002. It was later agreed that the question of joining NATO should be answered by a national referendum at some point in the future.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Recently deposed [President](/wiki/Ukrainian_President) [Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych) considered the current level of co-operation between [Ukraine and NATO](/wiki/Ukraine–NATO_relations) sufficient,[[198]](#cite_note-198) and was against Ukraine joining NATO.[[7]](#cite_note-7) During the [2008 Bucharest summit](/wiki/2008_Bucharest_summit), NATO declared that Ukraine will become a member of NATO, whenever it wants and when it would correspond to the criteria for the accession.[[198]](#cite_note-198)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

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In Soviet times, the economy of Ukraine was the second largest in the Soviet Union, being an important industrial and agricultural component of the country's [planned economy](/wiki/Planned_economy).[[157]](#cite_note-157) With the dissolution of the Soviet system, the country moved from a planned economy to a [market economy](/wiki/Market_economy). The transition process was difficult for the majority of the population which plunged into poverty.[[199]](#cite_note-199) Ukraine's economy contracted severely following the years after the Soviet dissolution. Day-to-day life for the average person living in Ukraine was a struggle. A significant number of citizens in rural Ukraine survived by growing their own food, often working two or more jobs and buying the basic necessities through the [barter economy](/wiki/Barter_economy).[[200]](#cite_note-200) In 1991, the government liberalised most prices to combat widespread product shortages, and was successful in overcoming the problem. At the same time, the government continued to subsidise state-run industries and agriculture by uncovered monetary emission. The loose monetary policies of the early 1990s pushed inflation to [hyperinflationary](/wiki/Hyperinflation) levels. For the year 1993, Ukraine holds the world record for inflation in one calendar year.[[201]](#cite_note-201) Those living on fixed incomes suffered the most.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Prices stabilised only after the introduction of new currency, the [hryvnia](/wiki/Ukrainian_hryvnia), in 1996. The country was also slow in implementing structural reforms. Following independence, the government formed a legal framework for [privatisation](/wiki/Privatisation). However, widespread resistance to reforms within the government and from a significant part of the population soon stalled the reform efforts. A large number of state-owned enterprises were exempt from the privatisation process.

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Національний_банк_України_знизу.jpg) [National Bank of Ukraine](/wiki/National_Bank_of_Ukraine) [building](/wiki/National_Bank_of_Ukraine_building)

In the meantime, by 1999, the GDP had fallen to less than 40% of the 1991 level.[[202]](#cite_note-202) It recovered considerably in the following years, but as at 2014 had yet to reach the historical maximum.[[203]](#cite_note-203) In the early 2000s, the economy showed strong export-based growth of 5 to 10%, with industrial production growing more than 10% per year.[[204]](#cite_note-204) Ukraine was hit by the [economic crisis of 2008](/wiki/Economic_crisis_of_2008) and in November 2008, the IMF approved a stand-by loan of $16.5 billion for the country.[[205]](#cite_note-205) Ukraine's 2010 GDP ([PPP](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)), as calculated by the [CIA](/wiki/CIA), is ranked [38th in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) and estimated at $305.2 billion.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Its GDP per capita in 2010 according to the CIA was $6,700 (in PPP terms), ranked 107th in the world.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Nominal GDP (in U.S. dollars, calculated at market exchange rate) was $136 billion, [ranked 53rd in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)).[[157]](#cite_note-157) By July 2008 the average nominal salary in Ukraine reached 1,930 hryvnias per month.[[206]](#cite_note-206) Despite remaining lower than in neighbouring central European countries, the salary income growth in 2008 stood at 36.8%[[207]](#cite_note-207) [thumb|](/wiki/File:An-225_Mriya.jpg)[Antonov An-225 Mriya](/wiki/Antonov_An-225_Mriya) has the largest wingspan of any aircraft in operational service.

Ukraine produces nearly all types of transportation vehicles and [spacecraft](/wiki/National_Space_Agency_of_Ukraine). Antonov airplanes and [KrAZ](/wiki/KrAZ) trucks are exported to many countries. The majority of Ukrainian exports are marketed to the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and [CIS](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States).[[208]](#cite_note-208) Since independence, Ukraine has maintained its own space agency, the [National Space Agency of Ukraine](/wiki/National_Space_Agency_of_Ukraine) (NSAU). Ukraine became an active participant in scientific space exploration and remote sensing missions. Between 1991 and 2007, Ukraine has launched six self made [satellites](/wiki/Satellites) and 101 [launch vehicles](/wiki/Launch_vehicle), and continues to design spacecraft.[[209]](#cite_note-209)[[210]](#cite_note-210)[[211]](#cite_note-211) The country imports most energy supplies, especially oil and natural gas and to a large extent depends on Russia as its energy supplier. While 25% of the natural gas in Ukraine comes from internal sources, about 35% comes from Russia and the remaining 40% from Central Asia through transit routes that Russia controls. At the same time, 85% of the Russian gas is delivered to [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe) through Ukraine.[[212]](#cite_note-212) [thumb|left|Trends in the Human Development Index of Ukraine, 1970–2010](/wiki/File:Ukraine,_Trends_in_the_Human_Development_Index_1970-2010.png) [thumb|left|Ukrainian administrative divisions by](/wiki/File:Ukraine_salary_by_region_2012.svg) [monthly salary](/wiki/List_of_Ukrainian_oblasts_and_territories_by_salary). All figures are in the Ukrainian hryvnia.

Growing sectors of the Ukrainian economy include the information technology (IT) market, which topped all other [Central](/wiki/Central_Europe) and Eastern European countries in 2007, growing some 40 percent.[[213]](#cite_note-213) In 2013, Ukraine ranked fourth in the world in number of certified [IT](/wiki/Information_technology) professionals after the [United States](/wiki/United_States), [India](/wiki/India) and [Russia](/wiki/Russia).<ref name=ITUkrM2013>[Template:Uk icon](/wiki/Template:Uk_icon) [Україна – четверта в світі за кількістю ІТ-фахівців *Ukraine in fourth place in the world in the number of IT professionals*](http://www.unian.ua/society/768725-ukrajina-chetverta-v-sviti-za-kilkistyu-it-fahivtsiv.html), [UNIAN](/wiki/UNIAN) (27 March 2013)</ref>

Ukraine's 2010 GDP, as calculated by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank), was around $136 billion, 2011 GDP – around $163 billion, 2012 – $176.6 billion, 2013 – $177.4 billion.[[214]](#cite_note-214) In 2014 and 2015, the Ukrainian currency was the world's worst performing currency, having dropped 80 percent of its value since April 2014 since the [War in Donbass](/wiki/War_in_Donbass) and the [annexation of Crimea](/wiki/2014_Crimean_crisis) by Russia.[[215]](#cite_note-215)[[216]](#cite_note-216) The [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) classifies Ukraine as a middle-income state.[[217]](#cite_note-217) Significant issues include underdeveloped infrastructure and transportation, corruption and bureaucracy. The public will to fight against corrupt officials and business elites culminated in a strong wave of public demonstrations against the Victor Yanukovych's regime in November 2013.[[218]](#cite_note-218) However, according to the Corruption Perceptions Index, Ukraine is still the most corrupt country in Europe being ranked 142nd out of 175 countries on the world, in the latest CPI report from 2014.<ref name=corruptionindex2014>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2007 the [Ukrainian stock market](/wiki/PFTS_Ukraine_Stock_Exchange) recorded the second highest growth in the world of 130 percent.[[219]](#cite_note-219) According to the CIA, in 2006 the market capitalization of the Ukrainian stock market was $111.8 billion.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Ukraine has managed to achieve certain progress in reducing absolute poverty, ensuring access to primary and secondary education, improving maternal health and reducing child mortality. The poverty rate according to the absolute criterion (share of the population whose daily consumption is below US$5.05 (PPP)) was reduced from 11.9 percent in 2000 to 2.3 percent in 2012, and the poverty rate according to the relative criterion (share of the population below the national poverty line) decreased at the same time from 71.2 percent to 24.0 percent.[[220]](#cite_note-220)

### Corporations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[thumb|right|A launch of](/wiki/File:Sea_Launch_01.jpg) [Zenit-3SL](/wiki/Zenit-3SL) rocket from the [Sea Launch](/wiki/Sea_Launch) platform [*Ocean Odyssey*](/wiki/Ocean_Odyssey) Ukraine has a very large heavy-industry base and is one of the largest refiners of metallurgical products in Eastern Europe.[[221]](#cite_note-221) However, the country is also well known for its production of high-technological goods and transport products, such as [Antonov](/wiki/Antonov) aircraft and various private and commercial vehicles.[[222]](#cite_note-222) The country's largest and most competitive firms are components of the [PFTS index](/wiki/PFTS_index), traded on the [PFTS Ukraine Stock Exchange](/wiki/PFTS_Ukraine_Stock_Exchange).

