

Unit 1: Historical Overview--Ukraine

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you will

Be aware of the following

- Importance of historic Ukrainian trade routes between the Black and Baltic Seas
- Historic adoption of Orthodox Christianity by Prince Vladimir
- Importance of the Union of Brest in Ukrainian Orthodoxy
- Independent initiatives by Ukraine during 1917-1920
- Impact of Nazi brutality on Ukraine peoples during World War II
- Khrushchev's 1954 bequest of the Crimean Region to Ukraine to mark the 300th anniversary of Ukraine-Russia Union

Identify

- Rurik, Uniate Catholic Church
- Vladimir I, Cossacks
- Saints Cyril and Methodius
- Borden Khmelnitski
- Iaroslav the Wise, Galicia
- Mongol, Ukrainian SSR
- Genghis Khan, Chernobyl
- Crimea, Sevastopol

Realize

- Russian and Ukrainian distinct views on A.D. 1654 annexation of Ukraine by Russia
- Western Ukraine's preservation of Ukrainian culture
- Damaging effects of the Stalinist collectivization policies during the 1930's
- Importance of Ukraine to Soviet Russia

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1. Ancestral Roots

a. Nomadic tribes Various nomadic tribes made up the historic peoples of the territory of modern Ukraine.



Scythians (SIH-thee-ahns), known for their horsemanship, lived chiefly north and northeast of the Black Sea. Sarmatians (sahr-MAY-shehns) flourished from the sixth century B.C. to fourth century A.D. in the region. Cimmerians (sah-MIHR-ee-ahns) first settled in the sixth century B.C., establishing close ties with Athens a century later. Greek traders established footholds on the southern Ukraine and Crimea by the seventh century B.C. Goths, peoples of Germanic descent, invaded and settled in parts of the region in the third to fifth centuries.

b. Slavs By the first century B.C., Slavic tribes settled in agricultural settlements near Kiev. These peoples guarded Dnieper ([NEE-pahr]) River trade routes between the Black and Baltic Seas ("from the Vikings to the Greeks"). A Slavic prince of the Polian tribe, Kyy, founded Kiev (KEE-if) in A.D. 482. By the ninth century, Viking Varangians (vah-RAN-jee-ahns), under Rurik (ROOR-ik), consolidated the Slavic settlements and established healthy trade in the region.

2. Kievan Rus

a. Varangians and Eastern Slavs In A.D. 862, the Varangian warrior traders, related to the Vikings, received an invitation from the people of Novogorod (NAHV-gah-raht, a city 200 km south of present day St. Petersburg) to rule their area.

Prince Rurik (ROOR-ik) accepted, establishing a lineage which ruled Russia for some 700 years. His successor Oleg took over Kiev which became the center of Rus (another name for Varangian) rule.



During this period, loosely allied city-states gathered under the leadership of the Prince of Kiev (KEE-if). A class society developed, comprised of princes, boyars (boo-YAHR, wealthy merchants), free peasants and slaves.

b. Vladimir I (vlah-DEE-mir, @956-1015) This great-grandson of Rurik, an outstanding military leader, ruled Kiev from 980-1015. Under his leadership, Eastern Orthodox Christianity became the official religion of the region. Three of Vladimir's granddaughters married kings of France, Hungary and Norway.

(1) Russian Orthodox Eastern Christianity

Tradition relates that Vladimir had spiritual yearnings but did not know which faith to embrace. In 987, he sent envoys to check out various religions. They rejected Islam because of prohibitions against wine, a drink considered by Vladimir the "chief pleasure of the people." Christianity as practiced in Germany and Rome, though appealing, lacked services filled with sufficient beauty. On coming home via Constantinople, the envoys stopped at the Eastern Orthodox Cathedral of Hagia Sophia.



They reported, "We did not know whether this was heaven or earth. We never saw such splendor or beauty. We cannot tell you what it was like; except that we are sure that God dwells there among men, and that this is the best form of worship. The beauty is unforgettable."

