



Swallow's Nest Castle, Ukraine
Wikimedia/Alina Vozna

Ukrainian

May 2023



DLIFLC
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
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Ukrainian woman presents bread, a traditional symbol of hospitality
Wikimedia/LTC Taras Gren

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Map of Ukraine
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Chapter 1 | Profile



View of Kyiv
pixabay/12019

Introduction

Ukraine lies on the north coast of the Black Sea. It is the second-largest European country after its eastern neighbor Russia. The Ukrainian people trace their origins and culture to Kyivan Rus, an Eastern Slavic state that reached the height of its power and influence in the 11th and 12th centuries, and to Hetmanate, a free Ukrainian state that fended off Polish and Muscovite encroachment in the 17th century. Centuries of authoritarian Russian and Soviet rule followed, accompanied by the devastations of wars and famine in the first half of the 20th century. Upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine won a precarious independence. Efforts to establish a strong democracy, integrate with Europe, and disentangle from Russian economic, political, and military influence yielded mixed results. Starting in 2014, armed conflict returned to Ukraine as Russia sought to re-establish its hegemony through annexation of Ukrainian territory, stoking violent separatism, and, in 2022, an all-out invasion.^{1, 2}

1 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

2 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

Geography

Geographic Divisions

Ukraine lies almost entirely on the Eastern European Plain, at an average elevation of 175 m (574 ft).³ The country is divided into several broad geographic regions. Forest occupies the northern 20% of the country. Roughly 25% of the region is forested in pine, oak, birch, and alder trees. Peat bogs and marshes are common. Some agricultural activity also occurs in the region, with sizeable plots of cereals, flax, and potatoes. Much of the area is cultivated for its natural pasture lands. Dairy and beef cattle operations are common.^{4, 5, 6}

The mountain zone makes up around 1% of Ukraine's total area and is divided into two main sections. In the west are the Carpathian Mountains, which average 600 to 2,000 m (1,969 to 6,562 ft) in elevation and include the nation's highest peak, Mount Hoverla (2,061 m/ 6,762 ft). Along the southern coast lie the Crimean Mountains, which are forested with natural alpine meadows, alpine grasses, and shrubs. The highest peak in this region, Mount Roman-Kosh, rises 1,545 m (5,069 ft).^{7, 8}

Making up roughly 35% of Ukraine's total area, the forest-steppe zone extends northeast from the northern shore of the Black Sea. Forests of oak, beech, and ash cover approximately 11% of the zone. Over 80% of the region's fertile plains are heavily farmed. Wheat, corn, peas, beets, and potatoes are the primary crops, and grains are important commodity crops.^{9, 10, 11}

The steppe zone, located in the southern and southeastern sections of the nation, accounts for approximately 45% of Ukraine's total area. More than 60% of the zone is heavily farmed. One of the largest and most important regional crops is sunflowers. Maize is grown for fodder, and cattle and sheep husbandry is important. Grapes thrive in the steppe climate.^{12, 13, 14}

- 3 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 4 A.V. Bogovin, "Country Pasture, Forage Resources Profile: Ukraine," (report, Food and Agriculture Organization, October 2006), <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ukraine/ukraine.htm#2.%20SOILS%20AND>
- 5 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 6 Anna Kuzemko, "Dry Grasslands on Sandy Soils in the Forest and Forest-Steppe Zones of the Plains Region of Ukraine: Present State of Syntaxonomy," *Tuexenia* 29 (2009): 371–372, <http://www.edgg.org/publ/members/SP0006.pdf>
- 7 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 8 A.V. Bogovin, "Country Pasture, Forage Resources Profile: Ukraine," (report, Food and Agriculture Organization, October 2006), <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ukraine/ukraine.htm#2.%20SOILS%20AND>
- 9 A.V. Bogovin, "Country Pasture, Forage Resources Profile: Ukraine," (report, Food and Agriculture Organization, October 2006), <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ukraine/ukraine.htm#2.%20SOILS%20AND>
- 10 Volodymyr Kubijovyč, "Forest-Steppe," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), vol. 1, 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\F\O\Forest6steppe.htm>
- 11 Anna Kuzemko, "Dry Grasslands on Sandy Soils in the Forest and Forest-Steppe Zones of the Plains Region of Ukraine: Present State of Syntaxonomy," *Tuexenia* 29 (2009): 372, <http://www.edgg.org/publ/members/SP0006.pdf>
- 12 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 13 Volodymyr Kubijovyč, "Forest-Steppe," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), vol. 1, 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\F\O\Forest6steppe.htm>
- 14 A.V. Bogovin, "Country Pasture, Forage Resources Profile: Ukraine," (report, Food and Agriculture Organization, October 2006), <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ukraine/ukraine.htm#2.%20SOILS%20AND>

Climate

Ukraine's temperate continental climate has warm summers and cold winters, with snow blanketing the ground nearly three months of the year.¹⁵ There are considerable variations in temperature, however. Winters in western Ukraine are warmer and summers cooler than in the eastern regions.^{16, 17}

During July, the hottest month of the year, temperatures average 23°C (73°F) in the warmer southeast but drop to an average of 18°C (64°F) in the northwest. In the summer, hot dry winds (*sukhoviya*) blow from the east.^{18, 19, 20} In 2010, the country's highest summer temperature ever (42°C/107.6°F) was recorded in the eastern province of Luhansk.²¹

The coldest month of the year is January, which sees average temperatures of 5.5–7°C (42–45°F) in the cooler north and 11–13°C (52–55°F) in the warmer south. Temperatures can, however, fall to -20°C (-4°F) in some parts of the country. Winter temperatures often feel colder due to the northeasterly winter wind known as the *bora*.^{22, 23,} ²⁴ The extreme winter low of -42°C (-43.6°F) was recorded in the city of Playi.²⁵ Rivers freeze in winter, interrupting navigation from December to March.^{26, 27}

Average annual precipitation is about 60 cm (24 in) and is heaviest in the northwest. June and July usually see the maximum amounts of rain, with February being the driest month.^{28, 29} Less rainfall in the southeastern semiarid steppe requires irrigation for the region's agriculture.^{30, 31} Too much rain in the northwestern lowlands and mountains often causes flooding.^{32, 33, 34}

15 Weather Online, "Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/climate/Ukraine.htm>

16 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 12.

17 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

18 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 12.

19 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

20 Weather Online, "Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/climate/Ukraine.htm>

21 WorldData, "The Climate in Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 5 May 2022, <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/ukraine/climate.php>

22 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 12.

23 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

24 Weather Online, "Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/climate/Ukraine.htm>

25 Meteorology Climate, "Extreme Temperature Records," n.d., <http://www.meteorologyclimate.com/extreme-temperature-records.htm>

26 Volodymyr Kubijovych and Ivan Teslia, "Dnieper River," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), vol. 1, 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CD%5CN%5CDniproRiver.htm>

27 Travel Kiev, "About Ukraine," n.d., http://www.biztravel.kiev.ua/about_ukraine.shtml

28 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 13.

29 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

30 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 13.

31 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

32 Accuweather, "Cars, People Struggle through Deep Flood Waters in Ukraine," 10 June 2015, <http://videowall.accuweather.com/detail/videos/trending-now/video/4288276738001/cars-people-struggle-through-deep-flood-waters-in-ukraine?autoStart=true>

33 North Atlantic Treaty Organization, "Floods in Ukraine," 27 July 2010, <http://www.nato.int/eadrcc/2010/07-ukraine-floods/index.html>

34 World Health Organization, "Ukraine: Flood Hazard Distribution Map," 2010, <http://data.euro.who.int/e-atlas/europe/images/map/ukraine/ukr-flood.pdf>

Rivers

Ukraine has thousands of small lakes, but the most important water resources are its nearly 23,000 rivers. Most of the rivers course in a southeasterly direction through the Ukrainian plains on their way to the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.^{35, 36, 37} Four of the most significant rivers are the Dniester (925 km / 575 mi) and Southern Bug (806 km / 501 mi) in the west, the Dnieper (1,121 km / 697 mi) in the center, and the Donetsk (700 km / 435 mi) in the east.³⁸ The Southern Bug is the only one entirely within Ukrainian territory—the others flow from, along, or into neighboring countries. Other rivers Ukraine shares are the Northern Bug, which flows north along the Polish border, and the Danube, which empties into the Black Sea along the border with Romania.^{39, 40, 41} The Danube and Dnieper are navigable in Ukraine, in part because of engineered canals and dams.^{42, 43} Soviet-era hydroelectric stations built along the Dnieper (with United States equipment and advice) created large reservoirs and submerged the historic Zaporizhian Rapids.⁴⁴ Thousands of dams throughout the country regulate river flow, generate hydroelectricity, irrigate farm fields, and support fisheries.^{45, 46}

Seas

The Black Sea forms Ukraine's southernmost border. It is the terminus of Ukraine's primary rivers and home to many shipping ports. Commerce is crucial to the region, and the Black Sea zone sees extremely heavy traffic. The Ukrainian cities of Odesa and Illichivsk handle the majority of the shipping traffic. Heavy shipping has contributed to pollution. Oil spills in the region have endangered habitats. Pollution from the Dniester and Dnieper rivers enters the sea. Pesticides from farming, heavy metals from industrial waste, overfishing, and the introduction of non-native species have threatened marine habitats. The six nations of the Black Sea—Turkey, Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine—signed the Convention for the Preservation of the Black Sea during the 1990s. Today, pollution levels remain high and threaten industry in the region.^{47, 48, 49, 50, 51}

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- 35 Ihor Stebelsky and Ivan Teslia, "Rivers," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), 1993, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\R\Rivers.htm>
- 36 Ukraine, "Geography—Travel over Seas and Mountains, across Grass Plains and through Rivers," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/geography/>
- 37 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 38 State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, "Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine 2014," 2015, http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/2015/zb/07/zb_Uk_14_eng.zip
- 39 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 40 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-first Century Books, 2009), 10.
- 41 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Southern Buh," 12 May 2014, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Southern-Buh>
- 42 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 43 Encyclopedia.com, "Dnieper," 18 May 2018, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Dnieper.aspx>
- 44 Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, "Dnieper Hydroelectric Station," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\D\N\DnieperHydroelectricStation.htm>
- 45 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 46 Food and Agriculture Organization, "Ukraine: Climate and Water Resources," n.d., <http://www.fao.org/docrep/w6240e/w6240e19.htm>
- 47 Volodymyr Kubijovyč and Ivan Teslia, "Black Sea," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), vol. 1, 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?AddButton=pages\B\L\BlackSea.htm>
- 48 Vladimir Petrovich Goncharov et al., "Black Sea," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 7 May 2021, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Black-Sea>
- 49 World Atlas, "Black Sea," 29 September 2015, <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/blacksea.htm>
- 50 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, "Black Sea," 25 March 2011, <http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/black-sea.htm>
- 51 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

The inland Sea of Azov, the world's shallowest sea, forms part of the southeastern border of Ukraine. Linked to the Black Sea by the Kerch Strait, the Sea of Azov is an important body of water. Numerous rivers flow into the sea, depositing large amounts of silt that prevailing currents disperse in the sea. The silt is high in nutrients, and the sea's waters support a wide variety of marine life. The main species for harvest are anchovies and sardines. Transportation is a major industry in the region. Passengers are ferried to numerous ports along the seacoast. Coal, iron ore, building materials, oil, and other freight crisscross the sea. Violent storms can erupt in the region, causing some ships to spill or jettison their freight. Oil spills have caused great environmental harm to the area. A large sandbar on the western coast extends 113 km (70 mi), creating a web of inlets that separates the mainland from the Crimean Peninsula.^{52, 53, 54, 55, 56}

Major Cities

City	Population in 2021 ⁵⁷
Kyiv (capital)	2,962,000
Kharkiv	1,434,000
Odesa	1,016,000
Dnipro	980,000
Donetsk	906,000
Zaporizhzhya	723,000
Lviv	721,000

Kyiv

Kyiv spreads for 780 sq km (300 sq mi) along both sides of the Dnieper River in north central Ukraine. The city's history is displayed in its buildings and monuments. A grand monument to Volodymyr the Great, who chose Byzantine Orthodox Christianity for himself Kyivan Rus, overlooks the site of the mass baptism of Kyivans in 988. Two 11th-century religious architectural ensembles, the cathedral of St. Sophia and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Monastery of the Caves), are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Today, Kyiv is a major transport and industrial center. As Ukraine's capital, it has been the center of national upheavals like the 2004 Orange Revolution and the 2014 Maidan protests. The city was an early target of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, but Russian efforts were thwarted, leading to their retreat from the north of the country.^{58, 59, 60, 61}

⁵² Encyclopædia Britannica, "Sea of Azov," 8 July 2009, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sea-of-Azov>

⁵³ Volodymyr Kubijovyč, "Sea of Azov," Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), vol. 1, 1984, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages/A/Z/AzovSeaof.htm>

⁵⁴ World Atlas, "Sea of Azov," 10 August 2015, <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/seaofazov.htm>

⁵⁵ BBC News, "Black Sea Faces Oil 'Catastrophe,'" 13 November 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7092071.stm>

⁵⁶ BBC News, "Crews Missing in Black Sea Storm," 12 November 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7090141.stm>

⁵⁷ City Population, "Ukraine: Provinces and Major Cities," 2022, retrieved on 5 May 2022, http://www.citypopulation.de/en/ukraine_cities/

⁵⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "St. Wladimir's (i.e., Vladimir's) Monument, Kiev, Russia (i.e., Ukraine)," World Digital Library, 17 October 2011, <http://www.wdl.org/en/item/4216/>

⁵⁹ Richard Antony French, "Kyiv," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2 April 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kyiv>

⁶⁰ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "Ukraine," World Heritage List, 2016, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ua>

⁶¹ Anjali Singhvi et al., "How Kyiv Has Withstood Russia's Attacks," *New York Times*, 2 April 2022, retrieved on 26 April 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/04/02/world/europe/kyiv-invasion-disaster.html>

Kharkiv

Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, is the largest city in the industrial east. Located in the transitional forest-steppe belt at the confluence of three rivers, the city lies just 40 km (25 mi) south of the Russian border. It is home to a large Russian population—a minority in Ukraine but a majority in the city.⁶² Cossacks (“free men” of the steppe) built a 17th-century fortress against Tatar raiders at the site, under the formal jurisdiction of Muscovy. The Industrial Revolution brought many Russian immigrants to Kharkiv in the 19th century, while at the same time the city experienced a Ukrainian cultural renaissance. In 1920, the city became Soviet Ukraine's first capital until 1934, when the capital was moved to Kyiv.^{63, 64, 65} Post-World War II Soviet reconstruction created a modern city of massive buildings and public spaces, as well as a center for manufacturing industrial equipment such as diesel locomotives, mining and agricultural machinery, tractors, generators, steam turbines, tools, and electrical items.⁶⁶ After Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Kharkiv came under sustained Russian bombardment, and a majority of residents left the city.⁶⁷

Odesa

Odesa, Ukraine's main commercial seaport, is located on the northwest coast of the Black Sea, 31 km (19 mi) north of the Dniester River estuary. It is regarded as Ukraine's most international city.^{68, 69} Named for an ancient Greek colony, Odesa began in the 14th century as a Tatar fortress, and was subsequently claimed by Lithuania-Poland, Ottoman Turkey, and finally Catherine the Great as part of “New Russia.”⁷⁰ Rail connections made the city a center for exporting grain and imperial Russia's second-most important port (after St. Petersburg).⁷¹ Jews lived an unusually free life in Odesa during the 18th and 19th centuries, and came to constitute roughly 30% of the city's population.⁷² In early 2022, Odesa became an important strategic prize for the invading Russians, since controlling the city would allow Russia to realize its goal of cutting Ukraine off completely from the Black Sea and global shipping lanes.⁷³

Dnipro

Dnipro, roughly 450 km (280 mi) southeast of Kyiv along the Dnieper River, was founded in 1787 as Ekaterinoslav, named for Catherine the Great.^{74, 75, 76} For much of the 20th century, Dnipro was closed to foreign visitors, while Soviet physicists and engineers came to study rocket science and build satellites and other military space projects.^{77, 78} The

62 Steven Otfinoski, *Ukraine*, 2nd ed. (New York: Facts on File, 2005), 90

63 Vasylyl Markus, Roman Senkus, Ihor Stebelsky, “Kharkiv,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, 2006, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=/pages/k/h/kharkiv.htm>

64 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, “Kharkiv,” 22 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kharkiv-Ukraine>

65 Richard Antony French, “Kyiv,” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2 April 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kyiv>

66 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, “Kharkiv,” 22 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kharkiv-Ukraine>

67 Christina Wilkie et al., “Ukrainians Are Pushing Russians Back from Kharkiv, Pentagon Says; Evacuations Continue from Mariupol,” CNBC, 3 May 2022, retrieved on 5 May 2022, <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/05/02/russia-ukraine-live-updates.html>

68 Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000), 60–63.

69 Jeffrey Zuehlke, *Ukraine in Pictures* (Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2006), 16–17.

70 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, “Odessa,” 17 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Odessa-Ukraine>

71 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, “Odessa,” 17 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Odessa-Ukraine>

72 Steven J. Zipperstein, “Odessa,” in *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, 2010, <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Odessa>

73 Oleksiy Goncharenko, “Ukraine's Southern Capital Odesa Prepares to Repel Russian Invasion,” Atlantic Council, 25 March 2022, retrieved on 5 May 2022, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-southern-capital-odesa-prepares-to-repel-russian-invasion/>

74 GoogleMap, “Driving Directions to Dnipropetrovsk, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, Ukraine,” GIS Innovatsia, 2011.

75 *Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary*, 3rd ed., “Dnipropetrovsk,” 1997, 325.

76 Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000), 57.

77 Gwynne Oosterbaan, “Clan Based Politics in Ukraine and the Implications for Democratization,” in *Perspectives on Political and Economic Transitions after Communism*, ed. John S. Micgiel (New York: Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia College, 1997).

78 Sergei Zhuk, “Soviet Baby Boomers—Closed Cities, SHMO and Soviet Regionalism,” Russian History Blog, 17 December 2012, <http://russianhistoryblog.org/2012/12/sergei-zhuk-s-comments-soviet-baby-boomers-closed-cities-chmo-and-soviet-regionalism/>

city's Yuzhmash science-industry complex continues to be a world leader in these fields.⁷⁹ Iron and steel are other major industrial products.^{80, 81} The city's location a mere 241 km (150 mi) from the separatist capital of the Donetsk People's Republic has caused some problems.^{82, 83} After the Russian invasion, Dnipro became a clearing house for humanitarian assistance and a reception point for people fleeing from the fighting in the east of the country.⁸⁴

Donetsk

Donetsk, near the eastern border with Russia on the headwaters of the Kalmius River, rests on the large coal deposits of the Donbas (Donets river basin) region. Welshman John Hughes founded the town in 1872 to produce iron rail.^{85, 86} The labor-intensive heavy industries produced unions that played a pivotal role in the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the independence of Ukraine.⁸⁷ In 2014, Donetsk came under the control of Russia-backed separatists and was declared the capital of the breakaway Donetsk People's Republic. Many residents fled, and the city and region began a steady process of Russification.⁸⁸ As the Russian invasion of Ukraine got underway in February 2022, Donetsk authorities launched a major initiative to conscript military-age males into the local security forces.⁸⁹

Zaporizhzhya

Zaporizhzhya, about 85 km (53 mi) south of Dnipropetrovsk along the Dnieper River, is the historic home of the Zaporozhian Cossacks, who resisted outside authority from the 16th to the 18th centuries.^{90, 91} The river island of Khortytsia, site of a Zaporizhian Sich (fortress), is now a national reserve with a history museum and a Cossack horse show.⁹² The dam at Zaporizhzhya is a source of employment as well as pollution.⁹³ Area factories produce iron, steel, and chemicals.⁹⁴ After Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Zaporizhzhya became a reception point for refugees fleeing the devastated city of Mariupol to the south. As fighting shifted to the east and south of Ukraine in April, the city came under Russian airstrikes as Ukrainian forces held off Russian advances.^{95, 96}

79 Allie Wharf, "One Square Mile of Dnipropetrovsk," BBC News, 25 March 2011, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/direct/ukraine/9436030.stm>

80 Gwynne Oosterbaan, "Clan Based Politics in Ukraine and the Implications for Democratization," in *Perspectives on Political and Economic Transitions after Communism*, ed. John S. Micgiel (New York: Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia College, 1997).

81 Irena Chalupa, "Ukraine's Gold-Plaited Comeback Kid," Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 23 September 2008, http://www.rferl.org/content/Tymoshenko_Profile/1291005.html

82 Vijai Maheshwari, "The Town Determined to Stop Putin," *Daily Beast*, 12 June 2014, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/12/dnipropetrovsk-the-ukrainian-town-determined-to-stop-putin.html>

83 James Coomarasamy, "Ukraine Crisis: Dnipropetrovsk Prepares for Rebel Advance," BBC News 6 October 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29503377>

84 Becky Sullivan, "With Front Lines on 3 Sides, Ukraine's Dnipro Sharpens Its Focus on the War," NPR, 29 March 2022, retrieved on 5 May 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/29/1089146927/russia-war-ukraine-dnipro>

85 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Donetsk," 22 February 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Donetsk-Ukraine>

86 Bohdan Krawchenko, "Working Class," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), 1993, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=/pages/w/o/workingclass.htm>

87 Gwynne Oosterbaan, "Clan Based Politics in Ukraine and the Implications for Democratization," in *Perspectives on Political and Economic Transitions after Communism*, ed. John S. Micgiel (New York: Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia College, 1997).