Well-known Ukrainian brands include [Naftogaz Ukrainy](/wiki/Naftogaz_Ukrainy), [AvtoZAZ](/wiki/AvtoZAZ), [PrivatBank](/wiki/PrivatBank), [Roshen](/wiki/Roshen), [Yuzhmash](/wiki/Yuzhmash), [Nemiroff](/wiki/Nemiroff), [Motor Sich](/wiki/Motor_Sich), [Khortytsa](/wiki/Khortytsa_(company)), [Kyivstar](/wiki/Kyivstar) and [Aerosvit](/wiki/Aerosvit).[[223]](#cite_note-223) Ukraine is regarded as a developing economy with high potential for future success, though such a development is thought likely only with new all-encompassing economic and legal reforms.[[224]](#cite_note-224) Although [Foreign Direct Investment](/wiki/Foreign_Direct_Investment) in Ukraine remained relatively strong since [recession of the early 1990s](/wiki/Early_1990s_recession), the country has had trouble maintaining stable economic growth. Issues relating to current corporate governance in Ukraine were primarily linked to the large scale monopolisation of traditional heavy industries by wealthy individuals such as [Rinat Akhmetov](/wiki/Rinat_Akhmetov), the enduring failure to broaden the nation's economic base and a lack of effective legal protection for investors and their products.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Despite all this, Ukraine's economy was still expected to grow by around 3.5% in 2010.[[226]](#cite_note-226)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The Kharkiv-Dnipropetrovsk motorway (](/wiki/File:M18_Valki_Interchange_(Parclo)_Ukraine.jpg)[M18](/wiki/M180_motorway))

In total, Ukrainian paved roads stretch for [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[157]](#cite_note-157) Major routes, marked with the letter 'M' for 'International' *(*[*Ukrainian*](/wiki/Ukrainian_Language)*: Міжнародний*), extend nationwide and connect all major cities of Ukraine, and provide cross-border routes to the country's neighbours. There are only two true [motorway](/wiki/Motorway) standard highways in Ukraine; a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) stretch of motorway from [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv) to [Dnipropetrovsk](/wiki/Dnipropetrovsk) and a section of the M03 which extends [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) to [Boryspil](/wiki/Boryspil), where the city's [international airport](/wiki/Boryspil_Airport) is located.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Скоростной_поезд_%22Хендай%22.jpg)[HRCS2 multiple unit](/wiki/HRCS2_multiple_unit). [Rail transport](/wiki/Ukrainian_Railways) is heavily utilised in Ukraine

[Rail transport in Ukraine](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Ukraine) connects all major urban areas, port facilities and [industrial centres](/wiki/Industry) with neighbouring countries. The heaviest concentration of [railway track](/wiki/Railway_track) is the [Donbas](/wiki/Donbas) region of Ukraine. Although [rail freight transport](/wiki/Rail_freight_transport) fell by 7.4% in 1995 in comparison with 1994, Ukraine is still one of the [world's highest rail users](/wiki/Rail_usage_statistics_by_country).[[227]](#cite_note-227) The total amount of railroad track in Ukraine extends for [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), of which [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is electrified.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Currently the state has a monopoly on the provision of passenger rail transport, and all trains, other than those with cooperation of other foreign companies on international routes, are operated by its company '[Ukrzaliznytsia'](/wiki/Ukrainian_Railways).

Transport by air is developing quickly, with a visa-free programme for EU nationals and citizens of a number of other Western nations,[[228]](#cite_note-228) the nation's aviation sector is handling a significantly increased number of travellers. The [Euro 2012](/wiki/Euro_2012) football tournament, held in Poland and Ukraine as joint hosts, prompted the government to invest heavily in transport infrastructure, and in particular airports.[[229]](#cite_note-229) The Donetsk airport, completed for [Euro 2012](/wiki/Euro_2012), was destroyed by the end of 2014 because of the ongoing war between the government and the separatist movement.[[230]](#cite_note-230) [Kiev Boryspil](/wiki/Boryspil_International_Airport) is the county's largest international airport; it has three main passenger terminals and is the base for both of Ukraine's national airlines. Other large airports in the country include those in [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv_International_Airport), [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv_International_Airport) and [Donetsk](/wiki/Donetsk_International_Airport) (now destroyed), whilst those in [Dnipropetrovsk](/wiki/Dnipropetrovsk_International_Airport) and [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa_International_Airport) have plans for terminal upgrades in the near future. Ukraine has a number of airlines, the largest of which are the nation's [flag carriers](/wiki/Flag_carrier), [Aerosvit](/wiki/Aerosvit) and [UIA](/wiki/Ukraine_International_Airlines). [Antonov Airlines](/wiki/Antonov_Airlines), a subsidiary of the Antonov Aerospace Design Bureau is the only operator of the world's largest fixed wing aircraft, the [An-225](/wiki/An-225).

International maritime travel is mainly provided through the [Port of Odessa](/wiki/Port_of_Odessa), from where ferries sail regularly to [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul), [Varna](/wiki/Varna) and [Haifa](/wiki/Haifa). The largest ferry company presently operating these routes is [Ukrferry](/wiki/UkrFerry).[[231]](#cite_note-231)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In 2014, Ukraine was ranked number 19 on the Emerging Market Energy Security Growth Prosperity Index, published by the [think tank](/wiki/Think_tank) Bisignis Institute, which ranks emerging market countries using government corruption, GDP growth and oil reserve information.[[232]](#cite_note-232)

#### Fuel resources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

Ukraine produces and processes its own natural gas and [petroleum](/wiki/Petroleum). However, the majority of these commodities are imported. Eighty percent of Ukrainian natural gas supplies are imported, mainly from [Russia](/wiki/Russia).[[233]](#cite_note-233) Natural gas is heavily utilised not only in energy production but also by [steel](/wiki/Steel_industry) and [chemical](/wiki/Chemical_industry) industries of the country, as well as by the [district heating](/wiki/District_heating) sector. In 2012, [Shell](/wiki/Royal_Dutch_Shell) started exploration drilling for [shale gas](/wiki/Shale_gas) in Ukraine—a project aimed at the nation's total gas supply independence.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Ukraine has sufficient [coal](/wiki/Coal) reserves and increases its use in electricity generation.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

#### Power generation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Kernkraftwerk_Saporischschja.JPG)[Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant](/wiki/Zaporizhia_Nuclear_Power_Plant) Ukraine has been a net [energy exporting](/wiki/Electricity_market) country, for example in 2011, 3.3% of electricity produced were exported,[[234]](#cite_note-234) but also one of Europe's largest [energy](/wiki/Electricity) consumers.<ref name=eia>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 47.6% of total electricity generation was from [nuclear power](/wiki/Nuclear_power)[[234]](#cite_note-234) The largest [nuclear power plant](/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant) in Europe, the [Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant](/wiki/Zaporizhia_Nuclear_Power_Plant), is located in Ukraine. Most of the nuclear fuel has been coming from [Russia](/wiki/Russia).[Template:When](/wiki/Template:When) In 2008 [Westinghouse Electric Company](/wiki/Westinghouse_Electric_Company) won a five-year contract selling nuclear fuel to three Ukrainian reactors starting in 2011.[[235]](#cite_note-235)Following [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan) then President [Viktor Yanukovich](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovich) introduced a ban on [Rosatom](/wiki/Rosatom) nuclear fuel shipments to Europe via Ukraine, which was in effect from 28 January until 6 March 2014.[[236]](#cite_note-236) After the Russian annexation of Crimea in April 2014, the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Ukraine [Energoatom](/wiki/Energoatom) and Westinghouse extended the contract for fuel deliveries through 2020.[[237]](#cite_note-237) [Coal](/wiki/Coal) and [gas](/wiki/Natural_gas)-fired [thermal power stations](/wiki/Thermal_power_station) and [hydroelectricity](/wiki/Hydro_power) are the second and third largest kinds of power generation in the country.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

#### Renewable energy use[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Perovosolarstation.jpg)[Perovo Solar Park](/wiki/Perovo_Solar_Park) The share of [renewables](/wiki/Renewable_energy) within the total energy mix is still very small, but is growing fast. Total installed capacity of renewable energy installations more than doubled in 2011 and [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) stands at 397 MW.[[238]](#cite_note-238) In 2011 several large [solar power stations](/wiki/Solar_energy) were opened in Ukraine, among them Europe's largest solar park in Perovo, (Crimea).[[239]](#cite_note-239) Ukrainian State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Conservation forecasts that combined installed capacity of wind and solar power plants in Ukraine could increase by another 600 MW in 2012.[[240]](#cite_note-240) According to Macquarie Research, by 2016 Ukraine will construct and commission new solar power stations with a total capacity of 1.8 GW, almost equivalent to the capacity of two nuclear reactors.[[241]](#cite_note-241) The Economic Bank for Reconstruction and Development estimates that Ukraine has great renewable energy potential: the technical potential for wind energy is estimated at 40 TWh/year, small hydropower stations at 8.3 TWh/year, biomass at 120 TWh/year, and solar energy at 50 TWh/year.[[242]](#cite_note-242) In 2011, Ukraine's [Energy Ministry](/wiki/Ministry_of_Fuel_and_Energy_(Ukraine)) predicted that the installed capacity of generation from alternative and renewable energy sources would increase to 9% (about 6 GW) of the total electricity production in the country.[[243]](#cite_note-243)

### Internet[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Ukraine has a large and steadily growing [Internet](/wiki/Internet) sector, mostly uninfluenced by the [financial crisis of 2007–08](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–08). As of June, 2014, there were 18.2 million desktop Internet users, which is 56% of the adult population. [Gemius](http://www.gemius.com.ua/domashnjaja-stranica.html). The core of the audience is the 25 to 34-year-old age bracket, representing 29% of the population.[[244]](#cite_note-244) Ukraine ranks 8th among the world's top ten countries with the fastest [Internet access](/wiki/Internet_access) speed.[[245]](#cite_note-245)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Ласточкино_гнездо.jpg)[Crimea](/wiki/Crimean_Peninsula) hosts many seaside resorts and historic sites

Ukraine occupies 8th place in Europe by the number of tourists visiting, according to the [World Tourism Organisation](/wiki/World_Tourism_Organisation) [rankings](/wiki/World_Tourism_rankings),[[246]](#cite_note-246) because of its numerous tourist attractions: mountain ranges suitable for [skiing](/wiki/Skiing), hiking and fishing: the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) coastline as a popular summer destination; [nature reserves](/wiki/Nature_reserve) of different [ecosystems](/wiki/Ecosystem); churches, [castle](/wiki/Castle) ruins and other architectural and park landmarks; various [outdoor](/wiki/Outdoor) activity points. [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv), [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa) and [Kamyanets-Podilskyi](/wiki/Kamyanets-Podilskyi) are Ukraine's principal tourist centres each offering many historical landmarks as well as formidable [hospitality](/wiki/Hospitality) infrastructure. Tourism used to be the mainstay of Crimea's economy but there has been a major fall in visitor numbers following the Russian annexation in 2014.[[247]](#cite_note-247) The [Seven Wonders of Ukraine](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_Ukraine) and [Seven Natural Wonders of Ukraine](/wiki/Seven_Natural_Wonders_of_Ukraine) are the selection of the most important landmarks of Ukraine, chosen by the general public through an Internet-based vote.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