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Vladimir, won over by their findings, was baptized in the Orthodox faith, along with his subjects, thus beginning the long linkage of Orthodoxy with Ukraine and Russia.

(2) Early Impact of Orthodox Eastern Christianity

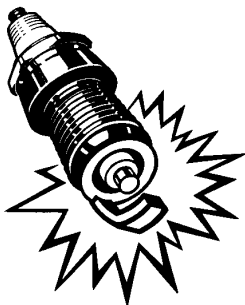
Changes brought by introduction of the Orthodox Eastern faith include:

(a) Byzantine culture Priests from Constantinople introduced use of the Cyrillic (suh-RIL-lik) alphabet, a creation of two Byzantine missionaries, St. Cyril (SIR-ahl) and St. Methodius (mah-THOH-dee-ahs).

(b) Schools In addition to religious studies, reading and writing flourished in schools opened for sons of boyars and priests. Early Russian literature developed in these institutions.

(c) Arts Domed roofed stone churches, mosaics and icons entered the culture. Distinct Russian adaptations (onion-shaped domes) soon became commonplace.

(d) Power in the ruler Since in Orthodoxy, all power comes from God, to disobey the ruler--God's elected one--was to sin. The ruler's power thus received divine approval.



The church also began to give Kievan peoples a national identity. Their shared Orthodox Christian belief and practice would provide support and stability during the upheavals, strife and stability of centuries to come.

c. Iaroslav the Wise (yuh-ruh-SLUHF, ruled from 1036-1054) One of Vladimir's 12 sons, Iaroslav, contributed to the cultural development of Ukraine. His own thirst for education prompted establishment of

a large library at Kiev. Under Iaroslav, Byzantine scholars translated Greek classics. Trade schools in masonry, pottery and shipbuilding came into being. Iaroslav also was responsible for the first legal code which combined Slavic custom with Roman law. By the 11th century, Kievan Rus was the largest geographical state in Europe.

d. Decline With Iaroslav's death, Kievan Russian divided into five principalities--one for each of his sons. Ensuing civil war amongst these principalities weakened the government of Kiev. Further deterioration occurred with the fall of Constantinople to Crusaders (A.D. 1204), hindering Byzantine trade. Nomad attacks against merchant fleets also inhibited trade and Kievan economic/political development.

e. Mongol Rule

(1) Mongol Invasion In the early 1200s, Mongol invaders (nomad warriors from central Asia)--under Genghis Khan (GENG-gah-SKAHN) and his grandson Batu Khan (BAH-too-KHAHN)--conquered much of Kievan Rus. In a brutal and terrifying manner, Kiev--at the time an equal of Paris with its 80,000 people--was looted and burned. Barely 200 structures remained standing.



Survivors of Mongol attacks spread in many directions, including some who moved to the northern forests near Lithuania and Poland. Deserted portions of Kievan Rus took on the name Ukraine, meaning borderlands.

Mongol rule lasted almost 250 years (@1240-1480). Learning and craftsmanship declined. The Eastern Orthodox Church gained in prestige, fostering strong nationalist feelings, but turned increasingly inward. Ritual and ceremony, rather than behavior, became primary.

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In addition, the people became more suspicious of foreign ideas and ways. Mongol isolation kept the European Renaissance from making headway.

(2) Neighbor interference Lithuania controlled what was left of Ukraine in the mid-thirteenth century. Kiev was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. In 1569, Lithuania and Poland formed a union, with Poles imposing a feudal society on the Ukrainian lands.

Turkish peoples, by 1478, controlled the northern Black Sea Coast and Crimea. Crimean Tartars instigated raids into Ukrainian territory until the latter eighteenth century, when Russia annexed the Crimean region.

f. Union of Brest (1596) Eastern Orthodoxy in the Ukraine, since 1569 under Polish control, increasingly felt the pressure of Roman Catholic thought and practice--especially within the Church hierarchy.

