

# A BOOK WE DIDN'T WANT TO WRITE

They say that books are born from great love. From small houses somewhere on the shore of a lake. Ours was born in a cold bomb shelter. A small frightened bulldog rubs against the author's leg, and instead of tears, the artist shed illustrations. No nation in the world deserves to live through war. When the school you attended for many years disappears in an instant. When you realise that you will never again send silly videos to friends who are no longer with us...

But freedom is not like a free cup of coffee. We have been defending our independence from Russia for five centuries and, without exaggeration, paid the price in millions of lives. Shameful serfdom, the destruction of Zaporozhian Sich, hundreds of liberation movements, Stalin's famine, and finally the Executed Renaissance ... Nothing killed the Ukrainian freedom gene. Putin's missiles won't do it either.

They stole the name Rus from Ukrainians, stole our history, and wanted to rewrite our future. For years, Russian propaganda has convinced the world that Ukraine is a misunderstanding, a grey buffer zone, a piece of land that has separated from Russia and is at war with itself. The full-scale invasion tore off these masks, and the world realised where the light and darkness stood. We have decided to share with you the bravest story of the year, written by 44 million Ukrainians.

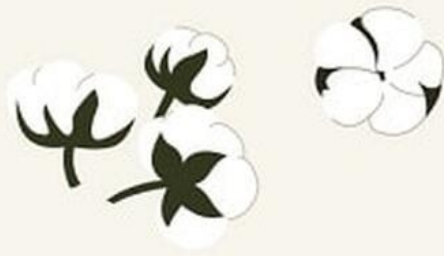
We don't know when the war will end. But we do know who will be the catalyst for the victory: ordinary Ukrainians and you, friends, who did not abandon us. We feel your support from thousands of kilometres away and thank you for every anti-war post, for every rally, for every cartridge. And when the sirens die down and millions of sunflowers bloom, we invite you over. To a free Ukraine. To the people who once stopped the tanks of the second army of the world with their bare hands.

In the meantime, we'd like to share the most precious thing we have: our unconqueredness. We promise it will be useful.

Best regards,  
The "Books & Cartoons"  
team



# THE GEOPOLITICAL GENIUS' DICTIONARY



**"Anty-Rosia" (Anti-Russia).** The term that Vladimir Putin uses to describe Ukraine in his pseudo-historical article and calls its exit from the USSR a "tragedy". His propagandists have been sowing hatred for everything Ukrainian for twenty years, saying they betrayed their "elder" brother. Instead of being part of a great spiritual empire, "stupid" Ukrainians chose the values of the "rotten" West and became a pawn in NATO's geopolitical games.

**"Banderivtsi" (Banderites).** The fiercest enemies of the Russians, according to their propagandists, are all Ukrainians who support the independence of their state, do not kneel before Putin, and "eat Russian children for breakfast". The name comes from the name of the leader of the Ukrainian nationalist liberation movement Stepan Bandera.

**"Bavovna" (Cotton).** The greatest joy of Ukrainians and a meme that was born when journalists in Belgorod dubbed the explosions on Russian territory as "khopok" ("pop"), which in the Ukrainian language means "bavovna" ("cotton").

**"Demilitaryzatsiia" (Demilitarization).** One of the main goals of the 'special operation' in Ukraine. Theoretically, this is the elimination of military power, but in fact it manifested itself in massive rocket attacks on social infrastructure: children's nurseries, theatres, and railway stations, as well as 'energy terrorism'. Russian fighters against the 'Nazis' 'disarmed' dozens of cities and turned them into unusable ruins.

**"Denatsyfikatsiia" (Denazification).** One of the main goals of the 'special operation' in Ukraine and the justification of the war for the Russian audience. In practice, this meant de-Ukrainianisation and the genocide of freedom-loving Ukrainians, who are equated with the Nazis for their excessive independence and dislike of the imperial yoke.

