

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

Objectives

At the end of this unit you will

Be aware of the following

- Ukraine is roughly the size of Texas or Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas.
- Variety of Orthodox Churches in Ukraine
- 1993 amendment restricting non-native religious organizations in Ukraine (Non-native Religious Exclusion Amendment)
- Bitter disputes between church groups over church properties in Ukraine
- Russian language tensions exist--favoring Russian over Ukrainian--exist in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea
- Tartar history in the Crimean region
- Lack of support systems for victims of domestic violence
- Difficulties combating spouse abuse in Ukraine
- Extent of U.S. economic assistance to Ukraine
- Marriage and death customs

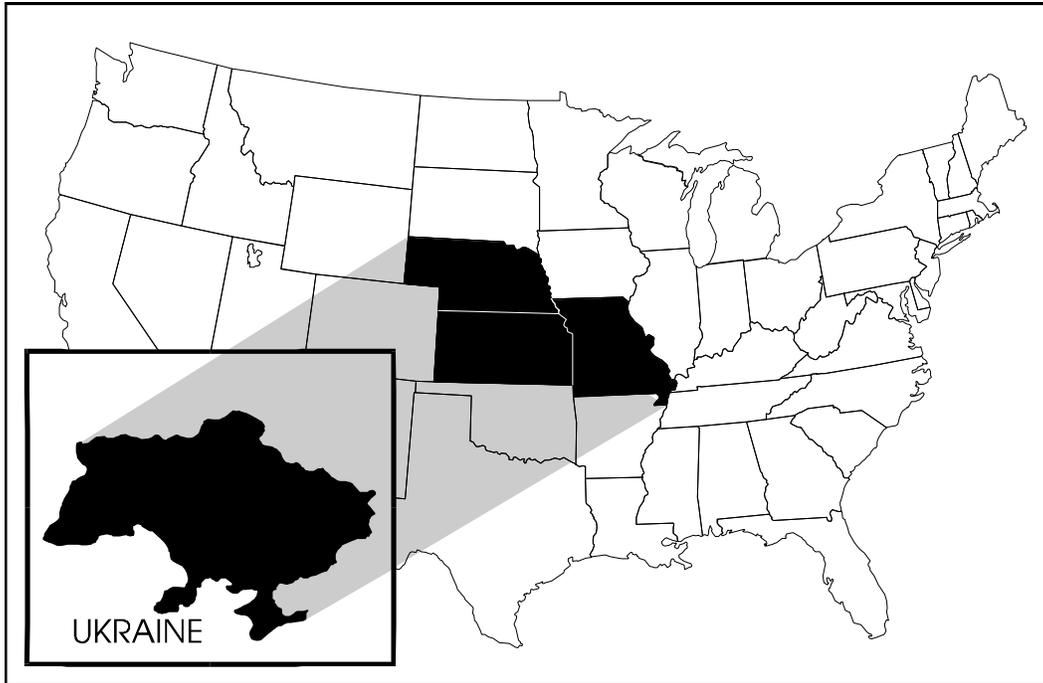
Identify

- Freedom Support Act, START
- Dormition, Theotokos
- PfP, USIA, JCTP
- Mumming
- Chernobyl
- SPP
- Kupalo Festival
- G-7, IMET, Babi Yar

Realize

- Though anti-Semitism exists in Ukraine on an individual basis, cultural and constitutional pressures, guaranteeing Jewish religion and cultural activity, officially exist in law and practice.
- Difficulty surrounding historic Jewish cemeteries in Ukraine
- U.S. policy objectives toward Ukraine
- Continued environmental damage due to Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion
- Extent of U.S./Ukraine Defense relationships

Ukraine (yoo-KRAYN)



<u>Population</u>	50,864,009
% under 15 years	20%
<u>Communication</u>	
TV	1:3
Radio	1:1.2
Phone	1:6
Newspaper	118:1000
<u>Health</u>	
Life Expectancy	62 male/72 female
Hospital beds	1:81
Doctors	1:224
IMR	22.5:1000
<u>Income</u>	\$3,370 per capita
<u>Literacy Rate</u>	98%

I. Religious Groups

1. Identity

- Ukrainian Orthodox Church--Moscow Patriarchate (UOC--MP)
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church--Kiev Patriarchate (UOC-KP)
- Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC)
- Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate) Church
- Protestant, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Muslim

2. Freedom of Religion

a. Constitution *"The Constitution and the 1991 Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religion provide for separation of church and state and permit religious organizations to establish places of worship and to train clergy. The Government respects these rights in practice.*

However, a 1993 amendment restricts the activities of non-native religious organizations. Religious organizations are required to register with local authorities and with the Government's Committee for Religious Affairs, a process that generally takes about 1 month" (Unless otherwise stated, all quotes come from the Ukraine Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997).



b. Non-native Religious Exclusion

Amendment *"A 1993 amendment to the 1991 religion law restricts the activities of nonnative religious organizations, narrowly defining the activities of members of the clergy, preachers, teachers, and other foreign citizen representatives of foreign organizations.*

They may preach, administer religious ordinances, or practice other canonical activities 'only in those religious organizations which invited them to Ukraine and with official approval of the governmental body that registered the statutes and the articles of the pertinent religious organization.'"

c. Mission activity "Some local officials have impeded the activities of foreign religious workers... All regional administrations have departments responsible for registration of various denominations and religious groups and for supervision of compliance with the Law on the Freedom of Conscience and Religion."

d. Orthodox factions
"Government mediation failed to break a deadlock in the ongoing dispute among competing Orthodox Christian administrative bodies claiming to be the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. In July leaders of major religious denominations and churches in Ukraine signed a government-drafted memorandum on the nonviolent resolution of religious disputes."



