

# Should the Russian Annexation of Crimea & the Ongoing Disorder in Eastern Ukraine be a Casus Belli for Starting Cold War II with Russia?

Let's begin to peel the onion by asking ...

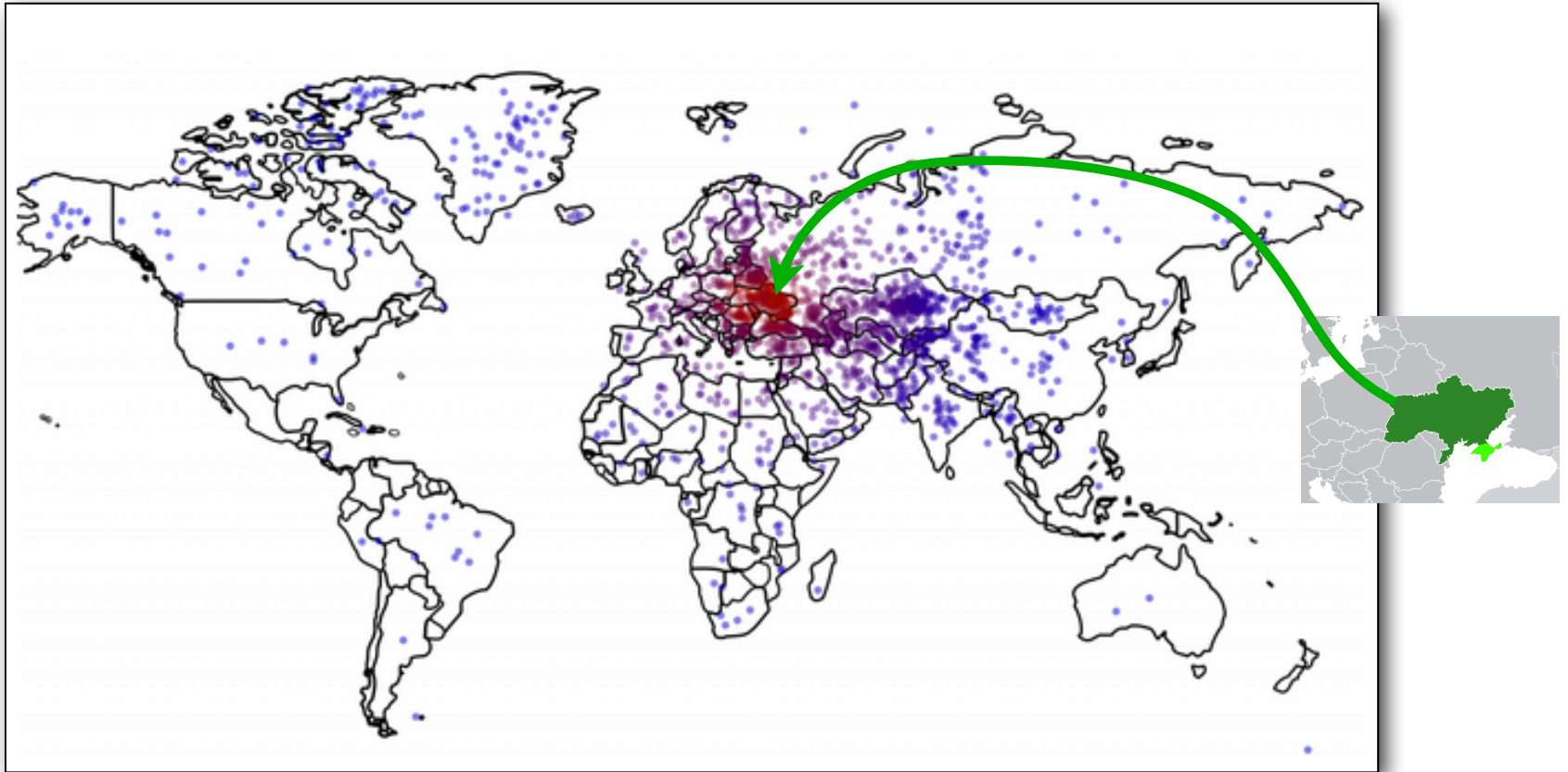
Is Crimea A Part of Historical Ukraine?  
Is Crimea Part of Ukrainian Culture?  
Ditto for Eastern Ukraine?