**"Dobroho vechora, my z Ukrainy!" ("Good evening, we are from Ukraine!").** A phrase taken from a track by the band PROBASS & HARDI, which became iconic during the invasion of the Russians as an unofficial military greeting on social networks. It was used by mayors, ministers, soldiers of the AFU, and millions of ordinary Ukrainians.

**"Ikh tam nyet" ("They aren't there").** A meme that appeared after the occupation of Crimea, which means the complete denial by the Russians of their military presence on foreign territories. This includes in Syria as well as in Ukraine, and any evidence of Russian crimes is explained as fakes of the insidious West.

**IPSO.** Information and psychological operations, which Russia actively uses in the war against Ukraine. This consists of influencing the mood of the population and is carried out through disinformation, propaganda, sabotage, and cyber attacks. A sign of a successful operation is when it seems that 'treason' and 'all is lost' reign in the country.

**"Khoroshyi russkiy" ("Good Russian").** An ironic name for liberal Russians who condemn Putin's war against Ukraine, but at the same time have elected the same leader for more than 20 years and support imperial narratives about the 'civil war' in Ukraine, that Crimea was originally Russian, and that Ukrainians and Russians are 'brotherly peoples'.

**Mordor.** A fictional realm in the world of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-Earth, a centre of dark power. Because of the regime's authoritarianism, Ukrainians call the Russian Federation Mordor, while Putin himself is compared by folk art to the lord of darkness, Sauron, who at a summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States gives rings to nine presidents, apparently hinting at happy inevitable slavery.

**"Moskali" or "Moskovity" (Muscovites).** The traditional name of the inhabitants of the medieval Moscow principality, until Peter I stole the originally Ukrainian name Rus. After this Muscovy became 'Russia', and its inhabitants — "Moskali" — proudly called themselves "Russians".

**"Russkiy mir" ("Russian world").** The ideology of the Putin regime, based on fantasies about the special spirituality of the Russian people and the desire to occupy all post-Soviet countries to create an empire under the leadership of the Kremlin and the Moscow Church — the new Soviet Union.

**"Russkiy voyennyy korabl ..." ("Russian warship ...").** An insulting and soulless phrase for Russians, first used on 24 February 2022, when the cruiser Moskva issued an ultimatum to surrender. The response of the Ukrainian border guards from Snake Island became a symbol not only of resistance but also the unsuccessful blitzkrieg of the occupiers.

**"Slava Ukraini!" ("Glory to Ukraine!").** A patriotic greeting that was born among Kharkiv students and took root in the period of the struggle for national liberation of 1917-1921, and later spread all over the world. The slogan can be heard from all types of people, from sports fans to the American president. The correct response is "Heroyam Slava!" ("Glory to the heroes!").

**"Vatryk".** This word comes from the name of a warm cotton-wool padded jacket. It is a nickname for people who support the imperial policy of Russia. The main characteristics of these people are that they hate the 'impoverished' West, cannot live without the glorious leadership of Putin, are nostalgic for Stalin, love parades and vodka, periodically "launch missiles" at Washington and threaten that "there could be a repeat" of the great feat of his grandfathers in the Second World War.

**"Yosiem liet bombili Donbas" ("They bombed Donbas for eight years").** The main argument of Russian propaganda to justify the full-scale attack on Ukraine. They say a civil war was going on in Donbas for eight years, in which the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) and the "Banderivtsi" destroyed the Russian-speaking population, so Putin was forced to attack all of Ukraine in order to stop these 'atrocities'.

**Z, O, V.** Markings which are used on the occupiers' military vehicles. After just a few days, the letter Z became the official symbol of the invasion of Ukraine, and flash mobs roll around Russia in support of it. The letter is created by deer and children laying on the ground, used as a hairstyle, and applied to cars and even chicken eggs. Due to war propaganda and its visual similarity to the swastika, the symbol Z is banned in many countries.

**"Zhest dobroyi voli" (A gesture of goodwill).** A phrase used by propagandists when addressing Putin's electorate in order to disguise the defeats of the 'second army of the world'. The first such 'gesture' was the defeat and shameful retreat in the Kyiv region.