The Government has been unable to stop disagreements between the Orthodox believers and Greek Catholics in western Ukraine, where the two communities are contentious and often engage in bitter disputes over church buildings and property in over 600 localities.

The Kiev Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church complains of harassment by local authorities in predominantly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, while the Moscow Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church complains that local governments turn a blind eye to the appropriation of their churches in Ukrainian-speaking western Ukraine by Ukrainian nationalists.

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

The Moscow Patriarchate protested against the decision in June of the municipal council in Kiev to hand over most buildings of its Pecherska Lavra monastery to the Kiev Patriarchate, and described it as unwarranted state interference in religious affairs. The transfer had not been carried out at year's end."

e. House of Worship return *"The Government has moved to reduce houses-of-worship utility fees and rental payments, to exempt them from the land tax, to expedite allotment of land plots for construction of new ones, and to return religious buildings to their former owners.*

Implementation of a 1992 decree on restitution of religious community property seized during the Soviet era remains stalled in many places.

3. Religious Minorities

Jewish peoples *"Jews, the second largest religious minority in the country, have expanded opportunities to pursue their religious and cultural activities. Anti-Semitism continues to exist on an individual basis but is virtually nonexistent at the official level.*

Some Ukrainian and American Jewish organizations continue to urge the Government to speak out more forcefully against, and prosecute cases of, anti-Semitism.

There are freely operating Jewish cultural centers and educational institutions, including several colleges...Anti-Semitic articles continued to appear in a few local newspapers, especially in western Ukraine and Kiev.

Article 66 of the Criminal Code prescribes up to 3 years' imprisonment or 1 year of corrective labor, or a fine for fomenting interethnic hatred; the Law on the Print Media and the Law on Television and Radio also prohibit fomenting interethnic hatred.



Jewish groups report that anti-Semitic incidents continued in some regions. The Israeli cultural center in Kharkiv was firebombed in February. The Israeli Embassy reported that the police were cooperative. An Arab organization has claimed responsibility, although the police have not yet identified a suspect."

Cemeteries *"Several Jewish cemeteries were vandalized. The legacy of post-1940 demolition of, or construction on, Jewish cemeteries, both by Nazi occupiers and by the Soviet Government, continued during the year. In many instances Ukrainian officials inherited cases of Jewish cemetery land having been appropriated for other uses in the intervening years, as Soviet law permitted reuse of cemetery land 25 years after the final burial in the cemetery."*

II. Ethnic/Racial Groups



1. Identity

- Ukrainian (73%)
- Russian (22%)
- Jewish (1%)
- Other (4%)

2. National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities

a. Overview *"With important exceptions, there are only isolated cases of ethnic discrimination in Ukraine. The Constitution provides for 'the free development, use and protection of the Russian language and other minority languages in Ukraine.' This compromise builds on a 1991 Law on National Minorities, which played an instrumental role in preventing ethnic strife by allowing individual citizens to use their*

respective national languages in conducting personal business and by allowing minority groups to establish their own schools."

b. Russian language tensions

"Some pro-Russian organizations in eastern Ukraine complained about the increased use of Ukrainian in schools and in the media. They claim that their children are disadvantaged when taking academic entrance examinations, since all applicants are required to take a Ukrainian language test.

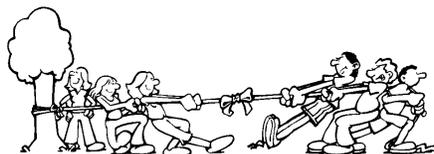


Regional councils in Kharkiv and Donetsk again decided in 1997 to give the Russian language official status alongside Ukrainian. The local prosecutors suspended these decisions as violating the law on the Ukrainian state language."

c. Anti-Semitism *"With the exception of two regions, there is no evidence of serious ethnic tension. In some parts of western Ukraine, small Russian, Jewish, and other minority groups credibly accuse some local Ukrainian ultranationalists of fostering ethnic hatred and printing anti-Semitic tracts. They also charge that local authorities have not taken action against those who foment ethnic hatred."*

d. Tartars *"In Crimea, Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar minorities credibly complain of discrimination by the Russian majority and demand that Ukrainian and Tatar languages be given equal treatment to Russian. The Ukrainian community in Crimea has criticized the national Government for tolerating radical anti-Ukrainian and Russian chauvinistic groups on the peninsula."*

III. Gender Issues



1. Women

a. Overview *“While comprehensive information measuring the extent of violence against women is not readily available, survey results suggest that the problem is pervasive. The number of reported rapes and attempted rapes has increased by 80 percent over recent years. Surveys indicate that most women who have been subjected to physical abuse or rape never report it to the police. A 1995 poll of 600 women conducted by a women's organization in Kharkiv [KHAHR-kahf, city of 1.5 million 400 miles south of Moscow] indicated that 10 to 15 percent had been raped and over 25 percent subjected to physical abuse over the course of their lifetimes.*

Hot lines, shelters, and other practical support for victims of domestic violence are practically nonexistent” (Ukraine Country Report on Human Rights Practices, 1997. Unless otherwise noted, the following quotes come from this report).

