

Ukraine.

War in Europe



MIN MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND
INFORMATION POLICY OF UKRAINE



**Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance
by order of the Ministry of Culture
and Information Policy**

Anna Baikenich, Lesya Boidnaruk, Anastasia Gaidukevich-Kechuro, Natalia Ivanchenko, Igor Karetnikov, Lyubov Krupnik, Olena Okhrymchuk, Natalia Poznyak-Khomenko, Natalia Slobozhanina, Olena Snigyr, Maria Takhtaulova, Volodymyr Tylishchak, Viktoriya Yaremchenko, Maksym Yarmystyy worked on the exhibition in Ukraine.

Translation:

Natalia Wislocka (Poland), Oksana Lusterhouwer (Germany), Wolfgang Schubert (Germany), Dmytro Masko (Ukraine)

Design:

Serhiy Antonyuk, Anton Chekal, Oleksandr Rubchuk, Yurii Yeznel, Artem Zhukov

Editing:

Natalia Pozniak-Khomenko (Ukraine), Karolina Wichowska (Poland)

Collaboration:

Aldvidas Niksentaytis (Lithuania), Andrews Kublius (Lithuania), Aurimas Svedas (Lithuania), Igor Kąkolewski (Germany), Michał Koczyński (Poland), Wojciech Kalwat (Poland), Svitlana Liakhovets (Lithuania), Konrad Wozniak (Germany), Karsten Holste (Germany)

Photos and other materials from the following resources have been used during creation of the exhibition: Ukrainian National Information Agency "Ukrinform", UNIAN News Agency, Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, National Memorial Complex of Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred - Museum of the Revolution of Dignity, The Central State Film and Photo Archive of Ukraine named after GS Pshenichny, Central State Archive of the highest authorities and administration of Ukraine, National Museum of History of Ukraine, National Military History Museum of Ukraine, the Press Service of the 72nd OMBR named after the Black Cossacks, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, depositphotos.com, rubabr.com, varlamov.ru, kath-akademie-bayern.de, polona.pl, Wikipedia and other open sources

as well as photos:

Serhiy Babenko (Kyiv)
Pavel Bagmut (Kyiv)
Serhiy Bobko (Kharkiv)

Ruslan Borovyk (Kyiv)

Oleksandr Brynza (Kharkiv)
Maksym Dondyuk (Kyiv)
Yulia Gush (Kharkiv)
Stanislav Ivanov (Mariupol)
Anton Kireev (Kyiv)

Max Levin (Boyarka)

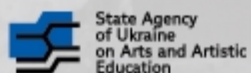
Serhiy Mykhalchuk (Kyiv)
Serhiy Nuzhnenko (Kyiv)
Ruslan Pustovoit (Mariupol)
Vladyslav Savenko (Chernihiv)
Mykhailo Shtekel (Mykolaiv)
Petro Chekal (Kharkiv)

and

the image of Oleksiy Gnevyshev's painting "Ukraine"
comics "Dumptster" by Serhii Zakharov



Partners in Ukraine:



World under the attack

ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022

COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AFTER WORLD WAR II, SUFFERED A CRUSHING BLOW.

Lingering discussions about the necessity of reformation of the structure of the UN, NATO, EU have shown weaknesses and flaws, but there were no dramatic changes. Instead, during the last 30 years the Russian Federation has been restoring its own armed forces and amplifying imperial ambition, which took a blow as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Deceptive European stability and complacency, lulled by russian propaganda, let the monster rise to its feet. Aggression against other countries that is remaining silenced for years, created in russian people a feeling of impunity and permissiveness.

Today, Russia is openly threatening the collective West with the occupation of a dozen other countries, or, at least, the establishment of control over them. This is a global problem of redistribution of spheres of influence. There are no positions left in the system of European values and world security that would not be subjected to aggression. At 5 am on February 24, missile strikes were launched not only on Ukrainian cities, but also on the world's vital arteries. We are just beginning to realize their consequences. The world is already beginning to talk about the food crisis, provoked by this war.



Hanna Mallar,
deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine,
7th of April 2022

“

Don't hide your head in the sand. Today the third president of Russia, Medvedev, has claimed that their plans are Eurasia from Vladivostok to Lisbon. Let me say what this means: it means that Bucha will be from Vladivostok to Lisbon. The borders of the European Union do not stop Russia. And the fact is that today Ukraine is a shield for Europe and that we put our lives not only for Ukraine, these things are already getting clear

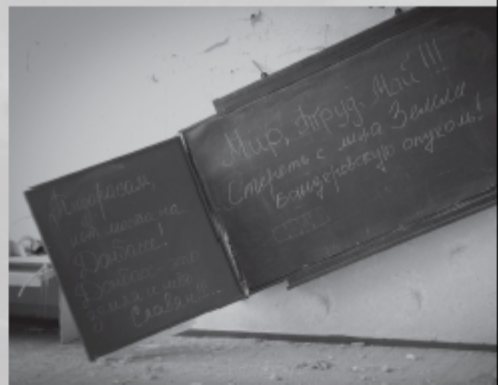
”

Europe was already going through all this when, 90 years ago, the Nazis took hostage the population of their own state under the auspices of expanding "living spaces" and resolving the "Jewish question". Their Fuhrer then also shouted about security and that he was not attacking anyone. They tried to negotiate with him, looking for compromises to avoid war.

Eventually, the war swept across Europe. Its victims are tens of millions of Europeans in all parts of the continent. And it took more than six bloody years to overcome that evil.

Today, bloody evil threatens Europe again. How long will it take to overcome it, and how many victims will die?

The crime must be stopped now. Helping Ukraine in the war with Russia is a moral duty of the whole free world. And it's the world's own safety.



The inscription in Russian on the board of the school in Donbas seized in 2014. "Peace, Labor, May! Erase Bandera's tumor from the face of the Earth" is a clear description of the actions and intentions of Russians who have been trying to destroy Ukraine for 8 years.



For 32 years, the Berlin Wall has been a symbol of the border between democratic and totalitarian worlds. Konrad Schumann's jump over the barbed wire fence on Bernauer Straße in 1961 is one of the most famous shots of an escape through the Berlin Wall, which was captured by several photographers at the same time. The wall, the new division of the world into good and evil, is now acquiring a new sound and meaning.



Kremlin's trail of blood

RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION, DISGUISED BY THE KREMLIN AS A "PEACEKEEPING MISSION", "SPECIAL OPERATION" AND "PROTECTION OF THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING ORTHODOX POPULATION", HAS ALREADY BROUGHT GREAT HUMAN LOSSES, SUFFERING, DESTRUCTION AND MILITARY OCCUPATION. THE CURRENT AGGRESSION BECAME POSSIBLE BECAUSE RUSSIA'S REVANCHISM HAD NOT BEEN STOPPED. RUSSIA'S TRAIL OF BLOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MANY MILITARY CONFLICTS IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE.



Valeriya Novodvorskaya,
Russian dissident

“

It is in the interests of the civilized world community to stop Putin, since nuclear weapons, dictatorship and the way of thinking, similar to the one of Beria and Stalin, are a threat to humanity

”



1992-1993

Moldova and Georgia

In March-July 1992, the Kremlin provoked a civil war and created the so-called "Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic" within the territory of Transnistria between Ukraine and Moldova.

It was followed by Abkhazia, part of Georgia in the South Caucasus, after the Russian Federation had provoked a war between Abkhazian separatists and the Georgian government. Russian aircraft bombed civilian targets in the territory controlled by Georgia.

In 2021, the European Court of Human Rights recognized that Russia had occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In 2022, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe officially recognized Transnistria as a territory occupied by the Russian Federation.



1994-1996

Chechnya

With the collapse of the USSR, the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria declared its independence on June 8, 1991. General Dzhokhar Dudayev was elected as the President. After an unsuccessful attempt to keep Chechnya as the part of the Russian Federation, the Kremlin launched a war against the Republic. During the assault, Russian troops completely destroyed Grozny, the capital of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria by shelling and bombing. Yet, the aggressors failed to take control of the mountainous regions of Chechnya. Chechen guerrillas inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors. The Russian Federation was forced to retreat after signing the Khasavyurt Accord in the summer of 1996.



1999-2009

Chechnya

The Kremlin launched the Second Chechen War to regain control over Chechnya in 1999. By the spring of 2000, the territory of Chechnya had been occupied by the Russian army due to bloody repression. For instance, the Russians killed over 700 people, mostly civilians, in just one battle for the village of Komsomolskoye in March 2000. Later, the war was waged against the insurgent movement in the North Caucasus. Today, the Russian government in Chechnya is headed by Ramzan Kadyrov who calls himself a "Putin's soldier" and uses violence to intimidate, kidnap, torture and kill people.

Destruction of opposition

Anna Politkovskaya



Galina Starovoitova



Boris Nemtsov



Yuri Dmitriev



By applying the pressure of persecution, Putin's regime has gradually destroyed the opposition and independent opinion in the Russian Federation. Those who dared to tell the truth have been either arrested or killed. Assassination of Russian human rights activist Galina Starovoitova (1998), a journalist and human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya (2006) who exposed Putin's crimes in Chechnya, and politician Boris Nemtsov (2015) who studied Russia's aggression in Ukraine, resonated the most. The world knows about the poisonings of oppositionists Alexander Litvinenko, Dmitry Bykov, Vladimir Kara-Murza, Serhiy and Yulia Skrypal. International human rights organization Memorial, which investigates the crimes of Soviet totalitarianism, has been banned. The head of the Karelian Memorial Yuri Dmitriev, a researcher of Stalinist repressions, was imprisoned for 15 years on trumped-up charges. Peaceful rallies and protests are banned in Russia.