# WHO UKRAINIANS ARE

The Ukrainian ethnospirit was born, has lived for 1,500 years, and will live for even longer, on both banks of the Dnipro river. The ancient name of Ukrainians is Rusyns or Rusychis — in the middle of the 9th century, they founded the state of Rus, which in its heyday was the largest country in Europe. When Rus declined under the onslaught of the Tatar-Mongols, the new name of the lands of Rus became Ukraine. Gradually, it was absorbed by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, until in the 17th century Ukrainians revolted for independence. Seeking support, Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, hetman of Ukraine, concluded a military-political alliance with Muscovy. For the next four centuries, Ukrainians were forced to fight for their own state against all the reincarnations of Moscow imperialism — Muscovy, the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation.

## THEY COULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH ALL OF EUROPE

In 1259, the Mongols, under the command of Batu Khan, advanced on the Ukrainian Rus. They burn Kyiv to the ground, and five years after the defeat, only a few thousand people live in the city. Resistance to the invasion is led by Danylo, prince of Galicia and Volhynia. Pope Innocent IV crowns Danylo Halyskyi as king of all Rus. Later the Galician-Volhynian troops liberate the lands near Kyiv, and in the 14th century Lithuanians help to get rid of the hordes.

## FREEDOM ISLAND

Hunters, fishermen, farmers, and traders gather in groups for common defence: this is how the Cossacks arose, which since the 15th century destroy the Turkish and Tatar centres of the slave trade. In 1554, the Volyn prince Dmytro Vyshnevetskyi builds a fortress on the island of Mala Khortytsia within the boundaries of the current Zaporizhzhia region. The fortress becomes the headquarters of the Cossack army (Sich).

## EQUALS AMONG EQUALS

Once a year, the Cossacks choose a leader from among themselves. Neither family nobility, nor status, nor wealth counts for anything. Only bravery, experience, and intelligence are taken into account, as there are no national prejudices on Sich. Cossacks accept anyone who professes the Orthodox faith, can cross himself, and can say the Lord's Prayer in Ukrainian.

## ATTENTION: ROAMING IS PROHIBITED!

From the 9th century, hordes of Turkic nomads began to invade the Ukrainian steppes. In 1071, the Byzantine Empire suffered a crushing defeat at their hands while the Kyiv state stood firm. Yaroslav's grandson, Prince Volodymyr Monomakh, captured the nomads' capital and initiated the annexation of the current Donbas lands to Ukraine with his campaigns.

## WELCOME TO OUR COUNTRY — THE HETMANATE

In 1569, Ukrainian lands were joined to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a confederation of Polish, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian peoples. Firstly, everyone was treated equally, but Ukrainians gradually lost their rights. Bohdan Khmelnytskyi led the largest popular uprising, during which the troops of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth suffered devastating defeats and Ukraine revived its independence.

## NEW YORKERS OF THE COPPER AGE

The oldest civilization found in what is now Ukraine were the Trypill people, who built the largest settlements in the world, proto-cities with thousands of two-storey houses, as early as the Copper Age (6,000–4,000 BCE). They were perhaps the first on Earth to invent the wheel: a ceramic model of a cart, older than Mesopotamian models, has been found by archaeologists in the Romanian city of Iasi from an area known to be lived in by the Trypill.

## THE FIRST LOGISTICS REVOLUTION

Tribes of Indo-Europeans, who are the ancestors of half of the world's peoples, are born close to the Trypill people. In what is now Ukraine, they domesticated horses for the first time: the oldest remains of domestic horses in history were found in the village of Derivka on the banks of the Dnipro. Thanks to the development of horse transport, Indo-Europeans were able to settle in territories from Ireland to Northern India.

## THEY HAD A TRIDENT AS THEIR COAT OF ARMS

During the reign of Volodymyr the Great, and later, during the reign of his son Yaroslav the Wise, the Kyivan Rus experiences its greatest prosperity. Volodymyr introduces Christianity to the state, and Yaroslav lays the foundations of St. Sophia Cathedral, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the first library. Kyiv becomes a powerful metropolis with a population of about 50,000. Meanwhile, London and Paris have populations of no more than 20,000 people.

## WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS

During the 18th century, resistance to the Russian and Polish invaders is provided by the Haidamaks. They raid the estates of the powerful, liberate cities and villages, and introduce a Cossack order there. At the same time, opryshky ("free people") rise up in the west of Ukraine. The most famous among them is Oleksa Dovbush — he is praised by the people as the Ukrainian Robin Hood. Oleksa gives the wealth taken from the rich to the poor.



## GOOD EVENING, WE ARE FROM SCYTHIA

In the 8th century BCE, the warlike Indo-European tribe of Scythians settled on the territory of modern Ukraine. Ancient Egypt pays tribute to them: they defeat Persia, Assyria, and the legendary armies of Alexander the Great. This is why the Greeks consider the Scythian army to be the strongest in the world. At the same time, to the northeast of Scythia – in the territory of present-day Russia – the Stone Age continues and is home to tribes of cannibals.

## THE GREAT ROMAN WALL

In the 2nd century BCE, other Indo-European relatives of the Scythians move to Ukraine: the Sarmatians. The Roman historian Tacitus calls the Sarmatian warriors the best riders in the world. The Roman Empire pays tribute to the Sarmatians and builds defensive ramparts against them. These are now located on the borders of Ukraine.

## NOT REALLY A FAN OF THE PRE-NUP

In the 3rd century CE, Germanic tribes of Goths came to the south of Ukraine from Scandinavia. Unexpectedly, the Goth king executes his wife from the Sarmatian Roxolani tribe, along with a Slavic prince and 70 boyars (members of the feudal nobility). The Sarmatians and Slavs are unimpressed, so with the help of Huns they expel the Goths. They, in turn, flee to the west and defeat the Roman army. In 410 CE, they capture Rome.



## CRIMEA IS ALSO PART OF THE KYIVAN RUS

In 965, Prince Svyatoslav the Brave subjugates the Kyiv territory of Eastern Crimea, and his son, Volodymyr the Great, conquers the Byzantine Chersonesos in the Crimea, the first such victory in the city's 1,500-year history. Whilst there, he converts to Christianity and marries a Byzantine princess. After returning to Kyiv, he baptises all of the Rus.

## TOO MUCH EVEN FOR THE SECOND ROME

In 907, the Kyivans, together with tribes subordinate to Kyiv, attacked Byzantium with a huge army of 2,000 ships. According to legend, as a sign of victory, Prince Oleh of Kyiv hangs his shield over the gate of the capital of the empire, Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul), and forces the Byzantines to pay tribute.

Obviously, medieval Rus is here.  
But it is not the same.

## "KEEP FIGHTING, AND YOU ARE SURE TO WIN"

Born in serfdom, the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko spent 24 of his 47 years in the ownership of a feudal lord, 10 in exile, and the rest under the supervision of Russian gendarmes. Despite the circumstances, he wrote uncompromising poems throughout his life. His book of poems "Kobzar", which promotes the idea of the resurrection of Ukraine without tyranny and enslavement, becomes one of the most prominent national symbols for Ukrainians.



## WHEN TWO BECOME ONE

After the First World War, the lands of Ukraine were torn apart because they were located between two empires, the Russian and the Austro-Hungarian. Ukrainians seized the moment and declared independence. The Ukrainian People's Republic and the West Ukrainian People's Republic appear, which unite into one state on 22 January, 1919.

## MADE IN KYIVAN RUS

In those days, the majestic Serpent's Walls were built: 2,000 kilometres long and up to 15 metres high. According to legend, the hero Kyrylo Kozhunyaka dug them out from the ground when he harnessed "The Snake" to a plough. During the Russian attack in 2022, these ramparts near the village of Bilohorodka near Kyiv will again come in handy: the latest Russian horde cannot overcome them with tanks.