[thumb|Main ethnic groups of Ukrainian raions (2001)](/wiki/File:Ukraine_ethnic_2001_by_regions_and_rayons.PNG)

According to the [Ukrainian Census of 2001](/wiki/Ukrainian_Census_(2001)), [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians) make up 77.8% of the population. Other significant groups have identified themselves as belonging to the nationality of [Russians](/wiki/Russians) (17.3%), [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians) (0.6%), [Moldovans](/wiki/Moldovans) (0.5%), [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars) (0.5%), [Bulgarians](/wiki/Bulgarians) (0.4%), [Hungarians](/wiki/Hungarians) (0.3%), [Romanians](/wiki/Romanians) (0.3%), [Poles](/wiki/Poles) (0.3%), [Jews](/wiki/Jews) (0.2%), [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians) (0.2%), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks) (0.2%) and [Tatars](/wiki/Tatars) (0.2%).[[248]](#cite_note-248) The industrial regions in the east and southeast are the most heavily populated, and about 67.2% of the population lives in urban areas.[[249]](#cite_note-249)

### Population decline[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

Ukraine's population has been declining since the 1990s because of its high death rate and a low birth rate. The population is shrinking by over 150,000 annually since 1993. The birth rate has recovered in recent years from a low level around 2000, and is now comparable to the European average. It would need to increase by another 50% or so to stabilize the population and offset the high mortality rate.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 2007, the country's rate of population decline was the fourth highest in the world.[[250]](#cite_note-250) Life expectancy is falling, and Ukraine suffers a high [mortality rate](/wiki/Mortality_rate) from environmental pollution, poor diets, widespread smoking, extensive alcoholism and deteriorating medical care.[[251]](#cite_note-251)[[252]](#cite_note-252) In the years 2008 to 2010, more than 1.5 million children were born in Ukraine, compared to fewer than 1.2 million during 1999–2001 during the worst of the demographic crisis. In 2008 Ukraine posted record-breaking birth rates since its 1991 independence. Infant mortality rates have also dropped from 10.4 deaths to 8.3 per 1,000 children under one year of age. This is lower than in 153 countries of the world.[[253]](#cite_note-253)

### Fertility and natalist policies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[thumb|Population of Ukraine (in thousands) from 1950 to 2012](/wiki/File:Населення_України_(1950-2012).svg)[[254]](#cite_note-254)[[255]](#cite_note-255)

The current birth rate in Ukraine, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), is 10.8 births/1,000 population, and the death rate is 15.2 deaths/1,000 population (see [Ukraine demographic tables](/wiki/Demographics_of_Ukraine)).

The phenomenon of lowest-low fertility, defined as total fertility below 1.3, is emerging throughout Europe and is attributed by many to postponement of the initiation of childbearing. Ukraine, where total fertility (a very low 1.1 in 2001), was one of the world's lowest, shows that there is more than one pathway to lowest-low fertility. Although Ukraine has undergone immense political and economic transformations during 1991–2004, it has maintained a young age at first birth and nearly universal childbearing. Analysis of official national statistics and the Ukrainian Reproductive Health Survey show that fertility declined to very low levels without a transition to a later pattern of childbearing. Findings from focus group interviews suggest explanations of the early fertility pattern. These findings include the persistence of traditional norms for childbearing and the roles of men and women, concerns about medical complications and infertility at a later age, and the link between early fertility and early marriage.[[256]](#cite_note-256) To help mitigate the declining population, the government continues to increase child support payments. Thus it provides one-time payments of 12,250 hryvnias for the first child, 25,000 Hryvnias for the second and 50,000 Hryvnias for the third and fourth, along with monthly payments of 154 hryvnias per child.<ref name=BohdanD>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)[Template:Cbignore](/wiki/Template:Cbignore)</ref>[[257]](#cite_note-257) The demographic trend is showing signs of improvement, as the birth rate has been steadily growing since 2001.[[258]](#cite_note-258) Net population growth over the first nine months of 2007 was registered in five provinces of the country (out of 24), and population shrinkage was showing signs of stabilising nationwide. In 2007 the highest birth rates were in the western oblasts.[[259]](#cite_note-259) In 2008, Ukraine emerged from lowest-low fertility, and the upward trend has continued since, except for a slight dip in 2010 because of the economic crisis of 2009 (see [demographic tables](/wiki/Demographics_of_Ukraine)).

### Urbanisation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In total, Ukraine has 457 cities, 176 of them are labelled oblast-class, 279 smaller [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)-class cities, and two special legal status cities. These are followed by 886 urban-type settlements and 28,552 villages.[[191]](#cite_note-191)[Template:Largest cities of Ukraine](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Ukraine) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Percentage of ethnic Ukrainians by subdivision according to the](/wiki/File:Ukraine_census_2001_Ukrainians.svg) [2001 census](/wiki/Ukrainian_Census_(2001)) (by oblast) [thumb|Percentage of native Russian speakers by subdivision according to the 2001 census (by oblast)](/wiki/File:Ukraine_census_2001_Russian.svg)[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label)

According to the constitution, the [state language](/wiki/Official_language) of Ukraine is Ukrainian.[[260]](#cite_note-260) Russian is widely spoken, especially in eastern and southern Ukraine.[[260]](#cite_note-260) According to the [2001 census](/wiki/Ukrainian_Census_(2001)), 67.5 percent of the population declared Ukrainian as their native language and 29.6 percent declared Russian.[[261]](#cite_note-261) Most native Ukrainian speakers know Russian as a second language.[[260]](#cite_note-260) Russian was the *de facto* official language of the Soviet Union but both Russian and Ukrainian were official languages in the Soviet Union[[262]](#cite_note-262) and in the schools of the [Ukrainian SSR](/wiki/Ukrainian_SSR) learning Ukrainian was mandatory.[[260]](#cite_note-260) Effective in August 2012, [a new law on regional languages](/wiki/Legislation_on_languages_in_Ukraine) entitles any local language spoken by at least a 10% minority be declared official within that area.[[263]](#cite_note-263) Russian was within weeks declared as a regional language in several southern and eastern [oblasts](/wiki/Oblasts_of_Ukraine) (provinces) and cities.[[264]](#cite_note-264) Russian can now be used in these cities'/oblasts' administrative office work and documents.<ref name=NewUklang2892012>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[265]](#cite_note-265) On 23 February 2014, following the [2014 Ukrainian revolution](/wiki/2014_Ukrainian_revolution), the [Ukrainian Parliament](/wiki/Ukrainian_Parliament) voted to repeal the law on regional languages, making Ukrainian the sole state language at all levels; however, the repeal was not signed by acting [President Turchynov](/wiki/Oleksandr_Turchynov) and current President Poroshenko.[[266]](#cite_note-266)[[267]](#cite_note-267)[[268]](#cite_note-268) Ukrainian is mainly spoken in western and central Ukraine.[[260]](#cite_note-260) In western Ukraine, Ukrainian is also the dominant language in cities (such as [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv)). In central Ukraine, Ukrainian and Russian are both equally used in cities, with Russian being more common in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev),[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) while Ukrainian is the dominant language in rural communities. In eastern and southern Ukraine, Russian is primarily used in cities, and Ukrainian is used in rural areas. These details result in a significant difference across different survey results, as even a small restating of a question switches responses of a significant group of people.[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label)

For a large part of the Soviet era, the number of Ukrainian speakers declined from generation to generation, and by the mid-1980s, the usage of the Ukrainian language in public life had decreased significantly.<ref name=Shamshur>Shamshur, p. 159–168</ref> Following independence, the government of Ukraine began restoring the image and usage of Ukrainian language through a policy of [Ukrainisation](/wiki/Ukrainisation).[[269]](#cite_note-269) Today, all foreign films and TV programs, including Russian ones, are subtitled or dubbed in Ukrainian.[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification)

According to the Constitution of the [Autonomous Republic of Crimea](/wiki/Crimea), Ukrainian is the only state language of the republic. However, the republic's constitution specifically recognises Russian as the language of the majority of its population and guarantees its usage 'in all spheres of public life'. Similarly, the [Crimean Tatar language](/wiki/Crimean_Tatar_language) (the language of 12 percent of population of Crimea)<ref name=Census2001CrimeaNationality>[Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)[Template:Cbignore](/wiki/Template:Cbignore), [2001 Ukrainian Census](/wiki/2001_Ukrainian_Census). Retrieved 27 January 2008.</ref> is guaranteed a special state protection as well as the 'languages of other ethnicities'. Russian speakers constitute an overwhelming majority of the Crimean population (77 percent), with Crimean Tatar speakers 11.4 percent and Ukrainian speakers comprising just 10.1 percent.<ref name=Census2001CrimeaLanguage>[Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)[Template:Cbignore](/wiki/Template:Cbignore), [2001 Ukrainian Census](/wiki/2001_Ukrainian_Census). Retrieved 27 January 2008.</ref> But in everyday life the majority of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea use Russian.<ref name = Belitser>For a more comprehensive account of language politics in Crimea, see Natalya Belitser, "[The Constitutional Process in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the Context of Interethnic Relations and Conflict Settlement](http://www.iccrimea.org/scholarly/nbelitser.html)," International Committee for Crimea. Retrieved 12 August 2007.</ref>

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Kijów_-_Sobór_Mądrości_Bożej_01.jpg) [Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev](/wiki/Saint_Sophia_Cathedral_in_Kiev), a [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)[[270]](#cite_note-270) is one of the main Christian cathedrals in Ukraine [thumb|](/wiki/File:St._Nicholas_Roman_Catholic_Cathedral,_Kyiv_3.jpg)[St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Cathedral in Kiev](/wiki/St._Nicholas_Roman_Catholic_Cathedral,_Kiev)

