

Mission Atlas Project

Ukraine

Basic Facts

Name:

Ukraine

Former name: *Ukrainian National Republic, Ukrainian State, and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic*

Population:

In July 2002, the estimated population was 48,396,470.

The population is currently declining at an annual rate of -0.72% . The age breakdown is as follows: 0-14 years-16.8%; 15-64 years- 68.7%; 65+ years -14.5%. The 2002 estimate for births, deaths, and migrations were 9.59 births/1000 population, 16.4 deaths/1000 population, -0.42 migrants/1000 population. The infant mortality rate is 21.14 deaths/1000 live births.

The population break down is as follows; Ukrainian 73%, Russian 22%, Jewish 1%, other 4%. Ukrainians are a Slavic people and they differ from Russians at least as much as Dutch or Swedish differ from German.

In the western region most of the people are Ukrainian. Most of the Russians live in the industrialized cities of eastern and central Ukraine. Many Russians are in some way linked to the military, have strong ties to Russia, and are opposed to Ukrainian independence.

Most Jews arrived in the Ukraine due to the Diaspora ages ago and they live in somewhat closed communities. Their numbers were some of the largest in the world until WWII, at which time many left for Israel. Ukraine can be seen as the motherland of *Hasidic Judaism*.

Many places in the Ukraine are sacred for Hasidic Jews

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/up.html#Intro>.

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/demography.shtml>.

Land Area:

The total land area for the Ukraine is 603,700 sq km (223,090 sq miles)--slightly smaller in size than the state of Texas in the United States and slightly larger than France. It has been known as the breadbasket of Europe for its natural resources.

It borders two seas, the *Black Sea* and the *Sea of Azov*. It borders Poland, Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/up.html#Intro>.

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/geography.shtml>.

Terrain

Ukraine exhibits an abundance of fertile plains (steppes) and plateaus, over half the country is covered in fields of wheat, barley, oats, rye and sugar beets. A central 'black belt' of humus-rich soil - one of the world's most fertile regions - covers nearly two-thirds of Ukraine.

Ukraine's animal life includes wolves, foxes, martens and gazelles (all keeping mostly to mountain woodlands); over 350 species of birds and over 200 species of freshwater fish. In the west one finds the Carpathian Mountains. The creatures most often seen are white geese and ducks that fill ponds all over the countryside.

Mountains dominate the Crimean Peninsula in the extreme south. The lowest point is the Black Sea at sea level and the highest point is *Hora Hoverla* at 2,061 m. above sea level. Ukraine is positioned at the crossroads between Asia and Europe and is the second largest country in Europe

Climate

Ukraine's temperature varies--the summers are warm throughout most of the country, but a little hotter in the south. Most of the rain falls in the west and north. Winters in the Ukraine are cool along the coast with lower temperatures as one travels inland.

Economy:

The Ukrainian economic contribution to the former Soviet Union was significant. It produced four times the output of the next ranking republic. The rich land allowed Ukraine to produce nearly 25 percent of the total Soviet Agricultural output. Its farms were key factors in meat, dairy, grain and vegetable production.

Ukraine's GNP in 2001 was 205 billion with a real growth rate of 9%. The growth of mining in the country caused Ukraine to diversify its heavy industry to meet these needs. Ukraine suffers from dependence on foreign energy, including natural gas. It depends on neighbors for 85% of its energy needs. With the withdrawal from the Soviet Bloc, the Ukraine put in place a program to liberalize prices and move its country towards privatization. Due to some resistance, the GNP has fallen 40% from 1991 levels to 1999 and experienced some hyperinflation in 1993. Ukraine's unhealthy dependence on foreign energy has made it very vulnerable to peripheral distresses.

The country is hammering out reforms to try and steady itself. It is receiving help and encouragement from various areas including the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Exports are on the rise and both Gross domestic products and industrial output have grown. The unemployment rate in 2001 was 3.6%, a number believed to be inaccurate due to large numbers of unregistered unemployed workers.

In 2001 the inflation rate was 12%, a dangerously high rate. The labor force was 22.8 million. The labor force is divided with some 32% in industry, 24% in agriculture, 44% in services. The current industries in the Ukraine are coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, and food processing, especially sugar. On a positive note, industrial production is growing at 14% a year.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/up.html#Intro>

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/economy.shtml>.

Government

The Ukraine has a Republic form of Government with its capital in Kiev. It received its most current independence following the dissolution of Russia in 1991, although many of the old Russian types still hold some power. It has 24 administrative centers throughout the country. It celebrated its independence from Russia on August 24, 1991.

Ukraine law is based on a civil law system. The Ukraine is a unitary state and the only body that can make law is the parliament. The parliament, (the *Verkhovna Rada*), has 450 people's deputies and is a one chamber body, half of which are elected by a simple majority vote. The other half gain office by means of a nation-wide support from each party. The *Rada* appoints and approves a number of high government offices including the Prime Minister and the Prosecutor General. They also have the responsibility of appointing one third of all judges.

The president is elected and serves a five-year term. He is not the head of the executive branch, but he is head of state. The Prime Minister is the head of the executive branch. The president does involve himself in all areas of state including signing and vetoing law and appointing the Prime Minister, an appointment approved by Parliament. The president can also dismiss the Prime Minister, with approval. He has the privilege of assigning one third of the judges. The President carries a large staff and may be impeached by the Verkhovna Rada.

When one speaks of the Government in the Ukraine, they are usually referring to the *Cabinet of Ministers*. This body is headed by the Prime Minister and is composed of non-party individuals. Its responsibilities include implementing the laws passed by the Rada and signed by the President. The Ukraine has a Constitutional court which studies all areas of the law to test constitutionality.

The Ukraine has over 50 political parties, but only about a dozen are of any consequence. Political parties are gaining power and popularity.

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/political.shtml>.

Society:

Ukraine has existed for about 1,000 years. It is only in recent history that it is viewed as part of Russia. The capital, Kiev, is replete with Gothic, Byzantine and Baroque architecture and art - reminders of the many foreign overlords who have left their mark on the country.

A strong culture exists in the western regions of the country where the people consider themselves to be 100% Ukrainian. The origin of painted eggs and the famous Cossack dance comes from Ukraine.

In the east where 10 million Russians live and speak mostly Russian, nationalism is not as rampant. Ukrainian is an eastern Slavic language and is very close to the 9th century Slavonic used before the Slavonic from Bulgaria arrived with Christianity in the 10th century. In the latter half of the 19th century this language was banned, but has persevered and is becoming more widespread. It became the official language in 1990. Peasant dishes made up of grains and staple vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, beets and mushrooms, make up the average diet. Meat is normally fried, boiled, or stewed.