88 Roman Goncharenko, "Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine: A Creeping Process of Occupation," *Deutsche Welle*, 23 February 2022, retrieved on 9 May 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/donetsk-and-luhansk-in-ukraine-a-creeping-process-of-occupation/a-60878068>

89 Ihor Burduga and Regina Gimalova, "How Ukraine Separatists Are Mass Conscripting Anyone of Fighting Age," *Deutsche Welle*, 27 April 2022, retrieved on 9 May 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/how-ukraine-separatists-are-mass-conscripting-anyone-of-fighting-age/a-61608760>

90 GoogleMap, "Driving directions to Zaporizhzhya, Zaporiz'ka Oblast, Ukraine," Transnavicom, 2011.

91 Borys Krupnytsky and Arkadii Khukovsky, "Zaporizhia," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), 2001, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=/pages/Z/A/ZaporizhiaThe.htm>

92 Arkadii Zhukovsky, "Khortytsia Island," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), 1989, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkPath=/pages/K/H/Khortytsiasland.htm>

93 Steven Otfinoski, *Ukraine*, 2nd ed. (New York: Facts on File, 2005), 96–97.

94 *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Zaporizhzhya," 20 June 2011, retrieved on 19 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Zaporizhzhya-Ukraine>

95 Igor Kossov, "Zaporizhzhia Fights as Russians Intensify Offensive in Region," *Kyiv Independent*, 30 April 2022, retrieved on 9 May 2022, <https://kyivindependent.com/national/zaporizhzhia-fights-as-russians-intensify-offensive-in-region/>

96 PBS News Hour, "As Russian Forces Redeploy Intense Fighting Shifts to Ukraine's South," 5 April 2022, retrieved on 9 May 2022, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/as-russian-forces-redeploy-intense-fighting-shifts-to-ukraines-south>

Lviv

Lviv sits at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains, an hour's drive east of the Polish border.⁹⁷ Prince Danylo of Halych named the new city for his son Lev in the 13th century. It passed through Polish, Cossack, Swedish, Austrian, Russian, German, and Soviet hands before becoming the western cultural and political center of independent Ukraine.^{98, 99} The historic city center, filled with ancient buildings and cobblestone streets, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.¹⁰⁰ Lviv has been the site of many different efforts toward Ukrainian self-determination, including a 1980s dissident movement that eventually led to national independence.^{101, 102} After Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Lviv became a transit hub for millions of displaced persons fleeing the fighting in the east of the country, as well as a home base for diplomats, aid workers, and journalists.¹⁰³ Although not on the front lines, the city was the target of Russian missile attacks.¹⁰⁴

History

Kyivan Rus

In the mid-9th century, the Varangians, a Nordic tribe, merged with seven Slavic tribes and founded the Kyivan Rus state, centered on Kyiv on the Dnieper River.¹⁰⁵ The state grew over the next century, bolstered by trade between the Baltic region and the Byzantine Empire. In 988, Prince Volodymyr adopted Orthodox Christianity for the realm. The reigns of Volodymyr and his son Yaroslav marked the high point of Kyivan Rus, with Kyiv becoming a major cultural and political center in Europe. By the 12th century, the state was in decline, weakened by warfare, political fragmentation, and changing trade patterns. In 1240, invading Mongols from the east sacked Kyiv and brought an end to Kyivan Rus.^{106, 107, 108}

Foreign Domination

By the mid-14th century, Ukrainian lands were under the rule of three powers: the Mongol Tatar Golden Horde, Lithuania, and Poland. In the mid-15th century the Crimean Khanate broke from the declining Golden Horde and accepted the rule of the Ottoman sultan. The khanate would rule the Crimean Peninsula and adjoining lands until the 18th century. In the north and west of Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland occupied and annexed lands, including the formerly powerful principality of Galicia-Volhynia. In 1569, Poland and Lithuania merged to become the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth. Polish culture, including Roman Catholicism, dominated western Ukraine over the next three centuries.^{109, 110}

⁹⁷ Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000), 71.

⁹⁸ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Lviv," 19 June 2021, retrieved on 7 July 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Lviv-Ukraine>

⁹⁹ Steven Otfinoski, *Ukraine*, 2nd ed. (New York: Facts on File, 2005), 94–95.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, "Lviv: The Ensemble of the Historic Centre," World Heritage List, 2016, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865>

¹⁰¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Lviv," 19 January 2021, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Lviv-Ukraine>

¹⁰² Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000), 87–92.

¹⁰³ Stefanie Glinski, "Lviv Becomes the Center of Ukraine's Resistance," *Foreign Policy*, 21 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/21/russia-war-ukraine-lviv-refugee/>

¹⁰⁴ Paul LeBlanc, "'This Invasion Is Horrifying': What It's Like on the Ground in Lviv Following Russian Missile Attacks," CNN, 28 March 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/28/politics/lviv-ukraine-russian-invasion-what-matters/index.html>

¹⁰⁵ Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

¹⁰⁶ Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

¹⁰⁷ BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

¹⁰⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

¹⁰⁹ Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

¹¹⁰ BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

Cossacks

In the 15th century the Cossacks, a self-governing warrior society, coalesced on Ukraine's southern steppes. By the 16th century, the Cossacks had developed enough military might to antagonize the Tatars, Ottomans, and Muscovites. In 1648, Cossack leader Bohdan Khmelnytsky rose against Polish rule and established Hetmanate, considered the first independent Ukrainian state. Khmelnytsky allied with Muscovy in 1654, a move Russia would later cite as justification for its rule over Ukraine. By the mid-17th century, Hetmanate had weakened and disintegrated, and in 1667 it was partitioned east-west between Russia and Poland. The eastern Hetmanate continued as an autonomous state subject to the Russian tsar. It reached its zenith in the early 18th century under Ivan Mazepa, before being subjugated by Russia by 1775.^{111, 112}

Russian Rule

In the late 18th century, a weakened Poland underwent three territorial partitions among European powers, during which Russia acquired most of western Ukraine. In 1783, the Crimean Khanate in southern Ukraine also came into Russia's possession. The 19th century saw growing tensions between an authoritarian tsarist regime that viewed Ukraine as an integral part of Russia and a growing Ukrainian national consciousness fueled by artists and intellectuals. The western province of Galicia, under Austrian Habsburg control, became a center for Ukrainian cultural and political activism. The 1905 Russian Revolution reverberated in Ukraine in the form of popular strikes and revolts, but Ukrainian nationalist political interests failed make sizeable progress in the years that followed.^{113, 114}

Wars, Independence, and Sovietization

When World War I broke out in 1914, Ukrainians fought for the Russian empire as well as for Austria-Hungary, and Ukrainian territory was a battle site with unknown numbers of casualties.^{115, 116} As empires were collapsing toward the war's end, eastern and western Ukrainians declared short-lived independent republics in 1917 and 1918, respectively. But armed conflict continued for several years, and by 1921 the western third of Ukraine went to Poland and the rest to Soviet Russia.^{117, 118, 119} Initial Soviet tolerance of Ukrainian language and culture within the Communist party structure was forcefully reversed in the 1930s after Joseph Stalin took power in Moscow. In 1932–33 the Holodomor, a man-made famine engineered by Stalin, led to the deaths of at least 3.9 million Ukrainians.¹²⁰

Ukraine's experience of World War II was similar to that of World War I. Ukrainians fought each other by allying with one of the main combatants—the Soviet Union or Germany—and by fighting for Ukrainian autonomy. Ukrainian territory saw years of terrible battles that left millions dead and industrial and agricultural capacity destroyed. Fighting in Ukraine continued a decade beyond the war's end in 1945, as partisans resisted Soviet rule.^{121, 122, 123}

111 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

112 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

113 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

114 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

115 Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000), 97.

116 Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (reprint) (New York: Presidio Press [Random House Digital], 2004), 365.

117 Kazimierz Maciej Smogorzewski, "Russo-Polish War (1919–20)," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 30 July 2014, retrieved on 7 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/event/Russo-Polish-War-1919-1920>

118 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

119 Tony Wesolowsky, "A Century Ago, the Treaty of Riga Redrew the Map. It Still Reverberates Today," Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 17 March 2021, retrieved on 7 July 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/treaty-of-riga-1921-disaster-poland-ukraine-belarus-lithuania/31156317.html>

120 Anne Applebaum, "Holodomor," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 8 May 2022, retrieved on 13 July 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Holodomor>

121 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

122 Ann Duszak, "Chapter 12: From the 'Reunification of the Ukrainian Lands; to the Soviet Occupation," in *The Use and Abuse of Memory: Interpreting World War II in Contemporary European Politics*, ed. Christian Karner and Bram Mertens (New Brunswick, CT: Transaction Publishers, 2013), 233–234.

123 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

Post-War Soviet Rule

The post-war years were marked by rapid industrial reconstruction, Sovietization, and the imposition of totalitarian control. In 1944, Stalin deported 200,000 Crimean Tatars to Siberia as punishment for their alleged wartime collaboration with Germany; some 250,000 Tatars and their descendants would return to Ukraine in the 1990s. In 1954, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev made the historically consequential decision of transferring the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine. April 1986 saw the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the worst nuclear disaster in history. By the late 1980s, a Ukrainian national revival was underway. As the Soviet Union was disintegrating in 1991, Ukraine declared independence on 24 August.^{124, 125}

Independence and Russian Aggression

Ukraine was proud and protective of its newfound sovereignty, and limited its participation in the Russia-dominated post-Soviet sphere while seeking closer integration with the West. But in the post-independence years the economy faltered, social reforms fell short of Western standards, and government corruption became endemic. Tensions with Russia persisted, centered on the status of Crimea and control over leftover Soviet nuclear and naval assets.^{126, 127}

In the wake of rigged presidential elections in 2004, popular discontent led to the Orange Revolution, which brought to power reformist Viktor Yushchenko. But Yushchenko's presidency was hobbled by infighting and Ukraine's dependence on Russian fossil fuels, and in 2010 his rival Viktor Yanukovich became president and began reorienting Ukraine toward Russia. Yanukovich's last-minute reneging on an association agreement with the European Union in 2013 led to fervent street protests, which were violently suppressed, and his overthrow in 2014. As the pro-Western opposition took power in Kyiv, Russia invaded and illegally annexed Crimea and instigated a long-running separatist armed conflict in the eastern Donbas region.^{128, 129}

In 2019, sitcom star Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president on an anti-corruption, pro-peace platform. But Zelensky's anti-corruption promises bore little fruit, and Ukraine became enmeshed in international political scandals. The ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated major international financial aid.^{130, 131, 132} In February 2022, after months of military buildup at the Ukrainian border, Russia commenced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In the face of fierce Ukrainian military resistance, Russian forces caused widespread destruction and indiscriminately targeted civilian areas.^{133, 134, 135}

124 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

125 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

126 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

127 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

128 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

129 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Timeline," 5 March 2020, retrieved on 20 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18010123>

130 Mary Ilyushina and Frederik Pleitgen, "Everyone in Ukraine Is 'So Tired' of Hearing about Burisma, Zelensky Tells CNN," CNN, 19 November 2019, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/19/politics/volodymyr-zelensky-burisma-probe-intl/index.html>

131 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

132 Press Release No. 20/239, "IMF Executive Board Approves 18-Month US\$5 Billion Stand-By Arrangement for Ukraine," International Monetary Fund, 9 June 2020, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/09/pr20239-ukraine-imf-executive-board-approves-18-month-us-5-billion-stand-by-arrangement>

133 Becky Sullivan, "Russia's at War with Ukraine. Here's How We Got Here," NPR, 24 February 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>

134 Nigel Walker, "Ukraine Crisis: A Timeline (2014–present)," (CBP 9476), House of Commons Library, UK Parliament, 1 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9476/CBP-9476.pdf>

135 Zoe Danon and David A. Blum, "Russia's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine: Related CRS Products," Congressional Research Service, updated 13 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47054/7>

Government

Ukraine is a semi-presidential republic. The president is the head of state, elected to a 5-year term by popular vote. The president appoints the prime minister and the members of the cabinet, who must then be approved by the legislature. The cabinet, headed by the prime minister, carries out the government's administrative duties. The president can dismiss the prime minister and cabinet. Since independence, Ukraine's pro-Western presidential administrations have attempted to balance power within the executive branch by reducing the prominence of the president and enhancing the role of the prime minister. As of July 2022, Ukraine's president was Volodymyr Zelensky and the prime minister was Denys Shmyhal.^{136, 137}

Ukraine's legislature, the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council of Ukraine), is a unicameral body composed of 450 members. Legislators are popularly elected to 5-year terms. Half of the members are elected by majority vote in single-seat constituencies and the other half by proportional representation based on party lists. There are 26 unfilled seats in the Verkhovna Rada, for representatives from Crimea and eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's political parties tend to be organized around strong personalities rather than political platforms or ideology.^{138, 139, 140} Following Russia's February 2022 invasion, the Verkhovna Rada approved a bill submitted by President Zelensky instituting martial law, which is the temporary imposition of military authority instead of civilian rule.^{141, 142} The Supreme Court of Ukraine consists of 100 judges and is organized into sections for civil, criminal, commercial, and administrative law. The High Anti-Corruption Court consists of 39 judges. Judges for the two courts are recommended and vetted by two state bodies responsible for judicial administration and self-governance, and appointed by the president. Judges have a mandatory retirement age of 65. A third high court, the Constitutional Court, consists of 18 justices, appointed by the president, the Congress of Judges, and the legislature.¹⁴³

Media

Before the 2022 Russian invasion, Ukraine had a robust media ecosystem. Television was the most popular medium, although viewership had been declining in recent years as people switched to online sources. The most popular—and best funded—TV stations were controlled by oligarchs, and often took politically motivated stances.¹⁴⁴ An independent public broadcaster, Suspilne, was created in 2017.¹⁴⁵ Radio was popular, and the country hosted approximately 300 stations.¹⁴⁶ Print media sources varied from serious news outlets to tabloids. Many newspapers had both Ukrainian and Russian-language editions.^{147, 148} At least 75% of the population used the internet, and most politicians and opinion makers relied on social media to communicate with audiences.¹⁴⁹

136 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

137 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

138 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

139 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

140 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

141 RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, "Ukrainian Parliament Extends Martial Law for 90 Days," Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, 22 May 2022, retrieved on 25 July 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-russia-martial-law-extended/31862325.html>

142 U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, "Martial Law in Times of Civil Disorder," 1989, retrieved on 25 July 2022, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/martial-law-times-civil-disorder>

143 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

144 BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Media," 12 April 2022, retrieved on 26 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18006248>

145 Reporters without Borders, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 27 July 2022, <https://rsf.org/en/country/ukraine>

146 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine: Communications," in The World Factbook, 5 January 2016, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

147 BBC News, "Ukraine Country Profile: Media," 26 April 2012, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1102303.stm#media

148 Freedom House, "Freedom of the Press 2015: Ukraine," 2015, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/ukraine>

149 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

Although Ukraine's constitution guaranteed media freedoms, enforcement often fell short. After taking power in 2019, the Zelensky administration was somewhat hostile to the press, at one point declaring an ill-conceived strategy of bypassing journalists and communicating "directly" with the people. Every year saw numerous allegations of journalists being assaulted.¹⁵⁰ After 2014, Russian media or those seen as pro-Kremlin were restricted. In Crimea and separatist-controlled areas in the east, Ukrainian media was replaced by Russian propaganda.^{151, 152}

After February 2022, many major media outlets set aside their differences and pooled their resources to provide comprehensive and defiantly patriotic coverage of the armed conflict.¹⁵³ As Russia occupied territory in the country's east and south, Ukrainian media sources were shut down. The physical danger faced by journalists rose after the start of the invasion, and several reporters were killed or injured.¹⁵⁴

Economy

In 2017, the services sector dominated Ukraine's economy, with a 60% share of gross domestic product (GDP), followed by industry at 28.6% and agriculture at 12.2%. The primary industries were coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, and food processing. The primary agricultural products were maize, wheat, potatoes, sunflower seeds, sugar beets, milk, barley, soybeans, rapeseeds, and tomatoes. The services sector employs the largest share of the workforce, at 67.8%, followed by industry at 26.5%.¹⁵⁵

In 2021, Ukraine had a negative trade balance of USD 2.25 billion, a decline of 5.11% from the previous year.¹⁵⁶ In 2019, the country's top export partners were Russia, China, Germany, Poland, Italy, and Turkey; its top import partners were China, Russia, Germany, Poland, and Belarus. The top exports were corn, sunflower seed oils, iron and iron products, wheat, insulated wiring, and rapeseed. The top imports were refined petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, coal, and natural gas.¹⁵⁷

Following the 2022 Russian invasion, economists predicted a contraction of as much as 55% for the Ukrainian economy for that year.¹⁵⁸ A few months into the conflict, the Ukrainian government estimated that the war had caused at least USD 500 billion in damage to the country and had destroyed about 30% of its infrastructure.¹⁵⁹

¹⁶⁰ The conflict led to thousands of tons of foodstuffs and minerals for export being stuck in storage or railcars. Before the war, Ukraine was the world's third-largest grain exporter, and supplied 12% of the world's wheat, 15%

¹⁵⁰ Freedom House, "Freedom of the Press 2015: Ukraine," 2015, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/ukraine>

¹⁵¹ Reporters without Borders, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 27 July 2022, <https://rsf.org/en/country/ukraine>

¹⁵² BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Media," 12 April 2022, retrieved on 26 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18006248>

¹⁵³ BBC News, "Ukraine Profile—Media," 12 April 2022, retrieved on 26 July 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18006248>

¹⁵⁴ Reporters without Borders, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 27 July 2022, <https://rsf.org/en/country/ukraine>

¹⁵⁵ Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

¹⁵⁶ Macrotrends, "Ukraine Trade Balance 1989–2022," 2022, retrieved on 28 July 2022, <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/UKR/ukraine/trade-balance-deficit>

¹⁵⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

¹⁵⁸ World Bank, "Russian Invasion to Shrink Ukraine Economy by 45 Percent This Year," 10 April 2022, retrieved on 3 June 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/10/russian-invasion-to-shrink-ukraine-economy-by-45-percent-this-year>

¹⁵⁹ Pavel Polityuk, "Exclusive: Russian Invasion Damaged up to 30% of Ukraine's Infrastructure, Says Minister," Reuters, 18 April 2022, retrieved on 3 June 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/exclusive-russian-invasion-damaged-up-30-ukraines-infrastructure-says-minister-2022-04-18/>

¹⁶⁰ Ashish Valentine, "Here's How Much It Could Cost to Rebuild Ukraine—And Who Would Pay for It," NPR, 26 May 2022, retrieved on 3 June 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/26/1100501433/heres-how-much-it-could-cost-to-rebuild-ukraine-and-who-would-pay-for-it>

of its corn, and 50% of its sunflower oil. The situation in 2022 forecasted severe food shortages in Africa and the Middle East.^{161, 162, 163, 164}

Ethnic Groups and Languages

In 2014 the government counted 130 nationalities and communities in Ukraine.¹⁶⁵ The largest ethnic groups are Ukrainians (77.8%) and Russians (17.3%). There are small ethnic populations from Ukraine's other neighbors: Belarusians (0.6%), Poles (0.3%), a few Slovaks (among 1.8% of reported "others"), Hungarians (0.3%), Romanians (0.3%), and Moldovans (0.5%), as well as Crimean Tatars (0.5%), Bulgarians (0.4%), Jews (0.2%), Greeks, and Roma.^{166, 167, 168} Among these minority populations are the Hutsul, Boiko, and Lemko (aka Rusyn) peoples of the Carpathians in western Ukraine, who have maintained traditional ways of life suited to the mountainous, sparsely populated region.^{169, 170, 171}

The only official national language is Ukrainian, which is spoken by roughly 68% of the population. Russian is an important regional language and spoken by roughly 30% of the population. Twenty-four other languages are spoken among the various ethnic groups, including Crimean Tatar, Moldovan/Romanian, and Hungarian.^{172, 173} A 2012 law that a language spoken by at least 10% of the population in a given *oblast* (district) could be considered a "regional" language to use in schools, courts, and other government offices, was ruled unconstitutional in 2018.¹⁷⁴ A new language law, passed in 2019, expanded the required use of Ukrainian as the state language over the next several years, but diminished support for minority languages including Russian.¹⁷⁵ In 2022 many Ukrainians, especially those who grew up speaking Russian, chose to speak Ukrainian as a political act.¹⁷⁶

161 Al Jazeera, "Time Running Out for Ukraine Grain Exports from Blocked Seaports," 22 May 2022, retrieved on 1 June 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/25/time-running-out-for-ukraine-grain-exports-from-besieged-seaports>

162 Silvia Aloisi and Pavel Polityuk, "Thousands of Goods Railcars Stuck at Ukraine's Border as War Hits Exports," Reuters, 7 April 2022, retrieved on 1 June 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-goods-railcars-stuck-ukraines-border-war-hits-exports-2022-04-07/>

163 Andrew Higgins and Erika Solomon, "As Food Shortages Loom, a Race to Free Ukraine's Stranded Grain," *New York Times*, 1 June 2022, retrieved on 1 June 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/01/world/europe/ukraine-grain-shortages.html>

164 U.S. Department of State, "2020 Investment Climate Statements: Ukraine," 2020, retrieved on 2 June 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-investment-climate-statements/ukraine/>

165 Embassy of Ukraine in the United States of America, "On the Protection of the National Minority Rights in Ukraine," 4 March 2014, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://usa.mfa.gov.ua/en/press-center/news/18859-on-the-protection-of-the-national-minority-rights-in-ukraine>

166 State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, *Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine 2010 (Kyiv: Avgust Trade, 2011)*, 328, retrieved on 11 July 2022, http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/st_sc/SEU2010_e.zip

167 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

168 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 28 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

169 Nicolae Pavliuc, et al., "Hutsuls," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, 1989, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\H\U\Hutsuls.htm>

170 Sofia Rabil-Karpynska, "Boikos," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, 1984, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\B\O\Boikos.htm>

171 Volodymyr Kubijovyč, "Lemkos," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, 1993, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\L\E\Lemkos.htm>

172 State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, *Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine 2010 (Kyiv: Avgust Trade, 2011)*, 442, retrieved on 11 July 2022, http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/st_sc/SEU2010_e.zip

173 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

174 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine: People and Society," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

175 Pavel Polityuk, "Ukraine Passes Language Law, Irritating President-elect and Russia," Reuters, 25 April 2019, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-parliament-language/ukraine-passes-language-law-irritating-president-elect-and-russia-idUSKCN1S111N>

176 Ievgen Afanasiev et al., "Ukraine Agonizes over Russian Culture and Language in its Social Fabric," NPR, 2 June 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/02/1101712731/russia-invasion-ukraine-russian-language-culture-identity>

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Profile Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. | True | False |
| 2. | The Southern Bug is the only major Ukrainian river that flows entirely within the country's territory. | True | False |
| 3. | Odesa is Ukraine's main commercial seaport. | True | False |
| 4. | Ukraine was spared heavy fighting during the first and second world wars. | True | False |
| 5. | Ukraine's best funded TV stations are privately owned. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Profile Assessment Answers

1. False:
Ukraine the second-largest European country after its eastern neighbor Russia.
2. True:
The Southern Bug rises in west-central Ukraine and flows south-eastward to the Black Sea.
3. True:
In early 2022, Odesa became an important strategic prize for the invading Russians, since controlling the city would allow Russia to cut Ukraine's access to the Black Sea and global shipping lanes.
4. False:
During both world wars, Ukrainians fought each other by aligning with one of the major combatants; Ukrainian territory was a battle site with unknown numbers of casualties.
5. True:
The best-funded television stations are owned by oligarchs who, prior to the Russian invasion in 2022, often took politically motivated stances.