Estimates compiled by the independent [Razumkov Centre](/wiki/Razumkov_Centre) in a nationwide survey in 2006 found that 75.2 percent of the respondents believe in God and 22 percent said they did not believe in God. 37.4 percent said that they attended church on regular basis.<ref name = Razumkov>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Among Ukrainians who are affiliated with an organised religion, the most common religion in Ukraine is [Eastern Orthodoxy](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), currently split between three Church bodies: the [Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kiev Patriarchate](/wiki/Ukrainian_Orthodox_Church_–_Kiev_Patriarchate), the [Ukrainian Orthodox Church](/wiki/Ukrainian_Orthodox_Church_(Moscow_Patriarchate)) [autonomous](/wiki/Autonomy_(Eastern_Christianity)) church body under the [Patriarch of Moscow](/wiki/Patriarch_of_Moscow), and the [Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church](/wiki/Ukrainian_Autocephalous_Orthodox_Church).<ref name = derzhkomrelig>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

A distant second by the number of the followers is the [Eastern Rite](/wiki/Eastern_Catholic_Churches) [Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church](/wiki/Ukrainian_Greek_Catholic_Church), which practices a similar [liturgical](/wiki/Liturgy) and spiritual tradition as Eastern Orthodoxy, but is in [communion](/wiki/Full_communion) with the [Holy See](/wiki/Holy_See) of the Roman Catholic Church and recognises the primacy of the Pope as head of the Church.[[271]](#cite_note-271) Additionally, there are 863 [Latin Rite](/wiki/Latin_Rite) Catholic communities, and 474 clergy members serving some one million Latin Rite Catholics in Ukraine.[[272]](#cite_note-272) The group forms some 2.19 percent of the population and consists mainly of ethnic [Poles](/wiki/Poles) and [Hungarians](/wiki/Hungarians), who live predominantly in the western regions of the country. [Protestants in Ukraine](/wiki/Protestants_in_Ukraine) form around 2.19 percent of the population. Smaller groups are also present.

There are an estimated 500,000 [Muslims](/wiki/Islam_in_Ukraine) in Ukraine and about 300,000 of them are [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars).[[273]](#cite_note-273) There are 487 registered Muslim communities, 368 of them on Crimea. In addition, some 50,000 Muslims live in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev); mostly foreign-born.[[274]](#cite_note-274) The [Jewish population](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Ukraine) is a tiny fraction of what it was before [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II). In Tsarist times, Ukraine had been part of the [Pale of Settlement](/wiki/Pale_of_Settlement), to which Jews were largely restricted in the Russian Empire. The largest Jewish communities in 1926 were in [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa), 154,000 or 36.5% of the total population; and Kiev, 140,500 or 27.3%.[[275]](#cite_note-275) [Orthodox Judaism](/wiki/Orthodox_Judaism) has the strongest presence in Ukraine. Smaller [Reform](/wiki/Reform_Judaism) and [Conservative ("Masorti") Jewish](/wiki/Conservative_Judaism) communities exist as well.[[272]](#cite_note-272) One 2006 survey put the number of [non-religious](/wiki/Irreligion) in Ukraine at approximately 11.1% of the population.[[276]](#cite_note-276)

### Famines and migration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

The [famines of the 1930s](/wiki/Holodomor), followed by the devastation of World War II, comprised a demographic disaster. Life expectancy at birth fell to a level as low as ten years for females and seven for males in 1933 and plateaued around 25 for females and 15 for males in the period 1941–44.[[277]](#cite_note-277) According to *The Oxford companion to World War II*, "Over 7 million inhabitants of Ukraine, more than one-sixth of the pre-war population, were killed during the Second World War."[[278]](#cite_note-278) Significant migration took place in the first years of Ukrainian independence. More than one million people moved into Ukraine in 1991–92, mostly from the other former Soviet republics. In total, between 1991 and 2004, 2.2 million immigrated to Ukraine (among them, 2 million came from the other former Soviet Union states), and 2.5 million emigrated from Ukraine (among them, 1.9 million moved to other former Soviet Union republics).<ref name=MigrationMalynovska>Malynovska, Olena (January 2006). ["Caught Between East and West, Ukraine Struggles with Its Migration Policy"](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/caught-between-east-and-west-ukraine-struggles-its-migration-policy/). National Institute for International Security Problems, Kiev. Retrieved 3 July 2008.</ref> Currently, immigrants constitute an estimated 14.7% of the total population, or 6.9 million people; this is the [fourth largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_immigrant_population) figure in the world.[[279]](#cite_note-279) In 2006, there were an estimated 1.2 million [Canadians](/wiki/Ukrainian_Canadian) of Ukrainian ancestry,[[280]](#cite_note-280) giving Canada the world's third-largest Ukrainian population behind Ukraine itself and Russia. There are also large Ukrainian immigrant communities in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), [Australia](/wiki/Australia), [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) and [Argentina](/wiki/Argentina).

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|The municipal children's hospital in](/wiki/File:Міська_дитяча_лікарня_(Кременчук)_-_04.JPG) [Kremenchuk](/wiki/Kremenchuk), [Poltava Oblast](/wiki/Poltava_Oblast) The [Ukrainian Red Cross Society](/wiki/Ukrainian_Red_Cross_Society) was established in April 1918 in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) as an independent humanitarian society of the [Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_People's_Republic). Its immediate tasks were to help refugees and prisoners of war, care for handicapped people and orphaned children, fight famine and epidemics, support and organize sick quarters, hospitals and public canteens. At present, society involves more than 6.3 million supporters and activists. Its Visiting Nurses Service has 3,200 qualified nurses. The organization takes part in more than 40 humanitarian programmes all over Ukraine, which are mostly funded by public donation and corporate partnerships. By its own estimates, the Society annually provides services to more than 105,000 lonely, elderly people, about 23,000 people disabled during the Second World War and handicapped workers, more than 25,000 war veterans, and more than 8,000 adults handicapped since childhood. Assistance for orphaned and disabled children is also rendered.

Ukraine's healthcare system is state subsidised and freely available to all Ukrainian citizens and registered residents. However, it is not compulsory to be treated in a state-run hospital as a number of private medical complexes do exist nationwide.[[281]](#cite_note-281) The public sector employs most healthcare professionals, with those working for private medical centres typically also retaining their state employment as they are mandated to provide care at public health facilities on a regular basis.

All of the country's medical service providers and hospitals are subordinate to the Ministry of Health, which provides oversight and scrutiny of general medical practice as well as being responsible for the day-to-day administration of the healthcare system. Despite this, standards of hygiene and patient-care have fallen.[[282]](#cite_note-282) Hospitals in Ukraine are organised along the same lines as most European nations, according to the regional administrative structure; as a result most towns have their own hospital *(Міська Лікарня)* and many also have district hospitals *(Районна Лікарня)*. Larger and more specialised medical complexes tend only to be found in major cities, with some even more specialised units located only in the capital, [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev). However, all [oblasts](/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_Ukraine) have their own network of general hospitals which are able to deal with almost all medical problems and are typically equipped with major trauma centres; such hospitals are called 'regional hospitals' *(Обласна Лікарня)*.

Ukraine currently faces a number of major public health issues and is considered to be in a demographic crisis because of its high death rate and low birth rate (the current Ukrainian birth rate is 11 births/1,000 population, and the death rate is 16.3 deaths/1,000 population). A factor contributing to the high death rate is a high [mortality rate](/wiki/Mortality_rate) among working-age males from preventable causes such as [alcohol poisoning](/wiki/Alcohol_poisoning) and smoking.[[252]](#cite_note-252) In 2008, the country's population was one of the fastest declining in the world at −5% growth.[[250]](#cite_note-250)[[283]](#cite_note-283) The UN warned that Ukraine's population could fall by as much as 10 million by 2050 if trends did not improve.[[284]](#cite_note-284) In addition, obesity, systemic high blood pressure and the HIV endemic are all major challenges facing the Ukrainian healthcare system.

As of March 2009 the [Ukrainian government](/wiki/Ukrainian_government) is reforming the health care system, by the creation of a national network of [family doctors](/wiki/Family_doctor) and improvements in the [medical emergency services](/wiki/Emergency_medical_services).[[285]](#cite_note-285) former [Prime Minister](/wiki/Ukrainian_Prime_Minister) [Yulia Tymoshenko](/wiki/Yulia_Tymoshenko) put forward (in November 2009) an idea to start introducing a public healthcare system based on health insurance in the spring of 2010.[[286]](#cite_note-286)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Universidad_Roja_de_Kiev.jpg) [University of Kiev](/wiki/University_of_Kiev) is one of Ukraine's most important educational institutions [thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Cernauti_Residentia_04.jpg)[Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans](/wiki/Residence_of_Bukovinian_and_Dalmatian_Metropolitans) building by [Josef Hlávka](/wiki/Josef_Hlávka), 1882, now [Chernivtsi University](/wiki/Chernivtsi_University). According to the [Ukrainian constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ukraine), access to free education is granted to all citizens. Complete general secondary education is compulsory in the state schools which constitute the overwhelming majority. Free higher education in state and communal educational establishments is provided on a competitive basis.[[287]](#cite_note-287) There is also a small number of accredited private secondary and higher education institutions.

Because of the Soviet Union's emphasis on total access of education for all citizens, which continues today, the [literacy rate](/wiki/Literacy_rate) is an estimated 99.4%.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Since 2005, an eleven-year school programme has been replaced with a twelve-year one: primary education takes four years to complete (starting at age six), middle education (secondary) takes five years to complete; upper secondary then takes three years.[[288]](#cite_note-288) In the 12th grade, students take Government tests, which are also referred to as school-leaving exams. These tests are later used for university admissions.