b. Abuse *“Separate statistics on prosecutions for wife beating or on average sentences are not available.*

Government representatives have acknowledged that when violence occurs the authorities often exert pressure on women to drop charges against their husbands in order to preserve the family. The low official incidence of reported crimes against women is mirrored by the lack of media attention to the subject. Many women's groups place a high priority on the issue but find it a difficult problem to combat.”

c. Prostitution *"Sexual trafficking in women to Western and Central Europe, Turkey, and the Middle East is reportedly common. Press reports place the number of women being trafficked in the thousands. The Government is only beginning to address the problem. The authorities rarely prosecute men for engaging women in the explosively growing sector of sexually exploitative work. Nongovernmental organizations claim that the militia receive bribes in return for ignoring this problem."*



d. Workforce *"Labor law provides for equal rights for men and women, including equal pay for equal work, a principle that is generally observed. The Government has adopted a controversial program aimed at reducing women's involvement in hard labor and hazardous industries in conformity with a constitutional provision to safeguard women from hard labor. The Labor Code and the Law on Protection of Motherhood and Childhood prohibit women's labor at hard and hazardous jobs. For example, the law prohibits women from working in jobs that would require them to lift more than 25 pounds at a time. However, the law is poorly enforced."*

According to human rights groups, women commonly perform difficult and hazardous labor, and management enforces the law only as necessary to lay off or fire female workers. Many women's rights advocates fear that it may be used to bar women from the best paying blue-collar jobs.

Women are much more likely to be laid off than men. Government statistics report that 57.7 percent of all registered unemployed persons are women, and it is estimated that women represent up to 90 percent of all newly unemployed persons."

e. Management *"Few women attain top managerial positions in state and private industry. According to government statistics, 69.2 percent of the country's 213,000 state administration jobs are held by women, including 45.2 per cent of the managerial positions. However, of the highest 'first'; and 'second'; category offices, only 5.6 percent in central or local governments are filled by women. Educational opportunities for women have generally been, and continue to be, equal to those enjoyed by men."*



f. Working Mothers *"Women with children under age 15 are entitled to 2 additional days of annual vacation. By law, pregnant women and mothers with small children enjoy paid maternity leave until their children reach the age of 3. This benefit is a disincentive for employers to hire women from responsible or career track jobs."*

2. Children *"In April the All-Ukrainian Committee for Protection of Children released survey results revealing that every fifth or sixth child of both sexes under 18 suffers from sexual harassment (including every third girl), and every tenth girl is raped."*



The low priority the public and the government attaches to children's rights is reflected in the absence of groups aggressively promoting children's' rights. For example, the widely acknowledged problem of growing violence and crime in and outside schools, especially the notoriously violent vocational schools, is largely ignored by the public and the Government."

IV. Conflicts

1. International Disputes *"International disputes: Certain territory of Moldavia and Ukraine--including Bessarabia (beh-sah-RAY-bee-ah, region of southeast Europe, between Dniester [NEES-tahr] and Prut [proot] rivers extending from the Black Sea north to Poland) and Northern Bukovina (boo-koh-VEE-nah, east central Europe region, occupying foothills of east Carpathian Mountains which is thickly wooded and the source of the Dniester, Prut and Siret rivers flowing to the Black Sea)--are considered by Bucharest as historically a part of Romania.*

This territory was incorporated into the former Soviet Union following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1940; dispute with Romania over the continental shelf of the Black Sea under which significant gas and oil deposits may exist; potential dispute with Russia over Crimea; has made no territorial claim in Antarctica (but has reserved the right to do so) and does not recognize the claims of any other nation" (CIA World Factbook, Ukraine).

2. Agreements *"In 1997, Ukraine put to rest all significant territorial and other disputes with its principal neighbors, signing or reaffirming agreements with Russia, Belarus, Poland, Romania and embarking on a historic new relationship with NATO under the NATO-Ukraine Charter" (Foreign Operations, p. 699).*

V. U.S. Policy



1. Overview *"The United States seeks an independent, democratic, non-nuclear Ukraine with a market economy and a civilian-controlled military that is capable of effectively preserving and defending a free Ukrainian state. The second largest of the New Independent States, Ukraine requires stability and*

prosperity in order to contribute to a secure and undivided Europe. Ukraine is also a potentially important market for U.S. imports" (Congressional Presentation for Foreign Operations, Fiscal Year 1999, p. 699).

Ukraine is the third largest recipient of United States economic assistance in the world today (excess of \$1 billion in FY96).

2. Economics *"The United States attaches great importance to the success of Ukraine's transition to a democratic state with a flourishing market economy. Following a period of economic decline characterized by high inflation and a continued reliance on state controls, the Ukrainian Government under the leadership of then newly elected President Leonid Kuchma began taking steps in the fall of 1994 to reinvigorate economic reform and achieve macro-economic stabilization.*



The Ukrainian Government's new determination to implement comprehensive economic reform is a welcome development, and the U.S. is committed to strengthening its support for Ukraine as it embarks on this difficult path" (Unless otherwise stated, quotes come from U.S. Department of State Background Notes: Ukraine, June 1997).

a. FREEDOM Support Act *"A cornerstone for the continuing U.S. partnership with Ukraine and the other NIS has been the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets (FREEDOM) Support Act, enacted in October 1992.*

In September 1993, a new \$2.45-billion assistance package for the NIS, funded with a combination of fiscal year (FY) 1993 and 1994 supplemental appropriations, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton.