2008

Georgia

For many years, the Russian Federation has been supporting separatists in South Ossetia, a region which is part of Georgia.

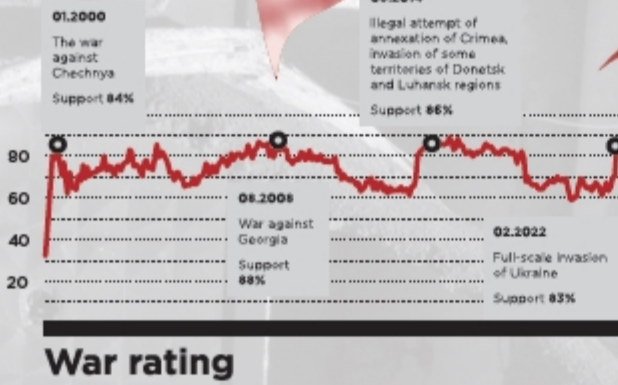
On August 8, 2008, Russian troops invaded Georgia under the pretext of "protecting the population of South Ossetia". Within five days, Russian aircraft struck more than 100 Georgian cities. Russia systematically targeted civilians and civilian areas. Today, South Ossetia, like Abkhazia, is an unrecognized breakaway republic under the control of the Russian Federation.

2015-2022

Syria

In 2015, the Kremlin intervened in the war in Syria to save the authoritarian government of President Bashar al-Assad. Russian weapons have helped Assad to retain power, but have ruined the lives of millions. Gas attacks in Idlib and Ltamenah, and a chemical attack on Douma either killed or injured hundreds of civilians, including many children. Russian missiles and bombs have ruined many Syrian hospitals and completely destroyed the city of Aleppo.





Support for war
The crime of aggression has received high support among the citizens of the Russian Federation. Consequently, the level of approval of Putin's actions reaches peak values during invasive wars. This is evidenced by data from the Levada Center.

Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church
The Russian Orthodox Church is an important "soft power" tool of Putin's regime to spread the ideology of the "Russian world" both in the Russian Federation and abroad. In Ukraine, the Russian Orthodox Church and its branch known as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate are used to collect information, conduct intelligence operations, propagate the so-called "Russian world" and justify Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov
Russian television propaganda is set by characters that use outright xenophobic and anti-democratic rhetoric. One of them is Vladimir Solovyov, a TV presenter, who positions himself as a Russian patriot famous for his anti-Western sentiment, which, paradoxically, does not prevent him from owning real estate in Italy.

Putinism: Against Democracy and Europe



Andrei Piontkovskiy, Russian political scientist, publicist and mathematician

“**Putinism is a war; it means “consolidation” of the nation based on hatred of some ethnic group, an attack on freedom of speech, brainwashing, isolation from the outside world and further economic degradation**”

The political regime of the Russian Federation is based on the ideological concept of the so-called “Russian world”, focusing on the “uniqueness” of the Russians, proclaiming them the “Chosen people” and the “big brothers” who have a right to interfere in the affairs of neighbouring states and declare those states’ “inseparable unity with Moscow”, giving a distorted view of what they call “shared history” based on the Russian language, culture and orthodox beliefs or “orthodox faith” as they call it.

Great Russian chauvinism began to aggressively assert itself on the election Vladimir Putin as President of the Russian Federation in the year 2000. It was Putin who called the collapse of the Soviet Union the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century and blamed the democratic world, which, he believed, had undermined the Soviet economy, distanced the former Soviet republics from Moscow and brought NATO closer to Russia’s borders.

Putin has been actively exploiting the main mythologies of the Cold War, where aggressive confrontation with the West, especially the United States of America, is presented as restoring Russia’s geopolitical greatness, shaping Putin’s cult as an effective politician and leader.

Putin’s regime is based on aggressive propaganda aimed at the total militarization of the Russian society through imaginary external threats, among which are democracy and European values.

In this, Putin echoes Hitler’s rhetoric of the 1930s. “It is a lie when the outside world says that we only tried to carry through our revisions by pressure”, Adolf Hitler said in his speech to the Reichstag on September 1, 1939, right after the attack on Poland. “We do not intend to impose anything to anyone by force”, Vladimir Putin said in a video message on February 24, 2022, announcing the beginning of Russia’s “special military operation” in Ukraine.

The cult of the leader and his monopoly on power is at the heart of Putin’s model. This cult is ensured by numerous security forces and agencies, as well as by Russia’s repressive and punitive apparatus, and the Kremlin-controlled media as a weapon of disinformation. They all helped to establish full control over the political life in Russia, the electoral process, the economy, restricting citizens’ rights to freedom of thought and peaceful protests. They also destroyed the independent press and television in the Russian Federation.

One must not lose sight of the intellectuals and artists who contributed to the establishment of Russia’s imperial revanchism and denial of democratic values. The world is once again faced with a regime that seeks to redraw the borders of states, dreams of war and moves towards the re-emerging totalitarianism.



Iskander missiles
In Russia, one of the fundamentals of the state power is the cult of glory of Russian weapons. In 2014, a propaganda campaign was launched to promote Russia’s newest weapons in response to global outrage over the annexation of Crimea. They even produced women’s clothing with the image of Iskander ballistic operational-tactical missile systems and the words: “Don’t make my Iskanders laugh”. Russian artists and intellectuals took an active part in the campaign.

Nord Stream natural gas pipeline
The dependence of many countries on Russian natural gas is a powerful tool in Putin’s revenge strategy. It is this factor that the Kremlin has long used to exert political and economic pressure on Ukraine in particular and European countries in general.



The speech of President Vladimir Putin at the Munich Security Conference on February 10, 2007
The speech was one of the first clear messages by the Russian Federation about the country’s intention to become an alternative leader in global politics, which marked the beginning of a new Cold War against the West.



Victory Day celebration in Russia
One of the important myths of Russia’s national ideology is the myth of victory over Nazism in World War II, which, according to Putin, was won exclusively by the Russian people. Nowadays, all enemies of Putin’s regime are labeled “fascists”. The whole society is involved in cultivating this myth: even children’s minds and emotions are affected by war propaganda.

Why Ukraine?

Orange revolution of 2004. Massive peaceful protests of Ukrainian citizens who went out to support democracy and to confront the president's election falsification shocked Vladimir Putin and Russian elites. So in the years to come, they have been doing everything in their power to keep Ukraine in their sphere of influence by advancing national conflicts and spending significant amounts to support pro-Russian projects. As a result, they managed to bring into power pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich in 2010 and sign unconscionable for Ukraine agreements known as "Kharkiv agreements", among other things led to the further entrenchment of positions of the Black Sea Fleet (Chernomorsky flot) of RF in Crimea.

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE RESTORATION IN 1991 WAS A SHOCK FOR SOME OF THE RUSSIAN ELITES AND AVERAGE CITIZENS OF RUSSIA, WHO STILL DREAMED OF IMPERIAL GLORIES. EVEN NOWADAYS, THEY ARE DREAMING OF EMPIRE RECONSTRUCTION IN ANY FORM.



Putin in the ancient Chersonesus located in Crimea, occupied by Russia in 2014.

To justify his aggression against Ukraine, Putin creates myths about "sacral" Chersonesus and Crimea for Russia, as according to one of the versions, the ruler of Kievan Rus' Vladimir was baptized here in the X century, and Russian propaganda is trying to cross him out of Ukrainian legacy and make him "their own" along with all history of medieval Rus'.

The capture of Ukraine with its material and human resources is one of the prerequisites to deploy the Russian empire project, which is still one of the determinant preconditions. Without Ukraine, Russian empire ambitions are impossible in any form.

On the other side, Putin is led by the fear of the future European and democratic Ukraine, which can be a contraposition of Putin's Russia. The advantages and achievements of the democracy in Ukraine show Russian citizens the desperateness of the situation created by Putin's governmental oligarchs. Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic choice and European integration course is a challenge for Vladimir Putin since it can neglect his image as a successful Russian president, which has been built through the years.

Putin also needs Ukrainian history. The legacy of medieval Rus' which center was in Kyiv and the lands of today's Ukraine, is one of the determinative elements of the Russian empire myth. It is the reason why Putin is trying to take away Ukrainian people's right for their part, its history. He denies Ukrainian's right to have their own identity. He is emphatic in his assertion that "it is one nation" and repeats the thesis of empire propaganda of the XIX century.

It is the old times to which Vladimir Putin approaches to return not only in Ukraine but in all of Europe.

On 21st February of 2022, Vladimir Putin gave an almost one-hour speech that de-facto announced war on Ukraine and the democratic world. The main part of the speech was dedicated to rewriting Ukrainian history and clear threats to Ukrainian citizens. As was mentioned by the BBC foreign correspondent in Eastern Europe Sarah Rainford: "Putin's focus on Ukraine felt obsessive, like a man who thinks about little else".

Production Union Pivdennyi Machine-Building Plant in Ukrainian Dnipro city back in times was the center of the launch vehicles and aerospace manufacture of USSR. Technologies that are used in the rockets that Russians war criminals use to bomb Ukraine have been created at this and other Ukrainian enterprises.