The first higher education institutions (HEIs) emerged in Ukraine during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The first Ukrainian higher education institution was the [Ostrozka School](/wiki/Ostroh_Academy), or Ostrozkiy Greek-Slavic-Latin Collegium, similar to Western European higher education institutions of the time. Established in 1576 in the town of [Ostrog](/wiki/Ostroh), the Collegium was the first higher education institution in the [Eastern Slavic](/wiki/East_Slavic_peoples) territories. The oldest university was the [Kyiv Mohyla Academy](/wiki/National_University_of_Kyiv-Mohyla_Academy), first established in 1632 and in 1694 officially recognised by the government of [Imperial Russia](/wiki/Imperial_Russia) as a higher education institution. Among the oldest is also the [Lviv University](/wiki/Lviv_University), founded in 1661. More higher education institutions were set up in the 19th century, beginning with universities in [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv_University) (1805), [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev_University) (1834), [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa_University) (1865) and [Chernivtsi](/wiki/Chernivtsi_University) (1875) and a number of professional higher education institutions, e.g.: [Nizhyn Historical and Philological Institute](/wiki/Nizhyn_Pedagogical_University) (originally established as the Gymnasium of Higher Sciences in 1805), a Veterinary Institute (1873) and a [Technological Institute](/wiki/Kharkiv_Polytechnical_Institute) (1885) in [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv), a [Polytechnic Institute](/wiki/Kiev_Polytechnic_Institute) in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) (1898) and a Higher Mining School (1899) in [Katerynoslav](/wiki/Dnipropetrovsk). Rapid growth followed in the [Soviet](/wiki/Ukrainian_Soviet_Socialist_Republic) period. By 1988 a number of higher education institutions increased to 146 with over 850,000 students.[[289]](#cite_note-289) Most HEIs established after 1990 are those owned by private organisations.

The Ukrainian higher education system comprises higher educational establishments, [scientific](/wiki/Scientific) and [methodological](/wiki/Methodological) facilities under national, [municipal](/wiki/Municipal_government) and self-governing bodies in charge of education.[[290]](#cite_note-290) The organisation of higher education in Ukraine is built up in accordance with the structure of education of the world's higher [developed countries](/wiki/Developed_countries), as is defined by [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) and the UN.[[291]](#cite_note-291)Ukraine has more than 800 higher education institutions and in 2010 the number of graduates reached 654,700 people.[[292]](#cite_note-292) Ukraine produces the fourth largest number of [post-secondary graduates](/wiki/Tertiary_education) in Europe, while being ranked seventh in population. [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education_in_Ukraine) is either state funded or private. Students that study at state expense receive a standard scholarship if their average marks at the end-of-term exams and differentiated test suffice; this rule may be different in some universities. For highest grades, the scholarship is increased by 25%. For most students the government subsidy is not sufficient to cover their basic living expenses. Most universities provide subsidised housing for out-of-city students. Also, it is common for libraries to supply required books for all registered students. Ukrainian universities confer two degrees: the bachelor's degree (4 years) and the master's degree (5–6th year), in accordance with the [Bologna process](/wiki/Bologna_process). Historically, [Specialist degree](/wiki/Specialist_degree) (usually 5 years) is still also granted; it was the only degree awarded by universities in the Soviet times.

The Law of Ukraine *On Higher Education* came into force on 6 September 2014. It was approved in Ukrainian Parliament on 1 July 2014. The main changes in the system of higher education:[[293]](#cite_note-293) a separate collegiate body to monitor the quality of education was established (Ukrainian: Національне агентство із забезпечення якості вищої освіти); each higher education institution has the right to implement its own educational and research programs; role of the student government was increased; higher education institution has the right freely administer own revenues; 5 following types of higher education qualifications were established: Junior Bachelor, Bachelor, Master, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Science; load on lecturers and students was reduced; academic mobility for faculty and students etc.

### Regional differences[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Results of the](/wiki/File:Ukr_elections_2012_multimandate_okruhs.png) [2012 parliamentary election](/wiki/Ukrainian_parliamentary_election,_2012). Yanukovych's [Party of Regions](/wiki/Party_of_Regions) in blue. [Batkivshchyna](/wiki/All-Ukrainian_Union_%22Fatherland%22) in purple. [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_language) is the dominant language in [Western Ukraine](/wiki/Western_Ukraine) and in [Central Ukraine](/wiki/Central_Ukraine), while [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) is the dominant language in the cities of [Eastern Ukraine](/wiki/Eastern_Ukraine) and [Southern Ukraine](/wiki/Southern_Ukraine). In the [Ukrainian SSR](/wiki/Ukrainian_SSR) schools, learning [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) was mandatory; currently in modern Ukraine, schools with Ukrainian as the language of instruction offer classes in Russian and in the other minority languages.[[260]](#cite_note-260)[[294]](#cite_note-294)[[295]](#cite_note-295)[[296]](#cite_note-296) On the [Russian language](/wiki/Russian_language_in_Ukraine), on [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) and [Ukrainian nationalism](/wiki/Ukrainian_nationalism), opinion in Eastern Ukraine and Southern Ukraine tends to be the exact opposite of those in Western Ukraine; while opinions in Central Ukraine on these topics tend be less extreme.<ref name=RatingJuly12>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[297]](#cite_note-297)[[298]](#cite_note-298)<ref name=KIISS1313>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Similar historical cleavages also remain evident at the level of individual social identification. Attitudes toward the most important political issue, relations with [Russia](/wiki/Russia), differed strongly between [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv), identifying more with [Ukrainian nationalism](/wiki/Ukrainian_nationalism) and the [Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church](/wiki/Ukrainian_Greek_Catholic_Church), and [Donetsk](/wiki/Donetsk), predominantly Russian orientated and favourable to the [Soviet era](/wiki/Soviet_era), while in central and southern Ukraine, as well as [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), such divisions were less important and there was less antipathy toward people from other regions (a poll by the [Research & Branding Group](/wiki/Research_&_Branding_Group) held March 2010 showed that the attitude of the citizens of Donetsk to the citizens of Lviv was 79% positive and that the attitude of the citizens of Lviv to the citizens of Donetsk was 88% positive).<ref name=antipathy>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> However, all were united by an overarching Ukrainian identity based on shared economic difficulties, showing that other attitudes are determined more by culture and politics than by demographic differences.[[299]](#cite_note-299)[[300]](#cite_note-300) Surveys of regional identities in Ukraine have shown that the feeling of belonging to a "Soviet identity" is strongest in the [Donbas](/wiki/Donbas) (about 40%) and the Crimea (about 30%).[[301]](#cite_note-301) During [elections](/wiki/Elections_in_Ukraine) voters of Western and Central Ukrainian [oblasts](/wiki/Oblasts_of_Ukraine) (provinces) vote mostly for parties ([Our Ukraine](/wiki/Our_Ukraine–People's_Self-Defense_Bloc), [Batkivshchyna](/wiki/All-Ukrainian_Union_%22Fatherland%22))[[302]](#cite_note-302)[[303]](#cite_note-303) and presidential candidates ([Viktor Yuschenko](/wiki/Viktor_Yuschenko), [Yulia Tymoshenko](/wiki/Yulia_Tymoshenko)) with a [pro-Western](/wiki/Pro-Western) and state reform [platform](/wiki/Political_platform), while voters in Southern and Eastern oblasts vote for parties ([CPU](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Ukraine), [Party of Regions](/wiki/Party_of_Regions)) and presidential candidates ([Viktor Yanukovych](/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych)) with a [pro-Russian](/wiki/Pro-Russian) and [status quo](/wiki/Status_quo) platform.<ref name= EWparties>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref><ref name=Umland>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref>[[304]](#cite_note-304)[[305]](#cite_note-305) However, this geographical division is decreasing.[[306]](#cite_note-306)[[307]](#cite_note-307)[[308]](#cite_note-308)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A collection of traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs –](/wiki/File:Pysanky2011.JPG) [pysanky](/wiki/Pysanka). The design motifs on pysanky date back to early Slavic cultures. [thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Rushnyk_-_Ukraine_embroidered_decorative_towels..jpg)[Rushnyk](/wiki/Rushnyk), [Ukrainian embroidery](/wiki/Ukrainian_embroidery)

Ukrainian customs are heavily influenced by Christianity, the dominant religion in the country.[[272]](#cite_note-272) Gender roles also tend to be more traditional, and grandparents play a greater role in bringing up children, than in the West.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The culture of Ukraine has also been influenced by its eastern and western neighbours, reflected in its [architecture](/wiki/Ukrainian_architecture), music and art.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The Communist era had quite a strong effect on the art and writing of Ukraine.[[309]](#cite_note-309) In 1932, Stalin made [socialist realism](/wiki/Socialist_realism) state policy in the Soviet Union when he promulgated the decree "On the Reconstruction of Literary and Art Organisations". This greatly stifled creativity. During the 1980s [glasnost](/wiki/Glasnost) (openness) was introduced and Soviet artists and writers again became free to express themselves as they wanted.[[310]](#cite_note-310) The tradition of the [Easter egg](/wiki/Easter_egg), known as [pysanky](/wiki/Pysanky), has long roots in Ukraine. These eggs were drawn on with wax to create a pattern; then, the dye was applied to give the eggs their pleasant colours, the dye did not affect the previously wax-coated parts of the egg. After the entire egg was dyed, the wax was removed leaving only the colourful pattern. This tradition is thousands of years old, and precedes the arrival of Christianity to Ukraine.[[311]](#cite_note-311) In the city of [Kolomyia](/wiki/Kolomyia) near the foothills of the [Carpathian Mountains](/wiki/Carpathian_Mountains) in 2000 was built the museum of Pysanka which won a nomination as the monument of modern Ukraine in 2007, part of the [Seven Wonders of Ukraine](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_Ukraine) action.

### Weaving and embroidery[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

Artisan [textile arts](/wiki/Textile_arts) play an important role in Ukrainian culture,[[312]](#cite_note-312) especially in [Ukrainian wedding traditions](/wiki/Ukrainian_wedding_traditions). [Ukrainian embroidery](/wiki/Ukrainian_embroidery), [weaving](/wiki/Weaving) and lace-making are used in traditional [folk dress](/wiki/Folk_dress) and in traditional celebrations. Ukrainian embroidery varies depending on the region of origin[[313]](#cite_note-313) and the designs have a long history of motifs, compositions, choice of colours and types of stitches.<ref name=museum>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Use of colour is very important and has roots in [Ukrainian folklore](/wiki/Ukrainian_folklore). Embroidery motifs found in different parts of Ukraine are preserved in the [Rushnyk](/wiki/Rushnyk) Museum in [Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi](/wiki/Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi).