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

The legislation continues to address political and economic transformation and humanitarian needs."

b. Market economy *"U.S. advisers have provided technical assistance in financial sector reform, tax policy and administration, bankers' training, land legislation, small-scale and municipal services privatization, agricultural development and agribusiness, corporatization of the electric power sector, energy pricing and efficiency, and public education concerning the environment."*



c. Exchanges *"U.S. exchanges and training programs have enabled Ukrainians to participate in a broad range of programs in the U.S. These include coal mine safety, nuclear reactor safety, private land ownership and real estate markets, local government finance, banking, tax accounting, labor statistics, telecommunications, labor-management relations, promotion of agricultural development, security and defense conversion, international trade and investment, entrepreneurship and small business development, and public health and hospital management and finance. Three medical partnerships have been established between U.S. and Ukrainian medical institutions. Peace Corps volunteers are working in Ukraine with a focus on small business development and English teaching."*

3. Democracy Initiatives *"The U.S. is promoting Ukraine's democratic transition by supporting programs on participatory political systems, independent media, rule of law, local governance, and civil society, as well as a wide range of exchanges and training."*

a. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) *"USAID has provided Ukraine with technical assistance related to elections, the development of political parties and grass-roots civic organizations, and the development of independent media."*

A USAID-funded rule-of-law consortium has been working with Ukrainian officials and non-profit organizations to create a legal system supportive of a democratic government and a market-based economy.

The rule-of-law project has been further expanded to promote cooperation between U.S. law enforcement agencies and their Ukrainian counterparts to reform the criminal justice system."

b. USIA "As of April 1995, the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) has brought nearly 800 Ukrainians to the U.S. on academic exchanges. About 90 Ukrainian business people, journalists, local government officials, and other professionals have participated in other exchanges. USIA visitor program participants included then-presidential candidate Leonid Kuchma in April 1994. USIA visitor programs have highlighted such subjects as economic and education reform, rule of law, and public administration."

c. Humanitarian Assistance

(1) Relief "Through the first half of FY 1995, the U.S. has coordinated and funded the delivery of \$33 million in food, medical supplies, and clothing to Ukraine. This includes a \$16-million surplus Department of Defense hospital recently delivered to Donetsk. Previously, the U.S. provided \$25,000 in response to the January 1994 flood disaster in Ukraine's Zakarpatska Oblast. In October 1993, \$25,000 was provided in international disaster funding for the drilling of water wells in the flood-stricken area of Rivne."

(2) Provide Hope "Operation Provide Hope has delivered food worth about \$46,000 and medicines and medical supplies worth \$16 million.



A large portion of these supplies were designated for hospitals treating victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Under the Medical Assistance Initiative,

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

Project HOPE, a private voluntary organization, has shipped more than \$26 million worth of pharmaceutical and medical supplies to Ukraine."

(3) Medical responses "In response to an epidemic of diphtheria, the U.S. sent two assessment advisers from the Centers for Disease Control and vaccines, syringes, and needles with a value of \$1.3 million under the Emergency Medicines Initiative. Under the Emergency Immunization Program, through Project HOPE, measles vaccine was provided, allowing for the vaccination of all Ukrainian children up to two years of age during 1993. In response to a 1994 request from the Ukrainian Government, the U.S. provided diphtheria vaccines for adults and children to help Ukraine eradicate this deadly disease. In FY 1994, USDA provided Ukraine with more than 70,000 metric tons of food aid--valued at about \$24 million--and, in FY 1995, it [provided] \$25 million in PL 480 assistance."



(4) Chernobyl (chahr-NO-bahl)

Effects of the reactor explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 26 April 1986 continue to be felt. The casing which seals the damaged reactor is "crumbling" according to some officials, threatening to leak radioactive material into the underground water table.

The Ukraine Health Ministry estimates the number of deaths, attributed over time to the disaster, to be 3,576, including 797 emergency cleanup workers. Some \$120 billion in lost crops and power is a government estimate. (See "Ukraine Tallies Sharp Rise In Illnesses Near Chernobyl," New York Times, 23 April 1998, p. A5.)

"Working in concert with a number of international institutions, the U.S. and its G-7 [Group of Seven, an organization of seven major democracies who meet periodically--Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States] partners are assisting Ukraine to meet its obligation to close the

Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000...Working in concert with other donors, the U.S. shall continue its key role in the Shelter Implementation Plan to repair and replace the damaged sarcophagus, entombing highly radioactive material at Chernobyl Unit 4" (Foreign Operations, p. 700).

4. Security "The U.S...seeks to expand the stable, cooperative security relationship between Ukraine, the United States, and our NATO allies. The U.S. will continue its policy of broad engagement with the civilian and military leadership of Ukraine on critical security interests, including cooperative efforts to enhance European security and promote nonproliferation..."

We will continue to provide training and material...to further develop the Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping unit, encourage military reforms, and foster interoperability for combined and joint operations in peacekeeping and humanitarian activities. U.S. assistance in fighting crime will also be expanded" (Congressional Presentation, pp. 700-701).



a. START "In Lisbon on May 23, 1992, the United States signed a protocol to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakstan (those states on whose territory strategic nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are located).

The protocol makes each state a party to the START Treaty and commits all signatories to reductions in strategic nuclear weapons within the seven-year period provided for in the treaty. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakstan also agreed to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapons states. The treaty entered into force on December 5, 1994, the same day Ukraine acceded to the NPT.