Zbigniew Brzezinski, a political scientist and former National Security Advisor of President Jimmy Carter. Extracts of his book "The Grand Chessboard", 1997

Providing Moscow regains control of Ukraine with its 52 million population and significant resources, along with Black sea access, Russia automatically gets an opportunity to turn into a powerful empire country with territories in both Europe and Asia



Screen capture from "Maksim Perebelitsa" - a 1955 soviet comedy film. It tells the story of young people from a Ukrainian village gaining the rank of the soviet army sergeants. As long as the Soviet army existed, most sergeants and junior commanders had Ukrainian origins. It was them who cemented the army and made it stronger. Today, one of the main problems of the Russian army is its weak junior commanders level that misses Ukrainians.



Vladimir Grand Prince of Kyiv Monument in Moscow, 2016.

Monument construction was another step forward by the Russian authority to create the mental right to use the legacy of Rus' with the center in Kyiv. At the opening ceremony, Vladimir Putin named Grand Prince Vladimir "spiritual founder of the Russian state". But Moscow's monument, in reality, only inherits Kyiv's monument of Vladimir which was constructed at the beginning of the XX century. In Moscow, the figure of the Grand Prince, who adopted Orthodox Christianity for his people, was amplified by military and "Stata" symbols - by a sword and a monarchy cap.



"Russian marches" in Ukrainian cities: Sevastopol, 2008, and Donetsk, 2013. For many years Russia was pro-actively implanting "Russian world" ideas in Ukraine. Most of the marginal organizations were financed by Russia and followed xenophobic and anti-Ukrainian ideas. But citizens of Ukraine turned out to be resistant to Putin's propaganda.

Russian cities and their outskirts. Regardless of significant incomes from the export of the energy supplies, while being in power for two decades, Putin and his administration didn't manage to solve the main social and economic problems of Russian cities and villages. Even now standards of living for typical wage Russian citizens, especially in remote areas - is far from satisfying. This is the reason why anti-Ukrainian and anti-Western propaganda is beyond other reasons, one of Russian key elements of the distraction of Russian citizens from internal problems.



Krasnoyarsk

Ulan-Ude

Kansk

The myth of “brotherhood nations”

THE ORIGINS OF THE UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN, AND BELARUSIAN PEOPLES LEAD TO MEDIEVAL RUS. HOWEVER, THEIR FORMATION TOOK PLACE UNDER DIFFERENT HISTORICAL CONDITIONS, WHICH LED TO SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL, POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, AS WELL AS THE EMERGENCE OF SEPARATE LANGUAGES.



Zlatnik or zolotrik (obverse and reverse) – the gold coin of Kyiv Prince Vladimir the Great (late X century). Coined with a characteristic trident, a generic sign of Rurikovich. (National Museum of the History of Ukraine).



Old academic campus building of National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, one of the oldest academic organizations in Eastern Europe.

Column of the Magdeburg Rights in Kyiv. Monument commemorating the return to Kyiv of its Magdeburg rights in 1802, which were first granted back in the XV century.

Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Jesus is one of the oldest cathedrals in Eastern Europe that still exists in its original sight. Located in the historical centre of Chorniviv, in the old times, it was the dominant architectural construction in the city. Latest evidence that the construction of the cathedral was started in the 30s of the XI century.



Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian nations were formed under difference historical circumstances that resulted in significant cultural, political and worldview differences, along with different languages.

In the IX century, a medieval estate Rus' appeared with the center in Kyiv. Over a period of several centuries, Rus' as a term was widely used to describe all territories that recognized the power of the Princes of Kyiv. As a narrow term, Rus' was used to describe lands in the Middle of the Dnipro river that surrounded Kyiv. North-east lands where the Duchy of Moscovia later appeared back then were known as Zalesye. Those were territories with the minimum population before citizens of Rus' started to colonize them.

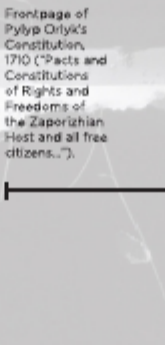
After the Mongol invasion in the XIII century, the fates of those territories were torn apart. Ukrainian territories of Rus' estate developed under Prince Danylo and his successors, later as part of Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Kingdom of Poland: polyculture, multiconfessional, European states. The political culture of those states was determined by agreements, golden liberty, self-governance, religious tolerance, and tolerance of private property. Most of those principles were retained in the Cossack state – Hetmanate.

North-east territories of former Rus' were part of the Golden Horde, it is the reason why the political culture of Duchy of Moscovia took over Horde's disciplines and traditions: to honor the governor with maximum respect and absolute obedience, absolute estate dominance, absence of private land property and common lands.

In the late XV century and as soon as Horde supervision came to an end, Moscow Duchess was concerned about a new identity. At this point the concept of Moscow as “Third Rome” was created, at the very same time Moscow's ruling elites strategically highlighted the connection to the Rurik dynasty of Kyivan Rus'.

The final concept of Moscovia inheritance of Ancient Rus' was built up after 1721, as Tsar Peter I renamed the Moscovia estate into Russia. Orthodox religion took a significant place in Russian imperial ideology, alongside autocracy, so to say holding triune “Russian nation”.

Today Russian propaganda relinquishes the concept of “brotherhood nations” replacing it with the concept of “one nation” to affirm and justify aggression against Ukraine and Ukrainian citizens.



Front page of Rukopriyky's Constitution, 1710 (“Pacts and Constitutions of Rights and Freedoms of the Zaporizhian Host and all free citizens.”).



Saint Sophia Cathedral (Sofiiskiy sobor) is a cathedral built in the first half of the XI century in Kyiv.

“The truth of the will of the monarch” is a tractate of 1722 with comments and affirmations to the “Statute of hereditary succession” signed by Peter I in February 1722.



Timothy Snyder, interview with Ezra Klein from The New York Times Opinion for the podcast: The Ezra Klein Show

“The way Putin sees it, it's not about history, it's all about myths... And so the things which don't seem to fit that unity he dismisses immediately as artificial. “If something shows you that Ukraine isn't just part of Russia, that's not really the past. That's artificial. That should be stripped away”



Monument of a regent of Kievan Rus' – Olga, who converted to Christianity in 957 during her trip to Constantinople, Kyiv.



Monomakh's Cap at the imperial treasury section in Moscow, some legends say that the cap had been presented by the Byzantine emperor to Kyiv Prince Vladimir Monomakh in the XII century. In fact, it was created by Moscow's craftsmen by using old details with different origins. The basis of the Cap was the female Mongolian hat tuloeteka.



A century of struggle for independence



Rally during the II Military Congress (In the center – Secretary General (Minister) for Military Affairs, later – Chief Otaman of the UPR (Supreme Commander) and Chairman of the Directory (Supreme body of state power) UPR Symon Petliura, Chairman of the Central Council Mykhailo Hruschavsky, Head of the General Secretariat (Government) Volodymyr Vynnychenko). Kyiv, November 2, 1917.



First General Secretariat (Government) of the Ukrainian Central Council, 1917.



Mykola Plavchuk, the President of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile, hands over his powers and jewels to the President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, signing a corresponding letter of resignation, August 22, 1992.



Former political prisoners, deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of July 16, 1990 – the day of the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine.

THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA AND THE FALL OF THE AUTOCRACY LED TO THE RISE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

During the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921, Ukrainians achieved the establishment of their own state, the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR). Ukraine's first independence in the twentieth century was proclaimed on January 22, 1918. In the same year, the coat of arms of the Ukrainian People's Republic was approved (the main element is a trident, an ancient Russian princely sign), the anthem "Ukraine is not dead yet", and the state blue and yellow flag.

On January 22, 1919, the Act of Unification of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic was proclaimed. The event at the legislative level united the territories of Ukraine divided in the 17th century.

“ In practice, we know that there is a conquest of Ukraine by Soviet Russia. We have experienced a whole bacchanalia of destruction of all signs of the Ukrainian nation, trampling of portraits of Shevchenko, executions for Ukrainian ID and for the Ukrainian language

” Red Flag newspaper (printed organ of the Ukrainian Social Democrats), February 14, 1919

Bolshevik Russia resorted to armed aggression and occupation. The policy of military red terror was accompanied by assassinations, mass robberies, exiles to camps, and terrorist methods of governing occupied lands.

On the Ukrainian lands included in the USSR, the communist totalitarian regime killed millions of people as a result of the Holodomor of 1932–1933, state terror, deportations and wars. That idea of gaining state independence became decisive for the national liberation movement of the twentieth century. At the slightest opportunity, Ukrainians claimed the right to their own state.

The incorporation of Western Ukraine into the USSR during the Second World War and the terror and repression that began there provoked large-scale armed resistance from the local population. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army fought both against the Nazis and (until the early 1960s) against the Communists. The Soviet regime dubbed the insurgents and independence fighters "Bandera." They are still the main antiheroes of modern Russian propaganda.

By the end of the 1980s, the communist regime in the USSR had weakened and Ukrainians regained their independence. On August 24, 1991, the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR adopted the Act of Proclamation of Independence of Ukraine. On December 1, 1991, in an all-Ukrainian referendum, the Ukrainian people confirmed by an absolute majority the desire to live in an independent state. The paths of Ukraine and Russia diverged.