National dress is woven and highly decorated. Weaving with handmade looms is still practised in the village of Krupove, situated in [Rivne Oblast](/wiki/Rivne_Oblast). The village is the birthplace of two famous personalities in the scene of national crafts fabrication. Nina Myhailivna[[314]](#cite_note-314) and Uliana Petrivna[[315]](#cite_note-315) with international recognition. To preserve this traditional knowledge the village is planning to open a local weaving centre, a museum and weaving school.

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The history of Ukrainian literature dates back to the 11th century, following the Christianisation of the Kievan Rus'.<ref name=ualit>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The writings of the time were mainly liturgical and were written in [Old Church Slavonic](/wiki/Old_Church_Slavonic). Historical accounts of the time were referred to as [*chronicles*](/wiki/Chronicle), the most significant of which was the [Primary Chronicle](/wiki/Primary_Chronicle).<ref name=ualitmsn>[Template:Cite encyclopedia](/wiki/Template:Cite_encyclopedia)</ref>[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) Literary activity faced a sudden decline during the [Mongol invasion of Rus'](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Rus').[[316]](#cite_note-316) Ukrainian literature again began to develop in the 14th century, and was advanced significantly in the 16th century with the introduction of [print](/wiki/Printing) and with the beginning of the Cossack era, under both Russian and Polish dominance.[[316]](#cite_note-316) The Cossacks established an independent society and popularized a [new kind](/wiki/Duma_(epic)) of [epic poems](/wiki/Epic_poem), which marked a high point of Ukrainian [oral literature](/wiki/Oral_literature).[[317]](#cite_note-317) These advances were then set back in the 17th and early 18th centuries, when publishing in the Ukrainian language was outlawed and prohibited. Nonetheless, by the late 18th century modern literary Ukrainian finally emerged.[[316]](#cite_note-316) The 19th century initiated a [vernacular](/wiki/Vernacular) period in Ukraine, led by [Ivan Kotliarevsky's](/wiki/Ivan_Kotliarevsky) work [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), the first publication written in modern Ukrainian. By the 1830s, Ukrainian [romanticism](/wiki/Romanticism) began to develop, and the nation's most renowned cultural figure, romanticist poet-painter [Taras Shevchenko](/wiki/Taras_Shevchenko) emerged. Where Ivan Kotliarevsky is considered to be the father of literature in the Ukrainian vernacular; Shevchenko is the father of a national revival.[[318]](#cite_note-318) Then, in 1863, use of the Ukrainian language in print was effectively [prohibited](/wiki/Ems_Ukaz) by the Russian Empire.[[319]](#cite_note-319) This severely curtailed literary activity in the area, and Ukrainian writers were forced to either publish their works in Russian or release them in Austrian controlled [Galicia](/wiki/Galicia_(Central_Europe)). The ban was never officially lifted, but it became obsolete after the revolution and the Bolsheviks' coming to power.[[317]](#cite_note-317) Ukrainian literature continued to flourish in the early Soviet years, when nearly all literary trends were approved (the most important literary figures of that time were [Mykola Khvylovy](/wiki/Mykola_Khvylovy), [Valerian Pidmohylny](/wiki/Valerian_Pidmohylny), [Mykola Kulish](/wiki/Mykola_Kulish), [Mykhayl Semenko](/wiki/Mykhayl_Semenko) and some others). These policies faced a steep decline in the 1930s, when prominent representatives as well as many others were killed by [NKVD](/wiki/NKVD) as part of the [Great Purge](/wiki/Great_Purge). In general around 223 writers were repressed by what was known as the [Executed Renaissance](/wiki/Executed_Renaissance).[[320]](#cite_note-320) These repressions were part of Stalin's implemented policy of [socialist realism](/wiki/Socialist_realism). The doctrine did not necessarily repress the use of the Ukrainian language, but it required that writers follow a certain style in their works.

In post-Stalinist times literary activities continued to be somewhat limited under the Communist Party. The most famous figures of Ukrainian post-war Soviet literature were [Lina Kostenko](/wiki/Lina_Kostenko), [Dmytro Pavlychko](/wiki/Dmytro_Pavlychko), [Template:Ill](/wiki/Template:Ill), [Ivan Drach](/wiki/Ivan_Drach), [Oles Honchar](/wiki/Oles_Honchar), [Vasyl Stus](/wiki/Vasyl_Stus), [Vasyl Symonenko](/wiki/Vasyl_Symonenko).

Literary freedom appeared in late 1980s — early 1990s with the process of collapse of the USSR and reestablishing of Ukrainian independence in 1991.[[316]](#cite_note-316) Among the most famous writers of the post-Soviet period are [Oksana Zabuzhko](/wiki/Oksana_Zabuzhko), [Yurii Andrukhovych](/wiki/Yurii_Andrukhovych), [Template:Ill](/wiki/Template:Ill), [Serhiy Zhadan](/wiki/Serhiy_Zhadan), [Taras Prokhasko](/wiki/Taras_Prokhasko), [Jaroslav Melnik](/wiki/Jaroslav_Melnik), [Template:Ill](/wiki/Template:Ill), [Yuriy Pokalchuk](/wiki/Yuri_Pokalchuk), [Yuriy Vynnychuk](/wiki/Yuriy_Vynnychuk), [Andrey Kurkov](/wiki/Andrey_Kurkov).[[321]](#cite_note-321)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|Traditional Ukrainian village](/wiki/File:Curitiba_Parque_Tingui.jpg) [architecture](/wiki/Ukrainian_architecture) in [Curitiba](/wiki/Curitiba), Brazil, where a large [Ukrainian diaspora](/wiki/Ukrainian_diaspora) is. Ukrainian architecture is a term that describes the motifs and styles that are found in structures built in modern Ukraine, and by [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians) worldwide. These include initial roots which were established in the [Eastern Slavic](/wiki/Eastern_Slavs) state of [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus'). After the [12th century](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Rus), the distinct [architectural history](/wiki/Architectural_history) continued in the principalities of [Galicia-Volhynia](/wiki/Galicia-Volhynia). During the epoch of the [Zaporozhian Cossacks](/wiki/Zaporozhian_Cossacks), a new style unique to Ukraine was developed under the western influences of the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish–Lithuanian_Commonwealth). After the union with the [Tsardom of Russia](/wiki/Tsardom_of_Russia), many structures in the larger eastern, Russian-ruled area were built in the styles of [Russian architecture](/wiki/Russian_architecture) of that period, whilst the western [Galicia](/wiki/Galicia_(Central_Europe)) was developed under [Austro-Hungarian architectural influences](/wiki/Architecture_of_Austria). Ukrainian national motifs would finally be used during the period of the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) and in modern independent Ukraine.

The great [churches of the Rus'](/wiki/Architecture_of_Kievan_Rus), built after the [adoption of Christianity](/wiki/Baptism_of_Kievan_Rus') in 988, were the first examples of monumental architecture in the East Slavic lands. The architectural style of the Kievan state was strongly influenced by the [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine_architecture). Early [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) churches were mainly made of wood, with the simplest form of church becoming known as a [cell church](/wiki/Cell_church). Major cathedrals often featured scores of small domes, which led some art historians to take this as an indication of the appearance of pre-Christian pagan Slavic temples.

Several examples of these churches survive; however, during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, many were externally rebuilt in the [Ukrainian Baroque](/wiki/Ukrainian_Baroque) style (see below). Examples include the grand [St. Sophia of Kiev](/wiki/Saint_Sophia_Cathedral_in_Kiev) – the year 1017 is the earliest record of foundation laid, [Church of the Saviour at Berestove](/wiki/Church_of_the_Saviour_at_Berestove) – built from 1113 to 1125 and [St. Cyril's Church](/wiki/St._Cyril's_Monastery), circa 12th-century. All can still be found in the Ukrainian capital. Several buildings were reconstructed during the late-19th century, including the [Assumption Cathedral](/wiki/File:WladimirWolynsk_Uspenski_Cathedral.jpeg) in [Volodymyr-Volynskyi](/wiki/Volodymyr-Volynskyi), built in 1160 and reconstructed in 1896–1900, the [Paraskevi church in Chernihiv](/wiki/File:AX_Chernigiv_Pyatnitska_Church.jpg), built in 1201 with reconstruction done in the late 1940s, and the [Golden gates in Kiev](/wiki/Golden_Gate_(Kiev)), built in 1037 and reconstructed in 1982. The latter's reconstruction was criticised by some art and architecture historians as a revivalist fantasy. Unfortunately little secular or [vernacular architecture](/wiki/Vernacular_architecture) of [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus') has survived.

As Ukraine became increasingly integrated into the [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire), Russian architects had the opportunity to realise their projects in the picturesque landscape that many Ukrainian cities and regions offered. [St. Andrew's Church of Kiev](/wiki/St._Andrew's_Church_of_Kiev) (1747–1754), built by [Bartolomeo Rastrelli](/wiki/Bartolomeo_Rastrelli), is a notable example of [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) architecture, and its location on top of the Kievan mountain made it a recognisable monument of the city. An equally notable contribution of Rasetrelli was the [Mariyinsky Palace](/wiki/Mariyinsky_Palace), which was built to be a summer residence to Russian Empress [Elizabeth](/wiki/Elizabeth_of_Russia). During the reign of the last [Hetman of Ukraine](/wiki/Hetmans_of_Ukrainian_Cossacks), [Kirill Razumovsky](/wiki/Kirill_Razumovsky), many of the [Cossack Hetmanate's](/wiki/Cossack_Hetmanate) towns such as [Hlukhiv](/wiki/Hlukhiv), [Baturyn](/wiki/Baturyn) and [Koselets](/wiki/Koselets) had grandiose projects built by [Andrey Kvasov](/wiki/Andrey_Kvasov). Russia eventually conquered the south of Ukraine and Crimea, and renamed them as [New Russia](/wiki/New_Russia). New cities such as [Nikolayev](/wiki/Mykolayiv), [Odessa](/wiki/Odessa), [Kherson](/wiki/Kherson) and [Sevastopol](/wiki/Sevastopol) were founded. These would contain notable examples of Imperial Russian architecture.