The U.S. has pledged to provide about \$300 million to Ukraine under the Nunn-Lugar program to assist in the dismantlement of strategic offensive arms (\$205 million), defense conversion (\$40 million), and nuclear material protection (\$12.5 million). The U.S. also has pledged \$10 million to assist in the establishment of a Science and Technology Center designed to provide peaceful employment opportunities to scientists and engineers formerly involved with weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems."

b. Defense Relationships

(1) Partnership for Peace (PfP) The NATO initiated PfP program seeks to build improved ties with former Communist nations in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the New Independent States (NIS). In Feb 1994, Ukraine was the first Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) country to join PfP. Selected PfP activities include:

- **BRACE EAGLE '97** Wedrzyn Training Area, Poland, 9-19 Sep
- **COOPERATIVE BEST EFFORT '96** Boletice Training Area, Czech Republic, 9-13 Sep 96
- **COOPERATIVE BEST EFFORT '97** Latvia, Sep 97
- **TRANSCARPATHIAN SAFETY** L'viv and Uzhgorad, Ukraine, 15-19 Sep 96
- **COOPERATIVE NEIGHBOR '97** L'viv, 1-14 July 97

(2) Military Contact Programs These events also exist in the spirit of PfP. PEACESHIELD II, a computer assisted exercise at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, paired Ukraine's 24 ID (Mech) and USAREUR's 1st ID (Mech).



(3) Joint Contact Team Program

(JCTP) This program provides a full-time military liaison team (MLT) in 14 of the former Communist PFP countries. Roughly four personnel, including one reserve officer, coordinate actions. As of 1997, a JCTP was not in place.

(4) State Partnership Program (SPP)

This National Guard Bureau initiated program pairs an emerging democracy nation with a U.S. Guard Unit. California is the partner state for Ukraine. A number of partnership events have occurred and are planned for the future.

(5) International Military Education and Training

(IMET) Program Professional linkage between U.S. military officers and their Ukrainian counterparts is the goal of this program. Attendance of Ukrainian officers at a variety of U.S. service schools takes place. In 1996-97, two U.S. officers attended the Ukraine Military Academy.

VI. Holidays/Observances



1. National Holidays

a. Women's Day (8 March)

b. Labor Day (Solidarity Day) (1 May)

c. Victory Day (9 May) This celebration marks the end of World War II. It receives great recognition.

d. Independence Day (24 August)

e. Revolution Day (7,8 November)

f. Men's Day (23 February) Originally Soviet Army Day, 23 Feb now may be celebrated as an informal Men's Day.

2. Church Holidays (See Culture of the Russian Federation Vol. I, Unit 5, Holidays and Observances, for more detailed descriptions.)

a. Easter The resurrection of Christ is the most important observance in Ukrainian Orthodox churches.

b. Christmas (25 Dec) In eastern Ukraine, Christmas/New Years carols were sung accompanied with a star. In western Ukraine, a "vertep" or box formed like a many-storied house, plus puppet shows of religious and secular character, accompanied carols.

Christmas also sees children going door-to-door to receive candy in exchange for songs and jokes.

c. Epiphany (6 Jan) Remembers the baptism of Jesus and manifestation of his divinity with a dove descending on his head.



d. Christ's presentation at the temple (2 Feb)

e. Annunciation (25 Mar) Announcement by the angel Gabriel to Virgin Mary of the coming birth of Christ

f. Christ's entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

g. Ascension (40 days after Easter)

h. Pentecost, Trinity or Transfiguration Sunday (6 Aug) Pentecost is the Sunday marking the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit upon the early church.

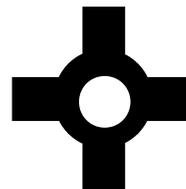
i. Dormition of the Virgin Mary (15 Aug)

Dormition means falling asleep. This day honors the burial of the Virgin Mary.

j. Nativity (birth) of the Virgin Mary (8 Sep)

k. Elevation of the Cross (14 Sep)

Some Orthodox commemorate the finding of the cross by St. Helen (4th century) with fasting on this day.



l. Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple

(21 Nov) Also called "Entrance of the Theotokos (God-bearer)," this day recalls Mary's presentation into the temple as a child.

m. Ukrainian Catholic (Greek) Church (Uniate) holidays

(1) Feast of the Holy Eucharist (Second Sunday after Pentecost) This feast honors a saint or event to whom a local church or congregation is dedicated.

(2) Feast of the Immaculate Conception (9 Dec)

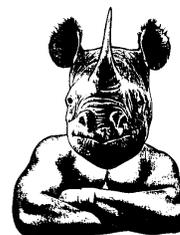
(3) Feast of Prince Volodymyr (15 Jul)

(4) Feast of St. Mary the Protectress (1 Oct)

3. Folk Religion Survivals Soviet authorities encouraged folk rites in part as a substitute for Christian festivities. Also, Ukrainian nationalist sentiments may attempt to revive practices indigenously Ukrainian.

a. Christmastime mumming

Wearing of a mask or other fantastic disguise on a festive occasion and fortune-telling



b. Sheaves of grain Throughout the year, sheaved grain may receive ceremonial treatment.

c. Summertime rites Around Trinity Sunday and the Feast of John the Baptist, vegetation is honored by bringing it into the house, having magic fires and sacrificing of a doll or decorated tree.

A variation of this activity is the **Kupalo** festival. Named after the god of love, harvest and fertility of the earth (Kupalo), this indigenous rite celebrated love (some would say "free" love).