Chief Otaman of the UPR troops Symon Petliura and Minister of War Volodymyr Salsky inspect units of the 6th Rifle Division while handing it a battle flag, Berdychiv, May 5, 1920.



Demonstration of the Ukrainian military in Chernivtsi, May 1, 1917.



Ukrainian Republican Chapel led by Oleksandr Koshyts in Prague (Czechoslovakia, April 1919). The choir was established on January 16, 1919 in Kyiv by the music department of the Ministry of Education of the Ukrainian People's Republic on behalf of the head of the Directory Simon Petliura to promote Ukrainian musical culture abroad. It was the who introduced the world to Mykola Leontovych's "Shchedryk" – now widely known as "Carol of the bells" Christmas tune.

Peasants receive millet on working days at the Demyan Bedny collective farm, Red Army district, Donetsk region, 1930s.



Members of the society for joint cultivation of land transport the beam of the dispossessed peasant P. Yemets to the general barn, Grishynsky district, Donetsk region, 30s of the XX century.



Soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army from Ivano-Frankivsk Region, 1948–1949s.



“Trial” wars



THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE WAS PRECEDED BY DECADES OF PROVOCATIONS, ECONOMIC AND INFORMATION WARS.

“There are less than a kilometer left before the war with Russia.” Newspapers abounded in such headlines in the fall of 2003. Then Russia began building a dam to the Ukrainian island of Tuzla in the Kerch Strait, encroaching on Ukrainian territory.

Ukraine sent a note of protest to the Russian Foreign Ministry and gathered additional forces in Tuzla. Ships of the Ukrainian Naval forces were put on alert on the island, and the military was ordered to open fire in case of violation of the state border.

There was no war then: after a telephone conversation between Leonid Kuchma and Vladimir Putin, Russia stopped construction. But this was a rehearsal for the capture of Crimea in 2014.

“Tuzla is ours. And Sevastopol is ours. Azov is our inland sea. Modern Ukraine has nothing to do with Crimea or Sevastopol”



Dmitry Rogozin, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs on the radio station “This is Moscow” during the conflict around the island of Tuzla, 2003



The construction of a dam on the Ukrainian island of Tuzla was a clear violation of both international law and Ukraine-Russia bilateral agreements. The determination of the Ukrainian authorities to protect their territorial integrity stopped the construction of the dam 102 m from the Ukrainian territory. October 15, 2003.

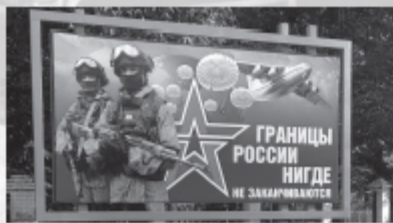
The Presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Leonid Kuchma, Vladimir Putin, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, during a ceremony to restore the Crimea-Caucasus ferry on November 12, 2004. There are a few days left before the Orange Revolution, Russia has openly supported Viktor Yanukovich's candidacy against Viktor Yushchenko.



The Orange Revolution was bloodless. However, there is information about the pressure to use force against the protesters by the Kremlin leader against President Leonid Kuchma during their meeting at the Vnukovo Airport on December 2, 2004.

Independence Square, Kyiv, December 3, 2004.

Transit of Russian gas to Europe



In the press, on television, on the Internet, propaganda campaigns were promoted, the ideological basis of which was the concept of the “Russian world” (Russian peace), actively picked up in 2010 by the ROC Patriarch Kirill (Gundyaev).

The Russian side tried by all means to show Ukraine's unreliability as a gas transit country to Europe, accusing it of “unauthorized” withdrawal of gas from the supply system.



A new round of escalation between Russia and Ukrainian was provoked by the 2004 presidential election, which culminated in mass protests that went down in history as the Orange Revolution. The Kremlin then attempted to split Ukraine through a separatist congress in Severodonetsk. But the (SSU) Security Service of Ukraine prevented the processes from deepening.

Then the Kremlin leadership began to put economic pressure on Ukraine, primarily blackmailing by cutting off gas supplies. The communications and telecommunications industries, part of the banking sector, and so on came under full or partial control of Russian capital.

At the same time, an information war broke out aimed at deepening divisions in Ukrainian society and increasing distrust of the democratic government.

Russian aggression intensified in 2010 after Viktor Yanukovich came to power. On April 21, 2010, he and then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the so-called Kharkiv Agreements, which extended the stay of the Russian fleet in Ukraine. This was the start of a special operation to establish full control over Ukraine.

Russia's special services have intensified intelligence networks in Ukraine, from right-wing radical and clerical to communist. Myths about unity with the Russian people and the benefits of joining Russia were broadcast to Ukrainian audiences.

Propaganda channels were not limited to the media. Cinema, show business, non-political programs were also subordinated to the general goal of discrediting Ukraine, emphasizing its “secondary” and “second-rate”.

Харківські угоди. В обмін на знижку на газ Україна погоджувалась на продовження перебування Чорноморського флоту РФ на своїй території до 2042 року. За попередньою угодою цей термін склався у 2017 році.



The ratification of the Kharkiv agreements by the parliament took place in an extremely tense situation. The opposition tried to prevent the actual dismantling of Ukrainian sovereignty by disrupting the meeting and throwing eggs at the presidium.

Despite the clearly anti-state content, the Kharkiv agreements were voted by a majority of parliament, led by the Party of Regions. Supporters of Verkhovna Rada Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn “saved” him from shelling by covering him with umbrellas.





Back in 2014, armed men in uniform without any identification signs seized strategic objects in Crimea, at the same time the Russian Federation denied that these were Russian army. President Putin later acknowledged this. In March 2014, in violation of all international norms, the Russian occupiers held an unrecognized "referendum", as a result of which Russia "included" Crimea in its membership.



“
Putin does not want to see real democracies emerge in the former Soviet Union. But it is also a matter of good old aggression
 ”

Francis Fukuyama, Professor at Stanford University about the War in the East of Ukraine, 2016

2014. The beginning of the war



Ukrainian journalist and publicist Stanislav Aseyev in his book *The Bright Way: The History of a Concentration Camp (The Torture Camp on Paradise Street)* spoke about his two-year stay in the Isolation Prison (Donetsk), which the DNR militants turned into a concentration camp.

During the Revolution of Dignity, 107 activists died in the struggle for democratic values - they were later called the Heavenly Hundred.



Igor Giren at the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra in January 2014. In May of the same year, Igor Giren, under the call sign "Stalkov", headed the "armed forces" of militants of the DNR terrorist group. During the Invasion of Crimea and Donbas, the Russian Orthodox Church helped pro-Russian militants seize territory.



Serhiy Zakharov's graphic novel "Dumpester" is an artistic sentence of a Donetsk resident of the so-called DNR and LNR. The art project "Huzivka" created by him filled Donetsk with street art caricatures of representatives of the occupying power. Zakharov was captured, kept in the basement, and mistreated the shooting several times. Leaving the torture chamber, the artist painted what happened to him and other prisoners.

On July 17, 2014, Russian fighters shot down a Boeing 777 passenger plane from a Russian-made Buk missile system. The Boeing 777 crash was the largest in the 21st century since September 11, 2001.



In captured Sloviansk, Donetsk and other cities, pro-Russian militants detained and imprisoned, tortured, and crucified pro-Ukrainian figures, professed unacceptable militant beliefs, or appeared simply suspicious.



The Donetsk airport has become a symbol of the resilience of Ukrainian defenders, who have been called "cyborgs" for their steadfastness. The fighting for the airport began in May 2014 and lasted 244 days. Only when the militants blew up the concrete floors did the Ukrainian military withdraw to the surrounding settlements, where they continued to hold positions. In the battles for Donetsk airport, 109 servicemen were killed, 446 were wounded and 6 went missing.

In August 2014, Russian troops insidiously killed 368 Ukrainian soldiers, opening fire on the columns while leaving the encirclement near Ilovaisk along the so-called "green corridor". The tragedy near Ilovaisk forced the countries of North America and Europe to take measures of collective defense against Russia: it was decided to create a Rapid Reaction Force.

Since November 21, 2013, millions of Ukrainians have come to Independence Square and streets in other cities to protest the refusal of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich to sign an agreement on Ukraine's associate membership in the European Union. The decisive struggle of Ukrainians for Freedom and Dignity was first called Euromaidan, and later - the Revolution of Dignity. The protest lasted continuously for 94 days.

The Revolution of Dignity finally determined the European choice - Ukraine became an associate member of the EU. It also paved the way for the most important changes - the development of civil society, the transformation of post-totalitarian society into a democratic one.

But as soon as Ukraine reaffirmed its European vector of development, stepping out of the Kremlin's sphere of influence, the world witnessed an unprecedented military invasion of Europe for the 21st century.

In February 2014, the Russian Federation, in violation of international law, bilateral and multilateral agreements, attempted to annex the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and in April began the occupation of Donbas in the East of Ukraine, disguising it as a civil conflict. The aggressor seized about 7% of Ukrainian territory.

According to the UN data, the victims of Russian aggression were more than 40 thousand people, more than 13 thousand of whom died and 1.5 million - fled their homes. Russia illegally exported 27% of the industrial potential of Donbas to its territory.