Or ... Let's take a quick, superficial trip thru Ukraine's History in Maps

Chuck Spinney  
28 April 2014

Multiple sources, esp. wikipedia

A Recent Survey Revealed Only 16% of Americans Could Locate Ukraine  
Median Location Error = 1800 Miles



Each dot depicts a Ukraine location made by a survey respondent. The dots are colored based on how far removed they are from Ukraine, with the most accurate responses in red and the least accurate ones in blue. (Data: Survey Sampling International; Figure: Thomas Zeitzoff/The Monkey Cage)

Source: political scientists [Kyle Dropp](#) (Dartmouth College) [Joshua D. Kertzer](#) (Harvard University) and [Thomas Zeitzoff](#) (Princeton University).

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/04/07/the-less-americans-know-about-ukraines-location-the-more-they-want-u-s-to-intervene/?wp\\_login\\_redirect=o](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/04/07/the-less-americans-know-about-ukraines-location-the-more-they-want-u-s-to-intervene/?wp_login_redirect=o)



Lets briefly look at historical evolution of this region,  
with attention to relations & connections between  
Ukraine and Crimea and Russia

# One View of Pre-History

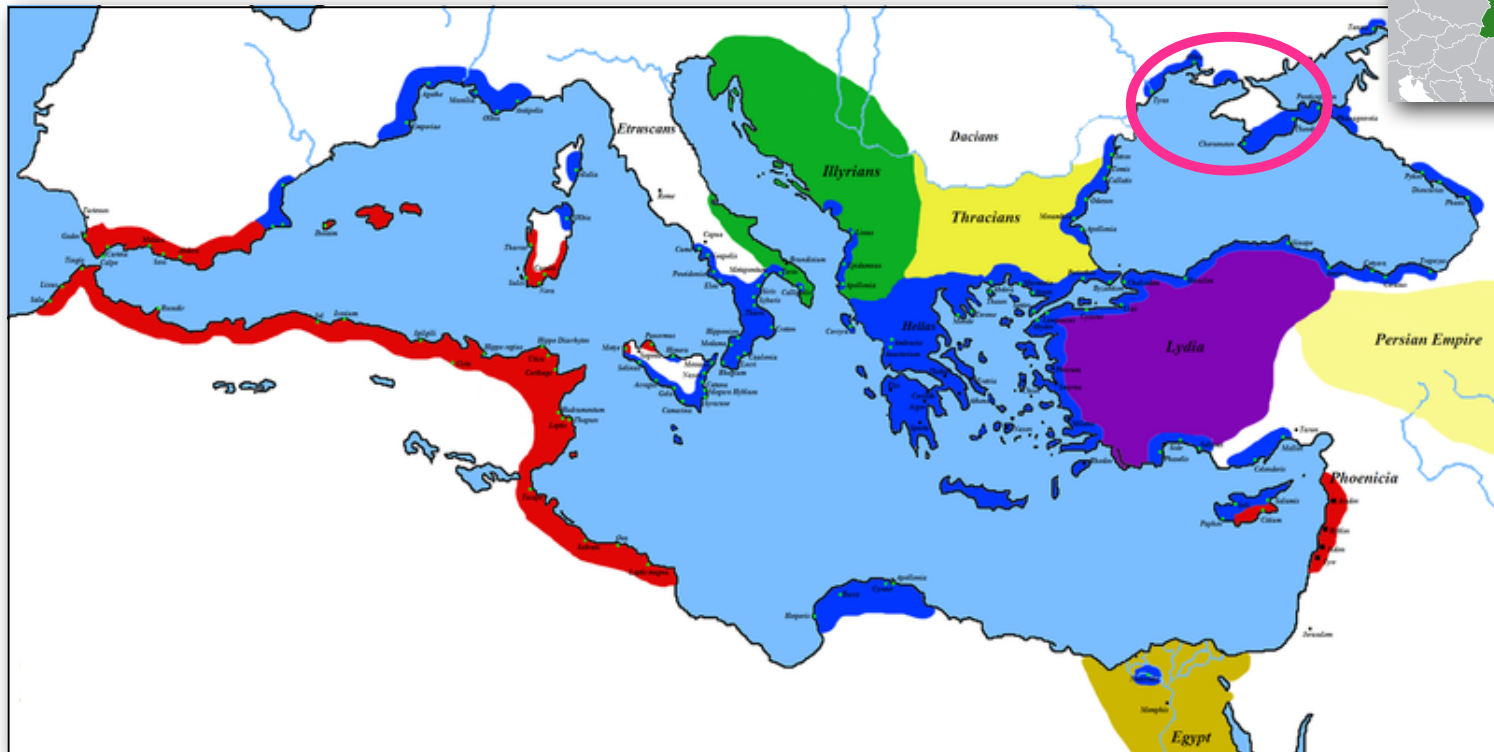
## 11th Century BCE - 2nd Century BE



The [Scythians](#) – the Greeks' name for this nomadic people – inhabited Scythia from at least the 11th century BCE to the 2nd century CE.<sup>[1]</sup> Its location and extent varied over time but usually extended farther to the west than is indicated on the map opposite.<sup>[2]</sup>