Historically, it was a bawdy and licentious event. The earth also revealed secrets of ferns blooming, herbs and flowers blossoming, and general magic was present in the horticultural world. Ivan, another name for John (St. John) became attached to Kupalo as many sought to replace the rite with more religious connotations.



4. Birth, Marriage and Death

a. Birth A rite of purification, attached with customs symbolizing a child's acceptance into the family, occur after the birth of a Ukrainian child. Godparents are important figures in rural religious life.

b. Marriage A number of traits apply to marriages.

- **Matchmaking** Traditionally, marriages were arranged by a formal set of matchmaking rites. Male and female groups represented the prospective bride and groom.

- **Engagement**

Historically, women could take the initiative in the engagement process. Before the 1800s, as a sign the woman rejected the proposal of a male suitor, she gave him a pumpkin.



- **Ceremony** In the past, weddings were complicated affairs. A special wedding cake (korovai), "bachelor party" for the bride and her friends, plus exchanges of gifts and food between the extended families took place. Fake bride "stealing" and offers of ransom could take place. The event could take up to a week, though three day celebrations became more the norm.

- **Nationalist revival** With the increased independent, patriotic feelings for Ukraine now present, more traditional rites gather increased importance.

c. Death

- **Honor** Ancestors and the honoring of the dead occurred in many of the yearly holiday rites. The Sunday after Easter was time for a family meal at the site of the family graves.



- **Journey** Traditionally, death was not so much a tragedy as a natural process. The deceased began a journey to the world of the dead. Food and coins became appropriate for the trip. Wedding clothes adorned those who died in old age. Those youth not married were dressed in wedding clothes as well, complete with wedding ring.

- **Land of the dead** Pre-Christian practice saw the dead as inhabiting a world under the earth, thus affecting the crops. The world of the dead is forty days away, incorporated through a major event on the fortieth day after death occurs. Those who die young, or by violent means, in some way remain on earth until their allotted time expires, then they journey to this nether world.
- **Funeral** Complex ceremonies can occur during funeral rites. As signs of mourning, white sheets, women with hair flowing long, and men not wearing any headgear may be the practice. Various games--to mark the transition to a new state--may accompany the ceremony. Feasts after the funeral, and on the 9th and 40th days after can occur.

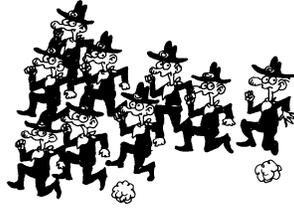
VII. Cultural Literacy Concepts/Terms



The following personalities and locations are of military, cultural or religious significance.

Abramovich, Shalom Jacob (ah-BRAHM-ahv-yich, 1835-1917) Jewish writer, author of humorous and satirical plays, stories and novels. Responsible for developing modern written Hebrew.

Babi Yar At this ravine in the northwest extreme of Kiev, Nazi Germans stripped and murdered over two days some 130,000 prisoners during World War II. Many Jewish peoples, along with Soviets, Ukrainian nationalists and Gypsies were killed.



Balakalva (bah-lah-KLAH-vah) This seaport village southeast of Sevastopol was the scene of the 25 Oct. 1854 indecisive battle of the Crimean War. It is memorialized for the "Charge of the Light Brigade."

Bialik, Hayyim Nahman (BYAH-lik, 1873-1934) This Ukrainian Jewish poet is considered the leading poet in Hebrew of modern times. His "be-'Ir he-harega" ("City of Slaughter") is based on the 1903 pogrom at Kishinyov (kee-shee-NAUH, city 90 miles northwest of Odessa).

Crimea (kri-MEE-ah) The Crimean War occurred in 1854-56. Turkey, England, France, and Sardinia allied against Russia. Nazis overran the region in 1941. By 1944 it was retaken. In 1945, some 200,000 Tartars living in the region were exiled to Soviet Central Asia and Siberia for alleged collaboration with the Nazis. Exiled Tartars were allowed to return in the late 1980s.

Dovzhenko, Aleksandr (dahv-ZHEN-koh, 1894-1956) This film director is known for his intensely emotional and symbolic films. Among these works are *Yagodki lyubvi* (1929), *Zvenigora* (1928), *Arsenal* (1929), *Zemlya* (1930), *Ivan* (1932), *Aerograd* (1935), *Shors* (1939) and *Mitchbourine* (1949)

Frank, Jacob (1726-91) This Jewish pseudo-messiah from the Ukraine followed the messianic tradition established by Shabbetai Tzevi (SHAB-ti tsvi, 1626-76). Frank taught that he was the reincarnation of the soul of Shabbetai Tzevi. Over time, Frank adjusted his views to favor Christian authorities.

Franko, Ivan Yakovich (FRAHN-koh, 1856-1916) An author whose works include poetry collected in *Vershyny i nizyny* (1887-95), stories like "Boa Constrictor" (1878), a novel of the peasant and working class, *Borislav Smeyetsya* (1882) and the epic *Moysey* (1905).

Ginzberg, Asher (GYINS-byirg, 1856-1927) This Ukrainian Russian Zionist leader urged Hebrew cultural and Jewish rebirth, emphasizing the rational and moral aspects of Judaism.