Cherries and plums are used to sweeten desserts and are sometime baked into sweet breads. The sacred dish in the country is “*Salo*,” pig fat. This goes back for centuries, it has the same love that the French have for wine. Borscht, a beet and mixed vegetable broth, is the national soup and is normally served with cream.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/ukraine/culture.htm>.

Alcohol is an immense problem and plays a major role in Ukrainian society. Ukrainians consume an enormous amount of spirits. It affects the whole of the society, from the workforce, lifespan, and the complete moral atmosphere of the country. Unlike in the past when Vodka was one of the only spirits one could purchase, Ukrainians now have the complete gamut of alcohol including beer, wine, brandy, and rum. The country is a network of pubs and bars. It is estimated that there are nearly 1 million confirmed chronic alcoholics or potential alcoholics. The average consumption of alcohol per capita is 11.5 liters, up from 8.2 in 1990. Some analysts believe the figure should be 13 liters; this additional number is attributed to the illegal sale of alcohol on the black market. To give a reference for the consumption of alcohol, here are a few other statistics; USA-6.8 liters, Great Britian-7.3, Sweden-10 liters, Germany-10.4 liters and France-11.5 liters. Turkey is the lowest at 0.8 liters and Russia is the highest with 15 liters per capita. The belief is that if a country’s alcohol consumption rises above 8.0 liters, the country’s population is in jeopardy.

The factors that contribute to the level of consumption are the lack of economic opportunity, demoralism, and no faith in professed ideals. “Alcohol is an anesthetic that helps to survive the operation called life,” as quoted by Bernard Shaw. Traditionally, drinking for the average Ukrainian is a ritual and is a part of any social event or family occasion. Generally when family or friends get together, a bottle of vodka comes out. It is considered poor manners to refuse to drink when everyone is partaking, it is seen as an affront and a show of no respect for those around. The fact that vodka is so cheap and easily attainable does not help the situation. Counterfeit alcohol products are causing their own misfortune. It is estimated that the counterfeits have caused nearly 8,000 deaths in the Ukraine.

Another problem facing the country is the level of corruption. Many blame the left over Soviets in the country that are trying to build their own little empires and using the little resources that the country has. Ukraine was recently heralded as the third most corrupt society in the world.

<http://reachukraine.org/regional/people.htm>.

http://www.ukraine-observer.com/archive.php?section=READERS_FORUM&issue=127.

In the Ukraine, education is greatly valued. The literacy rate is 98% and 99% of all children receive a high school education. A full 1/3 of these go on to attend the university or some other form of higher education. Kiev University is recognized as one of the top schools in the world. Public education is still provided free of charge to the citizen, but pre-school and universities are fee facilities. One of the crises in education is the low teacher pay for state teachers and university officials.

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/education.shtml>.

Language:

Ukrainians communicate in *Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian, Polish, and Hungarian*. Ukrainian is prominent in the west while Russian is dominant in the east. The language is an east Slav language related to Belarussian and Russian. It is spoken in three major dialects, Northwest, Southwest and East and many sub dialects.

Urbanization:

With a population of 48,396,470, the leading Ukrainian cities are *Kiev* (2.59 million), *Kharkov* (1.45 million) and *Dnipropetrovsk* (1.04 million)

Literacy:

The Ukraine is a highly literate country with a literacy rate of 98%. By 1989 estimates 100% of men and 97 of women are literate. As stated above public education of provided free of charge and 1/3 go one to attend university.

http://www.ednu.kiev.ua/index_e.htm.

Religion:

Legend says that the Apostle Andrew sailed through the Black Sea and landed in the area that is known as the Ukraine and Preached the Gospel to the tribe's people. (*World Christain Encyclopedia* 767) The late 10th century saw the arrival of Christianity in the Ukraine with the baptism of *Prince Vladimir*. In 988 the Prince accepted Christianity as the religion of the territory and has everyone baptized.

A split in the Church--the Roman Church from the Orthodox Church occurred in 1054. The Orthodox Church later split into three segments, all having some relation to the Moscow controlled Russian Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism.

In 1596 a number of Ukrainian Bishops seeking to achieve for their brethren a level of recognitions similar to that of the Catholics, brought their church into full union with the Pope. Although they were in union with the Pope, they were allowed to maintain their distinct liturgy and rites.

The Ukraine countryside boasts a plethora of types of church architecture. One style unique to Ukraine is the wooden church, which features gables and wooden shingled onion domes and cupolas, all held together without nails. The Soviets, in their attempt to crush the Ukrainians spirits, destroyed hundreds of churches in the 1930's. This included four 12th century cathedrals.

Historical Aspects:

Pre-History

Ukraine's geographic location between Europe and Asia was an important factor in its early history. The steppes were the domain of Asiatic nomads, Greek colonists inhabited the Black Sea coast, and the forests in the northwest were the homeland of the agrarian East Slavic tribes from whom, eventually, the *Ukrainian*, *Russian*, and *Belarusian* nations evolved. As the East Slavs expanded, they accepted, in the 9th century, a *Varangian* (Viking) elite that led them to establish a vast domain, centered in Kyiv (Kiev) and called *Kievan Rus*. It became one of the largest, richest, and most powerful lands in medieval Europe

Evidence of human habitation and activity in Ukraine projects interesting facts of the development of humankind. The first horseman probably rode in Ukraine about 6,000 years ago. Hard evidence for the domestication of the horse dates back to 4000 B.C. -- teeth of horses from the Copper age site of *Dereivka*, in southern Ukraine, examined under the microscope show traces of wear caused by having bits in their mouths. These bits were probably made of rope.

Pants or trousers were probably invented about 6,000 years ago by the horsemen on the Steppes of Ukraine. Pants were the typical dress of the *Scythian warriors* of ancient Scythia-Ukraine 2,600 years ago. Pants are particularly suited to a northern climate and to horsemen, which places the logical origin on the steppes or prairies of Eastern Europe, or Ukraine. They are depicted on ancient gold jewelry and vases found in Ukrainian burial mounds (*kurgans*).

The world's oldest map, discovered in Ukraine in 1966, dates from about 10,000 B.C. Inscribed on a mammoth tusk it was found in *Mezhirich*, Ukraine. It has been interpreted to show a river with dwellings along a river. However, the best claim to the title of "the earliest map in the world" appears on a beautifully engraved silver vase from *Maikop* in Ukraine. It was found in a Ukrainian tomb dated at 5,000 years old. It shows two rivers, a mountain range, a lake or sea and wild animals.