Chapter 2 | Religion



Enthronement of the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, 2019
President.gov.ua

Introduction

Ukraine became a Christian nation in 988 CE after Prince Volodymyr converted to Orthodox Christianity. During his reign, many of the people converted to the new religion. Orthodox Christianity remains the principal faith of the nation with approximately 70% claiming adherence to some Orthodox sect.^{1, 2, 3} As frequently occurs, many of the practices of the traditional pagan religion merged with the new Orthodox religion. Many of those fusions are still evident today and can be seen in some religious celebrations such as Orthodox Easter.⁴

Other religious groups, though small, also exist in Ukraine. Ukrainian Greek Catholics comprise 8–10% of the population. Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Christians represent another 1–2%. Smaller groups of Muslims, Roman Catholics, and Jews, each composing less than 1% of the population, can also be found. Protestants, including Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists, Lutherans, Methodists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Latter-day Saints also practice their faith in the nation. There are a few adherents of Buddhism, Falun Gong, and Krishna

1 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 27 July 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/#people-and-society>

2 Ukraine, "Religions and Churches in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/religion/>

3 U.S. Department of State, "2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine," 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

4 Ukraine, "Religions and Churches in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/religion/>

Consciousness, though their exact numbers have not been calculated. Roughly 13–20% of Ukrainians claim no religious affiliation.^{5, 6, 7}

Although minority religious groups are generally safe from persecution, since the outbreak of the separatist movement in Donetsk and Luhansk in 2014, there have been reports of violence against Protestants, Catholics, and the Ukrainian Orthodox-Kyiv Patriarchate. Some anti-Semitic hate speech has also occurred in the media and at public events.^{8, 9}

Major Religions

Eastern Orthodoxy

Questions of leadership have historically divided Ukrainian Orthodoxy into separate branches, led from Kyiv (Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate), Moscow (Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate), or historical Poland (Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church).¹⁰ Politicians often ally themselves with one branch or another—Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko advocated for greater autonomy for the Kyiv branch, while Russian president Vladimir Putin supports Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 2019, the “first among equals” of Eastern Orthodoxy, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, formally granted autocephalous (independent) status to a new Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formed from these branches.¹¹ The Moscow-led branch rejected this ruling, and its parent Russian Orthodox Church cut ties with Constantinople.¹² After Russia’s 2022 invasion, Ukraine’s Moscow-led branch broke its allegiance to Russian Orthodoxy, accusing Patriarch Kirill of failures “to condemn Russia’s military aggression” and “to find words for the suffering Ukrainian people.”^{13, 14}

Other Churches and Religions

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) is important in western Ukraine. Part of the Byzantine rite (as opposed to the Latin rite), this church was aggressively attacked by Stalinist Russia.¹⁵ Many UGCC followers, who survived for years in hiding and in the diaspora that fled Stalin’s purges, returned to Ukraine starting in 1991. Supporting a healthy congregation of approximately four million, they form a majority religious group in three western *oblasti* (administrative divisions): Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Ternopil.^{16, 17, 18}

5 Central Intelligence Agency, “Ukraine,” *World Factbook*, 27 July 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/#people-and-society>

6 U.S. Department of State, “2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine,” 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

7 Andriy Makuch et al., “Ukraine,” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 28 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

8 U.S. Department of State, “2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine,” 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

9 Tom Heneghan, “Religious Tensions Deepen Ukraine Splits—Russian Orthodox Official,” Reuters, 16 May 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-church-idUSBREA4F0HE20140516>

10 Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, “History of UAOC,” n.d., retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.soborna.org/history/en/001.html>

11 U.S. Department of State, “2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine,” 12 May 2021, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

12 Andriy Makuch et al., “Ukraine,” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 28 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

13 Scott Peterson, “Ukrainian Orthodox Church Says Follow the Gospel, not Putin,” *Christian Science Monitor*, 31 retrieved on 11 July 2022, May 2022, <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2022/0531/Ukrainian-Orthodox-Church-says-follow-the-gospel-not-Putin>

14 Ukrainian Service, “Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Loyal To Russia since 2019 Schism, Now Cuts Ties over War,” Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 27 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/orthodox-church-kirill-war-russia/31872141.html>

15 Andriy Makuch et al., “Ukraine,” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 28 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

16 Dompavlov Travelling, “Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church,” n.d., <http://www.dompavlov.com/ukrainecatholicchurch.htm>

17 U.S. Department of State, “2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine,” 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

18 *Economist*, “Ukraine’s Churches: Inspiring and Confusing,” 21 February 2014, <http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2014/02/ukraines-churches>

In western Ukraine, the Roman Catholic Church has a following of approximately one million, mostly ethnic Poles or Ukrainians of Polish descent. Suppressed under the Soviet regime, the Roman Catholic Church has created numerous new parishes since Ukrainian independence in 1991.^{19, 20}

Ukraine has had a Protestant population since the mid-15th century. Although Protestantism was considered heretical, it attracted the populace by translating religious texts into local languages. Under the Soviets, Protestants were persecuted, but they resumed open worship after Ukrainian independence.²¹

The number of Muslims living in Ukraine is contested. Although the Ukrainian government claims an official figure of approximately 500,000, Muslim clerics declare a following of nearly two million. The majority of Muslims within the country are Crimean Tatars, concentrated in the Crimean Peninsula.²²

The Role of Religion in Government

Ukraine's constitution provides for freedom of religion and a separation of church and state. The government may restrict religious worship and practices that threaten public order, health, or morality, and religious leaders must notify the government in advance of any public gatherings. Although the government has called on religious leaders to work with it to bring peace to the nation, there are continued allegations of religious abuses by government officials. In the Russia-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine, numerous allegations have surfaced since 2014 of discrimination and marginalization of minority religious groups such as the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Muslims, Protestants, and Jehovah's Witnesses.²³

Religious organizations are legally required to register with the state, and foreign-based religious organizations are restricted in their operations. While foreign religious workers can preach, administer religious ordinances, or practice other religious activities, they are allowed to do so only at the invitation of a Ukrainian religious organization and the permission of the government.^{24, 25} Since Ukraine has no official state religion, the government cannot interfere with religious institutions, provided they operate within the law. The government cannot support churches in their religious capacities.²⁶

Religious organizations are likewise prohibited from performing state functions. In the past, active clergy members have been elected to parliament and to local offices; yet their numbers and influence on political decisions have been negligible. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate forbid clergy from running in parliamentary elections. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate has been criticized, however, for openly using the pulpit to stump for candidates and backing them using church funds.^{27, 28}

19 Dompavlov Travelling, "Roman Catholic Church," n.d., <http://www.dompavlov.com/ukrainecatholic.htm>

20 U.S. Department of State, "2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine," 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

21 Religious Information Service of Ukraine, "Protestantism in Ukraine," 13 December 2009, http://risu.org.ua/en/index/reference/major_religions/~Protestantism+in+Ukraine/33331/

22 U.S. Department of State, "2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine," 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

23 U.S. Department of State, "2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine," 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

24 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, "Freedom of Religion or Belief in Ukraine," 8 October 2008, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/34315>

25 U.S. Department of State, "2021 Report on International Religious Freedom: Ukraine," 2 June 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/ukraine/>

26 Gennadiy Druzenko, "Religion and the Secular State in Ukraine," (paper, International Center for Law and Religious Studies, 24 July 2010), 728, <http://iclr.org/content/blurb/files/Ukraine.1.pdf>

27 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, "Freedom of Religion or Belief in Ukraine," 8 October 2008, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/34315>

28 Gennadiy Druzenko, "Religion and the Secular State in Ukraine," (paper, International Center for Law and Religious Studies, 24 July 2010), 731, <http://iclr.org/content/blurb/files/Ukraine.1.pdf>

Some religious organizations have accused the Ukrainian government of imposing arbitrary limitations on them that violate their right to religious freedom. The State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Religious Affairs scrutinized religious organizations to ensure that they functioned within the law.²⁹ However, President Viktor Yushchenko stripped it of its authority in 2005, based on claims that it violated regulations of the constitutional separation of church and state.³⁰ As a result, its duties were assigned to the Ministry of Culture. In the same year, an offshoot of the State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Religious Affairs, the All-Ukraine Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (AUCCRO), became independent. AUCCRO lobbies for the economic interests of its member organizations.^{31, 32}

Religion in Daily Life

In Ukraine, more women than men identify as believers. Although Ukrainian women are more religious, they tend to be more egalitarian than men. Men favor a family structure in which the men work while women typically stay home to care for the family.³³ The pagan roots of Ukrainian religious and social culture also suggest that Ukrainians have had a long history of female worship and mother cults. The Christianization of Ukraine continued this tradition by establishing important female saints and the Madonna, one of the most important figures in Roman Catholic and Orthodox belief systems.³⁴

Gender roles are complicated in Ukraine. During the Soviet regime, Moscow worked hard to create an egalitarian society. Women were given opportunities for jobs and education, thus creating a semblance of equality. Yet, they were still expected to care for their children and families in a more traditional fashion.³⁵ Many Ukrainians believed that the Soviet regime reduced the femininity of Ukrainian women, so a move has been afoot to recover traditional masculinity and femininity.³⁶ The Orthodox Church reinforces traditional gender roles, with women representing the majority of members in the Orthodox Church. Within Orthodoxy, women are not allowed to become deacons or priests. They may become nuns, however, but they are sequestered from priests and do not take on leadership roles in the church.³⁷ The Orthodox church uses lay women—*mirianki*—to perform many functions thought appropriate for women, such as cleaning churches and visiting and caring for sick parishioners.³⁸

29 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, "Contribution on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Ukraine," 8 October 2008, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/34315>

30 Gennadiy Druzenko, "Religion and the Secular State in Ukraine," (paper, International Center for Law and Religious Studies, 24 July 2010), 728, <http://iclr.org/content/blurb/files/Ukraine.1.pdf>

31 Myroslav Marynovych, "Commentary: No Religious Freedom without Democracy: A Lesson from 'Orange Ukraine,'" Forum 18 News, 16 March 2005, http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=526

32 Oleksandr Zaiets, "Council of Europe's Requirements for Ukraine's Law on Religious Freedom: Between Truth and Fiction," Institute for Religious Freedom, 31 May 2011, http://www.irf.in.ua/eng/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=245:1&catid=36:com&Itemid=55

33 Kornelia Sammet and Daniel Bergelt, "The Modernization of Gender Relations and Religion: Comparative Analysis of Secularization Processes," in *Transformations of Religiosity: Religion and Religiosity in Eastern Europe 1989–2010*, eds. Gert Pickel and Kornelia Sammet (Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer DE, 2012), 57.

34 Tamara Govorun and Borys M. Vornyk, "Ukraine: Religious and Ethnic Factors Affecting Sexuality," *International Encyclopedia of Sexuality*, 2001, <http://www.sexarchive.info/GESUND/ARCHIV/IES/UKRAINE.HTM#UKRAINE%20%28UKRAYINA%29>

35 Sarah D. Phillips, "Ukrainians," in *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World's Cultures*, eds. Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember (New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2003), 930–938.

36 Craig Young, "Post-Socialist East and Central Europe," in *Contested Worlds: An Introduction to Human Geography*, ed. Martin Phillips (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), 274.

37 Sarah D. Phillips, "Ukrainians," in *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World's Cultures*, eds. Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember (New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2003), 930–938.

38 Craig Young, "Post-Socialist East and Central Europe," in *Contested Worlds: An Introduction to Human Geography*, ed. Martin Phillips (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), 274.

The Protestant faithful support more egalitarian gender roles in the public and the domestic labor spheres.^{39, 40} Ukraine has a Baptist population second only to that of the United States. Women in Protestant denominations enjoy a much greater level of freedom and involvement within their respective churches. Protestant churches have traditionally petitioned more adamantly than the Orthodox churches against state involvement in Ukraine.^{41, 42}

Religious Holidays

Ukraine's official calendar contains four religious holidays. The three major holidays celebrated in Ukraine are Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox Easter, and Day of the Pentecost. The fourth holiday is the Baptism of Kyivan Rus, which became an official holiday in 2007. This day falls on 28 July and commemorates the coming of Christianity to Kyivan Rus and the baptism of Prince Volodymyr in 988 CE. For the faithful, it is a day to reflect on the religious history of the nation and to attend special church services.^{43, 44, 45}

Christmas

Traditionally, Ukrainians celebrated Christmas on 7 January according to the Julian calendar. However, in 2023, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) announced a shift towards the Gregorian calendar, aligning with many other Christian denominations. This change means that, starting in 2024, Orthodox Christmas will officially be celebrated on 25 December instead of 7 January. The OCU noted that this decision gained momentum due to Russia's recent aggression towards Ukraine, as the Julian calendar is often associated with the culture of the Russian Church.⁴⁶

Traditional Christmas celebrations are family oriented and begin on Christmas Eve when families gather for supper.⁴⁷ Called Sviata Veheria (Holy Supper), it begins as soon as the first star is sighted. The meal consists of 12 meatless dishes representing Christ's 12 Apostles. Hay is spread on and under the table to commemorate Christ's birth in a manger. A bread called *kolach* is placed on the table. It is baked in three rings representing the Trinity, while the circular shape represents eternity.⁴⁸ Sheaves of grain known as *didukh* are placed under the family's icons to symbolize and remember the family's ancestors. The father or head of the household presents each family member with a piece of bread that has been blessed by a priest and dipped in honey. They greet each other with "*Khrystos razhdayetsia*" (Christ is born). After supper, families go caroling, which can last throughout the night. A church mass is customary on Christmas Day.⁴⁹

Easter (Velykden)

The date of Easter differs year to year, but it is celebrated in conjunction with spring.⁵⁰ For Ukrainians, linking Easter

39 Kornelia Sammet and Daniel Bergelt, "The Modernization of Gender Relations and Religion: Comparative Analysis of Secularization Processes," in *Transformations of Religiosity: Religion and Religiosity in Eastern Europe 1989–2010*, eds. Gert Pickel and Kornelia Sammet (Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer DE, 2012), 56–57.

40 Mary DeTurris, "Why Women Can't Be Priests," *Our Sunday Visitor*, 17 December 1995, <http://www.ewtn.com/library/issues/whywomen.txt>

41 Catherine Wanner, "Evangelicalism and Resurgence of Religion in Ukraine," (paper, University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 17 June 2006), http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/nceeer/2006_819_19g_Wanner.pdf

42 Kornelia Sammet and Daniel Bergelt, "The Modernization of Gender Relations and Religion: Comparative Analysis of Secularization Processes," in *Transformations of Religiosity: Religion and Religiosity in Eastern Europe 1989–2010*, eds. Gert Pickel and Kornelia Sammet (Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer DE, 2012), 56–57.

43 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

44 Calendar Date, "Baptism of Kyivan Rus—Ukraine," n.d., http://www.calendardate.com/ua_baptism_of_kyivan_rus.htm

45 Anyday Guide, "Day of Baptism of Rus," n.d., <https://anydayguide.com/calendar/28>

46 Orthodox Times, "Orthodox Church of Ukraine changes calendar," in Church of Ukraine, 25 May 2023, <https://orthodoxtimes.com/orthodox-church-of-ukraine-changes-calendar/>

47 Brama Gateway Ukraine, "Ukrainian Christmas," n.d., <http://www.brama.com/art/christmas.html>

48 Ukraine, "Ukraine Official, Public, and National Holidays," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/national-holidays/>

49 Ifoukes, "Christmas Traditions of Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.infoukes.com/culture/traditions/christmas/>

50 Calendar Date, "Orthodox Easter 2022," 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, https://www.calendardate.com/orthodox_easter_2022.htm

with the beginning of the planting season suggests the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation and rebirth through the reawakening of the earth after the long winter. On the Saturday before Easter, families bake *pashka*, the Easter cake, and have it consecrated by their local priest.⁵¹ On Easter Sunday, people bring baskets filled with Easter foods to the church to be blessed by the priest. Traditionally, this basket includes specific foods: *pashka*, *pysanky* (raw painted eggs), *kryshanka* (dyed hard-boiled eggs, including at least one red egg) salt, pepper, butter (often in the shape of a lamb), lard, cheese, horseradish, ham, *salo* (pork fat), a ring of sausage called *kovbasa*, and seeds (usually poppy or sunflower seeds).^{52, 53} Many attend an Easter Mass, after which parishioners circle the church three times, presenting each other with willow branches (a traditional Ukrainian symbol of spring) and greeting each other with "*Khrystos voskres*" (Christ has risen).^{54, 55}

Pentecost (*Trystia*)

Pentecost is celebrated on a moveable date based on the Julian calendar.⁵⁶ This day celebrates the "pouring out of Holy Spirit on the Apostles of Jesus Christ."⁵⁷ Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter and is often blended with the pagan Feast of Zeleni Svyata. Traditionally, for the Feast of Zeleni Svyata, people adorned their houses with grass and the leafy branches of trees to protect against evil. The Saturday before Pentecost, prayers are said for the dead, and bread and sweets are blessed at the church. Pentecost Sunday is celebrated with a church mass followed by feasting. Various meat dishes are served, and numerous cookies, cakes, and other sweets are customary. Small pies called *drabyanky* (steps) adorn many tables. They feature pancake rolls that symbolize the path to heaven.⁵⁸

Buildings and Places of Worship

Buildings of worship for Ukraine's several Christian faiths have many features in common. In urban areas, ornate cathedrals are commonplace. Consisting of spires, domed ceilings, and rooftops, these churches are colorfully painted and highly ornate.⁵⁹ They feature numerous sculptures, stained glass windows, and architectural flourishes that have made them popular across the globe. Since independence, many of the famous churches across Ukraine—some more than 1,000 years old—have undergone extensive restoration.^{60, 61} The most well-known churches are the cathedral of St. Sophia and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Monastery of the Caves), both in Kyiv.⁶²

The ornate designs of Ukrainian churches are not merely aesthetic. Floor plans are divided into three sections: the narthex, which is the public area for conducting church business; the nave, where parishioners come to pray and worship, and the sanctuary, which is the holiest part of the church.⁶³ The sanctuary contains the altar, and it is separated from the nave by an iconostasis, a screen bearing the images of the principal saints. Ukrainian churches

51 Brama, "Easter—Velykden," n.d., <http://www.brama.com/art/easter.html>

52 Ukraine, "Ukraine Official, Public and National Holidays," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/national-holidays/>

53 Time and Date, "Orthodox Easter Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/easter-sunday>

54 Pysanky, "Ukrainian Easter," n.d., http://www.pysanky.info/Ukrainian_Easter/Traditions.html

55 Brama Gateway Ukraine, "Ukrainian Traditions: Easter-Velykden," n.d., <http://www.brama.com/art/easter.html>

56 Time and Date, "Orthodox Pentecost in Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 1 August 2022, <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/trinity>

57 Ukraine, "Ukraine Official, Public, and National Holidays," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/national-holidays/>

58 Lidiya Artyukh, "Trytysya: Ukrainian Traditional Holiday," Welcome to Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.wumag.kiev.ua/index2.php?param=pgs20062/132>

59 Ukrainian Churches of Canada, "The Theology and Symbolism of Eastern Rite Church Architecture," 29 March 2010, http://www.ukrainianchurchesofcanada.ca/architectural_styles/symbolism.html

60 Try Ukraine, "Pictures of Kiev's Churches and Monasteries," n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/photos/kyiv/churches.shtml>

61 Sterling Demchinsky, "Typical Architectural Characteristics of Ukrainian Church Styles," Ukrainian Churches in Canada, 2010, http://www.ukrainianchurchesofcanada.ca/architectural_styles/characteristics.html

62 Richard Antony French, "Kyiv," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2 April 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kyiv>

63 Ukrainian Churches of Canada, "The Theology and Symbolism of Eastern Rite Church Architecture," 29 March 2010, http://www.ukrainianchurchesofcanada.ca/architectural_styles/symbolism.html

are designed to represent the universe, and they are often oriented to the east to represent moving to Christ, who is prophesied to return to earth from the east.⁶⁴ The apse is one of the most distinguishing features of Ukrainian churches. Rising from the roof of the church—usually over the nave or sanctuary—it is a domed structure that is often compared to an onion.^{65, 66}

May I enter the church?

Visitor:	May I enter the church?	mozhna ooveetee do tsehRkvee
Local:	Yes.	nee

Exchange 1

Wooden churches are a notable feature of the Ukrainian rural landscape. Traditional Ukrainian wooden churches are said to reflect Ukraine's national culture.⁶⁷ They are the precursors of the ornate stone cathedrals that would come later. The first recorded wooden churches date from the late 10th century, and some wooden churches extant today in western Ukraine date from the 15th century.⁶⁸ Still cared for by devout local women parishioners, these churches range from small simple structures to large ornate buildings boasting as many as nine domed roofs. Banned for a time under Soviet Russia, they continued to proliferate in western Ukraine. Constructed using the signature three-part floor plan, the wooden churches are an iconic feature of the landscape, representing a popular faith.^{69, 70, 71}

Behavior in Places of Worship

Ukrainians observe strict rules of etiquette in their churches, no matter the denomination. They believe that while in church they are in the presence of God.⁷²

When do you worship?