The state of the Ukrainian army, weakened by the Yanukovich regime, and the transitional political situation in the country at the time of the attack did not allow Ukraine to stop the aggressor immediately. But the offensive of Russian troops later managed to repel and retake part of the occupied territories in the East of Ukraine. This was due to the titanic efforts of Ukrainians at all levels, who defended the state in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and volunteer formations and a powerful volunteer movement that emerged during the Revolution of Dignity.

The Russian-Ukrainian war in the East of Ukraine lasted 8 years in front of the whole world. During this time, Ukrainians restrained Russian aggression, paying a high price for choosing a European direction and democratic values during the Revolution of Dignity, becoming a living shield for Europe and an outpost of Freedom for the world.



The wreckage of the Antonov An-225 cargo plane "Mriya", the largest aircraft that delivered humanitarian cargo to the most remote hot-spots of our planet. The plane was destroyed on February 27, 2022 by Russian shelling during the Russian attack on Ukraine at the airfield in Hostomel.



Under the open sky: torn cities



A photo from the town of Bucha, Kyiv region, after it was liberated from the occupiers on March 31, appeared in the first column of the world media. The Russian occupation, which lasted more than a month, left behind a murdered, raped, torn city, which population before the war was about 50,000.

FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE WAR, THE VICTIMS OF RUSSIAN AIRSTRIKES WERE PRIMARILY PEACEFUL UKRAINIAN TOWNS AND VILLAGES. THE GEOGRAPHY OF STRIKES COVERS ALL REGIONS OF UKRAINE.

Cases of looting and mass murder, torture and rape of civilians, abduction of local government officials, priests, journalists, celebrities, etc. have been reported in the occupied territories.

Russian troops are destroying not only airfields, military units, and oil depots, but also homes, hospitals, maternity hospitals, kindergartens, schools, and more. The shelling of residential areas is carried out with the use of artillery, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, ballistic missiles, and the use of cluster and phosphorus bombs prohibited by international conventions has been recorded. The most shameful war crime is the shelling of houses marked with a red cross.



President of Ukraine
Volodymyr Zelenskyy

I invite all friends of Ukraine to visit Kyiv. It can be dangerous here because our sky is not yet closed from Russian missiles and planes

During the month of the war, more than 200 schools of various profiles were destroyed or damaged, 264 health care facilities, and 13 hospitals cannot be rebuilt. More than 3,500 infrastructure facilities were destroyed. Dozens of cities, including Borodyanka, Volnovakha, and Mariupol, have been almost completely turned into ruins.

By the Decree of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a number of Ukrainian cities that suffered the most from the Russian invasion received the status of hero cities: Volnovakha, Hostomel, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, Bucha, Irpin, Mykolaiv, Okhtyrka.

Aerial view: firefighters are working on the ruins of a residential building, which was hit by the wreckage of a downed rocket. The occupiers are constantly trying to capture the capital of Ukraine, which should be their main military trophy. Kyiv, March 17, 2022.



Ruins in Chernihiv, April 2022. Mayor Vladislav Atroshenko reported that Russian troops destroyed the city by 70%.



The building of the regional state administration in Mykolaiv destroyed by Russian missiles, March 29, 2022.



An elderly woman near the yard destroyed by shelling in the village of Novoselivka, Chernihiv region, April 2022.



Lyceum in Zhytomyr destroyed by Russian missiles, March 2022.



During the month of the war, 1,292 houses, 70 schools, 54 kindergartens and 15 hospitals were destroyed in Kharkiv.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE DEMONSTRATES AMAZING EXAMPLES OF THE HEROISM OF BOTH INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND ENTIRE TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES. THIS WAR HARDENS AND SHAPES UKRAINIANS AS A SINGLE NATION, AND UKRAINIANS SURPRISE AND CHANGE EUROPE AND THE WORLD WITH THEIR HEROISM.

The world is shocked by the fact that residents of the cities of Koryukivka in the Chernihiv region and Kupyansk in the Kharkiv region took to the streets and squares, stopping Russian military equipment without weapons. When protests under Ukrainian flags did not stop for more than a month in the occupied Kherson, Energodar, and Melitopol. When homeless people collected bottles for Molotov cocktails, and the 78-year-old grandfather from the city of Bashtanka in the Mykolaiv area set fire to the rocket launcher "Grad" of the occupiers with such mix. When people, with their bare hands, seize the occupiers and armored vehicles and hand them over to the Armed Forces. There are many such examples of the struggle and heroism of civilians in Ukraine.

This war changed Ukrainians. There are thousands of facts of devotion, love, and fearlessness demonstrated by the citizens of Ukraine. Everyone in their place continues to do small feats that will lead to great victory.

Under the open sky: people



Volodymyr Kovalsky

"GAMES OF HEROES"
COMPETITION PARTICIPANT

He was a spy, in 2016, he lost both legs when he exploded on a Russian mine in Donbas. After a month and a half, he became prosthetic, participated in the competitions "Games of Heroes" and "Power of the Nation," and raised a son. When the Russians occupied Bucha, he took up arms despite his prostheses. In the first days of the Russian invasion, he died in Bucha at a checkpoint in a tank battle, covering the retreat of his comrades.



Max Levin

PHOTOJOURNALIST

One of the most professional military photojournalists. His pictures of the war were published by Reuters, the Associated Press, and other leading agencies around the world. In 2014, he came out of the Ilovaysk cauldron alive, after which he created a documentary project about the military Afterilovaik. He was shot dead by the Russians while trying to document the consequences of the occupiers' actions near the village of Guta-Mezhyhirska in the Kyiv region.



Natalia Pesotska

AN EDUCATOR

She rescued 30 children from an orphanage in Chernihiv. She took care of these children for a month under shelling and bombing. Russian shells hit the shelter twice, but the woman hid the children in time in the church cells or the basement. Natalia even moved to the basement with her own children to constantly take care of orphans. And when the opportunity arose, the woman took all the children to Ivano-Frankivsk in Western Ukraine.



Iryna Yazova

A PHYSICIAN

Remaining in the occupied Bucha, she was a doctor who continued to save people in extreme conditions: she treated the wounded, delivered babies, received medicine, and helped in her home and on her street.



Konstantin Gudauskas

VOLUNTEER

At the risk of his life, he helped the occupied towns' inhabitants get out of hell; he was wounded. Together with the family of the legendary composer Igor Poklad, who was one of the first Konstantin took out of the Russian-occupied Vorzel, he organized a volunteer mission. He and his friends rescued about one and a half hundred people from the danger zone in two weeks.



Artem Datsyshyn

LEADING SOLOIST OF THE NATIONAL OPERA OF UKRAINE

Winner of the third prize of the Serge Lifar International Competition and the silver medal of the Rudolf Nuriev International Competition. He died in Kyiv hospital from injuries received during shelling by Russian sabotage and reconnaissance group.



German Chancellor
Olaf Scholz

“
The plan to occupy Ukraine did not work due to resistance from Ukrainians and their army. The Russian president really thought that there were many people there who would accept him kindly. In fact, the entire Ukrainian nation, no matter what language someone speaks, is fighting together against intervention
”

Under the open sky: a ruined legacy

The symbol of Russian aggression has been a monument to the famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in a completely destroyed by the occupiers city Borodyanka, Kyiv region, where the monument was shot in the head by the Russian military.



Memorial to the Victims of Totalitarianism in Kharkiv is the place of mass burial of Ukrainians - victims of the Great Terror, Polish military and civilians tortured by the Soviet communist totalitarian regime in 1940. On March 23, 2022 the Russian occupiers shelled the Memorial, smashing plaques with the names of the buried. One shell hit the grave. In this way, the descendants of the Soviet Chakists are trying to wipe out the memory of the victims of totalitarianism of the 20th century.

Over the eight years of Russia's war against Ukraine, in the conduct of hostilities plenty of cultural heritage sites have been destroyed or damaged, in particular - monuments of history, archeology, architecture and urban planning, and monumental art of Ukraine.

The problem of preserving the material cultural heritage has worsened even more after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Thus, for one month of aggression, more than 130 material cultural monuments of Ukraine had been destroyed, partially destroyed or damaged by the missile and bomb strikes of Russian troops. They include museums, theaters, libraries, memorial complexes, administrative buildings, archives, historical and architectural reserves, religious buildings of various denominations and religions. The objects of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Chernihiv, Luhansk and Sumy regions were the most affected. These losses are being recorded and will later be given to the International Criminal Court in The Hague for further investigation.

Destruction or damaging of material cultural heritage objects of Ukraine by the Russian occupiers, which are not military purposes, is an indisputable war crime committed by the Russian Federation against the Ukrainian people. The world's mission today is to prevent such destruction from continuing.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated its stepping up efforts to protect and preserve Ukraine's cultural heritage that faces the threat of damage or extinction because of Russia's invasion.



Ukrainians are using sandbags to protect the monument to Princess Olga, the Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, and the Enlighteners Cyril and Methodius in Kyiv from the Russian occupiers. Most famous monuments are similarly protected.



In Kharkiv, the occupiers shelled the Drobytsky Yar, where during World War II the Nazis had shot up to 20,000 Jews, Soviet prisoners of war, the mentally ill, and other civilians. On March 26, an artillery shell damaged the central monument of the Memorial - the Menorah.

“ This war is a direct assault on the fundamental values of UNESCO. The deliberate destruction of the Maria Primachenko Museum in Ivankiv, as well as the shelling of the Babyn Yar Memorial, is nothing more than the abuse and gross violation of the law ”

Mykola Haida,
President of ICOMOS - Ukraine



The building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, erected in 1954. On March 1, 2022 the Russian occupiers launched a missile strike on the center of Kharkiv. As a result of a direct hit, the building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration was damaged. At least 24 people were killed. It was revenge for Kharkiv from Russia for its stability and patriotic Ukrainian position.