The oldest known house in the world is a remarkable dwelling was also found at *Mezhirich*, near Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. A Ukrainian farmer who was digging a new cellar six feet below his home found it in 1965. It is made of mammoth bones and was built about 15,000 years ago. This house and the village around it indicate that the inhabitants were settled agriculturalists rather than nomad hunters. In *Kostienki*, Ukraine, researchers found remains of a huge house from the same period which measured 115 feet by 50 feet with eleven hearths for cooking, warmth and light.

<http://www.infoukes.com/history/inventions/>.

Recent history writers refer to the *Scythians* in 7th and 8th century B.C., but then quickly move to the *Kyivan Rus*. Several theories of the *Scythian* origins exist. Some point to *China*, some to the northern steppes, and others to migrations from *Iran*. The Scythians were a warrior people, a barbaric group of pre-Common Era nomadic tribes who are a fascinating example of an ancient *cannabis*- using group. They liked to adorn themselves in gold.

The *Scythians* had no temples, altars or religious images, and evidently no priests. The northern nomads, including the *Scythians*, practiced *Shamanism*. They flourished until the 1st century BC. when waves of invaders from the north and Asia weakened them. From then, until the 6th century A.D., *Goths*, *Ostrogoths*, *Visigoths*, *Huns* and *Avars* overran the region. The *Khazars* ruled the region from the 7th to 9th centuries, but they declined with the arrival of the *Kyivan Rus*.

The Period of the Kyivan Rus and the Coming of Christianity

The *Rus*, a Nordic people from whom term *Russian* comes, were the first to unify the area for a long period. Initially they were trying to journey to *Constantinople* by way of rivers and roads including the *Baltic* and *Black sea*. Over this route they carried furs, slaves, and Baltic Amber. The *Rus* set up posts to trade along the route. This route became the *Amber Route* and extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea. It was divided into 3 distinct cultures; the *Baltic Rus* in the north, the *Rus proper* in the middle, near what was to become *Moscovy*, and the *Kyivan Rus* in the South. They took *Kiev* in 882 A.D. Later in the 10th century the state became known as *Kievan Rus* with *Kiev* as the center. In 988 the Kievan Rus leader *Volodymyr* accepted *Christianity* from Constantinople and thereby brought Kievan Rus under the cultural influence of the Byzantine Empire. *Kyev* became one of the greatest civilization centers by the 11th century in the Christian world. It had over 400 churches and almost 50,000 people, compared to London and Hamburg with 20,000 each.

Foreign Incursions into Ukraine

A series of feudal wars took place after the death of *Prince Vladimir Monomakh* in 1125. With this inner conflict, foreign powers were quick to take advantage. Another problem was making its way across the horizon, the *Mongols*. The Famous Mongol leader *Genghis Khan* led an army of 20,000 out of Asia and left a path of destruction in its wake. Genghis was such a gifted strategist that he would defeat an army ten times his size. It was his grandson, in 1240 that finally captured the city of *Kyiv*. These *Tatars*, as the *Mongols* were known, ruled for 100 years. As the Mongols assimilated into city life, they lost their penchant for warring and killing. With this mellowing a new political structure emerged, the *Galician-Volynian*, a mixing of Mongol and Rus. Ancient records show in 1187, the ancient land known as “*Rus*,” was referred to as “*Ukraine*.”

The neighbors to the north, the *Baltic Rus*, latter known as the *Kingdom of Lithuania*, along with *Poland*, much to the chagrin of their eastern friends desired to enlarge their holdings. Without a strong centralized effort, the new *Galician-Volynian* structure was unable to stop the aggression. In the mid-14th century the grand duchy of Lithuania gained control of most Ukrainian lands, while the Polish kingdom ruled the western region of Galicia. In 1569 most of Ukraine was annexed into Poland when the Union of Lublin joined the Lithuanian duchy and the Polish kingdom—already linked dynastically since the late 14th century—in a constitutional union, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (*Rzeczpospolita*). The aggression was not a full assault, but a series of

minor batterings, which toppled feudal nobles and then occupied their lands. Once again, internal feuding invited foreign aggressors. The 14th century saw *Lithuania* control what today is *Ukraine*.

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth that gained control of Ukraine did not result in a disastrous situation for Ukraine, for it exposed the people to new philosophies, such as *Magdeburg City Law*, a law bent towards those who were leaving the countryside and working in the cities as merchants. This merchant class was autonomous from the landed nobility.

<http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/resources/history.shtml>.

<http://www.infoukes.com/history/>.

The Cossack Period

The colonization of the steppes allowed the rise of the Cossacks, frontier settlers who became defenders of Ukrainian interests against Polish overlords. In 1648 *Bohdan Khmel'nyt'sky*, the Cossack leader, *hetman*, led a massive uprising against the Poles. Seeking foreign support, he accepted the care of the Russian emperor in 1654 in the *Treaty of Pereyaslav*. This treaty initiated steady Russian expansion into Ukraine. *Hetman Ivan Mazepa* attempted to throw off Russian rule in 1708 and 1709 but failed. In 1793, as a result of the three partitions of Poland, all of the Ukrainian lands east of the *Dnieper River* came under Russian rule. At about this time the *Russian Empire* also annexed the *Crimean Peninsula*. By 1772, the western regions of *Galicia*, *Bukovina*, and *Transcarpathia* were incorporated into the *Austrian Empire*.

The name *Ukraine* literally means on the fringe, meaning on the edge of Kyiv. Out of this periphery came frontiersmen known as *Cossacks*. These came from the dissatisfaction and oppressive conditions in the established areas in the north and east. They left their homes to seek something different. The term Cossack comes from the Turkish work *Kazak* that translates “*free man*” or “*adventurer*.” This group came from the *Scythians*, *Sarmatians*, *Torks*, and *Brodniks*. They would accept outsiders into their community after one passed a series of test to prove their warrior ability. One condition never waived was the individual believe in Christ. Their original target was the Muslims. They also defended against the oppression of the Polish nobility.

Cossacks were fierce fighting people. Those protecting the borders were especially always prepared to fight. Daggers were provided to every man, women, and child. Babies were fastened in a special pouch in the back so hands would always be free to fight. They are a strong culture, with thousands still in Russian today.

The *Cossacks* liberated *Kyiv* around 1650, which lead to its autonomy under *Russia*. At one time the *Cossacks* had their own state near the eastern side of the *Dnipro River* called the *Hetmana*, also known as *Little Russia* by Russians. However, the Cossacks fought against *Peter the Great*. They eventually became part of Imperial Russia. *Catherine the*

Great crushed the Cossacks in the later half of the 18th century. By 1775, the lands in the Ukraine were taken by the Russian Empire and it became a vassal state.