Visitor:	When do you worship?	kolee oo vaas sloozhba
Local:	On Sunday.	oo nedeelyoo

Exchange 2

Men are required to remove their hats when entering a church, and women are strongly encouraged to wear a scarf or hat to cover their hair. Both men and women should dress conservatively.⁷³ It is customary to bow slightly and make the sign of the cross when entering a church, regardless of one's religious affiliation or denomination. The sign of the cross is made by touching the head, heart, right shoulder, left shoulder, then making a bow.^{74, 75}

64 Try Ukraine, "Pictures of Kiev's Churches and Monasteries," n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/photos/kyiv/churches.shtml>

65 New Advent, "Apse," 21 November 2009, <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01659a.htm>

66 Ukraine, "Religious Sites in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/religious-sites/>

67 Evan Rail, "In Ukraine, Churches with a Distinctive Allure," *New York Times*, 15 July 2011, <http://travel.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/travel/ukraines-wooden-churches.html?pagewanted=all>

68 Welcome to Ukraine, "Wooden Churches: Marvels of Folk Architecture," n.d., <http://www.wumag.kiev.ua/index2.php?param=pgs20041/24>

69 Green Ukraine, "Hutsul Wooden Churches," n.d., <http://green-ukraine.com/wooden-churches-of-the-carpathians>

70 Alex Rodriguez, "'Improvement' Puts Ukraine's Famed Wooden Churches in Peril," *Chicago Tribune*, 6 April 2008, http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2008-04-06/news/0804050392_1_parishioners-in-other-villages-lviv-foundation-stone-replacements

71 UNESCO, "Wooden Tserkvas (Churches) of Carpathian Region in Ukraine and Poland," n.d., <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1424>

72 Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, "Church Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.htuomc.org/churchetiquette.html>

73 Dino Lingo, "Common Ukrainian Customs and Clothing—Ukrainian Culture for Kids," 19 September 2013, <http://dinoling.com/blog/2013/09/19/common-ukrainian-customs-and-clothing-ukrainian-culture-for-kids/>

74 Optima tours, "Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.kiev.info/traveltips/etiquette.htm>

75 All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church, "Church Etiquette," n.d., <http://allsaintsorthodoxchurch.com/church-etiquette.html>

Do I need to wear a headscarf?

Visitor (Female):	Do I need to wear a headscarf?	mehnee tRehba naadyaah-tee Khoostkoo
Local:	Yes. (female).	taak

Exchange 3

Mobile phones are not normally allowed in Orthodox churches. If visitors do bring one, it should be turned off before entering the sanctuary.⁷⁶ Many Orthodox churches advise women not to wear perfume and to avoid wearing lipstick during services.⁷⁷

May I take photographs inside the Church?

Visitor:	May I take photographs inside the church?	oo tsehRkvee mozhna foto-hRaafvoovatee?
Local:	No.	nee

Exchange 4

⁷⁶ Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, "Church Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.htuomc.org/churchetiquette.html>

⁷⁷ St. Katherine Orthodox Church, "Church Etiquette," n.d., http://www.stkatherineorthodoxchurch.org/church_etiquette.html

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Religion Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | Roman Catholicism is the principal faith of Ukraine. | True | False |
| 2. | The Moscow-led branch of Ukrainian Orthodoxy remained loyal to Moscow after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. | True | False |
| 3. | The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate forbid clergy from running in parliamentary elections. | True | False |
| 4. | <i>Mirianki</i> are Orthodox lay women who perform functions such as cleaning churches and visiting and caring for sick parishioners. | True | False |
| 5. | The oldest wooden churches in Ukraine date from the 15th century. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Religion Assessment Answers

1. False:
Orthodox Christianity is the principal faith of Ukraine, with approximately 70% of the population claiming adherence to some Orthodox sect.
2. False:
After Russia's 2022 invasion, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate broke its allegiance to Russian Orthodoxy.
3. True:
Although some clergy members had been elected to political offices in the past, their political influence was minimal.
4. True:
Within Orthodoxy, women are not allowed to become deacons or priests.
5. True:
Wooden churches are an iconic feature of the landscape and are precursors of the ornate stone cathedrals that would come later.

Chapter 3 | Traditions



Dancers in traditional costumes, Kyiv
Flickr/Oleksandr Reva

Introduction

Throughout the centuries, Ukrainians have had to bear foreign rule, interspersed with short periods of independence. Whether they were partitioned among neighboring countries, or part of the Russian and Soviet empires, Ukrainians absorbed cultural influences from their rulers. Different languages, religions, and governments left their marks on the land and people. Yet the Ukrainians maintained a knowledge of their identity. They continued to speak their language, follow their customs, and practice their religion. Although traces of Polish, Russian, and other cultures flavor Ukrainian society, traditions remain Ukrainian.^{1, 2, 3} Much of daily social life in the country revolves around small groups, within which interactions are warm. This has traditionally helped to provide safety and security for group members, but means that they can appear distant with strangers.^{4, 5} Much of the daily behavior of the people reflects social status differences and a recognition of hierarchical relations.⁶

- 1 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 28 April 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 2 Andriy Hlazovy, "AD 2000, Ukraine in History," Welcome to Ukraine, Online Magazine, April 1999, http://www.wumag.kiev.ua/wumag_old/archiv/4_99/anno.htm
- 3 Global Security, "Ukraine History," 16 June 2014, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ukraine/history.htm>
- 4 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com
- 5 Global Security, "Ukrainian National Character," 23 September 2012, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ukraine/national-character.htm>
- 6 Hofstede Centre, "What About Ukraine," n.d., <http://geert-hofstede.com/ukraine.html>

Honor and Values

Ukrainians are noted for their community spirit and pride themselves on maintaining their self-sufficiency. During the Soviet regime, Ukraine suffered through famine and war, and communities could not rely on the state for aid.⁷ Thus, they banded together to ensure that crops were raised and harvested, and that the members of the community were fed and clothed.⁸ This attitude is reflected in the strong preference for collectivist ideals, which value the needs of family and group over those of the individual.⁹

However, community spirit predates the Soviet regime. Living in a strategic and agriculturally rich region, Ukrainians have protected and defended themselves throughout history against foreign invaders and rulers. Consequently, Ukrainians grew fiercely loyal to their communities. Today, rural Ukrainians continue to help one another and tend to see community as a means of survival, celebrating the unity that results from working together. Being a member of an “in-group” is very important to average Ukrainians, who tend to define themselves in terms of their groups and their families. In contrast, youthful Ukrainian urbanites tend to be more individualistic.^{10, 11, 12}

Formulaic Codes of Politeness

Although friendly, Ukrainians can seem reserved to many Westerners, preferring to interact formally with strangers. A firm handshake is common in these formal situations, although men should wait for women to extend their hand before offering their own. It is important to maintain direct eye contact while shaking hands. One caveat, however, is that Ukrainians never shake hands over a threshold, as it is considered bad luck. Always remove gloves before shaking hands.^{13, 14} In less formal situations, men may kiss a woman once on the cheek rather than shaking hands, and they may greet male friends with a hug and a pat on the back. Women will greet friends and acquaintances with three alternating kisses on the cheeks, beginning with the left. It is also appropriate to acknowledge one another with a nod in informal situations.^{15, 16}

Good morning!		
Soldier:	Good morning!	dobRoho Raan-koo!
Local:	Good morning to you!	ee vaam dobRoho Raan-koo!

Exchange 5

7 Anna Shevchenko, *Ukraine—Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (New York: Random House, 2008), 38–40.

8 John Marone, “The Extension of Ukrainian Hospitality,” *Turkish Weekly*, 2 May 2009, <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/75202/the-extension-of-ukrainian-hospitality.html>

9 Hofstede Centre, “What About Ukraine,” n.d., <http://geert-hofstede.com/ukraine.html>

10 Hofstede Centre, “What About Ukraine,” n.d., <http://geert-hofstede.com/ukraine.html>

11 Anna Shevchenko, *Ukraine—Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture* (New York: Random House, 2008), 38–40.

12 John Marone, “The Extension of Ukrainian Hospitality,” *Turkish Weekly*, 2 May 2009, <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/75202/the-extension-of-ukrainian-hospitality.html>

13 Global Security, “Ukrainian National Character,” 23 September 2012, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ukraine/national-character.htm>

14 Culture Grams World Edition, “Ukraine,” 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

15 Commisceo Global, “Ukraine—A Look at Ukrainian Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette,” n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

16 Culture Crossing Guide, “Ukraine: Greetings,” n.d., http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student_details.php?id=7&CID=213

Hi, Mr. Klychko! (Informal)

Visitor:	Hi, Mr. Klychko!	zdRaastooyteh, paaneh kleechko
Local:	Hello!	zdRaastooyteh
Visitor:	Are you doing well?	oo vaas vseh haaRaazd
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 6

In formal situations, Ukrainians often use titles, including professional titles. *Pan* (mister) and *pani* (miss) followed by a surname, are also popular. It is also respectful to use a person's first name and patronymic middle name (e.g., Anatoli Petrovich or Irina Petrivna). When using a patronym, titles are not normally used. Ukrainians carefully use formal and informal language to demonstrate politeness. In Ukrainian, the pronoun *ty* (you) is informal and used between close friends and by persons of the same age and socioeconomic class. The honorific pronoun *vy* (you) shows respect and is used with strangers, older individuals, bosses, and people of a higher socioeconomic class.¹⁷

¹⁸ Using a formal form of address to a social equal can be seen as rude because it denotes arrogance or indicates that the speaker wants to maintain formal rather than intimate relations. Formal greetings are appropriate for initial meetings and formal relationships. Informal greetings should be reciprocated because they demonstrate friendship and closeness.^{19, 20}

How are you?

Soldier:	How are you?	yaak syaa maa-yeteh?
Local:	Fine, very well.	doozheh dobReh

Exchange 7

Good night!

Soldier:	Good night!	dobRee vehchiR!
Local:	Good night to you!	ee vaam dobRee vehchiR!

Exchange 8

¹⁷ Commisceo Global, "Ukraine—A Look at Ukrainian Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

¹⁸ Culture Crossing Guide, "Ukraine: Titles and Business Cards," n.d., http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student_details.php?id=20&CID=213

¹⁹ Ilona E. Podolyan, "How Do Ukrainians Communicate? Observations Based upon Youth Population of Kyiv," Immigrant Institute, 5 February 2012, <http://www.immi.se/intercultural/nr9/podolyan.htm>

²⁰ Richard DeLong, "Relationships in Slavic vs. Anglo-Saxon Culture," Try Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/society/relationships.shtml>

Hospitality and Gift-Giving

Ukrainians are eager to extend hospitality to guests and develop relationships with non-Ukrainians because of the great value placed on friendship.²¹ Consequently, they will extend every resource they possess to ensure that guests are well cared for while in Ukraine. Guests should remove their shoes before entering a Ukrainian home; casual dress is usually appropriate.^{22, 23}

The Ukrainian bread and salt ceremony illustrates Ukrainian hospitality. When guests are greeted in a home, they are presented with bread and salt on a decorated cloth and welcomed inside. The guests receive the offering and return it to the hosts, often taking a piece of the bread, dipping it in the salt, and eating it. Bread signifies the warmth of the home, and salt symbolizes friendship.²⁴ By accepting this offering, guests accept the hospitality, friendship, and culture of the hosts.^{25, 26}

I really appreciate your hospitality.

Guest:	I really appreciate your hospitality.	yaa doozheh vdyaachnee vaam zaa hosteeneest
Host:	It's my pleasure.	doozheh pRoshoo

Exchange 9

Gift giving follows particular customs in Ukraine, with gifts between Ukrainians considered personal and symbolic. They view the act of giving as more important than the gift itself. Visitors should be careful when giving gifts, however, as Ukrainians might consider extravagant gifts as a show of wealth. Guests should instead offer token gifts that represent their home country. When visiting a Ukrainian home, wine, chocolates, and flowers are acceptable gifts. Guests should always make sure to bring an odd number of flowers and avoid white Easter lilies and yellow flowers. Gifts should be wrapped; they are not likely to be opened right away.^{27, 28, 29, 30}

21 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 86.

22 Ashley Hardaway, *Ukraine* (Raleigh, NC: Other Places Publishing, 2011), 53.

23 Ukraine Insight, "Traditions and Customs of Ukraine. Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.ukraine-insight.com.ua/traditions.html>

24 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 86.

25 Ashley Hardaway, *Ukraine* (Raleigh, NC: Other Places Publishing, 2011), 53.

26 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

27 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 99.

28 Vayama, "Ukraine Customs, Traditions, and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.vayama.com/etiquette/ukraine/>

29 Commisceo Global, "Ukraine—A Look at Ukrainian Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

30 Culture Crossing Guide, "Ukraine: Gift Giving," n.d., http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student_details.php?id=23&CID=213

Eating Customs and Food

Eating Habits and Dining Customs

Ukrainians typically eat three meals a day. Breakfast (*snidanok*) can be light, consisting of tea or coffee with a sandwich. Cookies, muffins, or cereals with fruit are other common choices. For those preferring a big breakfast, eggs, soup, and fried potatoes are typical fare. The midday meal (*obid*) is eaten in the midafternoon, around 2 p.m.^{31, 32, 33, 34} Though lunch is traditionally the largest meal of the day, this is changing.^{35, 36} Supper (*vecheria*) is eaten around 6 or 7 p.m. Lunch and dinner typically include soup, a main dish, and dessert. Many Ukrainians prefer to eat supper together at home.^{37, 38}

The eldest or most honored guest is served first. Guests should wait until they are invited to begin a meal before eating. Ukrainians use the continental style of holding eating utensils, with the fork in the left hand and the knife in the right hand. They do not transfer the fork to the right hand to eat. Hands are kept on the table rather than in the lap, and elbows are not placed on the table. Diners should always clean their plates. Hosts will often offer guests second helpings. Refusing such an offer is considered a sign of modesty, but refusing to try any dish can be considered rude. Because of the special place bread has in Ukraine, throwing bread away is offensive, especially to older Ukrainians. Glasses should never be filled more than two-thirds and diners should never refill their own glasses. If wine is consumed with the meal, all open bottles must be finished.^{39, 40}

The food tastes so good.

Guest:	The food tastes so good.	yeezha taaka smaachna
Host:	Thanks for the compliment.	dyaakooyoo zaa kompleemehnt

Exchange 10

Toasts are commonplace. The host generally offers the first toast, which is likely to be made with vodka. Diners should at least take a sip even if they don't finish the glass. Ukrainians can be suspicious of people who refuse to drink, so refusals of alcohol should be made on the grounds of health. Those consuming non-alcoholic beverage should not clink glasses with those drinking alcohol.⁴¹

31 "Ukraine: Lifestyle; Eating," CultureGrams World Edition, ProQuest, 2016.

32 Anton Masterovoy, "Ukraine," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, ed. Ken Albala (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2011), 382.

33 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

34 Eating Habits 11, "Some Differences in English and Ukrainian Eating Habits," Blog, 19 June 2013, <http://eatinghabits11.blogspot.com/>

35 Anton Masterovoy, "Ukraine," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, ed. Ken Albala (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2011), 382.

36 ProQuest, "Ukraine: Lifestyle; Eating," CultureGrams World Edition, 2016.

37 Anton Masterovoy, "Ukraine," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, ed. Ken Albala (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2011), 382.

38 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

39 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

40 Commisceo Global, "Ukraine—A Look at Ukrainian Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

41 Commisceo Global, "Ukraine—A Look at Ukrainian Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

Types of Food and Drink

Ukrainian food has influences from Russia, Poland, Germany, and Turkey. Popular ingredients include meat, mushrooms, various vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Typical cooking methods are boiling, stewing, and baking. Food varies among Ukraine's regions, each of which has its own specialty.^{42, 43, 44}

What type of meat is this?

Guest:	What type of meat is this?	yaakeh tseh myaaso?
Host:	Pork.	sveeneena

Exchange 11

One of Ukraine's most well-known dishes is *borscht*, a hearty soup made from beets, cabbage, tomato, and pork. *Varenyky*, another popular dish, are dumplings served with fried onions and *smetana*—sour cream—and filled with either meat, cheese, potatoes, or mushrooms. Sometimes *varenyky* are stuffed with berries or fruits and served as a dessert with heavy helpings of hand-whipped cream.^{45, 46, 47, 48} *Holubtsi* is cabbage filled with meat and rice, and served with tomato sauce.⁴⁹

What is the name of this dish?

Guest:	What is the name of this dish?	yaak zvetsyaatsyaa stRaava
Host:	This is <i>holubsti</i> .	tseh holoobstee

Exchange 12

The most common meat in Ukraine is pork. Revered in Ukraine, *salo*, fat taken from a pig's back, is eaten as part of a meal or as a snack on a slice of black bread with salt.^{50, 51}

Bread is a staple of the Ukrainian diet, and no meal is ever served without it. Ukrainian bread is often dark and dense, made from rye flour with a sourdough starter.^{52, 53, 54} More modern renditions include white bread, which has become a ritual staple at family events such as weddings and funerals.⁵⁵ Ukrainians eat bread plain, with butter or sour cream, or with pork. They serve soft rolls (*pompoushki*), sour dough loaves, black bread, and a myriad of other whole and braided loaves.⁵⁶

42 Ukraine, "Cuisine—Flavors and Colors of Ukrainian Culture," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/cuisine/>

43 S. Stechishin, "Traditional Foods," Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\T\R\Traditionalfoods.htm>

44 Best of Ukraine, "Ukrainian Cuisine," n.d., <http://bestofukraine.com/culture/ukrainian-cuisine.html>

45 Sonja Bernyk, "Ukrainian Borsch," SBS, n.d., <http://www.sbs.com.au/food/recipes/borsch>

46 Ukraine Trek, "Ukrainian National Food and Cuisine," n.d., <http://ukrainetrek.com/about-ukraine-cuisine>

47 Ukraine, "Cuisine—Flavors and Colors of Ukrainian Culture," n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/cuisine/>

48 Olia Hercules, "Stuffed Ukrainian Pasta (Varenyky)," SBS, n.d., <http://www.sbs.com.au/food/recipes/stuffed-ukrainian-pasta-varenyky>

49 Tania Borovik, "Ukrainian Holubtsi," Foodie Ukraine, 7 October 2013, <http://foodieukraine.com/ukrainian-holubtsi/>

50 Anton Masterovoy, "Ukraine," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, ed. Ken Albala (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2011), 378.

51 S. Stechishin, "Traditional Foods," Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\T\R\Traditionalfoods.htm>

52 Ukrainian Guide, "Significance of Ukrainian Bread," Blog, n.d., <http://ukrainianguide.com/significance-of-ukrainian-bread/>

53 Proud of Ukraine, "Bread in Ukraine: History, Meaning, Traditions and Types," n.d., <http://proudukraine.com/bread-in-ukraine-history-meaning-traditions-and-types/>

54 S. Stechishin, "Traditional Foods," Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages\T\R\Traditionalfoods.htm>

55 Ukrainian Guide, "Significance of Ukrainian Bread," Blog, n.d., <http://ukrainianguide.com/significance-of-ukrainian-bread/>

56 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 85–87.

Drinks

Some of the more common drinks in Ukraine are tea and *kompot*. Most Ukrainians drink tea with sugar and lemon. *Kompot* is a homemade fruit drink made by mixing fruit and sugar in boiling water. *Kvas*, another popular drink, is made from fermented black bread. Ukrainians frequently enjoy alcoholic beverages. Vodka—*horilka*—is very common, and is served at all social and celebratory occasions. Vodka is also an integral part of business negotiations. Businesspeople frequently negotiate over drinks of vodka and confirm agreements with numerous toasts. Many people drink *samogan*, a potent homemade vodka.^{57, 58, 59, 60}

Dress Codes

Ukrainians take pride in their personal appearance and try to look their best when going out for any occasion.^{61, 62, 63} Ukrainians favor conservative Western-style clothing, and bolder dress styles are beginning to appear as Ukraine continues to develop economically; urbanites represent the vanguard of contemporary fashion in Ukraine.⁶⁴ The type of clothing worn, however, is based upon two factors: age and location. Rural Ukrainians tend to wear conservative clothing. Women, especially older women, wear headscarves and skirts or dresses. Men typically wear dark clothing. Those who labor in the countryside often wear brogues, low-heeled shoes, or boots. Young rural Ukrainians try to distance themselves from the clothing styles of their elders, but not many can afford the name-brand clothing found in Western Europe or the cities. However, plenty of counterfeits of popular Western styles can be found cheaply at the local markets.^{65, 66}

Is this acceptable to wear?

Soldier:	Is this acceptable to wear?	chee tseh pReepoosteemo noseetee?
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 13

Where do my shoes go?

Soldier:	Where do my shoes go?	koodee mehnee postaaveetee cheReveekee?
Local:	Here on the rack.	cyoodee naa poleetsyoo

Exchange 14

57 Safari the Globe, "Good, Dining, and Drinks in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.safaritheglobe.com/ukraine/culture/food-drinks/>

58 Anton Masterovoy, "Ukraine," in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, ed. Ken Albala (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2011), 381.

59 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine*, 4th ed. (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2013), 83.

60 Ukrainian Guide, "5 Popular Ukrainian Drinks," n.d., <http://ukrainianguide.com/5-popular-ukrainian-drinks/>

61 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

62 Global Security, "Ukrainian National Character," 23 September 2012, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ukraine/national-character.htm>

63 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine*, 4th ed. (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2013), 67.

64 Richard DeLong, "Ukraine's Culture: Dress and Appearance," Try Ukraine, n.d., http://www.tryukraine.com/society/cultural_differences.shtml

65 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 68–69.