The one-storey Gothic-style house which was decorated with stained glass at the end of the 19th century was called the house of Vasyl Tarunovskiy. In 1902, the Museum of Ukrainian Antiquities was opened in the building from the collection of the patron, which was later renamed the Chernihiv Historical Museum. The library has been working here since 1978.

On March 11, 2022, the building was hit by missiles: the roof was broken, windows were shattered, interiors were damaged, and funds were lost. During World War II, the house survived 4 years of Nazi occupation, but could not withstand a month of "protection" from the Russian aggressor.



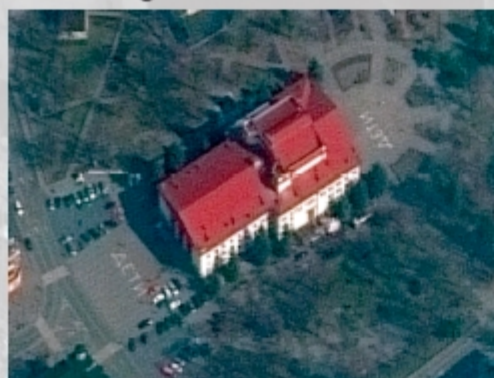
Holy Dormition Sviatohirska Lavra in the Donetsk region is one of the main Orthodox Christian shrines of Donbas and all of Ukraine. The first written mention of the monastery dates from 1624. On March 12, 2022 the Russian occupiers shelled the area of Lavra. Church buildings, where monks and refugees lived, were destroyed to varying degrees.





In the perinatal center of Kharkiv, mothers with babies were forced to live in the basement due to constant shelling by Russian troops. Doctors note a threefold increase in preterm birth due to stress. And also medical problems related to the war: infections, lack of medical care, poor nutrition. Doctors are fighting for the life of every premature baby, as far as conditions allow. March 2022.

This satellite image from March 14, 2022 was published by Reuters with reference to Maxar Technologies. In front of the facade of the drama theater in Mariupol and behind the building in the square on the asphalt in giant letters were the inscriptions "CHILDREN". On March 16, a Russian fighter pilot deliberately dropped a heavy bomb on a building.



This baby Mykhalyk was born 7 months old. His father has not seen the baby yet, because he is in air defense, shooting down Russian missiles that bring death to peaceful cities. Their house in Kharkiv on Klochkivska Street exists no more. There is no place to return from the maternity hospital with Misha. Kharkiv Perinatal Center, March 2022.

Under the open sky: wrecked childhood

Many children from Ukraine will no longer see the sunrise, will not feel their mother's embrace, will not be able to succeed in the profession, become famous for their achievements in sports, art and science. Because tyrant Putin decided he could rule the world and deprived our children of a future. Russian missiles fired at peaceful cities in Ukraine have taken the most valuable thing from them - their lives.

For thousands of children in Ukraine, the war has affected violence - psychological, physical, sexual. Thousands of children have been forced to live in basements for weeks due to constant bombardment by Russian artillery and aircraft. Thousands of children become orphans because their parents are killed by Russian soldiers. Millions of children in Ukraine have been deprived of their homes. The today's traumatic experience will remain forever with those who survive.

“ Since February 24, 2022, 205 children have died in Ukraine, more than 362 have been injured. The actual number of dead and wounded can not be determined due to hostilities ”

Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, dated April 17, 2022

Alice Hlans, who was about to turn eight, was fatally wounded in a February 25 attack by the Russian military on a kindergarten in Okhtyrka, Sumy Oblast. She died the next day in hospital.

Ten-year-old Polina, along with her parents, brother and sister, was shot dead by a Russian diversion intelligence group when the family tried to leave Kyiv by their car.

The boy who was born in Kharkiv on the eve of the invasion died of pneumonia, which he got hiding in a bomb shelter.

Alice Perebyinis was nine - she died with her mother and brother during a mortar attack by the Russians while trying to evacuate from the "hell" of Irpin near Kyiv.

15-year-old Maksym and his brother were shot dead by Russian soldiers as their family tried to escape from Chernihiv, which was surrounded by the enemy and constantly under fire.

In Bucha, five Russian occupiers raped a 14-year-old girl who is now pregnant...

The names of many other children have not yet been mentioned, but their stories are no less tragic. Russian war criminals are not stopped, but attracted by objects marked "CHILDREN" - for the aggressor, they become the number one target. The Russian armed forces are grossly violating the fundamental rights of children - the right to life and health, guaranteed to every child in the world by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Kyiv. Evacuation. The war has torn many families apart. The child says goodbye to relatives for indefinite time.

Evacuation of civilians from Irpin across the destroyed Romaniv Bridge. The way to this bridge and further, to the evacuation buses, was constantly and purposefully fired upon by the Russian military. March 7, 2022.



Mykhalyk's family (5 years old) decided to flee Mykolayiv in the first days of the war. They were attacked by Russian invaders 2 kilometers from the city on the highway. Inhumans fired grenade launchers at cars with white flags, and then simply killed everyone with machine guns. Only Mykhalyk and his father managed to survive in this massacre. The mother managed to cover her son with her body, but the fragments still seriously injured the baby's head.



A civilian car was shot down by the Russian military as the family tried to leave Bucha. On both sides of the car on the door is black tape inscription "CHILDREN". White improvised "flags" made of sheets were also fixed in the door.



Once in this kindergarten in Kharkiv children's laughter was heard, children had fun and studied. After the shelling by Russian troops, it turned into a ruin.

Mariupol

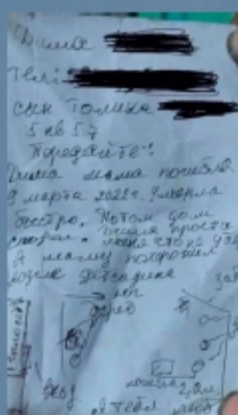
Mariupol became a victim of Russian aggression back in 2014-2015. By the new stage of the war, Ukrainians managed to rebuild it and make it a real European center of the Azov Sea littoral. This large city gave the impression of an amazing mixture of historical and cultural values and industrial giants of the 20th century. Today, due to the massive shelling of Russian missiles, most of them have been destroyed and lost forever. The worst thing is thousands of lost lives and broken human destinies.

In Mariupol, the invaders stumbled upon the desperate resistance of Ukrainian defenders: soldiers of the marines, the National Guard, a separate special forces detachment "Azov" and territorial defense forces.

The Russians began to barbarously wipe Mariupol off the face of the earth, with the help of air strikes, multiple rocket launchers and cruise missiles. The enemy specifically aimed at residential areas, industrial facilities, and the civilian infrastructure of the city. For more than a month there has been no electricity, communications, gas, heating, and water in the city, 90% of the infrastructure has been destroyed. But, even under such conditions, people still remain in the city.



Drama Theater building after the air strike. According to various sources, in-between 500 and 1,200 people were hiding here. There may be 300 dead people under the rubble of the theater.



A talented 11-year-old Ukrainian gymnast Katya Dyachukko died in Mariupol. The shell of the Russian occupiers hit the house where the girl lived. Lviv artist Olesana Drachkivska dedicated her work to the memory of the dead child "What right do they have to take away children's dreams and the future of our country?! I will paint a lot, because that's the only way I can shout to the whole world so this horror is over!" - the artist wrote.



Building of the destroyed maternity hospital #2 in Mariupol.



Pope Francis, March 15, 2022

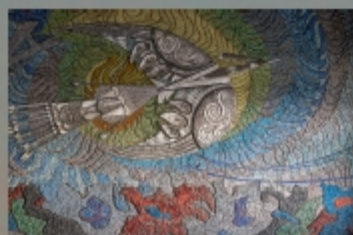
“ The city, which is named after the Saint Mary, has become a martyr city of a fierce war that is devastating Ukraine.

There are no strategic reasons that can explain things like barbarism, the killing of children, the killing of innocent and unarmed civilians

”



Photo of a military medic of the Azov Regiment from the besieged city. He signed his photo: "Tell my mother the words - I saw so much pain, but I will never break."



One of the artistic landmarks of pre-war Mariupol was the mosaic panel 'Borysivac', created in 1957 by a group of Kyiv masters led by Alla Horska. The kestrel-falcon symbolizes the love of Ukrainians for life and the desire for freedom. The panel is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Since the beginning of March, Mariupol has been actually blocked by Russian troops, who do not allow any humanitarian corridors on the Ukrainian side. Instead, the Russians are forcibly deporting residents of the city to the territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics that are under their control and to the Russian Federation. According to the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Lyudmila Denysova, more than 40,000 Mariupol residents were deported there in early April, including children separated from their parents, doctors and hospital patients.

But Mariupol is fighting! The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi awarded Mariupol the honorary award "Hero City of Ukraine" for the mass heroism and resilience of Mariupol residents in defending their city.



Svyatoslav Palamar, Deputy Commander of the Azov Regiment: "Azov" are men who took up arms because Ukraine was attacked by the Russians. Fighters with amputated legs are fighting in its ranks - on prostheses, with four wounds. They themselves are like Mariupol, shelled by invaders, but alive and full of love for freedom."