Gogol, Nikolay Vasilyevich (GOH-gahl, 1809-1852) Called the father of Russian realism. His first major works include a series of Ukrainian sketches, *Vechera na khutore bliz Dikanki* (Evenings on a Farm Near Kikanka, 1831) and *Mirogorod* (1835). Part of these works accounts Cossack struggles with Poles and Tartars in the 1500s. *Myortvye Dushi* (Dead Souls, 1842) is his masterpiece novel.

Hasidism (HA-sid-ism) This Jewish popular religious movement developed in the mid-to-late 1700s in Podolia, Ukraine (pah-DOH-lee-ah, region between Southern Bug and Dniester rivers in western Ukraine). Jewish thought and practice in this school emphasizes mysticism, prayer, religious zeal and joy.

Kharkiv (KAHR-kahf) This city of 1.5 million, some 250 miles east of Kiev, was seized in World War I by the Germans (1918). It suffered greatly in the civil war period until 1920. Germans held it in 1941-43.

Kiev (KEE-if) At various times during the 1918-20 period of unrest, Bolsheviks, Germans, White Russians and Poles held the city. In World War II, Germans occupied it from 1941-43. Severe damage occurred during World War II.

Kosach-Kvitka, Larisa Petrovna (KAH-sahch-KVEET-kah, 1871-1913) Also known as Lesya Ukrainka (oo-KRIN-kah), this author was a member of the Ukrainian Modernist poetry movement. Works include *Na krylakh pisnya* (1893), *Nevilnychi pisni* (1895), and *Lisova pisnya* (1912).

Kotlyarevsky, Ivan (kaht-lyah-REF-skee, 1769-1838) Writer who authored *Ereyida* (1798), a grotesquely humorous adaptation of the *Aeneid*. It is the first work written entirely in Ukrainian.

Manstein, Fritz Erich von (MAHN-shtin, 1887-1973) This German strategic army officer captured Sevastopol in 1942 and commanded in the Ukraine area during 1942-44. Imprisoned for war crimes from 1945-53

Rabinowitz, Sholem Yakov (rahb-ah-NAH-vits, 1859-1916 [also called Sholem Aleichem]) Born in Pereyaslav, Ukraine this Jewish rabbi, humorist and author wrote over 40 volumes of novels, stories and plays in Yiddish. His Tevye stories form the basis for *Fiddler on the Roof*. He left Russian in 1905 and eventually settled in New York in 1914. Kiev celebrated a Sholem Aleichem memorial week in 1994.

Sevastopol (sah-VAS-tah-pohl) This Crimean seaport city was besieged for 11 months by British, French, Turkish and Sardinian forces during the Crimean War.

Shevchenko, Taras Hryhorovych (shef-CHAYN-koh, 1814-1861) The father of Ukrainian national literature and foremost Ukrainian poet of 1800s. Professor of University of Kiev, Shevchenko was arrested and exiled from 1847-57 because of his participation in the Brotherhood of Cyril and Methodius. Kobzar (1840), "The Caucasus," "The Dream," and "The Epistle" are among his works.

Shostakovich, Dmitry Dmitriyevich (SHAHS-tah-KOH-vich, 1906-1975) This Russian composer is arguably the greatest symphonist of the mid-20th century. His Thirteenth Symphony commemorates Babi Yar by putting to music a poem about the genocide written by Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Skovoroda, Hryhurii (1722-1794) This philosopher/poet was a "teacher of the people," a democratic free spirit who was admired by Tolstoy. He wrote *Sad bozhestvennykh pesnei* (Garden of Divine Songs) a collection of works from 1753-85.

Tchaikovsky, Pyotr Illich (chi-KAHF-skee, 1840-1893) This Russian composer's Little Russian Symphony (No. 2) is Ukrainian, based on Ukrainian folk songs.

Tchernichowsky, Saul Gutmanovich (chir-nyi-Kahf-skee, 1875-1943) This Hebrew poet was born in Crimea. A physician by profession, he left Russia in 1922 and wandered about, eventually settling in Tel Aviv in 1931. He wrote sonnets, love lyrics and idylls of Jewish village life in Ukraine.

Vynnychenko, Volodymyr Kyrylovych (1880-1951) Born of a poor peasant family, this author and political figure was harassed by the Russian dominated educational system in his early years. Expressing honesty with oneself and the struggle of an individual with society at large, Vynnychenko wrote *Dysharmonia* (Disharmony, 1906) and *Chesnist z soboyu* (1907). His *Vidrodzennia natsiyi* (Rebirth of a Nation, 1920) is a three volume work of events in Ukraine in 1917-1919. He served as prime minister in the brief period of independence from 1917-19.

Vocabulary List: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

Babi Yar Ravine in northwest Kiev where Nazis stripped and murdered some 130,000 prisoners during World War II. Many Jewish peoples, along with others, died.

Chernobyl (chahr-NO-bahl) The world's worst nuclear reactor disaster took place near this Ukraine city in April 1986. The effects of this tragedy continue to be felt.

Dormition Falling asleep. Day honoring the death and burial of the Virgin Mary.

Freedom Support Act Cornerstone agreement between the United States, Ukraine and other New Independent States is the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets (FREEDOM) Support Act. Passed in 1993 by Congress, this act provides some \$2.45 billion for political, economic and humanitarian needs.

G-7 Group of Seven, an organization of the seven major democracies who meet together periodically to discuss and assist in world events.

IMET International Military Education and Training Program. Offers professional linkage between U.S. military officers and their Ukraine counterparts.

JCTP Joint Contact Team Program which provides a U.S. military liaison team in 14 of the former Communist PFP countries.