Catherine the Great introduced serfdom in Russian-ruled Ukraine in 1795 and encouraged the colonization of the south. As Russian imperial rule became more encompassing, the Ukrainian elite and the cities became *Russified* but the villages remained distinctly Ukrainian. In the late 19th century, rapid and large-scale industrialization of the *Donets'ka* and *Kryvyi Rih* regions began, bringing an influx of Russian workers. Sparked by Western ideas and the poetry of *Taras Shevchenko*, the Ukrainian national movement developed among the intelligentsia.

Imperial repression, including bans on the Ukrainian language, kept the Ukrainian national movement weak. In 1848 a widespread revolution in the lands ruled by the Austrian Empire, including Ukraine's western regions, resulted in the emancipation of the serfs and a new constitution. This attainment allowed for the growth of a strong Ukrainian national movement, which was fiercely opposed by the Poles in Galicia

<http://www.cossackweb.com/cossacks/cossacks.htm>.

Whenever *Russia* lost a war, social reforms had to be put in place to keep the people content. *Russian* armies and navy absorbed tremendous losses at the beginning of the 20th century, nearly its entire navy and 500,000 men. A nationalistic movement started in Ukraine at the beginning of the 20th century and the Russians had neither the will nor the manpower to squelch it. They lifted the ban on Ukrainian language and labor organizations came about. It was enough to keep the Ukrainians content while the Russians handled revolts in the north.

Struggle for Independence and Domination By the Russians

The Russian monarchy was overthrown during the *Russian Revolution of 1917*, and the Russian Empire ceased to exist. The *Bolsheviks* (Communists) seized power and established a new Soviet government in Russia. Ukraine, represented by the *Central Rada* led by *Mykhailo Hrushevsky*, declared independence in early 1918. However, the first modern Ukrainian government collapsed following invasions by the Soviet Red Army and German intervention. Subsequent Ukrainian governments, led by *Pavlo Skoropadsky* and *Symon Petlyura*, also failed to withstand Red Army invasions, and a Bolshevik-affiliated government was established in most of Ukraine.

With the assassination of *Archduke Ferdinand*, the world was plunged into World War and Russia took the side of Serbia. The whole effort was a catastrophe for Russia as it lost 500,000 men. In the middle of the war in 1917 the *Tsar* (Russian for Caesar) abdicated the throne. The *Romanov Tsar's* were diminishing in power and Russia plunged into civil war. The *Sich Riflemen*, the first contemporary military formation in the Ukraine swore allegiance to the Austrians for the purpose of defeating the Russians. When the Tsar abdicated, the Ukrainians saw their chance for independence. With the

advent of the *Bolsheviks* revolution, Ukraine declared independence. Unity, however, did not eventuate because the people could not unify against outside powers. The country was divided, so much so that the Western part became an independent state.

During the *Bolshevik revolution*, Ukraine sided principally with the *White (Tsarist)* Russians. These were the remnants of the old Tsarist army as opposed to the *Reds*, who were the soviet communist. The whites had little purpose or unity in their fighting, while the Reds had purpose and vision and were a finely tuned force. The Reds won. The Ukrainian independence was over. The *Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR)* was a founding member of the *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)* in 1922. This situation was better than having been simply absorbed into Russia. The idea of the Union was that of having a group of separate states that combined to make up the Soviet Empire, but in reality, the states were subjugated provinces ruled by Moscow. In the 1920s the USSR's *New Economic Policy (NEP)*, designed to rehabilitate the postwar economy and helped rejuvenate agriculture in Ukraine. Anxious to attract popular support, the Soviet regime also introduced Ukrainization, a policy that encouraged the use of Ukrainian language and the development of national culture.

This union and the New Economic Policy eventually produced regrettable consequences for Ukraine. Beginning in the late 1920s, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin sensing nationalistic ideas developing in Ukraine and deciding to show the rest of the empire what happens to problem children brutally reversed both trends. Peasant landholdings were forcibly collectivized and crops were extorted to support industrialization. The resulting artificial famine in 1932 and 1933 cost the lives of an estimated 5 million to 7 million Ukrainians. In the mid-1930s Stalin initiated mass arrests and executions of his opponents or possible opponents, resulting in the devastation of Ukraine's intelligentsia by the end of the decade. Meanwhile, in Galicia an extreme form of nationalism, embodied in the *Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)*, developed and called for independence at any cost. In the latter half of the decade he smashed the Ukrainian intelligence agency and went after the *Ukrainian Orthodox Church* destroying over 250 buildings. *Stalin* sought the complete helplessness and hopelessness of the people, even to the point of wanting to deport the whole country.

Having a reputation as a known rebellious region, Ukraine suffered more than the average under the Russians. The first war and the famine are over. Life for Ukraine was never simple. As the world approached another World War, the Ukrainians first greeted the Germans as liberators perhaps partly as a result of the 7 million persons Stalin had murdered through the "famine." The tactics of the Nazis quickly transformed this hope. The war, along with the famine, took over half of the male and a quarter of the female population. Six million Ukrainians died in the fighting of WWII.

From 1941 to 1943, Nazi troops occupied the entire country, and Nazi leader *Adolph Hitler*'s policies to exploit Ukraine to the fullest were implemented with exceptional brutality. When the Nazis retreated in 1943-1944 they destroyed everything possible in their wake. The Soviets reestablished their control. Ukrainian nationalists, who briefly cooperated with Nazi Germany in hopes of obtaining independence, were quickly

disillusioned and forced into a suicidal battle with both Nazis and Soviets. The human and material losses in Ukraine were among the highest in Europe

With the arrival of the Germans, a Ukrainian group in 1941 declared the countries independence once again, but to little avail. The Nazi's responded by introducing the terror for which they were famous. The Ukrainians responded in kind with astute guerilla warfare. Any German soldier wondering very far from the city usually would not return. The enemy was bewildered that the Ukrainians would fight so hard for Stalin, but it was not for Stalin as much as for their families and homes. The Guerilla warfare contributed to the demise of the Germans. The Ukraine was considered the rear area, but the guerilla warfare disrupted supplies, rail lines and caused the redistribution of soldiers from the Russian front to combat these problems.

The end of the war saw Ukraine occupied by the Red army in 1945. Stalin incorporated Western Ukraine into Ukrainian SSR. This was followed by mass arrests and deportations. The paranoia of Moscow brought forth a theory that anyone who neither fought nor fled must have been a collaborator. The Soviets orchestrated a Synode in 1946 and abolished the *Ukrainian Catholic Church*.