# Another View of BCE Era

Classical Greece (550 BCE)  
Colonies in Crimea & Ukraine



## Kazar Empire circa 850 CE (618? - 1048?)



SOURCES: ESRI; Geocities.com; Khazaria.com

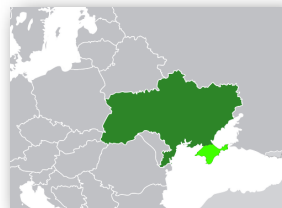
AP



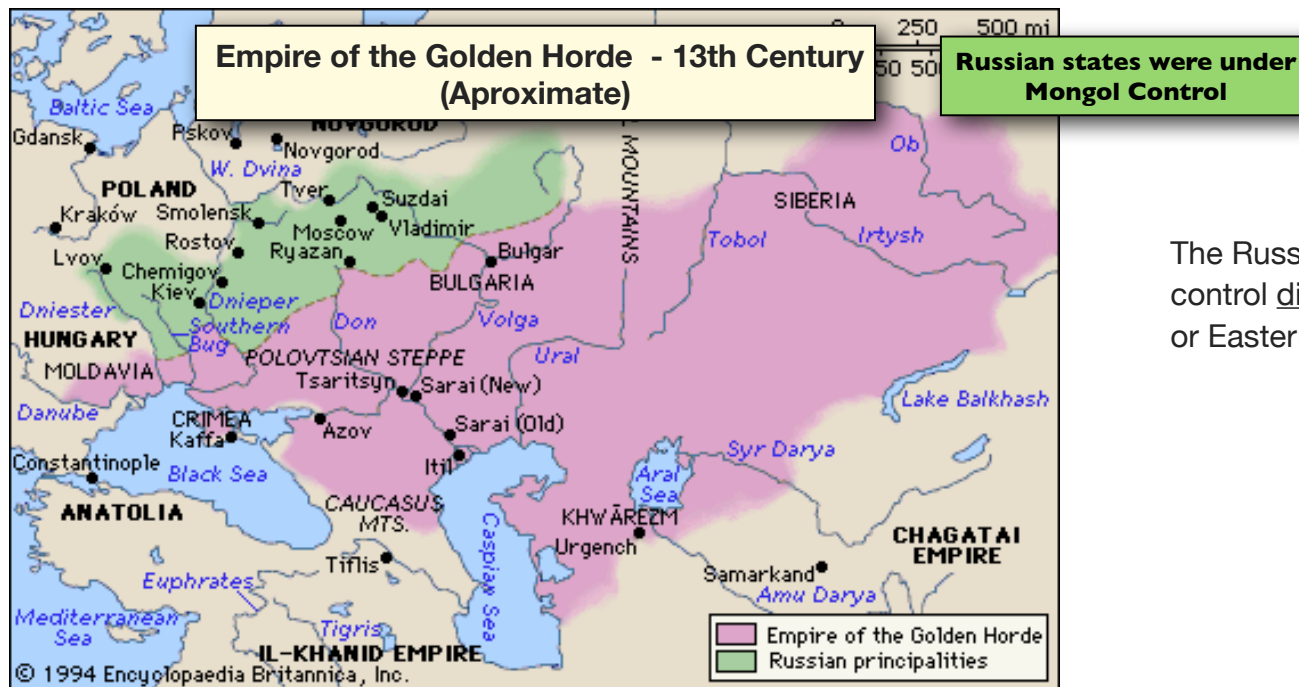
Note: It is believed the Kazars were originally a pagan Turkic Race

The Kazar nobility converted from Paganism to Judaism. Some scholars think the Eastern European Jewish population may have descended from them (see, for example, Prof. Schlomo Sand, Univ. of Tel Aviv, The Invention of the Jewish People)

## Principalities of Kievan Rus', 1054-1132



Note: the Kievan Rus were a Slavic culture that subscribed to Orthodox Christianity. These principalities did not include what is now Eastern Ukraine or Crimea



The Russian principalities under Mongol control did not control what is now Southern or Eastern Ukraine or Crimea.



Western **Galicia-Volhynia** extended into what is now south-eastern **Poland**, while eastern territories covered the **Pripet Marshes** (now in **Belarus**) and upper **Southern Bug** in modern-day **Ukraine**. [Dashed line indicates periodic Control] **Dark Green** is Russian area controlled by Mongols.