Kupalo Festival A summertime festival in Ukraine honoring vegetation, love and life.

Mumming wearing of masks and costumes around Christmastime as part of festivities.

PfP (Partnership for Peace) A NATO initiated program which seeks to build improved ties with former Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS. A variety of partnership activities currently take place.

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

SPP State Partnership Program A platform where National Guard units in given states adopt one of the NIS states for joint operations and activity. California is Ukraine's SPP sponsor.

START Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty protocol signed by the U.S. with Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan in May 1992. Reduction of nuclear weapons, over a seven year period, is the goal.

Theotokos "God-bearer." Term honoring the Virgin Mary as the bearer of the Christ.

USIA U.S. Information Agency which brings Ukrainian peoples to America on exchange programs.

Review Quiz: Country Studies--Ukraine



Part 1--Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the most correct word from the list which immediately follows. Not all words listed will be used.

The (1) _____ minority is located primarily in Crimea.

Ukraine is the (2) _____ largest recipient of United States economic assistance in the world today (in excess of \$1 billion in FY 96).

Effects of the April 1986 nuclear reactor explosion at (3) _____ continue to be felt. Presently, the casing sealing the damaged reactor is (4) "_____". Pending international funding, the power plant is slated for complete closure in (5) _____.

The National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program sees (6) _____ aligned with Ukraine.

Mary as the "Theotokos" in Orthodox Christianity refers to her being the (7) _____.

The (8) _____ Festival celebrates love, fertility and harvest in the Ukraine.

Traditionally, many Ukrainians viewed death not so much as a (9) _____ but as a natural process and journey.

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

(10) _____ is a ravine in Northwest Kiev where tens of thousands of Jewish peoples, Soviets, Ukrainian nationalists and Gypsies were killed by Nazi forces during World War II.

Tartar
Babi Yar
crumbling
2010
Alaska
California
New Jersey

third
second
fifth
first
2000
Kupalo
tragedy

Chernobyl
Kharkiv
melting
2001
God-bearer
Valentine's Day



Part 2--Multiple Choice

Place the letter of the most correct answer in the blank provided.

1. _____ A major part of church and synagogue controversy in Ukraine is due to
 - a. transfer of former Soviet-seized properties back to various religious factions.
 - b. issues surrounding building construction on ancient cemeteries.
 - c. women leadership issues.

2. _____ Russian language tensions--where speakers favor Russian over Ukrainian in formal education and everyday use--are most common in
 - a. Galicia and western Ukraine.
 - b. Crimea and eastern Ukraine.
 - c. the Dniester River Valley.

3. _____ Women's abuse issues are difficult to combat in Ukraine due to
 - a. pressures present which would preserve the family rather than deal with abuse controversy.
 - b. few people watch government sponsored television ads against spouse abuse.
 - c. negative reactions by the Ukraine populace to western media portrayals of women.

4. _____ According to Foreign Operations 1999 (U.S. State Department), territorial and other disputes between Ukraine and neighboring Russia, Belarus, Poland and Romania are
 - a. festering and ready to explode.
 - b. "put to rest".
 - c. awaiting diplomatic approval by NATO.

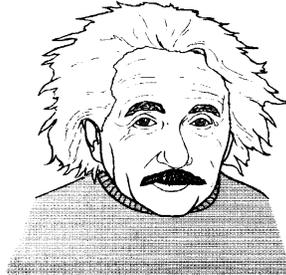
5. _____ The G-7 is a group of
 - a. seven FBI agents who worked undercover in Soviet Ukraine in the late 1980s.
 - b. major democracies in the world who meet periodically to discuss issues of international concern.
 - c. former Soviet States who seek inclusion in NATO.

6. _____ Along with Belarus and Kazakstan, Ukraine signed a treaty 5 Dec. 1994 to become a
 - a. non-nuclear weapons state.
 - b. non-nuclear power plant state.
 - c. Russian Federation partner in peace.

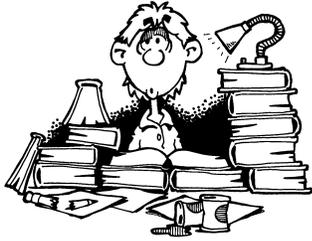
7. _____ Partnership for Peace programs seek to
 - a. reunite radical peace parties active during the 1960s in the United States.
 - b. build improved ties between NATO and former Communist nations.
 - c. unite various student peace groups on U.S. university and college campuses.

Unit 4: Country Area Studies--Ukraine

8. _____ The Dormition of the Virgin Mary
- honors the burial of Mary the mother of Jesus.
 - is the name of living quarters for nuns on the University of Notre Dame campus.
 - is an Orthodox observance welcoming Mary into the world.
9. _____ In the 1800s, Ukrainian women who rejected a marriage proposal would give the male suitor a
- red dagger.
 - fermented turnip.
 - pumpkin.
10. _____ The Tevye stories of Ukrainian humorist and author Sholem Yakov Rabinowitz form the basis for
- Third Man on the Mountain.*
 - Fiddler on the Roof.*
 - The Sound of Music.*

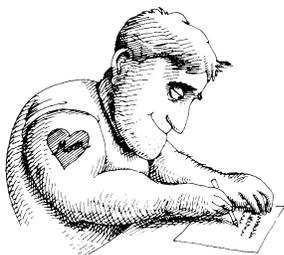


"Be willing to see the other side."



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