66 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

In the cities, older Ukrainians still wear the dark clothing reminiscent of Soviet times. Younger people can be quite stylish, with young women being especially fond of dressing in fashionable heels and skirts.⁶⁷ In general, the younger generation prefers clothing with more vibrant colors than the older generation, and they rarely go anywhere without dressing up. It is common for Ukrainian women to do their hair and makeup and wear sharp outfits to run a few routine errands around town.⁶⁸

Non-Religious Celebrations

Ukrainians celebrate several secular national holidays. The first on the calendar is New Year's Day (1 January).⁶⁹ For many Ukrainians, it is a time to decorate Christmas trees and receive gifts from Ded Moroz, the Ukrainian Santa Claus. People often get together for meals and parties to usher in the new year. Just before midnight, a presidential speech is broadcast throughout the nation. Many Ukrainians write a wish for the new year and drop it into the champagne that they will drink as the clock strikes midnight. Fireworks cap New Year's Eve celebrations. In some rural areas, unmarried women run outside at midnight to throw their boots over the fence. The direction to which the boots point traditionally signifies the location of the woman's future spouse.^{70, 71}

International Women's Day (8 March) is marked with conferences, presentations, and public gatherings promoting gender equality. Women frequently receive gifts of flowers and candy from friends and family.^{72, 73} Labor Day (typically on 1 May) follows and is a day off for Ukrainian workers. Most people enjoy spending the day outside with family and friends.^{74, 75}

The next holiday is Victory Day or Memorial Day (9 May).⁷⁶ This is a day to commemorate the nation's war veterans with Armed Forces parades, presidential speeches, and concerts—including popular wartime songs. The day is capped off with fireworks. Constitution Day (28 June) follows, marked by musical events, large parades with marching bands, and fireworks.^{77, 78, 79, 80}

Ukraine's Independence Day, observed on 24 August, marks the country's independence from the Soviet Union.⁸¹ In urban areas, live musical performances feature the country's musical stars. Parades march through city streets, and military bands perform concerts. Fireworks displays explode in the evening sky.^{82, 83, 84}

67 Richard DeLong, "Ukraine's Culture: Dress and Appearance," Try Ukraine, n.d., http://www.tryukraine.com/society/cultural_differences.shtml

68 Culture Grams World Edition, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 22 July 2022, www.culturegrams.com

69 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

70 Time and Date, "New Year's Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/new-year-day>

71 Best of Ukraine, "Holidays in Ukraine," n.d., <http://bestofukraine.com/culture/holidays-in-ukraine.html>

72 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

73 Time and Date, "International Women's Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/international-women-day>

74 Time and Date, "Labor Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/labour-day>

75 Best of Ukraine, "Holidays in Ukraine," n.d., <http://bestofukraine.com/culture/holidays-in-ukraine.html>

76 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

77 Time and Date, "Victory Day/ Memorial Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/victory-day>

78 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

79 Time and Date, "Constitution Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/constitution-day>

80 Best of Ukraine, "Holidays in Ukraine," n.d., <http://bestofukraine.com/culture/holidays-in-ukraine.html>

81 Time and Date, "Holidays in Ukraine in 2016," 2016, <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/>

82 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 108.

83 A Global World, "Ukraine Celebrates Independence Day," n.d., <http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/ukraine-celebrates-independence-day/>

84 Time and Date, "Independence Day in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/ukraine/independence-day>

Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- **Do** dress fashionably yet conservatively and neatly, Ukrainians frown on slovenliness.
- **Do** make a toast when eating with Ukrainians.
- **Do** eat and drink all that is served during meals and celebrations. Nondrinkers should claim a serious and believable excuse for not drinking alcohol to avoid offending their hosts.
- **Do** wrap presents that you intend to give to hosts, friends, and business associates.
- **Do** shake hands with men and look them directly in the eye.
- **Do** behave conservatively in public.

Don'ts

- **Don't** wear shorts and sport clothing to public places, people's homes, or churches.
- **Don't** wear flip-flops (except at the beach) or sandals with socks.
- **Don't** eat until the host invites you to begin.
- **Don't** refuse food and drinks offered at the table.
- **Don't** open presents when you receive them, give yellow flowers, or give an even number of flowers.
- **Don't** shake hands over a threshold or desk, or with gloves on.
- **Don't** use slang or profanity or discuss politics.

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Traditions Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | The most commonly eaten meat in Ukraine is pork. | True | False |
| 2. | Ukrainians believe that shaking hands over a threshold brings good luck. | True | False |
| 3. | Removing one's shoes when entering a Ukrainian home is considered disrespectful. | True | False |
| 4. | When giving flowers to Ukrainians, they should be odd-numbered. | True | False |
| 5. | <i>Varenyky</i> are dumplings. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Traditions Assessment Answers

1. True:
Fat taken from a pig's back, known as *saló*, is eaten as part of a meal or as a snack on a slice of black bread with salt.
2. False:
Ukrainians never shake hands over a threshold, as it is considered bad luck.
3. False:
Guests should remove their shoes before entering a Ukrainian home.
4. True:
White Easter lilies and yellow flowers should also be avoided.
5. True:
Varenyky are served with fried onions and sour cream and filled with either meat, cheese, potatoes, or mushrooms.

Chapter 4 | Urban Life



Scene on Khreschatyk Street, Kyiv
Flickr/Adam Jones

Introduction

For most of its history, Ukraine has been a rural nation. Its fertile soil has long produced abundant and varied agricultural products. Soviet rulers in the early 20th century initiated mass industrialization and continued to build cities based on the Soviet industrial model. Today, roughly 70% of Ukraine's 43.5 million people live in urban areas.¹ The most densely populated regions of Ukraine are in the south and west.² Ukraine's cities began to expand rapidly in the 1950s. Migration by rural peasants seeking a better life fueled over half of that growth.³ By 1979, about 53% of ethnic Ukrainians had moved to urban centers.⁴ By the mid-1990s, in the years following independence, internal migration slowed and began to stabilize.⁵ Today, Ukraine's negative rate of urbanization suggests that the urban population is beginning to decline.⁶

- 1 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>
- 2 Andriy Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>
- 3 Yaroslav Hrych, "Urbanization According to Plan," *Ukrainian Week*, 26 September 2012, <http://ukrainianweek.com/History/60924>
- 4 Paul R. Magocsi, *A History of Ukraine: The Land and its Peoples*, 2nd ed. (Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press, 2010), 713.
- 5 Ella Libanova and Olena Malynovska, "Social Impact of Emigration and Rural-Urban Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Ukraine," (final country report, European Commission, April 2012), 8-9, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=8820&langId=en>
- 6 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

Urban Challenges

Waste Management

Ukraine lacks a functioning and sustainable waste management system. The country has some 6,100 legal landfills and as many as 33,000 illegal dump sites. Most landfills and dumps do not meet safety standards and are filled to capacity. Only 4% of the 10 million tons of waste the country produces annually is sorted, and only 6% of that waste is recycled. Ukraine has no government-run recycling facilities; all recycling is done by private firms.^{7, 8}

A lack of funding and political will are preventing the establishing of a sustainable waste management system. The government pays USD 10 for every ton of waste the country processes, compared to USD 100–170 in Western European countries. The cost of waste management in Ukraine covers only collection and burial, while in Western Europe that cost includes collection, recycling, and disposal. In 2017, the government introduced a national waste management strategy that would see the number of landfills reduced to about 150 and about half of the country's household waste being recycled by 2030. Even before the 2022 Russian invasion, the gradual implementation of the strategy did not appear to be on track.^{9, 10, 11}

Water Access

The armed conflict in Ukraine has left 1.4 million people in the east of the country with no access to safe water and an additional 4.6 million people with limited access. From the start of the invasion, Russian troops targeted and destroyed water infrastructure such as pipes, pumping stations, and sewage treatment plants. During their siege of Mariupol, the Russians turned off the city's water supply, leaving residents without safe drinking water and sanitation. Major cities in eastern Ukraine also had their water supplies cut off.^{12, 13}

Pollution

During the Soviet era, Moscow ignored the harmful effects of industrial pollution, leading to decreased air quality. After independence, Ukraine's pressing need for economic and industrial growth forced the government to devote minimal efforts to mitigate pollution.¹⁴ Automobile emissions contribute heavily to pollution. Chemical production plants emit sulfur, hydrocarbons, and other dangerous pollutants. Air pollution is especially problematic in Ukraine's industrial sectors, including the areas of Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, and Donetsk.^{15, 16, 17} For one day in April 2020,

7 France 24, "'Drowning in Garbage': Ukraine Struggles with Trash Crisis," 3 December 2021, retrieved on 11 August 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211203-drowning-in-garbage-ukraine-struggles-with-trash-crisis>

8 Liza Semko, "Buried in Garbage, Ukraine in Dire Need of Recycling Plants," *Kyiv Post*, 13 November 2020, retrieved on 11 August 2022, <https://www.kyivpost.com/business/buried-in-garbage-ukraine-in-dire-need-of-recycling-plants.html>

9 France 24, "'Drowning in Garbage': Ukraine Struggles with Trash Crisis," 3 December 2021, retrieved on 11 August 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211203-drowning-in-garbage-ukraine-struggles-with-trash-crisis>

10 Liza Semko, "Buried in Garbage, Ukraine in Dire Need of Recycling Plants," *Kyiv Post*, 13 November 2020, retrieved on 11 August 2022, <https://www.kyivpost.com/business/buried-in-garbage-ukraine-in-dire-need-of-recycling-plants.html>

11 DLF, "Ukrainian National Waste Management Strategy," 15 January 2021, retrieved on 11 August 2022, <https://dlf.ua/en/ukrainian-national-waste-management-strategy-until-2030-approved/>

12 UNICEF, "1.4 Million People without Running Water across War-Affected Eastern Ukraine," 15 April 2022, retrieved on 12 August 2022, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/14-million-people-without-running-water-across-war-affected-eastern-ukraine>

13 Antonia Zimmermann, "Russia's War on Water in Ukraine," *Politico*, 25 May 2022, retrieved on 12 August 2022, <https://www.politico.eu/article/russias-war-on-water-in-ukraine/>

14 United Nations, "Natural Resource Aspects of Sustainable Development in Ukraine," 7 March 2011, <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/ukraine/natur.htm#atmo>

15 Naturvernforbundet, "Environmental Issues in Ukraine," n.d., <http://naturvernforbundet.no/international/environmental-issues-in-ukraine/category948.html>

16 Ukraine at Present, "Pollution in Ukraine," n.d., http://ukraineatpresent.com/Pollution_in_Ukraine_p_49

17 Michael Brody et al., "Developing Risk-Based Priorities for Reducing Air Pollution in Urban Settings in Ukraine," (paper, Institute for Risk Research, 15 July 2005), <http://www.irr-http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15287390600885021?journalCode=uteh20>

Kyiv had the notoriety of being the most polluted city in the world.¹⁸ Many of the nation's water sources are equally polluted. Urban and industrial waste is often dumped directly into the major rivers.^{19, 20}

Unemployment and Homelessness

High unemployment and inflation have left many homeless. Although the government has taken measures to combat homelessness, responses have been inadequate to meet the growing need.^{21, 22, 23} Economic precarity contributes to the large numbers of homeless children, who have become endemic in Ukraine.²⁴ Although the number of homeless children is difficult to pin down, estimates range into the hundreds of thousands.^{25, 26} As many as 1 in 5 are HIV-positive; the rate of HIV infection in street youth in Odesa is as high as 26%. According to estimates by Ukrainian orphanages, 97% of children who leave orphanages become homeless.^{27, 28}

Urban Destruction

Starting in February 2022, the Russian military unleashed a staggering wave of urban destruction throughout Ukraine.²⁹ The northern Kyiv suburb of Irpin was largely destroyed in Russia's failed early push to take the capital.³⁰ Mariupol, which fell to the Russians in May after fierce resistance, had some 90% of its buildings destroyed.^{31, 32} Russian shells and missiles indiscriminately targeted residential buildings, healthcare facilities, and other civilian infrastructure in many urban areas, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv.^{33, 34} In June 2022, Ukraine passed a law to prioritize and streamline urban planning and reconstruction in areas destroyed by the Russian conflict.³⁵

18 Hromadske International, "Kyiv Recognized Most Polluted City in the World," 16 April 2020, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://en.hromadske.ua/posts/kyiv-recognized-most-polluted-city-in-the-world>

19 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, "Danube Facts and Figures: Ukraine," September 2015, <https://www.icpdr.org/main/sites/default/files/nodes/documents/ukraine-facts-figures.pdf>

20 Daria Shulzhenko, "Alarming River Pollution Endangers Health, Environment," *Kyiv Post*, 1 August 2021, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.kyivpost.com/lifestyle/alarming-river-pollution-endangers-health-environment.html>

21 Palash Ghosh, "Ukraine: Bitter Cold Snap Highlights Growing Homeless Problem," *International Business Times*, 3 February 2012, <http://www.ibtimes.com/ukraine-bitter-cold-snap-highlights-growing-homeless-problem-405420>

22 Laura Smith, "Growing Concerns over Homeless Dying in Big Freeze," *Street News Service*, 13 February 2012, <http://www.streetnewsservice.org/news/2012/february/feed-316/growing-concerns-over-ukraine-homeless-dying-in-big-freeze.aspx>

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24 Jo Griffin, "In the Shadow of Euro 2012, Ukraine's Street Children Struggle to Stay Alive," *Guardian*, 8 June 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jun/08/ukraines-street-children-struggle-alive>

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26 National Humanitarian Foundation in Ukraine, House of Hope, "Why Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.ukrainechildren.org/Images/HouseofHope.pdf>

27 HealthRight International, "Ukraine: Strengthening Families and Supporting Children," in *2008/2009 Annual Report: Building Lasting Access to Health for Excluded Communities*, (report, HealthRight International, New York), n.d., <http://www.guidestar.org/ViewEdoc.aspx?eDocId=1614550&approved=True>

28 Arie Farnam, "Help for Ukraine's Street Kids, from Two U.S. Women," *Christian Science Monitor*, 8 April 2002, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0408/p01s04-woeu.html>

29 Kelsey D. Atherton, "Urban Warfare Turns Neighborhoods into Battlefields, Leaving Only Ruin," Center for Public Integrity, 23 March 2022, retrieved on 10 August 2022, <https://publicintegrity.org/national-security/ukraine-in-crisis/urban-warfare-turns-neighborhoods-into-battlefields-leaving-only-ruin/>

30 Joanna York, "Fighting for the Future: Ukraine Tackles Rebuilding Cities Destroyed by War," *France 24*, 16 May 2022, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20220516-fighting-for-the-future-ukraine-tackles-rebuilding-cities-destroyed-by-war>

31 Becky Sullivan and Laurel Wamsley, "Mariupol Has Fallen to Russia. Here's What That Means for Ukraine," *NPR*, 19 May 2022, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/18/1099885151/mariupol-falls-ukraine-russia-what-it-means>

32 Kristin Ljungkvist, "The War against Ukraine's Cities," *Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, 21 May 2022, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/commentary-and-analysis/blogs/war-against-ukraines-cities>

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34 Human Rights Watch, "Ukraine: Unlawful Russian Attacks in Kharkiv," 16 August 2022, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/16/ukraine-unlawful-russian-attacks-kharkiv>

35 CMS Law-Now, "Ukraine Introduces Priority Urban Planning Measures to Overcome the War Consequences," 15 June 2022, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2022/06/ukraine-introduces-priority-urban-planning-measures-to-overcome-the-war-consequences>

Urban Health Care

Ukraine's public health care system is run by the Ministry of Health, with all citizens contributing to the cost. Although the system is theoretically free to all citizens, free services are confined to basic care.³⁶ Individuals often pay for extras where necessary, including specialists and surgical supplies or materials.^{37, 38, 39} A parallel private health care system also operates, especially in the major cities. Generally, private health care is more expensive, but provides excellent care on par with the rest of Europe.⁴⁰

Is there a hospital nearby?

Visitor:	Is there a hospital nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh leekaaRnya
Local:	Yes, in the center of town.	tTaak, v-tsehtRee meesta

Exchange 15

Is Dr. Kravchuk in, sir?

Visitor:	Is Dr. Kravchuk in, sir?	pRoshoo paana, chee yeh doktoR kRaavchook?
Local:	No.	nee, nehma

Exchange 16

In spite of some positive advances, Ukraine's health care system is poor. As a result, life expectancy is low by European standards (68.8 for males and 78.39 for females, compared to the European average of 75 for males and 82 for females). The main causes of death are heart disease, cancer, and other non-communicable diseases. The main problem is not one of access, but of the effective use and allocation of resources. In fact, Ukraine has one of the best ratios of available beds and doctors to patients in all of Europe. Additionally, years of corruption have taken their toll on the medical sector.^{41, 42, 43, 44}

Do you know what is wrong?

Doctor:	Do you know what is wrong?	vee znaayeteh shcho toot neh haaRaazd?
Patient:	No.	nee, neh znaayoo

Exchange 17

36 Treatment Abroad, "The Healthcare System in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.treatmentabroad.com/destinations/ukraine/healthcare-system-ukraine>

37 Pacific Prime, "Ukraine Health Insurance," n.d., <http://www.pacificprime.com/countries/ukraine/>

38 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Ukraine," 13 July 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ukraine.html>

39 Dmytro Boyarchuk et al., "Public Expenditures on Education and Health in Ukraine before and during the Global Crisis," (Case Network Reports, 3 August 2011), http://www.case-research.eu/upload/publikacja_plik/35010844_CNR_2011_104.pdf

40 Treatment Abroad, "The Healthcare System in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.treatmentabroad.com/destinations/ukraine/healthcare-system-ukraine>

41 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

42 Fanny Janssen et al., "Future Life Expectancy in Europe Taking into Account the Impact of Smoking, Obesity, and Alcohol," *eLife*, 6 July 2021, retrieved on 16 August 2022, <https://elifesciences.org/articles/66590>

43 Treatment Abroad, "The Healthcare System in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.treatmentabroad.com/destinations/ukraine/healthcare-system-ukraine>

44 Qimiao Fan, "Ukraine's Health System: Time for Change," *World Bank*, 6 April 2015, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2015/04/06/ukraines-health-system-time-for-change>

I have pain, Doctor. Can you help me?

Patient:	I have pain, Doctor. Can you help me?	doktoReh, oo meneh yeh beel. vee mozhete mehnee dopomoh-tee?
Doctor:	Yes, I can help you.	taak, yaa mozhoo vaam dopomoh-tee

Exchange 18

Hospitals and clinics are poorly funded and lack medical technologies. Equipment and supplies are scarce; patients regularly buy their own food, bandages, and medications during hospital stays.^{45, 46} Urban clinics and hospitals are understaffed and underfunded. Many medical personnel have only partly completed their training.⁴⁷ Shortages of medical supplies occur frequently, and bribery is commonplace in order to receive medical attention.⁴⁸

Urban Education

Twelve years of education are compulsory for Ukrainian children.⁴⁹ The 12-year cycle is divided into 1 year of pre-primary education, elementary school (grades 1–4), lower secondary school (grades 5–9), and upper secondary school (grades 10–11). The school year starts in September and continues through June. After completing lower secondary school, students take a final exam. If they pass, they are awarded the Certificate of Basic General Secondary Education. Upper secondary schools are of three types: general academic schools, vocational-technical schools, and specialized schools. Students graduating from any of the three types are eligible to apply for university admission at one of the more than 430 institutions of higher learning in the nation.^{50, 51, 52}

In 2017, Ukraine began implementing a new law that would modernize the country's education system and bring it in line with Western European standards. Seeking a break from the emphasis on theoretical knowledge, rote memorization, and uniformity of the Soviet and post-independence eras, the new system prioritized the use of critical thinking and analysis, developing e-learning platforms, and better professional development for teachers. New equipment for schools and an increase in teacher salaries were also included. But the law came under criticism for mandating that secondary education be taught entirely in Ukrainian, a move seen as detrimental to the country's ethnic minorities.^{53, 54}

The conflict with Russia has inflicted substantial damage on Ukraine's education system. After Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Crimean school curriculum was changed to omit mentions of Ukraine from Crimea's history. After the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022, millions of school children were displaced or forced to flee Ukraine, and over 2,000 educational institutions were damaged or destroyed by shelling and bombing. The

45 Dmytro Boyarchuk et al., "Public Expenditures on Education and Health in Ukraine before and during the Global Crisis," (Case Network Reports, 3 August 2011), http://www.case-research.eu/upload/publikacja_plik/35010844_CNR_2011_104.pdf

46 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "Ukraine," 13 July 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ukraine.html>

47 Europe-Cities, "Healthcare in Ukraine," n.d., <http://www.europe-cities.com/en/633/ukraine/health/?page=3>

48 Oliver Bullough, "Welcome to Ukraine, the Most Corrupt Nation in Europe," *Guardian*, 6 February 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/feb/04/welcome-to-the-most-corrupt-nation-in-europe-ukraine>

49 United Nations Children's Fund, "Education in Ukraine," (country profile, 2008), 1, <http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Ukraine.pdf>

50 United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, "Ukraine," in *World Date on Education*, Vol. 7 (New York: United Nations, 2010/11), <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/sites/default/files/Ukraine.pdf>

51 Education Policy and Date Center, "Ukraine: National Educational Profile 2014 Update," 2014, http://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Ukraine.pdf

52 Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, "Ukraine: Country Report: Educational System of Ukraine: Pre-School, Primary, and Secondary Education," 2010, 6, 8, https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Ukraine_CountryReport_rev10.doc

53 World Bank, "Why Ukraine's Education System is Not Sustainable," 12 September 2018, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2018/09/12/why-ukraines-education-system-is-not-sustainable>

54 Gina Beviglia, "8 Facts about Education in Ukraine," Borgen Project, 18 July 2019, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://borgenproject.org/8-facts-about-education-in-ukraine/>

foreign college students studying in the country—numbering about 80,000 in 2020—found themselves in a war zone overnight. In Russian-occupied areas, educators were threatened, coerced, or intimidated by Russian military authorities in efforts to introduce Russia-centric rhetoric into local school programs.^{55, 56, 57}

Restaurants

Average Ukrainians seldom dine at restaurants. They reserve dining out for special occasions such as weddings, business deals, or birthdays. Nevertheless, Ukrainian cities have many restaurants, ranging from chain and fast-food joints to expensive fine dining establishments. For quick eats, diners have many options, including self-service eateries that serve local specialties. Many of them cater to a constant flow of tourists. Others cater to Ukraine's moneyed classes. Ethnic cuisine, such as Thai, Italian, Mexican, and sushi, has gained popularity since the turn of the millenium.^{58, 59}

I would like tea.

Customer:	I would like tea.	yaa Khochoo chaayoo
Waiter:	Sure.	zveechaayno

Exchange 19

I'd like some hot soup.

Customer:	I'd like some hot soup.	yaa Khochoo haaRyaachnoho soopoo
Waiter:	Okay.	dobReh

Exchange 20

May I have a glass / bottle of water?

Customer (male):	May I have a glass / bottle of water?	mozhna mehnee sklyaan-koo / plyaashkoo vodee?
Waiter:	Yes, sir!	taak, pRoshoo paana!