The end of the war also left Ukraine in ruin. *Kiev, Dnipropetrovs'k, Sevastopol*, and most other cities are destroyed largely a consequence of the scorched earth practices of both the German and Russian armies.. The Soviets practiced this destruction in 1941 and the Germans in 1944. Retreating Soviet officials shipped 6 million cattle from Ukraine east to Russia, along with 550 large factories, thousands of small factories, and 300,000 tractors. The USSR also evacuated 3.5 million skilled workers from Ukraine to the Russian Republic. In the Battle for Ukraine, Soviet sources say the partisans blew up nearly 5,000 enemy trains, blasted 607 railway bridges, 915 warehouses, and damaged over 1,500 tanks and armored carriers.

In 1954 *Khrushchev* returned the *Crimean Peninsula* to the Ukrainian SSR. Starting in the 1960's, dissidents began to emerge. One such group was made up of intellectuals known as the *Sixtiers*. Their main thrust was the realization of civil liberties and national rights in Ukraine. Although it is not known if they had any part in the signing of the *Helsinki Accords in 1975*, which set forth agreements for countries to respect the civil rights of its citizens, nonetheless, it was signed by the *USSR*. The group was an open group and did not experience the heavy hand of the Stalin period. It did, however, experienced harassment and retaliations by the KGB. Support failed to take root and the group remained alive only in intellectual areas.

During postwar reconstruction, Ukraine became even more industrialized and urbanized. The immigration of Russians, encouraged by Moscow, grew markedly. Because of Ukraine's economic and political importance in the USSR, Soviet control was particularly severe and recurrent dissent was repressed quickly, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s. Economic stagnation set in by the 1980s. After USSR leader *Mikhail Gorbachev* introduced political and economic reforms in the mid-1980s, Ukraine was

slow to reform, largely because of the reactionary policies of *Vladimir Shcherbitsky*, head of the Communist Party of Ukraine

Besides being a part of the *Soviet Empire* and *glasnost*, the event that stands out for most concerns the reactor meltdown at *Chernobyl*. This tragedy took place on April 26, 1986, contaminated about 10,000 square miles, and initially killed 31 operators. Moscow's policies are blamed for the disaster and the environmental nightmare. The popular-front movement, known as *Rukh*, capitalized on this and raised the cry for independence.

Moving Toward Independence

The breakup of the *USSR* brought yet another decree of independence. A proclamation of sovereignty was issued on *July 16, 1990* followed by a proclamation of independence by the Ukrainian Parliament on *August 1991*. This independence brought its own problems. The Soviets had a sizeable military presence in *Ukraine*. This included a large nuclear arsenal and the tremendous Black Sea Fleet. They became the first nuclear power to disarm by dismantling the missiles and returning them to Russia. The smaller vessels, including patrol boats, frigates and destroyers, were absorbed into the new Ukrainian Navy. The land and air units were also absorbed, which was not hard due to mass desertions.

Confused and demoralized by the failure of the abortive coup of August 1991, in which Communist hard-liners tried to take over the government, the Communists of Ukraine gave in and joined the nationalists in proclaiming Ukraine's independence on August 24. The legislature's declaration was confirmed by more than 90 percent of the electorate in a nationwide referendum in December. At the same time, *Leonid Kravchuk* was elected as the country's first president.

Independence soon faced mounting problems. One serious problem was Ukraine's relations with Russia. The Russian legislature raised questions about the inclusion of Crimea—where ethnic Russians are in the majority and where the Black Sea Fleet was stationed—in the new Ukrainian state. The United States, for its part, was uneasy about Ukraine retaining possession of the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, which it had inherited when the Soviet Union dissolved. Internal tensions increased between the more nationalistic west and the *sovietized* east.

Even a greater crisis came through the rapid deterioration of the economy. The collapse of the Soviet Union accelerated the decline of an already seriously faltering economy. *President Kravchuk* did not immediately introduce market-oriented reforms and growing confrontation increased between the opposing political parties in the legislature further complicated the situation.

Some political successes were realized. The presidential elections of 1994 were conducted calmly and fairly, leading to a peaceful transfer of power to the new president, *Leonid Kuchma*, whose priority was economic reform. In January 1994 Ukraine became one of the first countries in the world to begin unilaterally eliminating its nuclear arsenal, thereby greatly improving its relationship with the United States. It also entered NATO's *Partnership for Peace* program. In October 1995 Ukraine was accepted into the *Council of Europe*, an advisory council that works to coordinate the activities of European

nations. Undoubtedly, Ukraine's most important achievement since gaining independence was the adoption, on June 28, 1996, of a new, *democratic constitution*. This success was buttressed by the smooth introduction, in August, of a new unit of currency, the *hryvnia*, which held strong into 1997. In addition, Kuchma succeeded in persuading most of the political leaders in Crimea to accept the idea of autonomy within Ukraine.

Complications arose in the sensitive dispute between Ukraine and Russia over the unresolved issue of the Black Sea Fleet, stationed in the Crimean port of *Sevastopol'*. Originally the conflict was how to divide the fleet's roughly 800 poorly maintained ships. Although Russia and Ukraine tentatively agreed to divide the fleet, negotiations then focused on who should control Sevastopol'. In late May 1997, however, the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine reached an agreement to settle the dispute. According to the terms of the accord, Russia purchased 80 percent of the fleet from Ukraine and is guaranteed a 20-year lease for its use of the port at Sevastopol'. The two countries are to keep their separate navies at different bays in the port. Shortly after the accord was reached, the two governments signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

In June 1997 *President Kuchma* fired Prime Minister *Lazarenko*, who had drawn widespread criticism for the slow pace of economic reform during his brief tenure. The president appointed *Valery Pustovoitenko* to succeed Lazarenko in July. In 1998 legislative elections, the Communists won the largest percentage of the vote; however, they still held less than 25 percent of the seats in a legislature dominated by independents.

The country remains divided and is struggling to maintain unity between its Russian and Ukrainian peoples. They have created a multi-party political system and an independent judiciary system. It is seeking closer ties to the *European Economic Union* and an orderly election of a new president. There are still many problems, inflation, energy shortages, and high unemployment. Ukraine remains the most successful of the former *Soviet* states.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108070.html>. Encarta Encyclopedia Britannia

People/People Groups

Abkhaz

1,000 (JPII)

They are located in Abkhazia (Georgia). They speak Abkhaz. The majority are non-religious (40%). 23% are Muslim and 17% are atheist. Unreached.

Arab

1,300 (JPII)

From central Asia. They speak Arab-Uzbeki and they are Muslim. Unreached.

Armenian

57,000 (JPII)

They speak Armenian. Over half are Christian. 20% are non-religious. Evangelized.