In the centuries following the [Mongol invasion](#), much of Ukraine was controlled by Lithuania (from the 14th century on) and since the [Union of Lublin](#) (1569) by the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, as seen at this outline of the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) as of 1619.



In 1569, the [Union of Lublin](#) created the **Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth**. A considerable part of Ukrainian territory was transferred from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland, becoming Polish territory de jure.

Note: The Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth did not control parts of eastern and southern Ukraine or any part of Crimea



The Tatar [Khanate of Crimea](#) was one of the strongest powers in Eastern Europe until the end of the 17th century.

Crimean Khanate (Tatar & Islamic) controlled most of Crimea, while the Ottoman Turks (also Islamic) controlled the southern coast of Crimea.

At the end of the 18th century, the Russian Empire captured large uninhabited steppe territories from the former Crimean Khanate.



**Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate** and territory of **Zaporozhian Cossacks** under rule of **Russian Empire** (1751).



Cossacks were mostly made up of Ukrainian serfs who preferred the dangerous freedom of the Wild Steppes, rather than life under the harsh rule of Polish aristocrats. However, many serfs from Poland and Muscovy and even Tatars from Crimea became part of the Cossack host. There were certain tests they had to pass, including accepting Orthodoxy as their religion, crossing themselves and reciting the Creed and other prayers

The **Russian Empire** gradually gained control over the area by peace treaties with **Cossack Hetmanate** and the **Ottoman Empire** at the conclusion of the **Russo-Turkish Wars** of **1735–39**, **1768–74**, **1787–92** and **1806–12**. It also forcefully liquidated the *Free lands* of **Zaporizhian Sich** as they became inconvenient for Russian colonization. The colonization of the land at the end of 18th century was led by **Prince Grigori Potemkin** who was granted the powers of an absolute ruler over the area by **Catherine the Great**. The lands were generously given to the Russian **dvoryanstvo** (nobility), and the **enserfed peasantry** mostly from Ukraine and fewer from Russia were transferred to cultivate what was a sparsely populated **steppe**. Catherine the Great also invited European settlers to these newly conquered lands: **Germans**, **Poles**, **Italians**, **Greeks**, **Serbs**, and others. Over time, the people living in eastern regions have developed a more pro-Russian orientation. In the former **New Russia**, the **Russian language** is common in cities and some areas outside, while **Ukrainian** is more prevalent generally in rural areas, smaller towns, and villages. With its history, the ethnic composition varies, including communities of **Greeks**, **Bulgarians**, **Armenians**, **Tatars**, and many others. In 1922 the region was made a part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic by the Bolsheviks.



At the end of the 18th century, the Russian Empire **captured large uninhabited steppe territories** from the former **Crimean Khanate**. The systematic colonization of lands in what became known as **Novorossiya** (mainly **Crimea**, **Taurida** and around **Odessa**) began.

# The Ukraine (a Region)

## Administrative Areas in Russian Empire Late 1700s until 1917



[Governorates](#) of the Russian Empire during the 19th century in the territory of what became Ukraine:

[Kiev](#) (1708),  
[Kharkov](#) (1780),  
[Taurida](#) (1783),  
[Volhynia](#) (1792),  
[Podolia](#) (1793),  
[Kherson](#) (1802),  
[Poltava](#) (1802),  
[Yekaterinoslav](#) (1802), and  
 parts of [Chernigov](#), [Don Host Oblast](#) (1786),  
[Kursk](#) (1796) and  
[Bessarabia](#) (1871);  
[Malorossiya Governorate](#) (1796) was  
 split into Chernigov and Kherson in  
 1802.

A **guberniya** ([Russian](#): губерния, IPA: [ɡʊˈbʲɛrɲʲɪjə]; was a major and principal administrative subdivision of the [Russian Empire](#) usually translated as *government*, *governorate*, or *province*. Such administrative division was preserved for some time upon the collapse of the empire in 1917.