Exchange 21

Traditionally, Ukrainians preferred banquet-style dining. Numerous guests would gather at long tables to eat, drink, and dance. Today, smaller groups are more common. Tipping is not traditional. Restaurants usually add a 10% service charge to the bill. A tip of 15%, however, is an unwritten rule if the service was good. It is also appropriate to round the bill up.^{60, 61}

55 Lauren Said-Moorhouse and Oleksandra Ochman, "This Is What the 'Russification' of Ukraine's Education System Looks Like in Occupied Areas," CNN, 16 May 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/16/europe/russia-ukraine-education-intl-cmd/index.html>

56 ReliefWeb, "Overview of the Current State of Education and Science in Ukraine in Terms of Russian Aggression (as of June 13–25, 2022)," 28 June 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/overview-current-state-education-and-science-ukraine-terms-russian-aggression-june-13-25-2022>

57 Human Rights Watch, "Ukraine: Unequal Treatment for Foreigners Attempting to Flee," 4 March 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/04/ukraine-unequal-treatment-foreigners-attempting-flee>

58 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine*, 4th ed. (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2013), 86–88.

59 Expatua, "Restaurants and Places to Eat..." n.d., <http://www.expatua.com/entertainment/eating-out>

60 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine*, 4th ed. (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2013), 70.

61 Expatua, "Restaurants and Places to Eat..." n.d., <http://www.expatua.com/entertainment/eating-out>

Are you still serving breakfast?

Customer:	Are you still serving breakfast?	vee shcheh
Waiter:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 22

Do you have dessert?

Customer:	Do you have dessert?	oo vaas yeh desehRt
Waiter:	Yes, we have <i>syrnyky</i> .	taak, oo naas yeh seeRneekee

Exchange 23

Please bring the bill to me.

Customer:	Please bring the bill to me.	pReeneseet mehnee, bood laaska, RaaKhoonok
Waiter:	Okay.	dobReh

Exchange 24

Marketplace and Street Vendors

Ukrainian cities contain modern supermarkets and shops. Although these are rapidly gaining in popularity, they have not yet become the norm for average Ukrainians. Many people continue to shop in traditional open marketplaces, and street vendors do a thriving business. A wide variety of products is readily available in the marketplaces.⁶² Since vendors customarily grow, raise, or forage for their goods, their products taste better than store-bought items. Customers are also guaranteed fresh, organic foods.⁶³

Is the market nearby?

Visitor:	Is the market nearby?	Reenok toot pobleezoo?
Local:	Yes, over there on the right.	taak, on taam, pRaavoRooch

Exchange 25

How much longer will you be here?

Buyer:	How much longer will you be here?	yaak dovho vee shcheh toot boodeteh?
Seller:	Three more hours.	shcheh tRee hodeenee

Exchange 26

⁶² Marta Shokalo, "Buy from Babushkas: Markets in Ukraine," BBC News, 7 March 2011, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/direct/ukraine/9409814.stm>

⁶³ Harold Byers, "There's Always Fresh Opportunity," Ukraine at a Crossroads, 9 December 2010, <http://ukraineatacrossroads.com/opportunity.htm>

Please, buy something from me.

Seller:	Please, buy something from me.	pRoshoo paana kopeetee shchos oo meneh
Buyer:	Sorry, I have no money left.	naa zhaal, beelsheh neh maayoo h-Roshey

Exchange 27

Not all vendors operate legally. Some operate on the fringes of the law, while others deal in illegal contraband such as weapons and ammunition, illegal cigarettes, homemade alcohol, drugs, pirated music and films, and computer software. It is easy for smugglers to circumvent the law in sprawling open-air markets. The government has put in place legislation to help the authorities monitor marketplaces for illegal activity and to ensure that food products are not contaminated, but the appropriate resources to effectively combat crime are lacking.^{64, 65}

Do you sell Blood Sausage?

Buyer:	Do you sell Blood Sausage?	oo vaas yeh kRovyaan-ka?
Seller:	Yes.	taak, yeh

Exchange 28

Can I buy pickles with this much money?

Buyer:	Can I buy pickles with this much money?	yaa mozhoo kopeetee tseh soleenya zaa tsee h-Roshee?
Seller:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 29

Do you have any more of these?

Buyer:	Do you have any more of these?	chee oo vaas otseh yeh shcheh beelsheh?
Seller:	No.	nee

Exchange 30

Money, Credit Cards, and ATMs

The official unit of currency in Ukraine is the hryvnia (UAH).⁶⁶ In June 2022, USD 1 traded for UAH 29.54.⁶⁷ Following the 2022 Russian invasion, inflation rates rose considerably, reaching 13.7% in March and 16.4% in April.⁶⁸ Although the hryvnia is the official unit of currency, euros or U.S. dollars are widely accepted. Exchanging currency is easy, but travelers should avoid changing money at airports, especially in Kyiv. There are many currency exchange points located throughout cities. Banks can also exchange most currencies. Passports are required for legal currency exchanges.⁶⁹

64 GunPolicy, "Guns in Ukraine," 2014, <http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/cp/ukraine>

65 Molbuk, "The Mayor of Chernivtski Urged Citizens Not to Encourage Street Vendors," 13 August 2015, http://en.molbuk.ua/chernovtsy_news/96825-mer-chernivciv-zaklykav-gorodyan-ne-stymulyuvaty-vulychnu-torgivlyu.html

66 Lonely Planet, "Ukraine: Money and Costs," 2016, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ukraine/money-costs>

67 XE Currency Converter, "1 USD to UAH—Convert US Dollars to Ukrainian Hryvni," 1 June 2022, retrieved on 1 June 2022, <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=USD&To=UAH>

68 Trading Economics, "Ukraine Inflation Rate," May 2022, retrieved on 1 June 2022, <https://tradingeconomics.com/ukraine/inflation-cpi>

69 Kiev4Tourists, "Banks and Currency," n.d., <http://kiev4tourists.com/BanksandCurrency.html>

Can you give me change for this?

Buyer:	Can you give me change for this?	oo vaas zdaacha boodeh?
Seller:	No.	nee

Exchange 31

Do you accept U.S. dollars?

Buyer:	Do you accept U.S. dollars?	vee pRee-eemaayeteh meyreekanskee dohlareh
Seller:	No, we only accept hryvnia.	nee, mee pRee-eemaayemoo leesheh h-Reevnee

Exchange 32

Credit cards are generally accepted in most establishments in urban centers, though they may be more difficult to use in smaller towns and rural areas.⁷⁰ ATMs are widely available in major cities and throughout the country.⁷¹ Credit card fraud and ATM fraud are common. Criminals insert card readers in ATMs that record the user's data, and hidden video cameras record personal identification numbers.⁷²

Urban Traffic and Transportation

Cars and Traffic

Driving in Ukraine is hazardous and not for the faint of heart. Urban road conditions are fair, although variations exist throughout the country. Roadways are often congested, and potholes, cobblestones, and tram lines make driving surfaces uneven and rough. Minor roads in urban areas are poorly lit. Passengers should not drive outside of Kyiv after dark. Frequent automobile collisions result from congestion and drivers' disregard for traffic rules. Drunk driving is a serious offense, yet it is common.^{73, 74, 75} Ukraine's famously corrupt road police were replaced by a new, more professional corps in 2015, but police reform subsequently stalled.⁷⁶

Where can I rent a car?

Visitor:	Where can I rent a car?	deh yaa mozhoo vzyaatee maasheenoo naapRokaat
Local:	By the square.	poRyaad z-maaydaanom

Exchange 33

Is there a gas station nearby?

Visitor:	Is there a gas station nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh aavtozaapRavochna staantseeya?
Local:	Yes.	taak, yeh

Exchange 34

⁷⁰ Kiev4Tourists, "Banks and Currency," n.d., <http://kiev4tourists.com/BanksandCurrency.html>

⁷¹ Lonely Planet, "Ukraine: Money and Costs," 2016, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ukraine/money-costs>

⁷² Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Ukraine 2015 Crime and Safety Report," 18 May 2015, <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=17674>

⁷³ Hotel Travel, "Ukraine Travel Guides: Transport," n.d., <http://www.hoteltravel.com/ukraine/guides/transport.htm>

⁷⁴ Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Ukraine Country Security Report," 23 December 2021, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/c227e7ce-c15a-4160-b0d3-1cb077d02830>

⁷⁵ Andrew Evans, *Ukraine, 4th ed.*, (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2013), 76.

⁷⁶ Nick Pehlman, "When Ukraine Abolished the Police: Lessons for America," Wilson Center, 27 July 2020, retrieved on 9 June 2022, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/when-ukraine-abolished-police-lessons-america>

Is there a good auto mechanic nearby?

Visitor:	Is there a good auto mechanic nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh KhoRoshee meKhaaneek?
Local:	Yes.	taak, yeh

Exchange 35

Public Transportation

Major cities in Ukraine have public transportation systems that often include buses and metros, especially in Kyiv. Passengers on public transportation should remain alert to their surroundings as petty theft, including pickpocketing, is common. Buses are often overcrowded and in a state of disrepair, causing frequent breakdowns. Buses fall into one of two categories. Conventional buses (*avtobusy*) are state-owned and operated, and stop only at designated stops. Minibuses (*marshrutki*) are privately run shuttle buses that stop wherever passengers request. Other options include trolley buses and street trams. Trolley buses frequently become dislodged from their overhead electrical connecting rods, forcing drivers to get out and reattach or realign them.^{77, 78, 79, 80}

Will the bus be here soon?

Visitor:	Will the bus be here soon?	chee skoRo pRee-yeedeh aavtoboos?
Local:	Yes.	taak, skoRo

Exchange 36

Taxis are widely available and come in two types. Official taxis have lights or signs on top to distinguish them from unofficial private taxis. Passengers should use only official marked taxis and should never share a ride with strangers. It is best to try to arrange a taxi ahead of time by phone.⁸¹ Ukrainian taxi drivers have a reputation of trying to overcharge foreign travelers by as much as 100%, so it is wise to bargain and settle on a price before getting in.^{82, 83, 84}

Is there a train station nearby?

Visitor:	Is there a train station nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh zaaleezneechna staantseeya?
Local:	Yes.	taak, yeh

Exchange 37

Can you take me there?

Visitor:	Can you take me there?	vee mozhetez meneh toodee veedvehztee?
Local:	Yes, I can.	taak, mozhoo

Exchange 38

77 Lonely Planet, "Ukraine: Local Transport," 2016, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ukraine/transport/getting-around/local-transport>

78 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, "Ukraine Country Security Report," 23 December 2021, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/c227e7ce-c15a-4160-b0d3-1cb077d02830>

79 Richard DeLong, "Public Transportation in Ukraine," Try Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/info/transportation/public.shtml>

80 Best of Ukraine, "City Transport," n.d., <http://bestofukraine.com/transportation/city-transport.html>

81 Lonely Planet, "Ukraine: Local Transport," 2016, <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ukraine/transport/getting-around/local-transport>

82 Government of Canada, "Ukraine: Security," 15 December 2015, <http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/ukraine#3>

83 Andrew Evans, Ukraine, 4th ed., (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2013), 77.

84 Richard DeLong, "Taxis in Ukraine," Try Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/info/transportation/taxi.shtml>

Kyiv, Kharkov, and Dnepropetrovsk have metro services. The Kyiv metro is the largest, with over 40 stops and three lines. Metros can offer a faster alternative to navigating the crowded urban streets, but they are extremely crowded during rush hours.⁸⁵

Street Crime and Solicitations

Crime rates in Ukraine are high. Property crime is on the rise and foreigners, particularly long-term residents, have been targeted. Pickpockets operate throughout Ukraine's cities, focusing on crowded areas such as public transportation, railway depots, night clubs, and busy tourist destinations. Bag snatching occurs frequently as well. In nightclubs, drink spiking is not uncommon. Criminals rob their victims once they are incapacitated. Visitors to Ukraine should always maintain situational awareness, particularly at night. They should take care to keep money and valuables out of sight and be wary of being approached by anyone without legitimate reason.^{86, 87, 88}

Racially motivated attacks against people of African, Asian, and non-European appearance have increased as more foreigners come to study and work in Ukraine. Local police have reportedly failed to investigate these crimes, or have even been complicit in them, participating in the harassment of non-European-looking foreigners. After the February 2022 Russian invasion, many non-white foreigners living in Ukraine reported facing discrimination and delays from authorities as they attempted to board trains and buses to flee the conflict and cross the border into other countries.^{89, 90, 91}

A common scam in Ukraine is the “wallet scam,” which involves one or more criminals. One criminal drops a wallet or bundle of cash. When the intended victim picks it up and tries to return it, the person accuses the victim of stealing some of the money. The criminal compels victims to show their wallets to prove they didn't steal any money. When they do, the criminal snatches it and runs away. Another version involves an accomplice who acts as a police officer and “confiscates” the victim's money.^{92, 93}

85 Richard DeLong, “Riding the Metro (Subway) in Ukraine,” Try Ukraine, n.d., <http://www.tryukraine.com/info/transportation/metro.shtml>

86 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, “Ukraine Country Security Report,” 23 December 2021, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/c227e7ce-c15a-4160-b0d3-1cb077d02830>

87 Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, “Ukraine: Security,” 15 December 2015, <http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/ukraine#3>

88 British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, “Travel Advice: Ukraine; Safety and Security,” 5 January 2016, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ukraine/safety-and-security>

89 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Ukraine,” 13 July 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ukraine.html>

90 Overseas Security Advisory Council, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, “Ukraine Country Security Report,” 23 December 2021, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/c227e7ce-c15a-4160-b0d3-1cb077d02830>

91 Human Rights Watch, “Ukraine: Unequal Treatment for Foreigners Attempting to Flee,” 4 March 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/04/ukraine-unequal-treatment-foreigners-attempting-flee>

92 Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, “Ukraine,” 13 July 2022, retrieved on 22 August 2022, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ukraine.html>

93 Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, “Ukraine: Security,” 15 December 2015, <http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/ukraine#3>

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Urban Life Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|-------|
| 1. | Ukraine lacks a functioning and sustainable waste management system. | True | False |
| 2. | Invading Russian troops targeted Ukraine's water infrastructure. | True | False |
| 3. | Life expectancy in Ukraine exceeds the European average. | True | False |
| 4. | Average Ukrainians seldom dine at restaurants. | True | False |
| 5. | Ukrainian taxis are equipped with software that prohibits drivers from overcharging passengers. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Urban Life Assessment Answers

1. True:
Most landfills and dumps do not meet safety standards and are filled to capacity. Only 4% of the 10 million tons of waste the country produces annually is sorted.
2. True:
The Russians targeted and destroyed water infrastructure such as pipes, pumping stations, and sewage treatment plants.
3. False:
Life expectancy is 68.8 for males and 78.39 for females, compared to the European average of 75 for males and 82 for females.
4. True:
Dining out is reserved for special occasions, such as weddings, business, or birthday meals.
5. False:
Ukrainian taxi drivers have a reputation of trying to overcharge foreign travelers. It is wise to bargain and settle on a price before getting in.

Chapter 5 | Rural Life



Ukrainian horse-drawn wagon
Flickr/Victoria Andrievska

Introduction

Contemporary Ukraine is predominantly an urban nation, with only 30% of the population living in rural areas. The rural population began declining in 1979, and the decline accelerated in the 1990s due to a host of factors including the transition to a market economy and lower fertility rates. Residents typically live in single family dwellings they built for themselves. Many rural houses are in a state of disrepair and lack basic amenities. Roughly 71% of rural communities have no preschools, 98% have no hospitals, and fewer than half have cultural or leisure center facilities. With few effective efforts at economic diversification, many rural dwellers depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Low agricultural wages contribute to high rates of poverty.^{1, 2, 3}

- 1 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," World Factbook, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>
- 2 Kostyantyn Mezentshev, Grygorii Pidgrushnyi, and Nataliia Mezentsheva, "Chapter 14: Challenges of the Post-Soviet Development of Ukraine: Economic Transformations, Demographic Changes and Socio-spatial Polarization," in *Understanding Geographies of Polarization and Peripheralization: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond*, eds. Thilo Lang et al. (London: Palgrave, 2015).
- 3 Yelizaveta Skryzhevskaya and Dávid Karácsonyi, "Rural Population in Ukraine: Assessing Reality, Looking for Revitalization," *Hungarian Geographical Bulletin* 61, no. 1 (2012): 59–60, 73–74, http://www.mtafi.hu/konyvtar/kiadv/HunGeoBull2012/HunGeoBull_2012_1_49-78.pdf

Land Tenure and Distribution

Agricultural land covers 70% of Ukraine's surface—42 million hectares (104 million acres), an area similar to the size of California—and consists largely of chernozem, the world's most fertile soil. Land ownership has been tied to survival from time immemorial and is a sensitive topic for Ukrainians. The forced collectivization and engineered famines of the Soviet era figure prominently in historical memory. The sale of land, especially to foreigners or foreign interests, is a contentious issue that often becomes politicized.^{4, 5, 6}

Do you own this land?

Official:	Do you own this land?	tseh vaasha zehmlyaa
Local:	Yes.	taak, moyaa

Exchange 39

What crops do you grow?

Official:	What crops do you grow?	shcho vee veeRoshchoo-yeteh?
Local:	I grow potatoes.	yaa veeRoshchooyoo kaaRtoplyoo

Exchange 40

After 1991, the government broke up collective farms and distributed the land to about 6.9 million rural residents as private property. Faced with post-independence economic hardships, however, many small-scale farmers sold or leased their land, contributing to a growing amount of land being controlled by oligarchs. A 2001 moratorium on the selling and buying of agricultural land largely failed to stem this trend. Smallholders leased their lands, often to large agricultural holdings, at low prices. Others used semi-legal means to circumvent the moratorium and sell their lands.^{7, 8, 9}

By 2020, about 70% of landowners were leasing their lands to agricultural producers. The rental market consisted of 17 million hectares (42 million acres), 40% of Ukraine's agricultural lands. Large agribusiness controlled about 60% of the country's agricultural land, and the 100 largest agricultural companies owned 25% of agricultural land. While the average agribusiness in the European Union consisted of 16.6 hectares (41 acres), in Ukraine that figure was 1,058 hectares (2,614 acres). In many areas, one entity leased all the available land.^{10, 11, 12}

- 4 Roman Leshchenko, "Land Reform Can Make Ukraine an Agricultural Superpower," Atlantic Council, 22 June 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/land-reform-can-make-ukraine-an-agricultural-superpower/>
- 5 Mark Raczkiwycz, "In Fertile Ukraine, a 20-Year Freeze on the Sale of Farmland Is Lifted—With Uncertain Consequences," Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, 22 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agricultural-land-sale/31422616.html>
- 6 Taras Bilous et al., "Legislating Land Reform in Ukraine," Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, March 2020, retrieved on 25 August 2022, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/41837/legislating-land-reform-in-ukraine>
- 7 Ben Reicher and Frederic Mousseau, "Who Really Benefits from the Creation of a Land Market in Ukraine?" Oakland Institute, 6 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2021, <https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/blog/who-really-benefits-creation-land-market-ukraine>
- 8 Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, "Ukraine Allows Farmland Sales for First Time since Independence," 2 July 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agriculture-farmland-economy-/31336984.html>
- 9 Taras Bilous et al., "Legislating Land Reform in Ukraine," Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, March 2020, retrieved on 25 August 2022, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/41837/legislating-land-reform-in-ukraine>
- 10 Ben Reicher and Frederic Mousseau, "Who Really Benefits from the Creation of a Land Market in Ukraine?" Oakland Institute, 6 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2021, <https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/blog/who-really-benefits-creation-land-market-ukraine>
- 11 Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, "Ukraine Allows Farmland Sales for First Time since Independence," 2 July 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agriculture-farmland-economy-/31336984.html>
- 12 Taras Bilous et al., "Legislating Land Reform in Ukraine," Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, March 2020, retrieved on 25 August 2022, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/41837/legislating-land-reform-in-ukraine>

In 2021, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the Ukrainian government passed a law lifting the moratorium on land sales and opening the country's land market. Ukrainian people and companies could buy and sell up to 100 hectares (247 acres) of land. After 2024, and pending approval through a promised national referendum, Ukrainians and foreigners will be able to buy and sell up to 10,000 hectares (24,711 acres). Supporters of the reform held that it would strengthen economic growth, boost tax revenues, and improve transparency. Opponents claimed that it would further strengthen the interests of large agribusinesses and foreign investors while marginalizing small farmers. About 64% of Ukrainians opposed the new land market.^{13, 14, 15}

Rural Economy

About 31% of Ukraine's labor force—some 5.7 million people—work in rural areas.¹⁶ The rural economy is primarily agricultural, with the farming industry employing over 14% of the labor force.¹⁷ The dominance of large agricultural companies leaves small farmers with little protection and fewer opportunities for development. Agribusinesses receive most of the government's agricultural subsidies, and they focus primarily on export-oriented crops such as wheat, barley, and corn. The production of more labor-intensive products such as potatoes, fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy falls to small family farms.¹⁸

Rural employment is characterized by precarity. Many rural workers are employed in the informal sector, where worker benefits and protections are minimal. Sixty-five percent of Ukraine's total informal unemployment is in rural areas, including 17% of hired farm workers.^{19, 20} About 44% of rural Ukrainians live below the subsistence level, and 7% suffer from malnutrition.²¹

Ukraine has accused Russia of disruption and plunder of agriculture in occupied and conflict areas. Elevators, warehouses, and distribution centers for grain have been bombed in several locations. Farmers have reported the theft of millions of dollars in farm equipment. Occupying forces have seized as much as 500,000 tons of grain, diverting much of it to Crimea. Yet despite the dangers and hardships, the Ukrainian government expects as much as 80% of the country's farmland to be cultivated in 2022. In August, after the easing of a months-long Russian naval blockade, ships began leaving Ukraine's ports, loaded with some of the 20 million tons of export-bound grain that had become stuck in Ukraine since the beginning of the invasion.^{22, 23, 24}

13 Ben Reicher and Frederic Mousseau, "Who Really Benefits from the Creation of a Land Market in Ukraine?" Oakland Institute, 6 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2021, <https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/blog/who-really-benefits-creation-land-market-ukraine>

14 Mark Raczkiwycz, "In Fertile Ukraine, a 20-Year Freeze on the Sale of Farmland Is Lifted—With Uncertain Consequences," Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, 22 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agricultural-land-sale/31422616.html>

15 Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, "Ukraine Allows Farmland Sales for First Time since Independence," 2 July 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agriculture-farmland-economy-/31336984.html>

16 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "The Potential Impact of the War in Ukraine on Rural Labour Markets," 5 April 2022, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9443en/cb9443en.pdf>

17 Mark Raczkiwycz, "In Fertile Ukraine, a 20-Year Freeze on the Sale of Farmland Is Lifted—With Uncertain Consequences," Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, 22 August 2021, retrieved on 26 August 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-agricultural-land-sale/31422616.html>

18 Taras Bilous et al., "Legislating Land Reform in Ukraine," Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, March 2020, retrieved on 25 August 2022, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/41837/legislating-land-reform-in-ukraine>

19 Kostyantyn Mezentsev, Grygorii Pidgrushnyi, and Nataliia Mezentseva, "Chapter 14: Challenges of the Post-Soviet Development of Ukraine: Economic Transformations, Demographic Changes and Socio-spatial Polarization," in *Understanding Geographies of Polarization and Peripheralization: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond*, eds. Thilo Lang et al. (London, England: Palgrave, 2015).