The Union of Brest in 1596 established the **Uniate** (YOO-nee-at) Church. This Ukrainian Catholic Church recognized and followed leadership of the Roman Catholic pope in Rome. It retained however, administrative autonomy, Eastern Orthodox ritual, practice and custom, and Old Church Slavonic (the first Slavonic literary language which especially influenced the development of the Russian literary language).

The union violently split the Orthodox community in the Ukraine. Polish rule sided with the Union of Brest. Most Orthodox bishops supported the union, while many Orthodox parishioners did not.



3. Cossacks (KOS-aks)

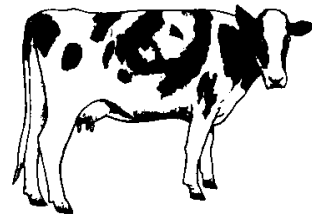
a. Origins Peoples remaining in Ukrainian lands formed nomadic bands. Called Cossacks, these warriors rebelled against Polish, Turkish and Russian serfdom. Borden Khmelnitski (kmyel-NYIT-skee, c. 1595-1657), a Cossack leader, led an attack on Polish Ukraine, routing the gentry located there. This resulted in an autonomous Cossack state in what is now the eastern part of Ukraine.

b. Russian inroads In 1654, Ukrainian Cossacks chose a Russian offer for leadership over their lands, rather than continue Polish squabbles. In time, the Russian oversight became more authoritarian than that of Poland. Gradually, Ukraine became annexed into the Russian Empire. Many Russians consider 1654 as the "happy reunion" of Russia and Ukraine. Many Ukrainians view the date as the beginning of the fragmentation of their nation.

4. Nationalist Sentiments

a. Russian interest Russia formally received all of the Ukrainian territory east of the Dnieper river in 1667.

In addition to Ukraine's peoples, the "chernozem" or rich, dark soil of the land attracted much Russian interest. By the end of the eighteenth century, Russia possessed the remaining areas save the western region of Galicia (gah-LIH-shee-ah).



b. Galicia This region, including the northern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains (kahr-PAY-thee-ahn), and upper valleys of the Vistulas (VISH-chah-lahs, currently in southwest Poland), Dniester (NEES-tahr, southwest Ukraine on the north Carpathian Mountains), Bug (boog, east central Poland and west Ukraine), and Seret (SER-aht, western Ukraine) rivers, came under the Austria-Hungarian rule from 1772-1918. While most other Ukrainians were living as serfs, those in Galicia

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enjoyed more permissive rule, even serving in the parliament. The region became a stronghold of the Ukrainian nationalist movement in the late nineteenth century.

c. Resurgence *"Ukrainian writers and intellectuals were inspired by the nationalistic spirit stirring other European peoples existing under other imperial governments and were determined to revive Ukrainian linguistic and cultural traditions and re-establish a Ukrainian nation-state"* (Background Notes: Ukraine, p. 2. Unless otherwise noted, the following quotes come from this U.S. State Department source).



Tzarist Russia, ruling most of what is now Ukraine, denied its existence and, in 1876, banned all Ukrainian language publications.

5. The Twentieth Century

a. Early developments *"When World War I and the Bolshevik revolution in Russia shattered the Hapsburg and Russian empires, Ukrainians declared independent statehood. In 1917 and 1918, three separate Ukrainian republics declared independence. However, by 1921, the western part of the traditional territory had been incorporated into Poland, and the larger, central and eastern part became part of the Soviet Union."* In 1922, Ukraine officially became a republic of the USSR, known as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

b. Stalin's terror *"The Ukrainian national idea persevered during the interwar years, and Soviet reaction was severe, particularly under Stalin, who imposed terror campaigns, which ravaged the intellectual class."*

He also created artificial famines as part of his forced collectivization policies, which killed millions of previously independent peasants and others throughout the country. Estimates of deaths from the 1932-33 famine alone range from 3 million to 7 million."