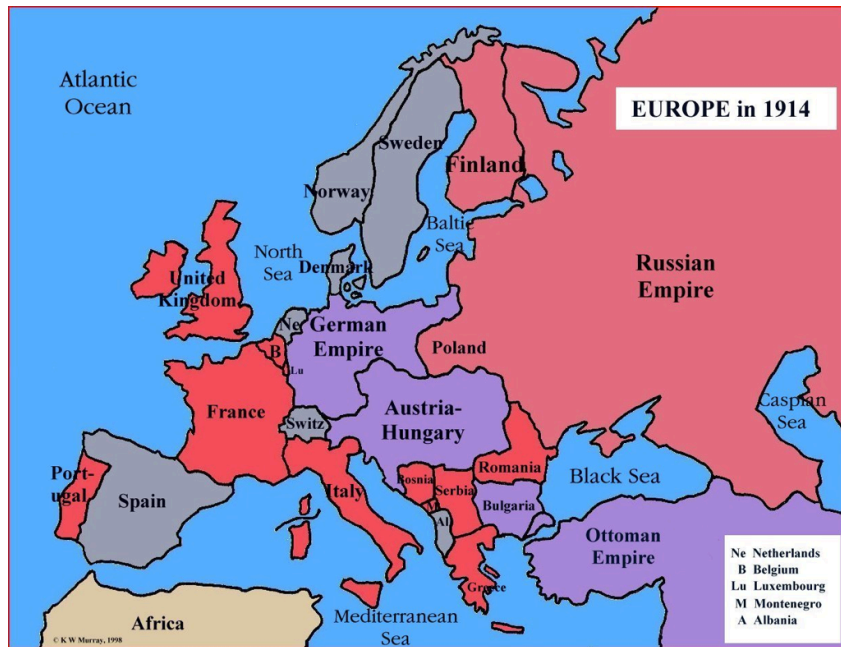
# Another View of the Russian Empire



Southern sections were acquired from the Ottoman Empire, including Crimea in 1783. Poland surrendered much of western Ukraine the next decade. By 1815, as much as 85 percent of ethnic Ukrainian territory was within the Russian Empire. Soviet victory in World War II delivered the westernmost portion of Ukraine to the Soviet Union from Poland.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/02/27/world/europe/ukraine-divisions-crimea.html>

# Geographic Summary: 1914



Ukraine areas were divided by Russia and the Austro Hungarian Empires.

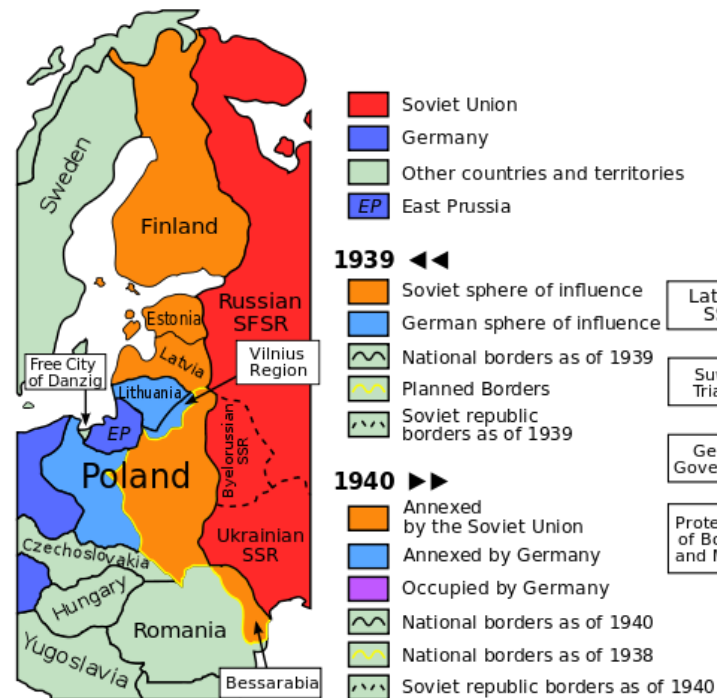
Ukraine was a borderland region, not a geographically defined province



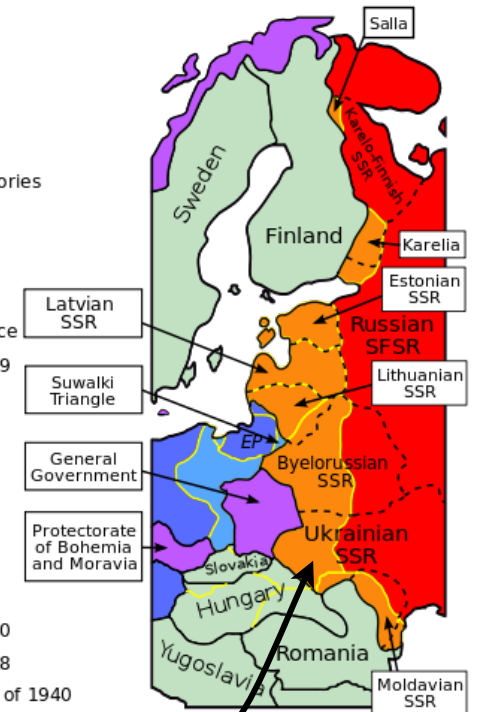
# 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact to Divide Poland



**Planned division of Central Europe according to Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact**



**Actual territorial changes 1939-1940**



Note: SE Poland Transferred to Ukrainian SSR

1919-1939

Ukrainian areas were divided by  
USSR and Poland

Ukrainian SSR established - 1st  
Ukrainian "national" boundary



## Yalta Conf. 1945: Poland Moved West

(Legitimizing much of the eastern division of the  
Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact)



1945-1991

Contemporary Ukrainian borders established.  
Absorbed SE Poland. Poland's eastern borders  
moved west (approx. to Curzon Line).