Assyrian**2,900 (JPII)**

They speak Turoyo, also eastern Syriac speaking. They are Christian, 12% are non-religious. They have the Bible and the Gospel on audiocassette. Reached.

Avar**2,800 (JPII)**

Lingua Franca from Dagestan. They speak Avar. They are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Azerbaijani**39,000 (JPII)**

They have a clan type family unit and 73% are monolinguals. They speak Azerbaijani and they are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code1/1964.html

Balkan Rom Gypsy**732,000 (JPII) 686,449 (WCE)**

Located in the Crimean Peninsula. They speak Balkan Romani and Zargari and some speak Ukrainian. They are Muslim. They are not only in Ukraine but scattered throughout the Balkans and Kosovo. They have the Bible; the Gospel on audiocassette, the Jesus film and some has Gospel radio. Unreached.

Bashkir**3,700 (JPII)**

They are from Bashkiria (Russia). They speak Bashkir, although 20% use Tatar as their mother tongue. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio broadcasting and the Jesus film. They are Muslim. Unreached.

Bulgar**244,000 (JPII)**

Expatriated from Bulgaria. They speak Bulgarian and Pomak. The majority are Christian. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Buryat**900 (JPII)**

They are from Mongol. They speak Mongolia Buriat. The majority is Buddhist although 20% are shamanist. Unreached.

Byelorussian**460,000 (JPII)**

Known as White Russians, most are found in Belorussia. They speak Belarussian. They are Christian. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached

Carpathian Gypsy**235,000 (JPII)**

Transcarpathia, Ungrike Roma. They speak Romani. They are Christian. They have the Bible or portions of it. 20% are shamanist. Reached.

Chechen**1,900 (JPII)**

Most are refugees from Chechen. They speak Chechen. They are Muslim, although 21% are atheists. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Jesus film. unreached.

Chuvash**21,000 (JPII)**

They speak Chuvash and over half are Christian. 35% are Muslim and 30% are non-religious. 65% speak Russian. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio and the Jesus film. Evangelized.

Crimean Jew**700 (JPII)**

They speak Turkish Crimean. They were nearly exterminated by the Nazis in WWII. They are Jewish. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Crimean Tatar**250,000 (JPII) 45,900 (WCE)**

Their homeland is in southern Ukraine on a peninsula jutting out into the Black Sea. Their language, Western Tatar and Tatar, is a Turkic language belonging to the Western Turkic group of languages. The dispute in population between Joshua and World Christian may be the difference between the indigenous population and the Tatars in exile, which are trying to return. The peninsula is in upheaval over the struggle for power between the Tatars and the Russians still there. The Russians, the Ukrainians and the Crimean all have claims to the peninsula. The majority is Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code/1589.html

Croat 5,000 (JPII)

Speak Croatian, from Croatia, Christian, 15% non-religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film

Czech**21,000 (JPII)**

Immigrants from Czechoslovakia. They speak Czech. Christian. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Dargin**1,600 (JPII)**

From Dagestan (Russia) . they speak Dargwa, most speak Russian. They majority are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Jesus film. Unreached.

East Circassian**1,000 (JPII)**

They are from Kabardinia (Russia). They speak Qaberdey and they are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Estonian**4,400 (JPII)**

They speak Estonian and most speak Ukrainian. They majority are Christian, although 29% are non-religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Finnish**1,100 (JPII)**

They are immigrants from Finland, they are Christian and they speak Finnish. A large number speak both Russian and Ukrainian. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Gagauzi Turk**33,000 (JPII)**

Turkish people, mostly from Moldova, they are found in western Ukraine. They do not mix well with other nationalities. They speak Gagauz and Maritime Gagauzi and are members of the Greek Orthodox church. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Jesus film. Reached.

Georgian**25,000 (JPII)**

From the country of Georgia, they speak Georgian and 55% are non-religious are athiets while 10% are Muslim. 30% are evangelical adherents. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

German**38,000 (JPII)**

Immigrants form Germany. They speak German and are Christian. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. reached.

Greek **97,000 (JPII)**

They are located in the southeast section of Ukraine. They speak Greek and are Greek Orthodox. They have the Bible, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Han Chinese, Mandarin **700 (JPII)**

They speak Mandarin Chinese and are Buddhists although 45% are non-religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Hungarian **187,000 (JPII)**

They are immigrants from Hungary and they speak Hungarian and West Hungarian. They are Christian, although 19% are non-religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Jat, Awan **32,000 (JPII)**

They are Gypsies, but not the Romany type. They speak Jakati and are also found in Moldavia, Russian Asia and Afghanistan. They have the Gospel on audiocassette. Unreached.

Jewish **509,000 (JPII)**

They are located throughout Ukraine, but the numbers are declining due to immigrations to Israel. They speak Yiddish and they are Jewish. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Gospel on audiocassette. Unreached.

Kalmyk **700 (JPII)**

They come from Kalmykia Russia and speak Kalmykairat. 30% are non-religious and the rest are Buddhists. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Karaite **1,500 (JPII)**

They are a heretical Jewish sect that rejects the Talmud. They speak Karaim. They have the Bible or portions of it. Unreached.

Karelian **2,400 (JPII)**

They are from Russia and they speak Karelian. They majority are Christian although 30% are non-religious. They have the Bible or Portions of it and the Jesus film. Reached.

Kazakh **11,000 (JP11)**

They Kazakh are labor migrants and they speak Kazakh. They are Muslim, though 10% are atheists. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Kirghiz **2,400 (JP11)**

They speak Kirghiz and the majority is Muslim, although 45% are non-religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached

Komi Permyat **2,200 (JP11)**

They are Migrants from Russia who speak Komi-permyak. A large number, 40%, are animist and 20% are non-religious. A number of them, 40%, are evangelical adherents. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Komi Zyrian **4,100 (JP11)**

They are pastoralists and hunters from Russia who speak Komi-zyrian. They are animists and they have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Korean **9,100 (JP11)**

They are immigrants from Korea who speak Korean, although many speak Russian. Within the group 20% are shamanist, 20% are evangelical adherents, 15% are Buddhist, but the majority are non-religious. Unreached.

Kumyk **900 (JP11)**

They are from Russia and Turkey and the speak Kumyk. Their religion is Muslim and they have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Lak **600 (JP11)**

Scattered from Ukraine to Asia. They speak Lak, although they are fluent in three languages. Their religious practices are 100% Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it and the Jesus film. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code5/980.html

Latvian**7,500 (JP11)**

Found in 25 countries, they speak Latvian. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Joshua project reports that 91% are evangelical adherents. Reached.