c. World War II *"After the German and Soviet invasions of Poland in 1939, the western Ukrainian regions were incorporated into the Soviet Union. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, many Ukrainians, particularly in the west, welcomed them, but this did not last. German brutality was directed principally against Ukraine's Jewish peoples (of whom 1 million were killed) but also against many other Ukrainians. Kiev and other parts of the country were heavily damaged. Some Ukrainians began to resist the Germans as well as the Soviets."*

In 1944, Stalin deported many Crimean Tartar peoples to Central Asia, resettling more trustworthy Russians in their place. Mass arrests and executions also occurred during the 1944 reoccupation of the Ukraine by the Soviets. *"Resistance against Soviet Government forces continued as late as the 1950s."*

d. Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic

(1) Post World War II In 1954 Nikita Khrushchev, marking the 300th anniversary of Ukraine-Russian union, officially gave the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine. Rather than exist on an equal fashion with other Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow strictly ruled Ukraine because of its strategic and economic importance. In time, the region became the breadbasket of the Soviet Union.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, arrests of dissidents was a common feature of Ukrainian politics. Volodymir Shcherbytsky (shir-baht-SKOI), a Breshnev

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ally and Communist hard-liner, ruled Ukraine with an iron hand from 1972 until near his death in 1989.

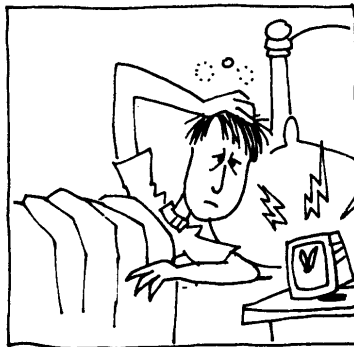
(2) Chernobyl (chahr-NO-bahl) The meltdown of the number four nuclear reactor at this power station some 75 miles north of Kiev created the world's worst nuclear accident. Nuclear fallout extended over much of Europe.



Children living in the region experienced striking increases in thyroid cancers. Clean-up and containment costs some \$300 million per year. One hundred eighty thousand people resettled because of contamination.

e. Independence *"Ukraine became an independent state on 24 August 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and was a founding member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)."* As with much of the former Soviet Union, a deteriorating economy exists currently in the nation.

In 1994, as a result of a Russia/United States accord, the large arsenal of nuclear weapons throughout Ukraine was transferred to Russia for destruction. On 29 June 1996, a constitution was formally adopted which allowed private property and designated Ukraine as the official language. Disputes over the Black Sea fleet and future of Sevastopol (sah-VAS-tah-pohl, a seaport city in southwest Crimea, proclaimed a Russian city by Russian parliament in 1993) were resolved in a May 1997 treaty of friendship and cooperation.



"Start each morning with a smile."

Vocabulary List: Historical Overview--Ukraine

Chernobyl (chahr-NO-bahl) Location of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Fallout extended over much of Europe, though Belarus received the brunt of the pollution.

Cossacks (KOS-aks) Warrior peoples who rebelled against Polish, Turkish and Russian oversight in the 1600s. Cossacks are known for their love of Orthodoxy, freedom and independence.

Crimea (kri-MEE-ah) Peninsula of Ukraine extending into the Black Sea. Historic battles took place in the region. Its Mediterranean climate is known for tourism and agriculture.

Cyril and Methodius (SIR-ahl, mah-THOH-dee-ahs) Two saints who introduced use of the Cyrillic (suh-RIL-lik) alphabet into Slavic regions.

Galicia (gah-LIH-shee-ah) Region of western Ukraine which is a source of rich nationalist sentiment. Throughout history it often enjoyed more permissive rule than other parts of the country.

Genghis Khan (GENG-gah-SKAHN) Leader of the Mongol invaders in the 1200s.

Iaroslav the Wise (yuh-ruh-SLUHF, ruled from 1036-1054) One of Vladimir's 12 sons who contributed greatly to the development of Ukraine. Schools, libraries, translations of Greek classics, and trade schools flourished under his leadership. The first legal code, combining Slavic custom and Roman law, also came into being under his rule.