Ukraine an SSR in USSR establishes contemporary  
border of Ukrainian nation, which includes former  
Polish areas.



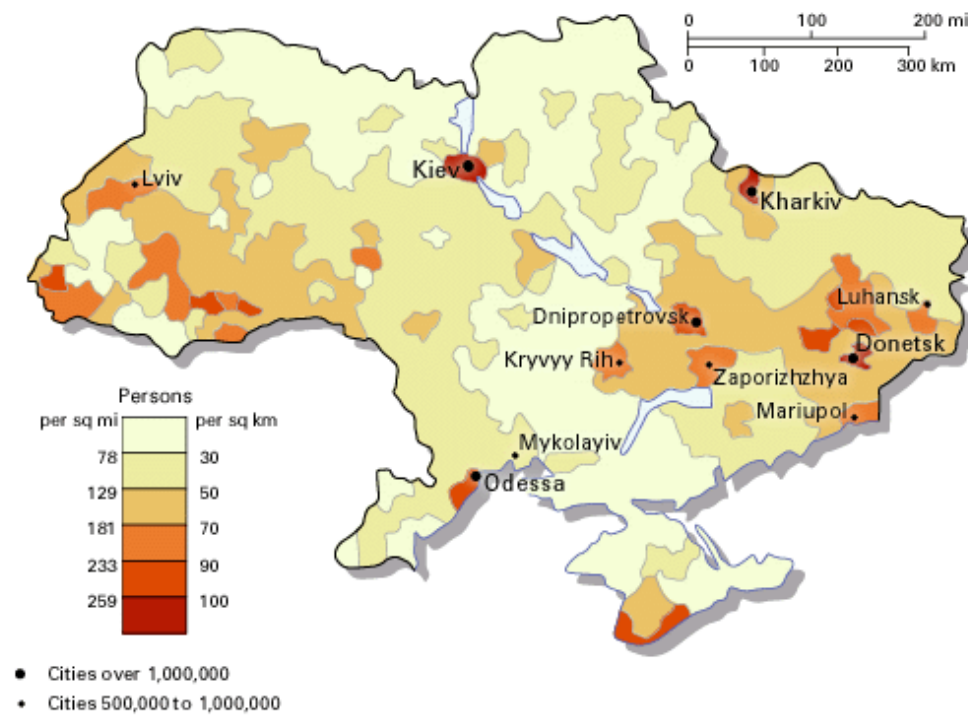
# Summary: Territorial Evolution of Ukraine as a Defined SSR Between 1917 & 1954



Note: Roughly 1/5 of Modern Ukraine Reflects the  
Legacy of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Division of Poland in 1939