## THE COST TO UKRAINIANS

During the Second World War, Ukraine finds itself at the epicentre of hostilities. Approximately seven million Ukrainians serve in the armed forces of the USSR, and tens of thousands more in the anti-Hitler coalition forces. The total losses of Ukraine during the war amounts to at least eight million people – that is, almost a quarter of the population. Without Ukrainians' participation, victory would have been impossible for the USSR.



## WHAT DO UKRAINIANS NEED?

In 1919, the victorious countries in the First World War convened the Paris Peace Conference, as a result of which the borders in Europe were redistributed and parts of newly created states were recognised. However, Ukraine remains confronted with external encroachments. This resulted in the division of Ukrainian lands between Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bolshevik Russia.

## 90.3% IN FAVOUR

On 1 December 1991, at the All-People's Referendum, Ukrainians dealt a devastating blow to the "Evil Empire" and by an absolute majority in all regions, including in Crimea, supported the Act of Proclamation of Ukraine's Independence. Soon the entire army and part of the navy took an oath of loyalty to Ukraine. The USSR was doomed and ceased to exist within a week.

UKRAINE

## NO AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA IS WORTH IT

In 1775, when there were only 3,000 Cossacks in Khortystaia, the 100,000-strong Moscow army treacherously destroyed the Zaporozhian Sich. As a result, most of the Cossacks moved to Turkish lands near the Danube and founded the Sich, which continued the Ukrainian statehood of Zaporizhzhia for half a century and gave tens of thousands of Ukrainians the opportunity to escape from confinement.





# WHY THE WAR STARTED

In the northeast, Rus borders the lands of Zalizsya, where the Suzdal state will later be formed, followed by Muscovy. However, Muscovites don't think much of their origin, which is why they steal Kyiv's historical heritage, the name Rus, and (a bit later) Ukrainian washing machines without hesitation. Tsar Peter I, who renamed Muscovy to the Russian Empire, and the former KGB agent from St. Petersburg Vladimir Putin, who decided that he would also make a good emperor, achieved the greatest success in these deeds. For the scam to finally succeed, one little task remains: to destroy the witnesses of the truth, the Ukrainian people.

## WHEN HEALTHY FOOD ISN'T FASHIONABLE

In the territory of Zalizsya, which will later become Muscovy and modern Russia, the Stone Age ends several thousand years later than in most European countries. Ancient and mediaeval historians, including Herodotus, Pliny the Elder, and Ammianus Marcellinus, write that to the northeast of the Ukrainian lands of the Scythians and Sarmatians live tribes who still practice cannibalism.

## I WANT TO GO TO KYIV!

The Kyiv state liberates the ancestors of Russians from the yoke of the Khazars, converts the people to Christian culture, and teaches literacy. However, in the 12th century, Zalizsya secedes from Kyiv, and on the lands of the Finno-Ugric tribe, the state of Suzdal is formed. In a few centuries this area will be called Muscovy. However, Kyiv does not allow the "local princes" to rest on their laurels.

## HISTORY WITHOUT EQUALS

After Peter I, Catherine II continued the "historical reform". On 4 December 1783, she formed a special commission to chronicle the ancient history of Russia. For 10 years, this commission reworked and falsified chronicles. On the basis of these falsehoods, the commission falsifies the rights of the Russian Empire as successor of the Kyivan Rus. Of course, the implementation of the plan is impossible without the destruction of historical records on the lands of the real Rus, i.e., in Ukraine.

## NOT QUITE WHAT WE HAD IN MIND

In 1654, the Hetman of the Zaporozhian Host, Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, leader of the national uprising against the Poles, agreed to a military-political alliance with the Muscovy. This is how he hoped to preserve the independence of Cossack Ukraine from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but immediately after his death, the Muscovites violated the agreements and destroyed the Hetmanate.

## I WANT A NAME AND AN EMPIRE, LIKE IN THE RU!

In 1721, Tsar Peter I renamed Muscovy as the Russian Empire. With this name, Moscow sought to finally appropriate the legacy of the great princes of Kyiv. At the same time, all written historical sources were removed from Ukraine, and in 1718, the Russians burned the library of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra along with the priceless chronicles of princely times.