Khmelnitski, Borden (kmyel-NYIT-skee, c. 1595-1657) Cossack leader who led establishment of an autonomous Cossack state in what is now eastern Ukraine.

Mongols Nomad invaders from central Asia who conquered much of Kievan Rus in the mid 1200s.

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Rurik (ROOR-ik) Leader of the Viking Varangians who, in the 800s, consolidated Slavic settlements in the Kiev region. His lineage continued for some 700 years.

Sevastopol (sah-VAS-tah-pohl) Seaport city in southwest Crimea, often held by Russia. In May 1997, a treaty of friendship between Russia and Ukraine settled oversight of the city with Ukraine.

Ukrainian SSR Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the name of Ukraine while under Soviet rule.

Union of Brest Church council which established the Uniate Church in 1596. This Ukrainian Catholic Church recognized papal leadership from Rome but continued Eastern Orthodox ritual, practice and custom.

Varangians (vah-RAN-jee-ahns) Viking warrior traders who in the 800s accepted an invitation from the peoples of the Kiev region to rule their area.

Vladimir I (vlah-DEE-mir, @956-1015) Great-grandson of Rurik who ruled Kiev from 980-1015. Under Vladimir's leadership, Eastern Orthodox Christianity became the official religion of the region.

Review Quiz: Historical Overview--Ukraine



Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the most correct word. Not all words listed will be used.

Slavic peoples historically guarded trade routes between the Black and the (1) _____ Seas. Warrior traders related to the Vikings, called (2) _____ under Prince Rurik consolidated Slavic settlements and established healthy trade in the region of present day Ukraine.

(3) _____ was responsible for the adoption of Orthodox Christianity in Ukraine. His son (4) _____ greatly contributed to the cultural development of Ukraine.

The 1596 Union of Brest established the (5) _____ Church, a Ukrainian Orthodox body recognizing the Pope in Rome as its spiritual leader.

One of the great Cossack leaders (1595-1657), who led a successful attack on Polish Ukraine, was (6) _____.

The (7) _____ region of Ukraine is historically a stronghold of Ukrainian nationalist sentiment.

The date (8) _____ is looked upon by many Russians as the time of "happy reunion" between Russia and Ukraine. Many

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Ukrainians see the date as the beginning of fragmentation of their nation. As part of the 1954 300th anniversary of Ukraine-Russian union, Nikita Khrushchev officially gave the (9) _____ to Ukraine.

The effects of the world's worst nuclear disaster, occurring at (10) _____, continue to be felt.

Borden Khmelnytsky
Vladimir I
Boris Godunov
Galicia
Crimean Peninsula
Three Mile Island

Baltic
Boris Yeltsin
Varangians
1696
Sevastopol seaport

Iaroslav
Uniate
1654
1812
Chernobyl



"Integrity First: Integrity is a character trait. It is the willingness to do what is right even when no one is looking. It is the 'moral compass'--the inner voice; the voice of self-control; the basis for the trust imperative in today's military."
United States Air Force Core Values, 1 Jan 1997



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"Integrity also covers several other moral traits indispensable to national service:

- **Courage.** A person of integrity possesses moral courage and does what is right even if the personal cost is high.
- **Honesty.** Honesty is the hallmark of the military professional because in the military, our word must be our bond...
- **Responsibility.** No person of integrity is irresponsible; a person of true integrity acknowledges his or her duties and acts accordingly.
- **Accountability.** No person of integrity tries to shift the blame to others or take credit for the work of others...
- **Justice.** A person of integrity practices justice...
- **Openness.** Professionals of integrity encourage a free flow of information within the organization. They seek feedback from all directions to ensure they are fulfilling key responsibilities, and they are never afraid to allow anyone at any time to examine how they do business.
- **Self-respect.** To have integrity also is to respect oneself as a professional and a human being. A person of integrity does not behave in ways that would bring discredit upon himself or the organization to which he belongs.
- **Humility.** A person of integrity grasps and is sobered by the awesome task of defending the Constitution of the United States of America.