Lezghian**1,700 (JP11)**

They are a group of people from Daghestan, Russia (in the Caucasus mountains between the Black and Caspian Seas), in south Russia who speak Lezgi and 100% practice the Muslim religion. Bethany's website reports they have no Bible or Christian broadcast in Lezgi in Russia, but Joshua reports they have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code/1939.html

Lithuanian**12,000 (JP11)**

They are immigrants from Lithuania who speak Lithuanian. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. 85% are evangelical adherents. Reached.

Mari**7,700 (JP11)**

They are immigrants from Mari in Russia who speak Low Mari and practice Orthodox religion. Over 90% are evangelical adherents and they have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio and the Jesus film. Reached.

Moldavian**318,000 (JP11)**

They are immigrants from the countries of Moldavia and Romania who speak Romanian. They are Russian Orthodox and they have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Mordvinian**20,000 (JP11)**

They are descendants of the Finno-Ugric tribes; they are a Finnic ethnic group. They are from the Republic of Mordovia located at the Volga-Oka river basin in Russia. They speak Erzya and some speak Russian. They are Russian Orthodox and have the Bible and the Jesus film. Reached.

Ossete**6,600 (JP11)**

From the Caucasus Mountains, Russia. They speak Osetin and they vary in their religious affiliation, 39% are Muslim, 36% are evangelical adherents and 15% are non-

religious. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unevangelized.

Polish

1,151,000 (JPII)

Poland borders Ukraine on Ukraine's eastern side and at one time Poland may have governed the Ukrainian area. They are concentrated in western Ukraine. They speak Polish and are heavily Roman Catholic. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film.

Romani, Vlach

10,000 (JPII)

They speak Ukrainian Vlax Romani, Central Vlax Romani and Kalderash. They are from Romania and can be found in countries throughout Europe and eastern Russia. They are Christian, although 20% are Muslim. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached.

Romanian

250,000 (JPII)

They are immigrants from Romania, which shares a border with Ukraine. They speak Romanian. They are Romanian Orthodox, but also include Russian Orthodox. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Reached

Russian

11,335,000 (JPII)

The Russians are found mostly in eastern Ukraine. They speak Russian and are Russian Orthodox. 20% are considered non-religious. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film.

Ruthene, Ruthenian

608,000 (JPII)

They are located in Western Ukraine and they speak Rusyn. They live along the Carpathian Mountains, ¾ of the European Ruthenians live in Ukraine. They are Greek Catholic, although some are Orthodox. They have the Gospel on audiocassette.

Evangelized.

<http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org/whoarerusyns.htm>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13278a.htm>

Serb

2,500 (JPII)

They are migrants from Serbia and they speak Serbo-Croatian. The majority is Serbian Orthodox with 5% being Muslim. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Evangelized.

Slovak**12,000 (JP11)**

They are a western Slavic people who speak Slovak. Slovakia, a country that became an independent state in 1993 when it separated from the Czech Republic, shares a border with Ukraine. They tend to live in urban area and are Roman Catholic. They are a people in decline due to their assimilation into other culture, although there is now a small resurgence of nationalism with the advent of the Slovak state. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Evangelized

Spaniard**800 (JP11)**

They are expatriated from Spain and they speak Spanish. They are strong Roman Catholic. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Evangelized

Tabasaran**900 (JP11)**

They are from southern Dagestan, a country that borders the Caspian Sea, and they speak Tabassaran. The Tabasarans are a Caucasian people who before the Russian revolution were classified as Lezgins, a generic term to describe all ethnics groups in Dagestan Republic. Islam is the dominant religion. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Tajik**4,600 (JP11)**

They are labor migrants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan who speak Tajiki. They are sometimes called Sarts or Sarjkolis and they are a Central Asian, Iranian-speaking people. Tajik belongs to the southwest division of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages and closely related to Persian, as opposed to being a variety of Turkish languages. The dominant religion is Islam, which was introduced during the Arab conquests of the eight-century. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Tatar**85,000 (JP11)**

The Tatar's, a Turkic people, can be found in every former Soviet Union, the majority of them are found around the Volga region. They speak Tatar, but many also speak Russian. They are blue eyed blondes with little facial hair, although some have Mongoloid features. In Ukraine they are found in urban areas, the most important being in the Donetsk region. They are very patriarchal; the father's word is final in all family matters. The dominant religion is Muslim, but the majority of Tatar's observe Islamic eating customs and fasts. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code/147.html

Tosk **3,500 (JPII)**

The Tosk are refugees from Albania and they speak Albanian Tosk. 40% are non-religious and 25% are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

Turkmen **3,600 (JPII)**

They are immigrants from Turkmenistan, Iran and Afghanistan who speak Turkmen. The dominant religion is Muslim. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached

Udmurt **9,000 (JPII)**

They are from the Urals in Russia and they speak Udmurt. There are over 1,000,000 speakers in Europe. The Udmurts are a Finnic people who do very well with crafts; embroidery, weaving and woodcarving. They have a high percentage of red headed individuals in Europe. The dominant religion is Russian Orthodox, but many practice folk religions and some, those close to the Tatars are Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, Christian radio and the Jesus film. Unevangelized.

Ukrainian **31,058,000 (JPII)**

They are clearly the majority peoples living in the Ukraine. They are a Slavic people, which is second only to the Russians. Some believe the Ukraine is the original home to the Slavic people. The majority of Ukrainians are urban, but a full one third are rural. The dominant religion is Orthodox, particularly Ukrainian Orthodox, although a large number in western Ukraine are Uniate Eastern Rite Catholic or Roman Catholic. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unevangelized.

Uzbek, Southern **21,000 (JPII)**

They are immigrants from Uzbekistan who speak Northern Uzbek. Their language is Northern Uzbek and over half speak Russian. The dominant religion is Muslim and 20% are non-religious. They have the Bible, Christian radio, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

West Circassian **700 (JPII)**

They are assumed to have migrated from the lower Circassian in Russia. They speak Shapsug and the dominant religion is Muslim. They have the Bible or portions of it, the Gospel on audiocassette and the Jesus film. Unreached.

http://www.bethany.com/profiles/p_code5/1594.html

Barrett, David, “*World Christian Encyclopedia vol 2*” second editions, (OXFORD, 2001) 188-190
Gall, Timothy, “*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, vol 4*”, (Gall, 1998)
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Religion in Ukraine

Protestant Churches

Many believe that the *Apostle Andrew* first preached the Gospel in Ukraine in the city of *Chersonesus*. It was in this same city that *Prince Vladimir* was baptized in 988 and made Christianity the religion of the region. His conversions immediately lead to the destruction of pagan idols and temples and the prohibition of paganism. Christianity became the religion and the culture of the people.