## "BECAUSE WE NEED TO WRITE IN CORRECT LANGUAGE"

In 1564, Ivan Fedorovich started a printing business in Muscovy. But hounded by militant ignoramuses, he moved to Ukraine and founded two printing houses there. Half a century later in Moscow, a "tradition" of burning Ukrainian books begins, which is continued even now in the 21st century by the latest occupiers from Russia.

## PROGRESS? NEVER HEARD OF IT

After the destruction of the Hetmanate and Zaporozhian Sich in 1783, Russia introduced serfdom in the controlled territories of Ukraine. Landlords obtained the right to freely sell serfs, exchange them for property, and separate husbands from wives and parents from children. This type of slavery had never been practised in Ukraine until it was introduced by the Russians. While the population of Europe is gradually experiencing emancipation, Moscow is reversing the course of history.

## THIS LANGUAGE DID NOT EXIST, DOES NOT EXIST, AND CANNOT EXIST!

In 1863, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Russia, Pyotr Valuyev, issued a circular banning the publication of educational and religious books in the Ukrainian language. A few years later, Emperor Alexander II strengthened this order with a new decree which completely prohibited not only the publication of any Ukrainian books and translations, but also performances in the Ukrainian language, as well as its study in primary schools.

## NAMES CHANGE, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE STAYS THE SAME

In 1917, the Russian Empire collapses and changes its mask. During the Bolshevik terror from 1918 until the beginning of the 1920s, the "authorities" of the Extraordinary Commission kill hundreds of Ukrainian figures, including the composer Mykola Leontovych. He is best-known as the composer of an arrangement of "Carol of the Bells", one of the most popular Christmas songs in the world.

## NOT SURE? THEN WE'LL LOCK YOU UP.

Nazi Germany is primarily associated with concentration camps, although a network of 700 camps was created long before the Nazis by the "leader of the world proletariat" — Vladimir Lenin. This soon became an element of the official state policy of "red terror". Ukrainian workers, peasants, and the intelligentsia were declared kulaks (high-income farmers), speculators, and counter-revolutionaries, and became the first prisoners in the newly established camps.



## LONG BEFORE BANKSY

In general terms, the Ukrainian language was formed in the 4th to 7th centuries from the ancient Slavic dialects. At that time, there were no Slavs in the area covering modern-day Russia, nor on the territory of Belarus. Ukrainian can be found in royal letters, household inscriptions and so-called "graffiti". This was left by the people of Kyiv on the walls of the oldest temple of the Eastern Slavs, the Cathedral of St. Sophia, in the 11th century CE.



## A COUNTRY IS A COUNTRY IS A COUNTRY

The word "Ukraine" first appears in chronicles in 1187. Depending on the context, it can mean "our principality", "our land", or "country", and to this day the word "krayina" ("country") in Ukrainian still refers to the nation of Ukraine. Moscow historians in their distorted pseudo-reality misinterpret the name of Ukraine, which is centred on the capital of the Kyivan Rus, as the "okrayina" ("outskirts") of Muscovy.

## A HISTORICAL MISTAKE OR A MISTAKE OF HISTORY?

The Russian language was formed in the 12th to 16th centuries with the assimilation of Church Slavonic — that is, Old Bulgarian — by the Finno-Ugric population of Suzdal. The language was planted by the church and royal rulers. Even now, the name of the Russian capital is not written in Russian, but rather in Ukrainian: "Moskva". It is read correctly in Russian as "Maskva", a small nod to where the Russians learnt how to be literate.



## WHAT IS RUS?

The word "Rus" first appears sometime between the 4th and 6th centuries, and comes from the Sarmatian tribe of the Rowolans. In the annals of the Kyivan Rus state, this name applies only to the Kyiv, Pereyaslav, and Chernihiv regions, and, much later, also to the western regions of Ukraine. The lands of Suzdal, Novgorod, and Smolensk are never referred to as such; that is, the concepts of Suzdal, Zalisya, and Muscovite Rus simply did not exist, and are mere inventions of imperial historians.