20 Serhiy Moroz, "Employment in Rural Areas of Ukraine: Tendencies and Opportunities," *Studia Obszarów Wiejskich* 38 (2015): 44–46, http://rcin.org.pl/Content/56653/WA51_76932_r2015-t38_SOW-Moroz.pdf

21 Taras Bilous et al., "Legislating Land Reform in Ukraine," Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, March 2020, retrieved on 25 August 2022, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/41837/legislating-land-reform-in-ukraine>

22 *Financial Times*, "Russia Accused of Industrial-scale Farm Plunder in Ukraine," August 2022, retrieved on 29 August 2022, <https://www.ft.com/content/d28cc77d-9de3-4988-bdba-cfab77268ea3>

23 Oleksandr Fylyppov and Tim Lister, "Russians Plunder \$5M Farm Vehicles from Ukraine—To Find They've Been Remotely Disabled," CNN, 1 May 2022, retrieved on 29 August 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/01/europe/russia-farm-vehicles-ukraine-disabled-melitopol-intl/index.html>

24 BBC News, "How Much Grain Is Being Shipped from Ukraine?" 22 August 2022, retrieved on 29 August 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-61759692>

Rural Transportation

Post-independence Ukraine gained a reputation for high rates of traffic fatalities. The number of people killed in road accidents has been decreasing, however, from 9,574 in 2007 to 3,432 in 2017. In 2020, Ukraine had 9.34 traffic accident deaths per 100,000 people, a lower rate than the United States, where that figure stood at 11.7.^{25, 26, 27} But Ukraine is still one of the most dangerous countries in which to drive in Europe, where the average is 4.85 traffic accident deaths per 100,000 people.²⁸

Ukraine's roads have also had a negative reputation, being perceived as poorly maintained and inadequate for the country's transportation needs. Indeed, despite the presence of a robust road network, most thoroughfares are two-lane roads, with few modern highways; many of the roads are in disrepair. Roads used for cross-country travel often pass through towns and villages. Drivers often disregard the 60–80 kph (37–49 mph) speed limits in the towns and villages, passing through at speeds as high as 110 kph (68 mph), risking traffic accidents. Starting in 2016, the government began a road reconstruction and modernization initiative. By 2020, about 7,000 km (4,350 mi) of roads had been upgraded.^{29, 30}

Rural Health Care

Rural areas have fewer healthcare facilities and providers than urban areas. Many rural hospitals have been repurposed as primary healthcare centers since independence, reducing the number of available hospital beds in small towns and villages.³¹ Many facilities are in a state of disrepair, requiring renovation or rebuilding. Poor sanitary conditions in rural healthcare facilities are more common. Patient loads are higher in rural areas.³²

Is there a medical clinic nearby?		
Official:	Is there a medical clinic nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh poleekleeneeka
Local:	Yes, over there.	taak, on taam

Exchange 41

25 Vitaly Chervonenko, "Is the Death Rate on the Roads in Ukraine Really the Highest in the World?" BBC News, 23 July 2018, retrieved on 31 August 2022, https://www-bbc-com.translate.goog/ukrainian/features-44920862?_x_tr_sl=uk&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp

26 World Health Rankings, "Ukraine: Road Traffic Accidents," 2020, retrieved on 31 August 2022, <https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/ukraine-road-traffic-accidents>

27 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, "Fatality Facts 2020: State by State," May 2022, retrieved on 31 August 2022, <https://www.iihs.org/topics/fatality-statistics/detail/state-by-state#yearly-snapshot>

28 Bohdan Ben, "There Is Now Hope for Ukraine's Roads," Euromaidan Press, 21 June 2020, retrieved on 31 August 2022, <https://euromaidanpress.com/2020/06/21/there-is-hope-for-ukraines-roads/>

29 Emil Filtenborg and Stefan Weichert, "Should Ukraine Take Chinese Cash for Its Huge Roads Upgrade Project?" EuroNews, 30 September 2021, retrieved on 31 August 2022, <https://www.euronews.com/2021/09/30/should-ukraine-take-chinese-cash-for-its-huge-roads-upgrade-project>

30 Bohdan Ben, "There Is Now Hope for Ukraine's Roads," Euromaidan Press, 21 June 2020, retrieved on 31 August 2022, <https://euromaidanpress.com/2020/06/21/there-is-hope-for-ukraines-roads/>

31 Kostyantyn Mezentsev, Grygorii Pidgrushnyi, and Nataliia Mezentseva, "Chapter 14: Challenges of the Post-Soviet Development of Ukraine: Economic Transformations, Demographic Changes and Socio-spatial Polarization," in *Understanding Geographies of Polarization and Peripheralization: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond*, eds. Thilo Lang et al. (London, England: Palgrave, 2015).

32 Valery Lekhan et al., "Ukraine: Health System Review," *Health Systems in Transition*, 17, no. 2 (2015): xix, 74–75, 104, http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/280701/UkraineHiT.pdf

Ukraine's immunization rates are low, with only 30% of children immunized against measles 10% against hepatitis B, and 3% against diphtheria. Tuberculosis infection rates are high, with every fourth newly diagnosed case being drug resistant. Ukraine's tuberculosis cure rates are among the lowest in Europe.³³

The conflict with Russia has strained Ukraine's health care system. Just 1 month into the invasion, there were 72 verified attacks against health care facilities, resulting in at least 71 deaths. The main targets were hospitals, medical transport vehicles, and medical storage facilities.³⁴ The conflict led to many medical personnel fleeing the east of the country, leaving areas under attack with limited to no medical aid. In Russia-controlled areas, the occupiers struggled to meet the medical needs of locals.³⁵

Rural Education

The average class size in rural areas averages about 13 students per classroom, but student-teacher ratios in some schools are as low as 1 teacher for every 5 students. Rural schools often lack adequate facilities, including indoor restrooms, and are likely to use outdated technology and teaching methods. Many rural schools have closed because of low enrollments, forcing children to travel long distances to attend school. Rural students are less likely than urban students to go on to upper secondary school (56% vs. 69%).^{36, 37, 38, 39} Educational performance data for rural students show that the quality of rural education is much lower than in the cities.⁴⁰

Is there a school nearby?

Official:	Is there a school nearby?	toot pobleezoo yeh shkola
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 42

Do your children go to school?

Official:	Do your children go to school?	vaashee deetee Khodyaat do shkolee?
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 43

In late August 2022 Ukraine began a new school year after 6 months of war. Fewer than 60% of the country's schools opened on time, due mainly to damage sustained from the conflict. Millions of school children attended

33 Judyth Twigg, "Ukraine's Health Sector," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 18 August 2017, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/ukraines-health-sector>

34 Jim Reed, "Ukraine War: WHO Says Attacks on Health Facilities Are Rising Daily," BBC News, 26 March 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-60866669>

35 Oleksii Korzh, "The Impact of the War on the Healthcare System in Ukraine," BMJ Global Health, 9 August 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmjgh/2022/08/09/the-impact-of-the-war-on-the-healthcare-system-in-ukraine/>

36 Satu Kahkonen, "Why Ukraine's Education System is Not Sustainable," World Bank, 12 September 2018, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2018/09/12/why-ukraines-education-system-is-not-sustainable>

37 Gina Beviglia, "8 Facts about Education in Ukraine," Borgen Project, 18 July 2019, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://borgenproject.org/8-facts-about-education-in-ukraine/>

38 Interfax Ukraine, "Ukraine Planning to Buy over 2,600 School Buses in 2001–2015," Kyiv Post, 16 June 2011, <http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukraine-planning-to-buy-over-2600-school-buses-in--106882.html>

39 Tom Coupé, Anna Olefir, and Juan Diego Alonso, "Is Optimization an Opportunity? An Assessment of the Impact of Class Size and School Size on the Performance of Ukrainian Secondary Schools," (policy research working paper 5879, World Bank, November 2011), 12, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/3647/WPS5879.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

40 Anders Aslund, *Ukraine: What Went Wrong and How to Fix It* (Washington DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, April 2015), 221.

classes virtually. At schools that did open, class sizes were limited by how many children could fit into bomb shelters, which had become mandatory. Schools received supplies of first aid kits and teachers were trained in providing battlefield medical care and dealing with unexploded ordnance.⁴¹

Who's In Charge?

As a unitary republic, Ukraine is more centralized than a federal state. Below the level of the central government, the country is divided into 24 regions (*oblasti*) plus the autonomous republic of Crimea. The regions are in turn divided into districts (*raions*). After 2014, the government began a push for decentralizing the country's administrative divisions, in an effort to move away from the Soviet legacy and toward contemporary European standards.^{42, 43}

Does your mayor live here?

Official:	Does your mayor live here?	vaash mehR toot meshkaayeh
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 44

In 2020, in a major step toward decentralization, Ukraine's 490 districts were reorganized into just 136. Among the criteria for the reorganization were compactness, continuity of territory, and number of inhabitants (at least 150,000). Regions and districts are governed by councils, which are chosen in local elections.⁴⁴

Will you take me to your mayor?

Official:	Will you take me to your mayor?	vee mozhete veevstee meneh do vaashoho mehRa?
Local:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 45

Another aspect of territorial reform is the consolidation of villages and settlements into communities (*hromada*), administrative units consisting of a village, town, or several villages with one administrative center. In 2020, there were 1,045 established communities, with 350 more to be created. Community leaders and councils are chosen in local elections.⁴⁵

Respected mayor, we need your help.

Official:	Respected Mayor, we need your help / advice / opinion.	shaanovnee paaneh mehR, naam potReebna vaashaa dopomoha / poRaada / doomka
Local leader:	Okay.	dobReh

41 Marc Santora and Anna Lukinova, "First Day of School in Ukraine, Upended by the Bleak Season of War," *New York Times*, 1 September 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/01/world/europe/ukraine-schools-first-day.html>

42 Andrij Makuch et al., "Ukraine," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 5 May 2022, retrieved on 10 May 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>

43 Roman Tymotsko, "Verkhovna Rada Replaces 490 Raions with 136 New Districts Nationwide," *Ukrainian Weekly*, 7 August 2020, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.ukrweekly.com/ukwp/verkhovna-rada-replaces-490-raions-with-136-new-districts-nationwide/>

44 Roman Tymotsko, "Verkhovna Rada Replaces 490 Raions with 136 New Districts Nationwide," *Ukrainian Weekly*, 7 August 2020, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.ukrweekly.com/ukwp/verkhovna-rada-replaces-490-raions-with-136-new-districts-nationwide/>

45 Roman Tymotsko, "Verkhovna Rada Replaces 490 Raions with 136 New Districts Nationwide," *Ukrainian Weekly*, 7 August 2020, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.ukrweekly.com/ukwp/verkhovna-rada-replaces-490-raions-with-136-new-districts-nationwide/>

Respected mayor, we need your help.

Exchange 46

Border Crossings and Checkpoints

Apart from its southern maritime border, Ukraine borders seven nations: Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus, and Russia.⁴⁶ Before the war with Russia, roughly 165 official land border crossings were located along most major roads near neighboring countries, and at all points where trains cross borders. In addition, there were approximately 9 river crossings, 25 sea crossing points, 5 ferry crossings, and 26 air checkpoints.⁴⁷

Do you know this area very well?

Official:	Do you know this area very well?	vee dobReh znaayeteh tsey Raayon?
Local:	Yes, I grew up here.	taak, yaa too veeRees

Exchange 47

Where is the nearest checkpoint?

Official:	Where is the nearest checkpoint?	deh znaaKhodeetsya naaybleezh-chee kontRolnee poonkt
Local:	Two kilometers from here.	dvaa keelometRee tRee zveedsee

Exchange 48

Ukraine has focused its modernization and control efforts primarily along its western borders. The European Union has provided millions of dollars to assist the government with updating and modernizing its border control.⁴⁸ The government has also developed cooperative relationships and crime-fighting strategies with its neighbors to combat illegal activity.^{49, 50}

Show us the car registration.

Guard:	Show us the car registration.	pokaazheet manyaa dokoomehnt pRo Re-ye-stRaantseeyoo maasheenee
Driver:	Okay.	dobReh

Exchange 49

In March 2015, Ukraine's government unilaterally suspended an existing agreement with Russia on local border

46 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine: Geography," in *The World Factbook*, 5 January 2016, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

47 Richard DeLong, "Crossing the Ukrainian Border," Try Ukraine, April 2014, <http://www.tryukraine.com/info/visas/border.shtml>

48 UNIAN Information Agency, "EU Gives Ukraine EUR 8.55 Mln to Support Border Management Sector Policy," 14 August 2015, <http://www.unian.info/economics/1111502-eu-gives-ukraine-eur-855-mln-to-support-border-management-sector-policy.html>

49 Conflict Antiquities, "Ukraine-Belarus Cross-border Crime and Security," 22 April 2014, <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2014/04/22/belarus-ukraine-cross-border-crime-security-smuggling/>

50 Global Security, "Moldova—Foreign Relations," 2 February 2014, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/md-forel.htm>

traffic between the two countries. Residents were permitted to cross only at international border crossings. A few days after the start of the 2022 Russian invasion, the Ukrainian cabinet decreed the temporary closures of all border crossings with Russia and Belarus.^{51, 52} Meanwhile, at Ukraine's border crossings with its neighbors in

the west, millions of refugees sought to escape the fighting, leading to the mobilization of significant humanitarian resources. By early August, over 10 million border crossings had been recorded.^{53, 54}

Are you carrying any guns?

Guard:	Are you carrying any guns?	vee maayeteh yaakoos voh-nepaalnoo zbRoyoo?
Driver:	No.	nee

Exchange 50

Please get out of the car.

Guard:	Please get out of the car.	pRoshoo veetee z-maasheenee
Driver:	Okay.	dobReh

Exchange 51

Is this all the ID you have?

Guard:	Is this all the ID you have?	vee maayeteh teelkee tseh posveed-chehnya osobee?
Driver:	Yes.	taak

Exchange 52

Landmines

Ukraine has not yet acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but it did sign the Mine Ban Treaty in 1999. Its territory is contaminated with mines and other ordnance, much of it a legacy of fighting in World War II. The precise degree of contamination is unknown and cannot be determined at present due to fighting in certain regions of the country.⁵⁵

Is this area mined?

Visitor:	Is this area mined?	tsey Raayon zaameenovaano
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51 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, "Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, dated February 26, 2022, No. 188, Kyiv," 26 February 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, https://zakon-rada.gov.ua.translate.google/laws/show/188-2022-%D1%80?_x_tr_sl=uk&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=wapp#Text

52 UNIAN News Agency, "Ukraine Closes Local Border Crossing Points with Russia," 4 March 2015, <http://www.unian.info/politics/1051582-ukraine-closes-local-border-traffic-with-russia.html>

53 Ari Shapiro et al., "A Visit to One of the Busiest Border Crossings between Ukraine and Poland," NPR, 19 May 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/19/1100228338/a-visit-to-one-of-the-busiest-border-crossings-between-ukraine-and-poland>

54 Reuters, "Border Crossings from Ukraine Since War Began Passes 10 mln Mark—UN Agency," 2 August 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/border-crossings-ukraine-since-war-began-passes-10-mln-mark-un-agency-2022-08-02/>

55 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Ukraine: Cluster Munition Ban Policy," 17 May 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2021/ukraine/view-all.aspx>

Is this area mined?

Local:	Yes	taak
--------	-----	------

Exchange 53

Ukraine claims it has not produced anti-personnel mines since its independence in 1991. Although Ukraine destroyed much of its stockpile of mines, it retains more than 5.5 million antipersonnel mines and a large stockpile of cluster munitions, according to government reports.⁵⁶

Starting in 2014, landmines were used in the eastern regions of Ukraine in fighting between rebels and the government, and in Crimea after its illegal annexation by Russia.⁵⁷ After Russia's full-fledged invasion in 2022, Russian troops used several types of cluster munitions in hundreds of attacks against civilian areas that caused hundreds of deaths. Ukraine is believed to have used cluster munitions at least once.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Ukraine: Cluster Munition Ban Policy," 17 May 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2021/ukraine/view-all.aspx>

⁵⁷ Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Ukraine: Cluster Munition Ban Policy," 17 May 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2021/ukraine/view-all.aspx>

⁵⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Intense and Lasting Harm: Cluster Munition Attacks in Ukraine," 11 May 2022, retrieved on 2 September 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/11/intense-and-lasting-harm/cluster-munition-attacks-ukraine>

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Rural Life Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | Ukraine's population is predominantly rural. | True | False |
| 2. | Ukraine's agricultural production is dominated by small, family-owned farms. | True | False |
| 3. | The 2022 Russian invasion brought Ukraine's agricultural activity to a standstill. | True | False |
| 4. | Roads used for cross-country travels often pass through towns and villages. | True | False |
| 5. | Beginning in 2020, Ukraine reorganized its administrative divisions. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Rural Life Assessment Answers

1. False:
Only 30% of Ukraine's population lives in rural areas.
2. False:
By 2020, about 70% of landowners were leasing their lands to agricultural producers. Large agribusiness controlled about 60% of the country's agricultural land.
3. False:
Despite the dangers and hardships, as much as 80% of the country's farmland was cultivated in 2022.
4. True:
Drivers often disregard the 60–80 kph (37–49 mph) speed limits in the towns and villages, passing through at speeds as high as 110 kph (68 mph) and risking traffic accidents.
5. True:
In 2020, Ukraine's 490 districts were reorganized into just 136.

Chapter 6 | Family Life



Traditional Ukrainian wedding
Flickr/Vladimir Pustovit

Introduction

The realities of modern life have changed Ukrainian families, from large and multigenerational to small nuclear units.¹ The typical family has only one or two children; both parents often work, and children frequently receive day care.² Since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the population of Ukraine has decreased. Part of the decline is due to a falling birth rate and a mortality rate that has remained largely unchanged since 2000. Other factors include increased age at first marriage, increased age at the birth of a first child, and out-migration.^{3, 4} An additional challenge faced by Ukrainian families today is occupation and armed conflict. Many families have been physically and/or politically divided.⁵ As many as 1.4 million Ukrainians were displaced after hostilities began in the

- 1 Hanna Chumachenko, "Ukraine: Marriage, Family, and Kinship," in *Countries and their Cultures*, vol. 4, eds. Melvin Ember and Carol R. Ember (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2001), 2316-2317.
- 2 A. Golovina Khadka, "Ukrainians," in *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, vol. 5, eds. Timothy L. Gall and Jeneen Hobby (Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2009), 529.
- 3 Mark Temnycky, "Ukraine's Dilemma amid the Pandemic: Depopulation and Its Effects on the Ukrainian Economy," Wilson Center, 23 June 2020, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/ukraines-dilemma-amid-pandemic-depopulation-and-its-effects-ukrainian-economy>
- 4 Judy Twigg and E. Wayne Merry, "Ukraine's Real Crisis: A Demographics and Health Time Bomb," *National Interest*, 15 December 2014, <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/ukraines-real-crisis-demographics-health-time-bomb-11851>
- 5 Tom Burridge, "Ukraine Crisis: Families Divided by the War's Frontline," BBC News, 19 March 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31957164>

east of the country in 2014.^{6, 7} In the 6 months following the 2022 Russian invasion, some 13 million Ukrainians were displaced.⁸

Household and Family Structure

In Ukraine, nuclear families make up about 75% of households.⁹ Extended families ceased to be prevalent starting in the 18th century.¹⁰ In 2017, three-fourths of households had one child.¹¹ Many children continue living with their parents into adulthood. Newly married couples may live with one set of parents until they are able to afford their own residence.¹²

Most urban families live in multi-story Soviet-era apartment buildings. Most of these apartments have one or two rooms, which can be used interchangeably as bedrooms and living rooms. In some buildings a family may have its own room but share a bathroom and kitchen with other families, an arrangement known as *hurtozhytok*. Larger cities may have houses from before Soviet times, as well as modern high-rise apartment buildings for those who can afford them. In rural areas, families live in traditional one-to-two-story houses, often with adjacent gardens and surrounded by tall fences.¹³

How many people live in this house?		
Official:	How many people live in this house?	skilkee lyoodey meshkaayeh oo tsyomoo boodeen-koo?
Local:	Three.	tRoyeh

Exchange 54

- 6 Christopher Harress, "Ukraine's Displaced Immigrants Near 1.4 Million amid Humanitarian Crisis from War with Russian-Backed Rebels," *International Business Times*, 6 July 2015, <http://www.ibtimes.com/ukraines-displaced-immigrants-near-14-million-amid-humanitarian-crisis-war-russian-1996806>
- 7 Daniel Schearf, "Ukraine Conflict Divides Families, Friends," *Voice of America*, 6 June 2015, <http://www.voanews.com/content/ukraine-conflict-divides-families-friends/2810417.html>
- 8 Julian Hayda et al., "6 Key Numbers that Reveal the Staggering Impact of Russia's War in Ukraine," NPR, 24 August 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/08/24/1119202240/ukraine-russia-war-by-numbers>
- 9 Viktor Burlaka et al., "Family Life Education in Ukraine," in: M. Robila and A. Taylor, eds, *Global Perspectives on Family Life Education* (Springer, Cham. 2018), retrieved on 7 September 2022, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-77589-0_21
- 10 Countries and Their Cultures, "Ukrainians—Kinship, Marriage, and Family," n.d., retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.everyculture.com/Russia-Eurasia-China/Ukrainians-Kinship-Marriage-and-Family.html>
- 11 CEIC, "Ukraine Household Structure: With 1 Child," 2021, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/ukraine/household-composition/household-structure-with-1-child>
- 12 CultureGrams, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://online.culturegrams.com/>
- 13 CultureGrams, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://online.culturegrams.com/>