Seventh Day Adventist: 713 congregations with 59,000 people. Began work in southern Ukraine in the 1880’s. The Church currently publishes a periodical called “The Voice of Truth” in the Ukraine.

http://www.risu.org.ua/content.php?page_id=58&l=en.

<http://www.churchstate.org/news020910.html>.

Reformed: 95 congregations with 19,500 individuals

http://www.risu.org.ua/content.php?page_id=59&l=en.

Lutheran: 30 congregations with 25,900 individuals. The Lutherans have 23 churches with 45 ministers. They first appeared on the Ukrainian landscape in the 16th century out of Germany. Their numbers grew with the declaration by *Peter the Great* in 1702 of religious freedom. They shared in the persecution by the communist regime with other believers in the 20th century and saw their numbers dwindle. The Lutheran church experienced rival in 1985 with the advent of *Perestroika*. Lutheran missionaries from Canada who help with evangelization aid the church.

www.lhmint.org/facts/ukraine

www.ukrlc.org

Church of Christ: 59 different congregations serve throughout Ukraine. Most are new church starts with attendance running between 25-100 persons. Many started within the last decade.

<http://www.church-of-christ.org.ua/index.htm>

	Number of congregations	Members
Evangelical Pentecostal Union	1,200	120,000
Unregistered Pentecostals	530	130,000
http://www.risu.org.ua/content.php?page_id=56&l=en		
Evangelical Church & Baptists	2,236	127,000
http://www.risu.org.ua/content.php?page_id=54&l=en		
Independent Pentecostal Church	239	30,000
Charismatic Groups	300	29,940
Unregistered Baptist	90	9,200
http://www.peopleteams.com/ukrainians/mission_strategy.htm		
Church of God (Clev)	26	5,784

Marginal Christians

Ukrainian Orthodox: 7,900 congregations with 21,379,000 adherents form the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church in Ukraine was founded with the Baptism of Prince Vladimir. It's history covers a 1,000 years and over 50% of the Ukrainian population belongs to one of its 3 major competitor bodies; the *Russian Orthodox Church*, the *Ukrainian Orthodox Church* and the *Ukrainian Autocephalous Church*. The Russian Orthodox still claims jurisdiction.

Throughout the years the Orthodox Churches at times thrived and other times survived. Vladimir was serious about teaching and conversion. His son continued his efforts and built more churches and the church become strong, Bishops were ordained and communities were established. Soon after the Mongols visited their own form of destruction upon the Ukrainian lands and divided the country up into smaller portions. In 1299 the *Metropolitan of Kiev* moved to Moscow. A Metropolitan is a Bishop of a large and important area of leadership, usually a diocese. When this took place the Metropolitan claimed Kiev and all of Rus. The Lithuanian rulers were agitated by this and appointed a separate Metropolitan of Kiev. This led to a later split. In 1448 the *Moscow Metropolitan* separated itself from Constantinople and declared independence. This bought about a separate Russian Orthodox Church. In 1598 the Patriarch of Moscow was established.

There are currently several divisions in the Ukraine. The two main Orthodox Churches are:

The *Ukrainian Orthodox Church* (Moscow Patriarchate) which is lead by Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev. This Church constitutes the majority of the Orthodox in Ukraine. Some see it as a hand of the Russian State.

Future Trends

Christianity is expected to grow in the shadow of the former the Soviet Empire. Atheist and non-religious numbers are expected to drop. Christianity is expected to grow beyond 90% by 2050.

Barrett, David, *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Oxford Press, 2001) Remember that Barrett's view includes Roman Catholic and Orthodox—do we really want to follow this prediction?

Missiological Implications

Evangelical Christianity should seek to aid the Ukraine in overcoming the devastation of Alcohol addiction. Alcohol plays a large role in Ukraine society; only 10% of men and 21% of women abstain from it. Ukrainians need to grasp the reality of the devastation of alcohol abuse. It is a sickness that infects the whole nation. Only the hope that is in Christ can bring Ukrainians out of the despair that surrounds them daily.

Evangelical Christianity should seek ways to aid the Ukraine in overcoming the tragedy of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. Rising instances of cancer in both adults and children are attributed to this catastrophe. Large areas of the country are still contaminated. The Ukrainians need international help in eradicating the radiation problem and cleaning up the site. Those suffering the effects of the fallout need the hope of Christ as their future may only hold despair.

Evangelical Christianity should pray for and aid the Ukrainian Christians in making the most of the opportunities that accompany freedom and the problems this freedom brings. The fall of the Soviet Union has given Ukraine its freedom. The freedom to rule oneself is not without problems. Although the center of power is now in Kiev, the old Russians are still fighting to keep their power in Ukraine. Many problems face the country ushering in Capitalism and social change. Pray that the Ukraine will put an effective government in power to deal with all of the problems, from poverty to unemployment to hunger and that unity will prevail in addressing these fundamental issues.

The Orthodox and Catholic churches hold strong positions in the country, but an inability to unify afflicts them. The division within the Orthodox Church dates to the Stalin persecution that forced them into the Russian Orthodox Church. Now, there are some who answer to the Moscow Patriarch and others who answer to the Kiev Patriarch. For the church to have the fullest effect in helping to remedy the political and social situation in the country, it needs to unify its structure. Division can only lead to chaos.

The suffering encountered by the Christian Ukrainians should only strength the church there. Ukraine has a long history of Christianity, dating back over 1,000 years. Thousands were killed in the Soviet Regime and many were underground. There needs to be complete religious freedom in the Ukraine. Within the church, including all denominations, there were intimidation and betrayals. Ukrainians Christians need to

forgive and reconcile all back in the church. It is very important to work through and get this behind them to strengthen the witness of the Ukrainian church.

Evangelical Christianity should seek ways to reinforce the evangelical churches in the new opportunities that freedom has provided. The churches are experiencing steady growth and this increase is outpacing resources. Pray that God will bless the Ukrainian churches with the resources it needs to grow His church.

Evangelical Christianity should seek ways to strengthen leadership training in Ukraine. Even with the increase in seminary and religious education training, the church is still in great need of preachers and teachers. One of the greatest of these needs is textbooks and trained teachers.

Evangelical Christianity should seek ways to help with evangelism on the college campuses. These possibilities for growth are staggering. One effective way to change a culture is to change the youth. If the youth of Ukraine would devote themselves to the truth of Christ, change will follow.

Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason, *Operation World* (Paternoster Lifestyle 2001)

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Kiev



Bell Tower of St. Sofia Cathedral

<http://www.uazone.net/go/gallery.cgi?gallery=Kyiv&what=all&ac=index>.