## IS MOSCOW THE SECOND KYIV?

After liberation from the Mongol yoke, the young state of Muscovy lacked its own glorious history, and therefore at the end of the 15th century, with the capture of several Rus principalities, the arrogant ruler Ivan III anoints himself the "sovereign of all Rus". He starts a massive scam by appropriating the historical heritage of the Kyivan Rus.



## DID I LEAVE SOMETHING IN THIS WASTELAND?

After the death of Prince Volodymyr Monomakh of Kyiv, his seventh son, Yuriy, did not find a throne in the land of the Rus, and so he went to rule the Finnish tribes of Suzdal. It is believed that it was Yuriy who founded Moscow, but the land there did not attract him. He wanted to return to Kyiv, which he finally captured in 1155. However, two years later, the people of Kyiv poisoned the new ruler, and he was interred in the Church of the Saviour at Berestove near the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra.

## AND EVEN BETTER — A THIRD ROME!

After the fall of Constantinople, Moscow also declared itself the rightful successor of Byzantium, and, therefore, of Rome. For this, Muscovites use a woman's skullcap from Khan Uzbek for the imperial cap of Constantine IX, supposedly given by him to his grandson, Prince Volodymyr Monomakh of Kyiv. All of Moscow's rulers until Peter I were crowned with it, and the Byzantine double-headed eagle becomes the royal coat of arms.



## RESPECT IS WHEN THEY ARE AFRAID

Muscovy appeared in 1277 by order of the Mongol Khan Mengu-Timur as one of the "uluses" ("tribes") of the Golden Horde, and was freed from Mongol rule in 1480, much later than Ukraine. Their long rule leaves its mark — the local Finno-Ugric tribes take the ideas of world domination and the despotic style of government from the Mongols, in which a conqueror's instinct and cruelty are considered virtues.



## SHOOT AND SHOOT AGAIN!

Along with the subjugation of the peasantry, the Bolsheviks also take on the Ukrainian intelligentsia. During the Stalinist repression of the 1930s, they physically destroy the artistic and intellectual elite of Ukraine, which dared to declare itself a separate cultural phenomenon. More than 260,000 Ukrainians fall victims to the purges, and later this tragic page of history is called the Executed Renaissance.



## AT THE GATE — A HAMMER AND SICKLE, IN THE HOUSE — DEATH AND HUNGER

To suppress the Ukrainian peasantry, which resists forced collectivisation, Bolshevik leaders Lenin and Stalin organise three artificial famines, leading to the genocide of the Ukrainian people during the first half of the twentieth century. During the largest, in 1932-1933, in Ukraine, Soviet troops enclose territories and take all food away from peasants. Between seven and ten million Ukrainians die by famine.



## SOVIET VICTORY ≠ RUSSIAN VICTORY

The Russians turn victory in the Second World War into the central myth of their newest empire. In 2010, Putin states that Russia would have won the war alone, without Ukraine and its other allies: "Because we are the land of the victorious!" At the same time, Ukraine paid the highest price for its hard-won victory — more than 10 million lives, or about 25% of the population.

## FREEDOM CANNOT BE STOPPED!

After Ukraine gained independence in 1991, Russia opposes its Euro-Atlantic integration in every possible way. It supports corruption and pro-Russian forces, and tries to control the information space. Despite this, Ukrainians maintain pro-European views during the Orange Revolution, and, 10 years later the Revolution of Dignity takes place, when the criminal regime of Yanukovich is brought down. Meanwhile, the Kremlin provokes the shooting of protesters, annexes Crimea, and starts a war in Donbas.





# ONLY ONE WILL SURVIVE

On 24 February 2022, the audacious full-scale military invasion of Ukraine began. But Russia's war against Ukraine did not start on this day. And not even eight years before, when Russia occupied Crimea and part of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and killed 13,000 people. At that time, Ukraine tried to settle the conflict diplomatically, with the Minsk Agreements. All peaceful efforts were crushed by Russian tanks. The current war is a continuation of the age-old struggle for the existence of two peoples who happened to be neighbours. Without Ukraine, Russia considers itself inferior. And as long as Russia remains an empire, Ukraine will never be able to feel safe.