<gallery> File:Чернігів.Собор Бориса й Гліба.JPG|The Transfiguration Cathedral in [Chernihiv](/wiki/Chernihiv) dates to [Kievan Rus](/wiki/Architecture_of_Kievan_Rus). 1030. File:Kamianets-Podilskyi-2007.jpg|[Kamianets-Podilskyi Castle](/wiki/Kamianets-Podilskyi_Castle) – one of the [Seven Wonders of Ukraine](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_Ukraine). File:Kyiv, St Andrew church (2).jpg|[St Andrew's Church](/wiki/St_Andrew's_Church,_Kiev) in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) an example of [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque_architecture). File:Лвов Галиција.jpg|[Lviv's Old Town](/wiki/Old_Town_(Lviv)); architecture [there](/wiki/Western_Ukraine) is much influenced by its history as part of [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary) and [Poland](/wiki/Second_Polish_Republic). File:Комплекс споруд Воронцовського палацу.jpg|[Vorontsov Palace](/wiki/Vorontsov's_Palace_(Alupka)), at the foot of the [Crimean Mountains](/wiki/Crimean_Mountains), an example of [Gothic](/wiki/Gothic_Revival_architecture)/[Moorish Revival architecture](/wiki/Moorish_Revival_architecture). File:Monasterio de San Migueel.jpg|[St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral](/wiki/St._Michael's_Golden-Domed_Cathedral) in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), an example of [Ukrainian Baroque](/wiki/Ukrainian_Baroque). File:ArcLviv.JPG|Example of early 20th century architecture in [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv). File:LvivArchitecture.JPG|Lviv. The Bernardine church in the style of Italian and Dutch mannerism File:Будинок губернського земства (Полтава) 02.JPG|[Poltava](/wiki/Poltava) museum, [Ukrainian Modern architecture](/wiki/Ukrainian_Modern_architecture) example. 1908. File:Крещатик 38 дробь 2 Киев 2012 01.JPG|Central Department store in [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev), [Stalinist architecture](/wiki/Stalinist_architecture) example. File:Харьков строится.JPG|Modern residential architecture in [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv) File:Палац\_Шенборнів\_з\_висоти.jpg|Schönborn Palace. 1895 </gallery>

In 1934, the capital of Soviet Ukraine moved from [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv) to [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev). Previously, the city was seen as only a regional centre, hence received little attention. All of that was to change, at great price. The first examples of [Stalinist architecture](/wiki/Stalinist_architecture) were already showing, and, in light of the official policy, a new city was to be built on top of the old one. This meant that much-admired examples such as the [St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery](/wiki/St._Michael's_Golden-Domed_Monastery) were destroyed. Even the St. Sophia Cathedral was under threat. Also, the Second World War contributed to the wreckage. After the war, a new project for the reconstruction of central Kiev transformed [Khreshchatyk](/wiki/Khreshchatyk) avenue into a notable example of Stalinism in Architecture. However, by 1955, the new politics of architecture once again stopped the project from fully being realised.

The task for modern Ukrainian architecture is diverse application of modern aesthetics, the search for an architect's own artistic style and inclusion of the existing historico-cultural environment. An example of modern Ukrainian architecture is the reconstruction and renewal of the [Maidan Nezalezhnosti](/wiki/Maidan_Nezalezhnosti) in central Kiev. Despite the limit set by narrow space within the plaza, the engineers were able to blend together the uneven landscape, and use underground space for a new shopping centre.

A major project, which may take up most of the 21st century, is the construction of the Kiev City-Centre on the [Rybalskyi Peninsula](/wiki/Rybalskyi_Peninsula), which, when finished, will include a dense skyscraper park amid the picturesque landscape of the [Dnieper](/wiki/Dnieper_River).<ref name=gradsovet\_05\_12\_07>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Cossack_Mamay_1st_half_of_19th_c_(4).jpg)[Cossack Mamay](/wiki/Cossack_Mamay) playing a [kobza](/wiki/Kobza)

Music is a major part of Ukrainian culture, with a long history and many influences. From traditional [folk music](/wiki/Folk_music), to [classical](/wiki/Classical_music) and [modern rock](/wiki/Modern_rock), Ukraine has produced several internationally recognised musicians including [Kirill Karabits](/wiki/Kirill_Karabits), [Okean Elzy](/wiki/Okean_Elzy) and [Ruslana](/wiki/Ruslana). Elements from traditional Ukrainian folk music made their way into Western music and even into modern [jazz](/wiki/Jazz).

[thumbnail|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Лисенко_Микола.jpg)[Mykola Lysenko](/wiki/Mykola_Lysenko) is widely considered to be the father of Ukrainian classical music[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Ukrainian music sometimes presents a perplexing mix of exotic melismatic singing with chordal harmony. The most striking general characteristic of authentic ethnic Ukrainian folk music is the wide use of minor modes or keys which incorporate augmented 2nd intervals.

During the Baroque period, music was an important discipline for those that had received a higher education in Ukraine. It had a place of considerable importance in the curriculum of the [Kyiv-Mohyla Academy](/wiki/Kyiv-Mohyla_Academy). Much of the nobility was well versed in music with many Ukrainian Cossack leaders such as (Mazepa, Paliy, Holovatyj, Sirko) being accomplished players of the [kobza](/wiki/Kobza), [bandura](/wiki/Bandura) or [torban](/wiki/Torban).

The first dedicated musical academy was set up in Hlukhiv, Ukraine in 1738 and students were taught to sing, play violin and bandura from manuscripts. As a result, many of the earliest composers and performers within the Russian empire were ethnically Ukrainian, having been born or educated in Hlukhiv, or had been closely associated with this music school. See: [Dmytro Bortniansky](/wiki/Dmytro_Bortniansky), [Maksym Berezovsky](/wiki/Maksym_Berezovsky) and [Artemiy Vedel](/wiki/Artemy_Vedel).

[thumb|Ukrainian dance](/wiki/File:Rapid_Trident_2014_06.jpg) [*hopak*](/wiki/Hopak).

Ukrainian classical music falls into three distinct categories defined by whether the composer was of Ukrainian ethnicity living in Ukraine, a composer of non-Ukrainian ethnicity who was born or at some time was a citizen of Ukraine, or an ethnic Ukrainian living outside of Ukraine within the [Ukrainian diaspora](/wiki/Ukrainian_diaspora). The music of these three groups differs considerably, as do the audiences for whom they cater.

Since the mid-1960s, Western-influenced pop music has been growing in popularity in Ukraine. Folk singer and harmonium player [Mariana Sadovska](/wiki/Mariana_Sadovska) is prominent. Ukrainian pop and folk music arose with the international popularity of groups and performers like [Vopli Vidoplyasova](/wiki/Vopli_Vidoplyasova), [Dakh Daughters](/wiki/Dakh_Daughters), [Dakha Brakha](/wiki/Dakha_Brakha), [Ivan Dorn](/wiki/Ivan_Dorn) and [Okean Elzy](/wiki/Okean_Elzy).

Ukraine will be host to the [Eurovision Song Contest 2017](/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest_2017).

### Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Ukraine has had an influence on the history of the cinema. Ukrainian directors [Alexander Dovzhenko](/wiki/Alexander_Dovzhenko), often cited as one of the most important early Soviet filmmakers, as well as being a pioneer of [Soviet montage theory](/wiki/Soviet_montage_theory), [Dovzhenko Film Studios](/wiki/Dovzhenko_Film_Studios), and [Sergei Parajanov](/wiki/Sergei_Parajanov), Armenian film director and artist who made significant contributions to Ukrainian, Armenian and Georgian cinema. He invented his own cinematic style, Ukrainian poetic cinema, which was totally out of step with the guiding principles of socialist realism.

[upright|thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Muratova.jpg)[Kira Muratova](/wiki/Kira_Muratova)

Other important directors including [Kira Muratova](/wiki/Kira_Muratova), [Larisa Shepitko](/wiki/Larisa_Shepitko), [Sergei Bondarchuk](/wiki/Sergei_Bondarchuk), [Leonid Bykov](/wiki/Leonid_Bykov), [Yuri Ilyenko](/wiki/Yuri_Ilyenko), [Leonid Osyka](/wiki/Leonid_Osyka), [Ihor Podolchak](/wiki/Ihor_Podolchak) with his [Delirium](/wiki/Delirium_(2013_film)) and [Maryna Vroda](/wiki/Maryna_Vroda). Many Ukrainian actors have achieved international fame and critical success, including: [Vera Kholodnaya](/wiki/Vera_Kholodnaya), [Bohdan Stupka](/wiki/Bohdan_Stupka), [Milla Jovovich](/wiki/Milla_Jovovich), [Olga Kurylenko](/wiki/Olga_Kurylenko), [Mila Kunis](/wiki/Mila_Kunis).

Despite a history of important and successful productions, the industry has often been characterised by a debate about its identity and the level of European and Russian influence. Ukrainian producers are active in international co-productions and Ukrainian actors, directors and crew feature regularly in Russian (Soviet in past) films. Also successful films have been based on Ukrainian people, stories or events, including [Battleship Potemkin](/wiki/Battleship_Potemkin), [Man with a Movie Camera](/wiki/Man_with_a_Movie_Camera), [Everything Is Illuminated](/wiki/Everything_Is_Illuminated_(film)).

Ukrainian State Film Agency owns [National Oleksandr Dovzhenko Film Centre](/wiki/National_Oleksandr_Dovzhenko_Film_Centre), film copying laboratory and archive, takes part in hosting of the [Odessa International Film Festival](/wiki/Odessa_International_Film_Festival), and [Molodist](/wiki/Molodist) is the only one [FIAPF](/wiki/FIAPF) accredited International Film Festival held in Ukraine; competition program is devoted to student, first short and first full feature films from all over the world. Held annually in October.