Mariupol before the Russian invasion. Mariupol has always been a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-religious city. In 2021, more than 400,000 people lived in the city.





Ukrainian national resistance



“

We shall not give up and shall not lose! We shall go the whole way. We shall fight in the seas, we shall fight in the air, we shall defend our land, whatever the cost may be

”

Address by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, 8 March 2022, which reminded the British of the famous speech of Winston Churchill on June 4, 1940 on the invincibility of their nation

Before Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, neither foreign intelligence nor Western analysts believed that Ukraine's armed forces could heavily resist the aggressor because we were opposed by the "Second Army in the World". Allegedly the skeptics underestimated the resilience and determination that Ukrainians can show in defending their homeland. To defend freedom and independence, your nearest and dearest on home soil is an extraordinary motivation to struggle for every soldier and officer.

On the eve of the war, in order to organize national resistance in each region of Ukraine, the Territorial Defense Forces (TDF) were created. TDF joined Army in the destruction of the enemy and the fight against saboteurs on its territory.

Russian shelling and air strikes affected many towns and villages in Ukraine. Fixing the consequences of these strikes fell on the shoulders of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Under constant fire from the Russian occupiers Ukrainian rescuers have extinguished hundreds of fires at enterprises and houses, constantly have been repairing damaged communications, saved thousands of lives from the rubble - in Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Mariupol.

The volunteer movement in Ukraine became widespread in 2014, with the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, when volunteers took over the functions of supplying the army. Then almost every second Ukrainian became a volunteer. The new escalation of the war and Russian aggression united Ukrainians and made almost everyone volunteer. Volunteers help the Armed Forces, the Territorial Defense, IDPs, as well as children, the disabled, the elderly and animals left in the war zone and in occupied areas.

The whole world today is amazed at the courage of Ukrainians who are really ready to go to the very end in this war.



Personnel of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine sift through the wreckage after the shelling of Russian invaders.

Children help to carry Molotov cocktail bottles.



Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Lieutenant General Valerii Zaluzhnyi

“

In the first place for me is always a person: officer, sergeant, soldier. I have never stepped over and will not pass through the subordinate and his dignity

”



Donors donate blood for the wounded. Lviv.

Volunteers are sorting out humanitarian aid in one of the hubs in the Zakarpattia region.



At the cost of his own life, Vitalii Skakun, marine of an engineer-sapper subunit of the separate battalion of the 35th Separate Marine Infantry Brigade named after Rear-Admiral Mykhailo Ostrogradsky, blew up the Genichesk road bridge with himself, which stopped the advance of the Russian tank column.

The “Second Army in the world”?

For years, the information space has widely broadcasted the idea that the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are one of the most powerful in the world, as they have state-of-the-art weapons and are capable of defeating any enemy. Russian propagandists, who were encouraged by foreign experts, have repeatedly stated that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian army's military was revived in the early 21st century. But the Armed Forces of Ukraine have proved that this is not quite the case.

In the vastness of independent Ukraine, the Russian army was not so “great”. Russia has not suffered so many irreparable casualties in such a short period of hostilities in any of the armed conflicts it has started.

During the 29 days of the war, from February 24 to March 24, 2022, Russian forces lost 15.800 troops. This means that the Russian army lost an average of 545 soldiers a day during the month; 22 soldiers every hour; and almost every minute 1 soldier.

As a comparison: during the ten years of the war in Afghanistan (1979-1989), the Soviet Army, according to official figures, lost 15.051 soldiers.



Destroyed column of Russian armored vehicles in the city of Bucha (Kyiv region)

Consequences of successful operations of Ukrainian artillery.



In the two wars against the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (1994-1996 and 1999-2002), the Russian army lost 12.467 soldiers (5.042 and 7.425, respectively).

As it turned out, in addition to the number of weapons and manpower, Putin's army possesses virtually no significant advantages. Evidence of this is also an elementary calculation of the number of enemy equipment destroyed by Ukrainian defenders in the first 29 days of the invasion: 530 tanks, 1.597 armored combat vehicles, 280 artillery systems, 82 units of multiple-launch rocket systems, 108 aircraft, 124 helicopters, 1.033 vehicle units, 4 ships and boats, 50 drones of operational-tactical level. And after the Ukrainian missile Neptune hit the Russian Black Sea Fleet's flagship, the cruiser “Moscow”, the Russian command is still unable to come to its senses.

Here is why the Putin regime regularly spreads fakes and nuclear blackmail, threatening the world with World War III.



The tank of the “second army in the world” in Ukraine.



A Russian Su-25 aircraft was shot down.



“ You wanted this land Now mix with it You are my land now ”
Anastasia Shevchenko, Stask “Lullaby for the enemy”



The Ukrainian military not only destroys enemy equipment but also captures it as trophies. Russian Pantsir-C1 anti-aircraft missile and artillery complex. Now it will be of use in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.



A Russian helicopter was shot down.

Burned Russian military equipment on the billboard of the National Network of Metal Centers specializing in scrap metal processing.



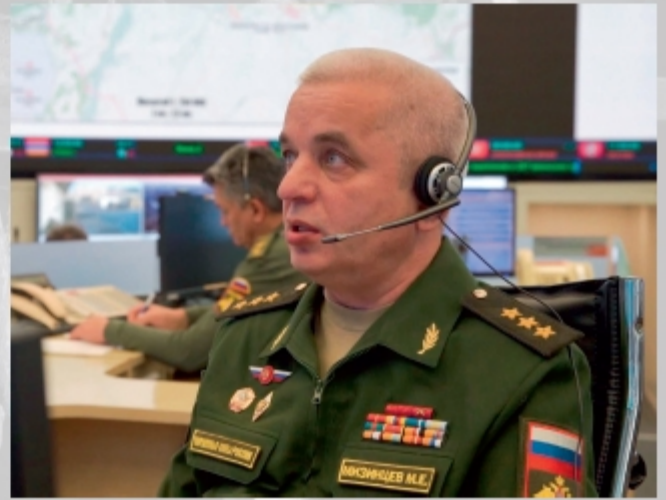
The crime must be stopped



The bodies of people killed by the Russian occupiers lie in black plastic bags on the ground in Bucha, April 8, 2022.

The war crimes of the Russians in Ukraine have reached such a limit that many are starting to bring up the deliberate genocide of Ukrainians. Footage from Bucha and other towns and villages of the Kyiv region liberated from the Russian occupiers terrified the entire civilized world. No matter what, brutal and mass murders of men, women, children, the elderly, animals, torture - physical and moral, rape of mothers in front of children and even children. There is no excuse for this and there can be no forgiveness.

The Russians are deliberately shelling hospitals, maternity homes, and housing estates, killing hundreds of civilians. In the cities surrounded by Russian troops, there is no gas and light, water and food are already on the brink of exhaustion and they are becoming insufficient for everyone. The occupiers forcibly deported thousands of Ukrainians to Russia without the possibility to return.



Russian General Muzitshev leads the storming of Mariupol. Under his command, the Russian military is bombing civilian targets in Mariupol. In March 2022, the general public admitted that his army had killed 93 Ukrainian men in civilian clothes who had allegedly deserted from the Ukrainian garrison in Mariupol. It is unknown how many civilians were shot dead by Russians in Mariupol.

“ We knew Putin’s invasion plans included summary executions by his military and intelligence services. The reports of execution-style killings of civilians emerging from liberated areas are horrifying and chilling ”

Richard Moore, Chief of the UK Secret Intelligence Service (MI6)



On April 3, the Russian State News Agency published a text entitled "What Russia should do with Ukraine" in which it called for the extermination and repression of a large part of Ukraine's population and its general "denationalization" but also "de-Europeanization". This is a program article of Russian Nazism.

Link to Google Web Cache.

It is highly likely that in case of victory, the Russians could stage a full-scale genocide with tens of thousands killed. Such a conscious intention is seen in the Kremlin's rhetoric about "special operations" and "denazification." According to Western media, even before the invasion, the Russian secret services were compiling lists of Ukrainians they disliked, whom they were going to imprison in concentration camps and destroy in case of Ukraine's occupation. There are open calls in the Russian press and from Russian propagandists for the genocide of the Ukrainian people.

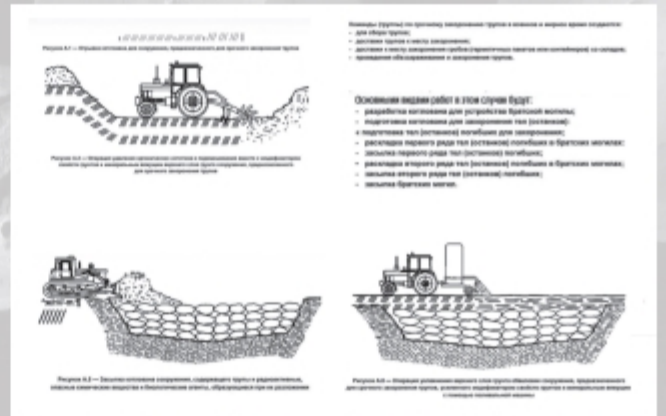
The crimes of Russian military personnel testify that they are acting with a conscious intention to extinct Ukrainians. This was the case in 1918 in Kyiv, which was captured by the Russian Bolsheviks, when between 3,000 and 5,000 Ukrainians were murdered in a month. In 1932-1933, Stalin and the Communist regime organized the Holodomor - genocide by famine, resulting in the death of millions of Ukrainians. This was the case later, when millions of Ukrainians became victims of Stalin's repression.