Status of Women in the Family

Ukrainian law provides for equality between the sexes.¹⁴ Women have the same rights as men when it comes to owning and inheriting property.¹⁵ Although women may work outside the home, they are also expected to care for their families when they are not working. This includes cooking, cleaning, laundering, shopping, serving meals, washing dishes, bathing and caring for children, and a myriad of other chores. Men are tasked with the general upkeep and maintenance of the family home. Their authority prevails, and decision-making for the family traditionally falls upon male shoulders.^{16, 17, 18}

Because of the prevalence of traditional gender roles, Ukrainian women may face restrictions. They are discouraged from entertaining men in their homes and patronizing bars alone. By extension, men tend to follow conservative rules of etiquette with women. Respectful in public, men open doors for women when they enter and exit vehicles and buildings. They will carry heavy bags for women, light their cigarettes, pour their drinks, and ensure that they are served food first.^{19, 20} Some contemporary couples thwart traditional gender roles and operate egalitarian households, where husband and wife share duties equally, but these households represent only a small portion of Ukrainian families.²¹

Domestic violence is a stark reality in Ukraine, experienced by one in five women.²² The separatist conflict that began in the east of the country in 2014 exacerbated domestic violence there, as economic hardship and access to weaponry increased and survivors had reduced access to competent authorities. A 2018 law introduced emergency protection orders, shelters, and specialty police units to combat domestic violence throughout the country, but the law's implementation was weak and uneven.²³

The 2022 Russian invasion led to an increase in violence against women. Russian troops reportedly used rape as a weapon of war and predators and traffickers preyed on women refugees fleeing the fighting.²⁴ In June 2022, the Ukrainian legislature took the major step of approving ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, known as the Istanbul Convention. The treaty contains binding measures for preventing violence against women and girls, supporting survivors, and holding abusers accountable; it applies to war-time incidents as well as domestic violence.²⁵

14 Human Rights Watch, "International Standards and Ukrainian Law," 2003, <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ukraine0803/4.htm>

15 OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index, "Ukraine," 2019, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/UA.pdf>

16 Richard DeLong, "Ukraine's Culture," TryUkraine.com, 2014, http://www.tryukraine.com/society/cultural_differences.shtml

17 Anna Shevchenko, *Ukraine* (New York: Random House, 2008), 82–83.

18 CultureGrams, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://online.culturegrams.com/>

19 Richard DeLong, "Ukraine's Culture from a Western Standpoint," Try Ukraine, n.d., http://www.tryukraine.com/society/cultural_differences.shtml

20 Culture Crossing Guide, "Ukraine: Gender Issues," n.d., http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student_details.php?Id=12&CID=213

21 Anna Shevchenko, *Ukraine* (New York: Random House, 2008), 82–83.

22 Anna Slavko, "GBV and Domestic Violence in Ukraine and How Businesses Can Help," Business Fights Poverty, 20 April 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://businessfightspoverty.org/gbv-and-domestic-violence-in-ukraine-and-how-businesses-can-help/>

23 Amnesty International, "Ukraine: Epidemic of Violence against Women in Conflict-torn East," 11 November 2020, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/11/ukraine-epidemic-of-violence-against-women-in-conflict-torn-east/>

24 Ashish Kumar Sen, "Russia's War Has Created a Human Trafficking Crisis, Says U.N. Envoy," United States Institute for Peace, 7 June 2022, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/06/russias-war-has-created-human-trafficking-crisis-says-un-envoy>

25 Hillary Margolis, "In Ukraine, Women Should Be Protected from Violence in War and Peace," Human Rights Watch, 21 June 2022, retrieved on 14 July 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/21/ukraine-women-should-be-protected-violence-war-and-peace>

Status of Elders, Adolescents, and Children

Elders

Elders are traditionally respected in Ukrainian society. Elderly family members sometimes live with their children, children-in-law, and grandchildren, and can provide great service toward the functioning of the family.²⁶ Financially, their pensions contribute to families' funds. If grandparents continue to work, their pay contributes as well.²⁷ Additionally, they provide childcare services to the family. Grandmothers may stay at home to take care of their grandchildren. Grandfathers can take care of the daily maintenance and repair needs of the home while the father works. Ukrainians view the elderly as custodians of national and family traditions.²⁸

Adolescents and Children

Adolescence in Ukraine is an extension of childhood. It is not unusual for young people to be supported by their families long after they have graduated from secondary school or college, well into their 30s. In fact, adulthood is often marked by financial independence from one's parents.^{29, 30}

Are these people [children] part of your family?		
Official:	Are these people [children] part of your family?	tsee lyooddee (deetee) naalezhaat do vaashoyee Rodeenee?
Local:	No.	nee

Exchange 55

Parents exact strict discipline within the home and expect their children to obey unquestioningly. Still, they adore their children and dote on them. Young children are often kept from playing too vigorously out of fear that they may become ill. Urban parents try to instill a love of the land in their children by sending them to visit or stay with relatives and friends in the countryside as often as possible.³¹ Economic hardship has made it difficult for many Ukrainians to afford the cost of raising children.³²

Children and adolescents—especially those who are homeless, orphaned, or poor—face difficulties. Child trafficking is a major problem. Children are exploited by child pornographers and commercial sex traders. Up to 9% of children aged 5–14 work in mining coal or amber, often performing dangerous tasks. Children in government-run orphanages are considered especially vulnerable to trafficking for sex and labor.^{33, 34, 35, 36}

26 Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember, eds., "Ukrainians," in *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World's Cultures*, vol. 2 (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2003), 931–935.

27 Allen Glicksman, "Chapter 3: Gods, Living and Dead: Generativity Among Soviet Born Elders in the United States," in *Society and Medicine: Essays in Honor of Renée C. Fox*, eds. Carla M. Messikomer, Judith P. Swazey, and Allen Glicksman (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003), 43–58.

28 CultureGrams, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://online.culturegrams.com/>

29 Leonid Burlachuk, "Ukraine," in *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence*, vol.1, ed. Jeffrey Jensen Arnett (New York: Routledge, 2007), 1026–35.

30 Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember, eds., "Ukrainians," in *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World's Cultures*, vol. 2 (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2003), 931–5.

31 Anna Shevchenko, *Ukraine* (New York: Random House, 2008), 82–3.

32 Carl Bialik, "Ukraine's Population Challenge," FiveThirtyEight, 17 May 2014, <http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/ukraines-other-big-challenge-is-a-demographic-one/>

33 Vitaly Shevchenko, "Ukraine Conflict: Child Soldiers Join the Fight," BBC News, 26 November 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30134421>

34 Charles Miranda, "Ukraine Militia Allegedly Holding 'Voluntary' Enlistment for Child Soldiers," News.com, 3 January 2015, <http://www.news.com.au/world/europe/ukraine-militia-allegedly-holding-voluntary-enlistment-for-child-soldiers/news-story/08abaf761e591c9b6cd024f15193e1ab>

35 Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, "Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: Ukraine," 2020, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/ukraine>

36 U.S. Department of State, "2020 Trafficking in Persons Report: Ukraine," 2020, retrieved on 20 September 2022, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/ukraine/>

Armed conflict has had a profoundly negative impact on Ukrainian children. Since the start of hostilities in eastern Ukraine in 2014, both the separatist forces and Ukraine have been accused of using child soldiers.³⁷ After the commencement of the 2022 Russian invasion, Russian forces were accused of using children as human shields in northern Ukraine.⁴⁰ A third of the children in Ukraine were displaced from their homes after February 2022.⁴¹ During the first 100 days of the war, at least 2 children were killed every day, according to the United Nations.⁴²

Married Life, Divorce, and Birth

Married Life

Married life in Ukraine differs little from Western nations. Men and women have the freedom to choose their own mates, often living together before marrying.^{43, 44} The state only recognizes civil marriages registered at a state registry office.^{45, 46} Legally, marriage entails an agreement of equality that includes child support, economic obligations, and marital property. Some young couples offset the high cost of living by living with one set of parents—usually the man's.⁴⁷ It is customary for women to work outside the home. As the couple ages, their children remain in the home until they marry, and the couple takes on the role of childcare provider to their grandchildren.⁴⁸

Even though young Ukrainian men and women freely choose their own mates, tradition dictates that people marry young. The average age at first marriage in Ukraine is 24.7.⁴⁹ Many young people feel pressured to marry before they are ready. These youthful marriages frequently inflict heavy stress on spouses.^{50, 51}

Divorce

- 37 Vitaly Shevchenko, "Ukraine Conflict: Child Soldiers Join the Fight," BBC News, 26 November 2014, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30134421>
- 38 Nick Craven, "Ukrainian Children as Young as Four Are Put through Their Paces at a Military Training Camp in Race to Defend Their Borders from Russian Invasion," *Daily Mail*, 5 February 2022, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10479957/Ukrainian-children-young-four-paces-military-training-camp.html>
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- 40 Daniel Boffey, "Ukrainian Children Used as 'Human Shields' Near Kyiv, Say Witness Reports," *Guardian*, 2 April 2022, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/02/ukrainian-children-used-as-human-shields-near-kyiv-say-witness-reports>
- 41 *New York Times*, "The Children of War," 7 August 2022, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/08/06/world/ukraine-russia-war-children>
- 42 United Nations, "Ukraine: At Least Two Children Killed in War Every Day, Says UNICEF," 1 June 2022, retrieved on 8 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1119432>
- 43 A. Babyonyshev and B. Krawchenko, "Marriage," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), n.d., <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages%5CM%5CA%5CMarriage.htm>
- 44 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: The Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 44.
- 45 Social Institutions and Gender Index, "Ukraine: Discriminatory Family Code," 2014, <http://www.genderindex.org/country/ukraine>
- 46 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, "Marriage," n.d., <http://ukraine.um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/marriage/>
- 47 A. Babyonyshev and B. Krawchenko, "Marriage," *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta), n.d., <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages%5CM%5CA%5CMarriage.htm>
- 48 Andrew Evans, *Ukraine* (Guilford, CT: The Globe Pequot Press, Inc., 2010), 44.
- 49 Lindsay Dodgson, "The 21 European Countries Where the Average Marriage Age Is the Lowest," *Insider*, 6 July 2017, retrieved on 13 September 2022, <https://www.businessinsider.com/lowest-marital-age-europe-2017-7>
- 50 Social Institutions and Gender Index, "Ukraine: Restricted Physical Integrity," 2014, <http://www.genderindex.org/country/ukraine>
- 51 Felicity Capon, "Crisis in Ukraine Leads to a Spike in Domestic Violence," *Newsweek*, 23 April 2015, <http://europe.newsweek.com/crisis-ukraine-leads-spike-domestic-violence-324441?rx=us>

Ukraine has a divorce rate of 67.4%, the highest in Europe.⁵² The average marriage lasts about 11 years. Divorce rates have increased for many reasons, including rising rates of domestic abuse and high rates of alcohol consumption and infidelity. Economic pressures also have compelled people to dissolve marriages, and unequal distribution of domestic duties has been cited as a major factor.⁵³ Fewer people are willing to stay in marriages that are not fulfilling, unproductive, and harmful physically or emotionally.^{54, 55, 56}

Two kinds of divorce exist in Ukraine: administrative and judicial. When both spouses agree to dissolve their marriage, an administrative decree can award them an immediate divorce. When one spouse does not want a divorce, only a court hearing can affect a dissolution and the conditions that govern it.⁵⁷ Around 75% of men remarry within 5 years of divorce. About half of women remarry within 10–15 years of divorce. Many men stigmatize divorced women and don't want to marry them, especially if they have children from a previous marriage.^{58, 59, 60}

Birth

A birth in Ukraine is an occasion for great celebration. The birth of a child signifies the growth and continuation of the family, and women are taught from a young age that bearing children is their duty.⁶¹ In spite of these traditional views, however, the birth rate is dropping. In 2020, it was 8.816 births per 1,000 people, a decline of 2.19% from the previous year. In 2020, the fertility rate was 1.2 children per woman, well below the generally accepted replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.^{62, 63, 64}

Giving birth in Ukraine is risky for many women. The infant mortality rate is 7.33 deaths per 1,000 live births, considerably higher than the EU average of 3.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate is 19 deaths per 100,000 live births, more than triple the rate of the European Union. Although maternity hospitals are substandard, Ukraine's rate of child mortality is lower than in some former Soviet republics.^{65, 66, 67, 68}

52 Interfax-Ukraine, "Fewer Divorces Registered in Ukraine," *Kyiv Post*, 2 March 2011, <http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/fewer-divorces-registered-in-ukraine-in-2010-98749.html>

53 Bohdan Butkevych, "Marriage: Easy Come, Easy Go," *Ukrainian Week*, 17 December 2012, <https://ukrainianweek.com/Society/67806>

54 Irina V. Zhilinkova, "The Marriage Relationship in Ukraine," in *The International Survey of Family Law*, ed. Andrew Bainham (The Hague, Netherlands: Kluwer Law International, 1996), 480.

55 Gabriella Reznowski, "Ukraine," in *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, vol. 1, ed. Andrea O'Reilly (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 2010), 1226–7.

56 Gabriella Reznowski, "Ukraine," in *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, vol. 3, ed. Andrea O'Reilly (Los Angeles: Sage, 2010), 1226.

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61 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, 5 January 2016, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

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65 Eurostat, "Infant Mortality Sharply Declined over the Past Decades," 4 June 2021, retrieved on 14 September 2022, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210604-1>

66 World Bank, "Maternal Mortality Ratio (Modeled Estimate, per 100,000 Live Births)—European Union," 2019, retrieved on 14 September 2022, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=EU>

67 Central Intelligence Agency, "Ukraine," *World Factbook*, 4 May 2022, retrieved on 11 July 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

68 Richard Styles, "Bearing Babies in Ukraine," *Kyiv Post*, 8 July 2010, <https://www.kyivpost.com/article/guide/about-kyiv/bearing-babies-in-ukraine-72734.html>

Family Social Events

Weddings

Ukrainian weddings are elaborate and highly ritualized. In the past, marriages were arranged not for love, but for economic reasons. People believed that by following the rituals surrounding courtship and wedding celebrations, the marriage would be successful and happy. Today, although Ukrainians marry for love, the rituals have remained. The ritual process begins with the betrothal. A young man, accompanied by two married older men, approaches a young woman's family with an offer of marriage. They exchange gifts and bread to signify acceptance. Traditionally, a young woman could reject a marriage proposal by sending the young man a pumpkin instead of bread. Young women have always had a say in whom they marry. If the woman accepts the proposal, the families prepare for the wedding. Engagements vary in length, depending on how long it takes to save the money for fees and the wedding celebrations.^{69, 70}

Congratulations on your wedding!

Visitor:	Congratulations on your wedding!	veetaayoo vaas z-odRoozhehnyam
Local:	We are honored to have you here.	dlyaa naas veleeka chehst, shcho vee do naas zaaveetaalee

Exchange 56

Weddings begin when the family holds a party that is a ritual good-bye to the bride's family and friends. The following day, the couple has a civil wedding ceremony. The day after the civil ceremony, a religious ceremony is usually held in a church with family and friends. After the ceremony, the bride and groom return to their respective families' homes for a meal. The groom then goes to his bride's home to claim her. There he is met with ritual resistance from the bride's family and friends. He must overcome them with a mock ransom of drink and money. A reception follows that can last for days.^{71, 72} In the wake of the 2022 Russian invasion, Ukraine's martial law allowed Ukrainians to apply for a marriage license and marry on the same day, a change from the previous waiting period of 1 month.⁷³

Funerals

Traditional Ukrainian funerals are highly ritualized and follow customs that blend folk and Eastern Orthodox beliefs. Upon death, a body must be prepared for burial. Customarily, the preparations for burial are performed in the home. Family members first wash the body, then apply substances that will help to preserve the body until burial, which is usually on the second or third day after death. The deceased is laid in a casket so that friends and family can visit to pay last respects. The family lays the body with the head among the family icons and the feet facing the doorway, since the body will be carried to the church and cemetery feet first, according to custom.^{74, 75}

69 Natalie Kononenko, "Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Rituals," Brama, 1998, <http://www.brama.com/art/wedding.html>

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75 Petro Odarchenko, "Burial Rites," International Encyclopedia of Ukraine, n.d., retrieved on 14 September 2022, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CB%5CU%5CBurialrites.htm>

I offer my condolences to you and your family.

Visitor:	I offer my condolences to you and your family.	yaa Khochoo veesloveetee sleevchootyaa vaam yee vaashee Rodeenyee
Local:	Thank you for being with us.	dyaakooyoo, shcho vee pReeshlee do naaf

Exchange 57

Three stages mark the funeral and burial customs in Ukraine. The night before the deceased is taken to the church for the funeral service, family and friends, and sometimes a priest, will hold a vigil and say prayers. On the day of the burial, friends and family carry the casket to the church for the funeral service, then the body is carried to the burial ground. After the burial, a memorial meal is shared by family and friends. They drink toasts to the memory of the deceased and honor them by praising their positive traits and good deeds. The 9th and 40th days after burial are reserved as days of remembrance. Future days of remembrance fall on the anniversary of the death.^{76, 77, 78}

Birthdays

Although Ukrainians celebrate birthdays, many prefer to celebrate their name day: the calendar day of the saint after whom they are named. Celebrations for birthdays and name days are the same. Close friends and family gather to eat and drink, and they give gifts to the person celebrating the day.⁷⁹ Gifts for people celebrating birthdays or name days depend on the closeness of the relationship, but the act of giving is more important than the gift. Cards, small presents, and flowers are appropriate. Flowers should always be given in odd numbers. An even number of flowers is reserved for funerals, as are yellow flowers and white Easter lilies.^{80, 81}

⁷⁶ Funeral Wise, "Christian Orthodox Funeral Customs," n.d., http://www.funeralwise.com/customs/christ_orthodox

⁷⁷ Jenny Goldade, "Cultural Spotlight: Ukrainian Funeral Traditions," Frazer Consultants, 23 June 2017, retrieved on 14 September 2022, <https://www.frazerconsultants.com/2017/06/cultural-spotlight-ukrainian-funeral-traditions/>

⁷⁸ Petro Odarchenko, "Burial Rites," International Encyclopedia of Ukraine, n.d., retrieved on 14 September 2022, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CB%5CU%5CBurialrites.htm>

⁷⁹ Laura Nickel, "Birthday Traditions," davelaura, blog, 5 April 2005, <http://davelaura.blogspot.com/2007/04/birthday-traditions.html>

⁸⁰ Commisceo Global, "Ukraine: Language, Culture, Customs, and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

⁸¹ CultureGrams, "Ukraine," 2022, retrieved on 7 September 2022, <https://online.culturegrams.com/>

Naming Conventions

First names came into use in Ukraine in the 10th century, often derived from Roman, Greek, and Hebrew traditions. Later, names followed Slavic influences, and saint names became popular. Choosing a name for a Ukrainian child is considered a sacred act. Traditionally, priests selected a child's first name, although parents were allowed to make suggestions. Children often were given the name of a patron saint whose feast day fell on the same day the child was born. Children had to be named within eight days of their birth. Today, parents, rather than priests, select a child's name, but the selection is still believed to be important. A name defines the child's character traits and sometimes reflects the parents' wishes for the child's future.⁸²

Ukrainians typically have three names: a first (or personal) name, a middle name (patronymic), and a surname (family name).⁸³ Boys and girls are still commonly named after saints, a reflection of the Eastern Orthodox religion widely practiced in the country. Patronymics are based on the given name of the child's father. The endings of patronymics vary by gender. Patronymics for males end in "-vich" or "-ovich," while female patronymics end in "-ovna," "-avna," or "-ivna." For example, a male child whose father is named Petro will have the patronymic Petrovych, and a female child will have the patronymic Petrivna. Unlike other Slavic languages, surnames in Ukrainian are not gendered. For example, the name Tymoshenko remains the same for both females and for males. Married women typically take their husband's family name.^{84, 85}

82 Ukraine, "Ukrainian Naming Traditions," blog, n.d., <http://www.ukraine.com/blog/ukrainian-naming-traditions>

83 Commiscea Global, "Ukraine: Language, Culture, Customs, and Etiquette," n.d., <http://www.commiscea-global.com/country-guides/ukraine-guide>

84 Ukrainian Travel Secrets, "Ukrainian Names," n.d., <http://www.ukraine-travel-secrets.com/ukrainian-names.html>

85 Financial and Banking Information and Infrastructure Committee, "A Guide to Names and Naming Practices," (guide for the government of the United Kingdom, 2006), 29, https://www.fbiic.gov/public/2008/nov/Naming_practice_guide_UK_2006.pdf

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Family Life Assessment

Read the following statements and answer True or False

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|-------|
| 1. | Multi-generational, extended family arrangements remain the most common structure of Ukrainian households. | True | False |
| 2. | Ukrainian law favors men in inheritance and property rights. | True | False |
| 3. | Tradition and societal pressure cause many Ukrainians to marry at a young age. | True | False |
| 4. | Birth rates in Ukraine are dropping. | True | False |
| 5. | Preparing the deceased's body for burial traditionally takes place at communal village mortuaries. | True | False |

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Family Life Assessment Answers

1. False:
Nuclear families make up about 75% of Ukraine's households. Extended families ceased to be prevalent starting in the 18th century.
2. False:
Ukrainian law provides for equality between the sexes. Women have the same rights as men when it comes to owning and inheriting property.
3. True:
The average age at first marriage in Ukraine is 24.7 with the average marriage lasting about 11 years.
4. True:
In 2020, the birth rate was 8.816 births per 1,000 people, a decline of 2.19% from the previous year.
5. False:
Customarily, family members prepare the body for burial in the home.

Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Further Readings and Resources

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Ukrainian Cultural Orientation

Final Assessment

“To receive a certificate of completion for this course, please complete the final assessment on the DLIFLC website.”