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Ukrayinska Pravda](/wiki/Ukrayinska_Pravda)[[322]](#cite_note-322) was founded by [Georgiy Gongadze](/wiki/Georgiy_Gongadze) in April 2000 (the day of the Ukrainian constitutional referendum). Published mainly in Ukrainian with selected articles published in or translated to Russian and English, the newspaper has particular emphasis on the politics of Ukraine. Freedom of the press in Ukraine is considered to be among the freest of the post-Soviet states other than the Baltic states. [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House) classifies the Internet in Ukraine as "free" and the press as "partly free". Press freedom has significantly improved since the Orange Revolution of 2004. However, in 2010 Freedom House perceived "negative trends in Ukraine".

[Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) dominates the media sector in Ukraine: the [Kyiv Post](/wiki/Kyiv_Post) is Ukraine's leading English-language newspaper. National [newspapers](/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_Ukraine) [Den](/wiki/Den_(newspaper)), [Mirror Weekly](/wiki/Zerkalo_Nedeli), tabloids, such as [The Ukrainian Week](/wiki/The_Ukrainian_Week) or [Focus](/wiki/Focus_(Ukrainian_magazine)) (Russian), and television and radio are largely based there, although [Lviv](/wiki/Lviv) is also a significant national media centre. The National News Agency of Ukraine, [Ukrinform](/wiki/Ukrinform) was founded here in 1918. The Ukraine publishing sector, including books, directories and databases, journals, magazines and business media, newspapers and news agencies, has a combined turnover. [Sanoma](/wiki/Sanoma) publishing Ukrainian editions of such magazines as [Esquire](/wiki/Esquire), [Harpers Bazaar](/wiki/Harpers_Bazaar) and [National Geographic Magazine](/wiki/National_Geographic_Magazine). [BBC Ukrainian](/wiki/BBC_Ukrainian) started its broadcasts in 1992.

Ukrainians listen to radio programming, such as [Radio Ukraine](/wiki/Radio_Ukraine) or [Radio Liberty](/wiki/Radio_Liberty), largely commercial, on average just over two-and-a-half hours a day. Several television channels operate, and many Websites are popular.

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Ukrainian footballer](/wiki/File:Andriy_Shevchenko_goal_celebration_Euro_2012_vs_Sweden.jpg) [Andriy Shevchenko](/wiki/Andriy_Shevchenko) celebrates a goal against Sweden at Euro 2012 Ukraine greatly benefited from the Soviet emphasis on [physical education](/wiki/Physical_education). Such policies left Ukraine with hundreds of stadia, swimming pools, gymnasia and many other athletic facilities.[[323]](#cite_note-323) The most popular sport is [football](/wiki/Association_football). The top professional league is the [Vyscha Liha](/wiki/Ukrainian_Premier_League) ("premier league").

Many Ukrainians also played for the [Soviet national football team](/wiki/Soviet_national_football_team), most notably [Ihor Belanov](/wiki/Ihor_Belanov) and [Oleh Blokhin](/wiki/Oleh_Blokhin), winners of the prestigious [Golden Ball Award](/wiki/Ballon_d'Or). This award was only presented to one Ukrainian after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, [Andriy Shevchenko](/wiki/Andriy_Shevchenko). The national team made its debut in the [2006 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup), and reached the quarterfinals before losing to eventual champions, [Italy](/wiki/Italy_national_football_team). Ukrainians also fared well in [boxing](/wiki/Boxing), where the brothers [Vitali](/wiki/Vitali_Klitschko) and [Wladimir Klitschko](/wiki/Wladimir_Klitschko) have held world heavyweight championships.

[Sergey Bubka](/wiki/Sergey_Bubka) held the record in the [Pole vault](/wiki/Pole_vault) from 1993 to 2014; with great strength, speed and gymnastic abilities, he was voted the world's best athlete on several occasions.[[324]](#cite_note-324)[[325]](#cite_note-325) [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) is becoming popular in Ukraine. In 2011, Ukraine was granted a right to organize [EuroBasket 2015](/wiki/EuroBasket_2015). Two years later the [Ukraine national basketball team](/wiki/Ukraine_national_basketball_team) finished 6th in [EuroBasket 2013](/wiki/EuroBasket_2013) and qualified to [FIBA World Cup](/wiki/2014_FIBA_Basketball_World_Cup) for the first time in its history. [Euroleague](/wiki/Euroleague) participant [Budivelnyk Kyiv](/wiki/BC_Budivelnyk) is the strongest professional basketball club in Ukraine.

[Chess](/wiki/Chess) is a popular sport in Ukraine. [Ruslan Ponomariov](/wiki/Ruslan_Ponomariov) is the former world champion. There are about 85 [Grandmasters](/wiki/Grandmaster_(chess)) and 198 [International Masters](/wiki/International_Masters) in Ukraine.

Ukraine made its Olympic debut at the [1994 Winter Olympics](/wiki/1994_Winter_Olympics). So far, [Ukraine at the Olympics](/wiki/Ukraine_at_the_Olympics) has been much more successful in [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Summer_Olympics) (115 medals in five appearances) than in the [Winter Olympics](/wiki/Winter_Olympics). Ukraine is currently ranked 35th by number of gold medals won in the [All-time Olympic Games medal count](/wiki/All-time_Olympic_Games_medal_count), with every country above it, except for Russia, having more appearances.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Borscht_served.jpg)[Borscht](/wiki/Borscht) soup with [sour cream](/wiki/Smetana_(dairy_product)) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Martiniouk_Paska.JPG)[Paska](/wiki/Paska_(bread)), Ukrainian [Easter](/wiki/Easter) bread [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The traditional Ukrainian diet includes chicken, pork, beef, fish and mushrooms. Ukrainians also tend to eat a lot of potatoes, grains, fresh, boiled or pickled vegetables. Popular traditional dishes include [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) (boiled dumplings with mushrooms, potatoes, sauerkraut, cottage cheese, cherries or berries), [nalysnyky](/wiki/Nalysnyky) (pancakes with cottage cheese, poppy seeds, mushrooms, caviar or meat), [kapuśniak](/wiki/Kapuśniak) (soup made with meat, potatoes, carrots, onions, cabbage, millet, tomato paste, spices and fresh herbs), [borsch](/wiki/Borsch) (soup made of beets, cabbage and mushrooms or meat), [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) (stuffed cabbage rolls filled with rice, carrots, onion and minced meat) and [pierogi](/wiki/Pierogi) (dumplings filled with boiled potatoes and cheese or meat). Ukrainian specialties also include [Chicken Kiev](/wiki/Chicken_Kiev) and [Kiev cake](/wiki/Kiev_cake). Ukrainians drink [stewed fruit](/wiki/Kompot), juices, milk, buttermilk (they make cottage cheese from this), mineral water, tea and coffee, beer, wine and [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang).[[326]](#cite_note-326)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [General Secretariat of Ukraine](/wiki/General_Secretariat_of_Ukraine)
* [List of cultural icons of Ukraine](/wiki/List_of_cultural_icons_of_Ukraine)
* [Outline of Ukraine](/wiki/Outline_of_Ukraine)
* [Ukrainian karbovanets](/wiki/Ukrainian_karbovanets) – the first official Ukrainian currency
* [Ukrainian oligarchs](/wiki/Ukrainian_oligarchs)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin) **a.**[Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) Among the Ukrainians that rose to the highest offices in the Russian Empire were [Aleksey Razumovsky](/wiki/Aleksey_Razumovsky), [Alexander Bezborodko](/wiki/Alexander_Bezborodko) and [Ivan Paskevich](/wiki/Ivan_Paskevich). Among the Ukrainians who greatly influenced the [Russian Orthodox Church](/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) in this period were [Stephen Yavorsky](/wiki/Stephen_Yavorsky), [Feofan Prokopovich](/wiki/Feofan_Prokopovich) and [Dimitry of Rostov](/wiki/Dimitry_of_Rostov).

**b.**[Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) Estimates on the number of deaths vary. Official Soviet data is not available because the Soviet government denied the existence of the famine. See the [Holodomor](/wiki/Holodomor) article for details. Sources differ on interpreting various statements from different branches of different governments as to whether they amount to the official recognition of the Famine as Genocide by the country. For example, after the statement issued by the Latvian Sejm on 13 March 2008, the total number of countries is given as 19 (according to *Ukrainian* [*BBC*](/wiki/BBC): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), 16 (according to [*Korrespondent*](/wiki/Korrespondent), Russian edition: [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), "more than 10" (according to *Korrespondent*, Ukrainian edition: [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) Retrieved 27 January 2008.

**c.**[Template:Note labelTemplate:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) These figures are likely to be much higher, as they **do not** include Ukrainians from nations or Ukrainian Jews, but instead only [ethnic](/wiki/Ethnic) Ukrainians, from the Ukrainian SSR.

**d.**[Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) This figure excludes [POW](/wiki/POW) deaths.

**e.**[Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) Russia and Kazakhstan are the first and second largest but both these figures include European and Asian territories. Russia is the only country possessing European territories larger than Ukraine.

**f.**[Template:Note labelTemplate:Note labelTemplate:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) According to the official [2001 census](/wiki/Ukrainian_Census_(2001)) data (by nationality;[[327]](#cite_note-327) by language[[328]](#cite_note-328)) about 75 percent of Kiev's population responded 'Ukrainian' to the native language (ridna mova) census question, and roughly 25 percent responded 'Russian'. On the other hand, when the question 'What language do you use in everyday life?' was asked in the 2003 sociological survey, the Kievans' answers were distributed as follows: 'mostly Russian': 52 percent, 'both Russian and Ukrainian in equal measure': 32 percent, 'mostly Ukrainian': 14 percent, 'exclusively Ukrainian': 4.3 percent.  
[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)

**g.**[Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label) Such writings were also the base for Russian and Belarusian literature. [Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

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