# 2002: The Legacies or History are implicit in Ukraine's Population Densities & Current Divisions

Population Density  
Population is Concentrated in West, "New Russia, and Kiev



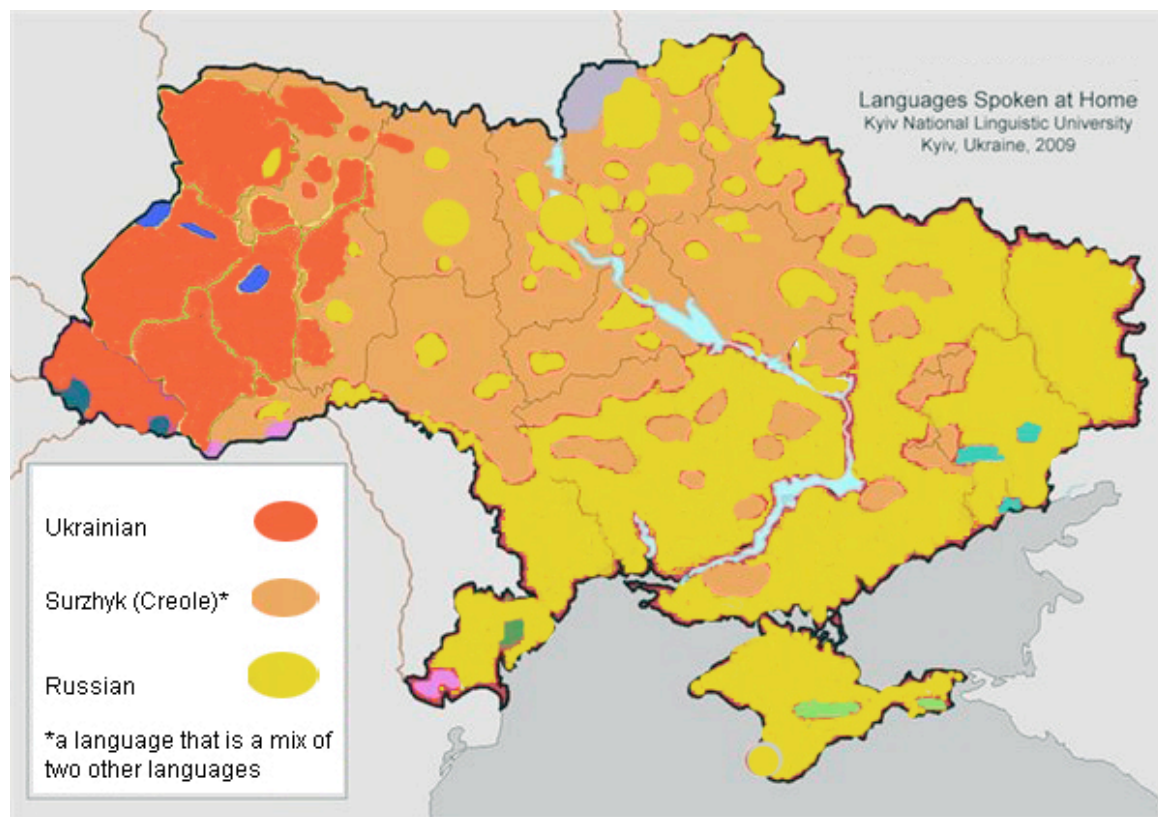
© 2002 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

# Another Perspective on Current Historical Legacies



AGNÈS STIENNE

# Distribution of Languages Spoken at Home

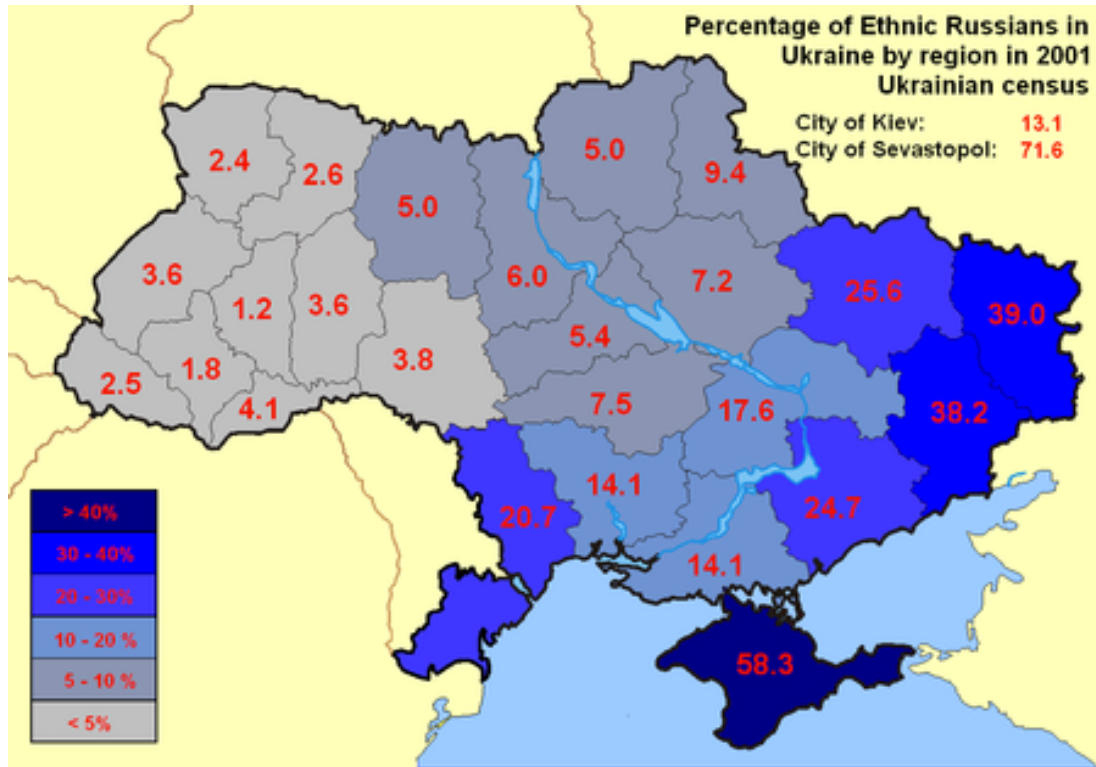


<http://globalvoicesonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2009-copy.jpg>