So it is necessary to stop Putin now.

Exhumation of bodies from the mass grave in Bucha. According to preliminary data, there are from 40 to 60 bodies of the dead in this grave. The bodies of 280 civilians killed by the Russians were found in another mass grave in Bucha.



Oleksiy Hnevyshev "Ukraine" From all Ukrainian territories occupied by the Russian Federation, there are reports of abductions of Ukrainian activists and massacres of civilians. Horror grips to imagine how many Ukrainians will be executed by Russian war criminals in the cities and villages they occupy.



Last year, new standards for the burial of corpses during the war were developed and approved in the Russian Federation. They came into force on February 1, 2022. Was Russia preparing for massacres in advance?

Genocide

Journalists inspect the mass grave in the village of Molyzhyn in the Kyiv region, April 4, 2022, in the grave are buried, abducted and executed by the Russian occupiers residents of the village.

Shot car in Irpin, March 2022.

The New York Times analyzed Max Technologies' satellite images of Bucha and found that the dead bodies appeared on the city's streets in mid-March and remained on them for several weeks. The study refutes the Kremlin's claims that civilians were killed after Russian troops left the city.



Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948.



Ukraine is the shield of Europe

IN THE FALL OF 2021, THE UNITED STATES BEGAN TO PUBLICLY DECLARE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FULL-SCALE MILITARY ATTACK ON UKRAINE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS TO PREVENT WAR DID NOT STOP THE AGGRESSOR. HOWEVER, KYIV HAD GOT TIME TO PREPARE, AND THE WESTERN ALLIES DECIDED TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE AND IMPOSE TOUGH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION. THE WORLD HAS UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE.



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken during a meeting in Kyiv on December 19, 2021.

Sanctions on the freezing of the Central Bank of Russia assets by the EU, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan have become the most significant. As a result, the Russian Federation lost access to 70-75% of gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Today Ukraine is a shield for the whole of Europe. But the strength of this shield depends on the number and reliability of weapons, Ukraine needs air defense systems, artillery and jet artillery, and mobility aids. If Ukraine doesn't get the weapon today, it may be too late tomorrow.

Ukraine needs a closed sky to protect Ukraine's nuclear power plants, civilians and cultural heritage.

To protect against Russian information aggression, it is necessary to completely stop the spread of Russian propaganda by checking and revoking the licenses of the Russian media, boycotting the media activity of Russian propagandists and diplomats. It is also necessary to completely close air and transport connections with the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation will not limit itself to Ukraine. Their political establishment is already claiming that their goal is Eurasia from Vladivostok to Lisbon. If they are not stopped now, war may sooner or later come to every European home. But together we can stop the aggressor and keep the peace.

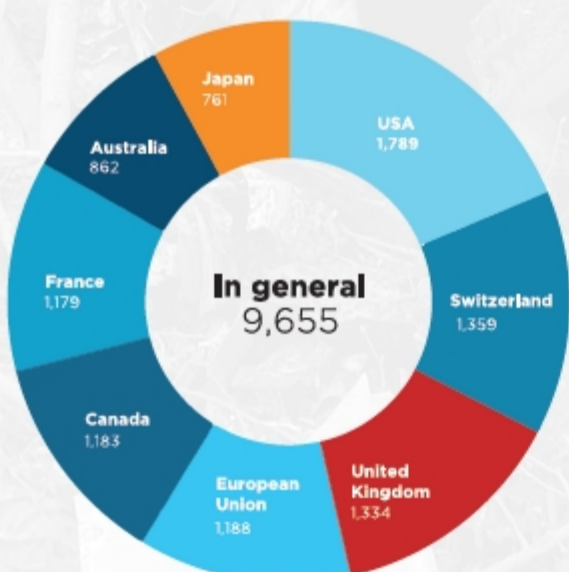
Today, the whole world must unite and help Ukraine in the struggle for freedom and democracy!

More and more companies are abandoning business projects in Russian Federation. Sensitive for Russia was the shutdown of payment systems, a boycott by world leaders in the container shipping market and manufacturers of high-tech products.

However, this is still not enough. All Russian banks must be disconnected from the SWIFT system, especially Sberbank and Gazprombank, which finances the needs of the Russian Defense Ministry, and sanctions must be applied to all Russian oligarchs without exception.

Only a complete energy embargo, a halt to international trade, and a ban on the supply of all technological products to Russian Federation and Belarus can weaken Russia and stop the war.

General anti-Russian sanctions according to sources since 2014



A cargo with a new consignment of US military aid arrived at Boryspil Airport on January 25, 2022.



Ukrainian military with a portable anti-tank missile system NLAW. The military aid that Ukraine has received from other states defeats the enemy. The number of supplies is increasing and heavy weapons are arriving in Ukraine.

CLOSURE OF AIRSPACE

38 countries have banned flights of Russian aircraft

Albania, Canada, Iceland, Moldova, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, United Kingdom, United States



European Union has closed the airspace for the following types of aircraft:

- Russian-owned aircraft
- Russian-registered aircraft
- Aircraft operated by Russia
- Private jets of Russian oligarchs



#StandWithUkraine

YOU CAN HELP UKRAINE SURVIVE
IN THIS WAR, SAVE LIVES AND
RECOVER AFTER VICTORY BY MAKING
A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
SPECIAL ACCOUNTS OF STATE BODIES
OF UKRAINE AND TO THE ACCOUNTS
OF VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS.

Ukrainian Army

You can help the
Ukrainian army here:



Special account of the
National Bank of Ukraine for
the needs of the army



Return Alive Foundation

Refugees and civilians

Citizens suffering from war
can be helped here:



Special account of the
National Bank of Ukraine for
humanitarian needs



International Charitable
Foundation "Health of the
Ukrainian people"

Animals and Nature

National reserves, nature parks and animals
affected by the war can be helped here:



Ukrainian Nature
Conservation Group



UAnimals, patreon
Paypal: paypal@uanimals.org
Bank Card 4441114451625790 (Olexander Todorchuk)

Culture and Art

You can help preserve and restore
cultural heritage, cultural values, support
the sphere of culture and art here:

UAH

Bank: Oschadbank JSC
MFI: 322669
Account No: UA263226690000025236300755566
USREQU code: 43542231
Recipient: State Agency of Ukraine for Arts and
Art Education

USD, EUR, GBP

SWIFT: COSBUAUKKIE
BENEFICIARY'S BANK: Branch #10026/0143 JSC Oschadbank, Ukraine, Kyiv
BENEFICIARY: State Agency of Ukraine on Arts and Artistic Education
Ukraine, Kyiv, 01001
Borysa Grinchenka str., 1
IBAN: UA263226690000025236300755566

WAR – NEVER AGAIN!

Today, Europe is experiencing the largest armed confrontation since World War II. The Russian military is destroying entire cities, committing war crimes, torturing and killing civilians, including children. In this war against Russian expansion, Ukraine is fighting not only for its independence, but also for the freedom of other democracies in Europe and the world.

The Russian aggressors encroached on fundamental European values: the right to life, the right to liberty, democracy, equality, cooperation, respect for others, respect for borders and the sovereignty of states. Ukraine's defeat in the war with the Russian Federation would mean the defeat of a democratic country in the face of an authoritarian regime and would open the way for the aggressor to the West.

This war changed Ukraine. This war is changing Europe. With its courage and resistance, Ukraine has proved its right to be part of a free Europe. But Europe must also reaffirm the importance of the values, gained at the heavy cost of the experiences and traumas of World War II.

Peace in Europe does not mean indifference. Today, Europe's security depends on Ukraine's fate, as defeat in the war with Russia threatens to roll back into the past and repeat the tragedy that Europe and the world experienced eighty years ago. As then, the aggressor will try to divide the world into "spheres of influence", without limiting its own appetites. The policy of "neutrality" or appeasement and flirtation with the aggressor then gave the opposite result. We remember that. Only together can we stop Russia's ambitions and keep the peace. Without a free Ukraine, there will be no current free Europe.

The war must not return to Europe. This is the responsibility of every European, no matter what country he or she lives in.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, speech in the European Parliament, March 1, 2022.

“

We are fighting for our rights, freedom, for life, and now we are fighting for survival and this is our greatest motivation. But we are also fighting to be equal members of Europe. I believe that today we show everyone that we are. With us, the European Union will definitely be stronger. Without you, Ukraine will be lonely. We have proved our strength, we have proved that we are at least the same as you. Prove that you are with us, prove that you do not let us go, prove that you are truly European. Then life will overcome death, and light will overcome darkness

”

Meeting of the Presidents of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Poland Andrzej Duda, Latvia Egils Levits, Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda and Estonia Alar Karis in Kyiv on April 13, 2022.



Questionnaire for our country to obtain the status of a candidate for membership in the European Union. On April 18, 2022, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy handed over a completed questionnaire to the Head of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine, Matti Maasilta.



Ukraine is returning home. After several centuries in the orbit of the Russian Empire and its successors, today Ukraine is finally returning to the circle of European nations. Ukraine is Europe.



Sculpture "The Knotted Gun", Malmö, Sweden.



Ukraine, fighting against the Russian aggressor, is also fighting for peace for Europe and the world. No more war! Nie wieder Krieg! (Kate Kolwitz).