Note: Ukrainian & Russian are mutually intelligible languages with dialects that gradually mutate from Russo-centric to Ukrainian-centric as one moves west -- with the cultural legacy of "New Russia" settlement in clear evidence

Note: This chart was produced before Yanukovich's 2010 election

## Russian Ethnic Distribution



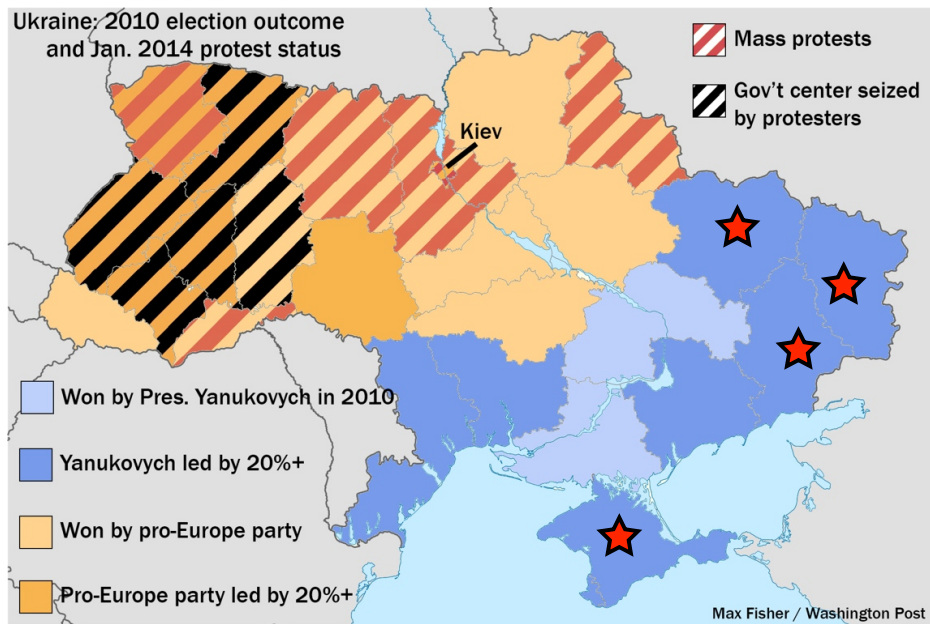
The first new waves of Russian settlers flowed onto Ukrainian territory came in the late 16th century to the empty lands of [Slobozhanschyna](#), in what is now northeastern Ukraine, after the Russian state gained from the [Tatars](#). But the Russian settlers were outnumbered by Ukrainian peasants fleeing harsh exploitative conditions in the Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth to the north west. As these maps show the result: the mixed Russo-Ukrainian populated territories are mainly the historic [Novorossiya](#) (*New Russia*) and [Slobozhanshchina](#) (*Sloboda Ukraine*) that are now both split between [modern Russia](#) and [Ukraine](#).

Note: Russians also constitute the majority of the population of [Crimea](#), that was transferred from the [Russian SFSR](#) to the [Ukrainian SSR](#) in 1954 by the decision of the Soviet government.

## Language Distribution



# Contemporary Politics & Protest Reflect History



★ Pro Russian Protests in Reaction to Feb Overthrow of Yanukovich in Feb-April 2014

## Gas Pipelines

### A map of Russian gas supplies to Europe via Ukraine

Major pipeline routes from West Siberian gas fields to Western European markets



## Access to Black Sea Oil/Gas Reserves

### How the Annexation of Crimea Changed Russia's Exclusive Offshore Economic Zones

*Law of the Sea (1982)*



Source: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

# Ukraine May Be the Biggest Problem ... But it is Not the Only Flashpoint

## Ties To Russia

The Kremlin says Moscow will strive to protect the interests of Russians and Russian speakers wherever they may be. We look at the regions where the greatest concentrations of Russian citizens, ethnic Russians and native Russian speakers live, outside the borders of the Russian Federation.



<http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-ethnic-russification-baltics-kazakhstan-soviet/25328281.html>

Given that the majority of Americans can not even locate Ukraine on a Map,  
Much Less Understand Ukraine's obviously Complex History

...Not to Mention ...

the Arbitrary Changes in its Borders between 1917 and 1954 ...

The real question becomes --

Does the U.S. Have a National Interest in Meddling in the  
Latest Round of Ukraine's Never-Ending Geographic Shuffling?