"AND THERE WAS LONGING AND INCONSOLABLE SORROW FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IN KYIV"

The ruler of the Suzdal land, Andrey Bogolyubsky, the son of Yuri Dolgoruky, steals a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary from Vyshherod near Kyiv. The icon becomes the largest shrine in Russia. In 1169, as the head of a coalition of northern principalities Bogolyubsky arranges a pogrom in Kyiv itself. He destroys churches and does not spare even women or children. Four years later, Hryshlav the Brave frees the Rus from the Suzdals.

## OF FATHERS AND SONS

In 965, Prince Svyatoslav of Kyiv breaks up the Khazarian Khaganate, and imposes tribute on the freed Slavic tribe of the Vyatichi living on the territory of modern-day Russia, who, together with the Finno-Ugric tribes, form the Russian ethnos. In a few years, Khodot, the leader of the Vyatichi, rebels against the Kyiv authorities, but he is tamed by Svyatoslav's son Volodymyr the Great.



## "ORIGINALLY RUSSIAN FOREVER!"

In the Russo-Turkish War of 1768–1774, the Cossacks helped Russia to win. They defeated the Turks at Ochakiv, Bender, Fakhshin, and Izmail; sank the Turkish flotilla at the mouth of the Danube; and thus were no longer needed. In the summer of 1775, Russian troops treacherously destroyed the Zaporozhian Sich. Later, Catherine II also violated the agreement with the Turks and annexed the Crimean Khanate.

## "THE HAIDAMAKS WENT FOR A STROLL"

In 1768, a popular uprising broke out in right-bank Ukraine against the oppression of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – the Koliivshchyna rebellion. The participants called themselves Haidamaks. The Poles cannot tame the rebels, and so the Russians come to help. They pose as allies of the rebels and capture about 900 Haidamaks, along with the leaders Maksym Zalizniak and Ivan Honta, while they are sleeping.

## WITH ALLIES LIKE THESE, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES?

After the death of Ivan Mazepa, the Cossacks who fled with him to Bender, which was under the rule of the Turks, elect Pylyp Orlyk as hetman. He agrees an alliance with the Ottoman Empire and enlists the support of the Poles. In 1711, a joint army sets out to liberate right-bank Ukraine. Local Cossack regiments join Orlyk there, but the Tatars betray them near Bila Tserkva, and the campaign becomes a failure.

## "WE WILL DESTROY THIS WORLD OF VIOLENCE..."

In December 1917, the Russian Bolshevik government started a war with Ukraine. Without weapons or ammunition, without rear or external support, the young Ukrainian state fought simultaneously on several fronts: on the fields of the First World War against the encroachments of Poland, the White Guards, and the French-Creek landing force. The organised resistance against the Bolsheviks continued until 1923.

## UNDER THE BLUE-AND-YELLOW FLAG

On 17 September 1939, at the invitation of Adolf Hitler, the Soviet Union invades Poland and begins the "reunification of Ukraine" with mass murders, repressions, and deportations. Formed during the Second World War, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army fights against both bloodthirsty regimes, even when other nations of Europe do not dare to militarily resist Soviet totalitarianism. This continues until 1956.

## "THEY WERE BURIED AT ASKOLD'S GRAVE"

On 29 January 1918 at Kruty station, 130 kilometres from Kyiv, 600 soldiers, mostly military school cadets and students, delayed an attack by the 6,000-strong Bolshevik army on the capital. Up to 70 defenders died in the battle, and another 28 students were shot in captivity by the Russians after brutal torture. Later, their bodies are buried at Askold's Grave in Kyiv, and the heroes become a symbol of Ukrainian indomitability for centuries.

GLORY TO UKRAINE!  
GLORY TO THE HEROES!

## THEY ONLY UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF STRENGTH

In 1991, the question of the status of the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea arose. Not wanting to give it to Ukraine, the Kremlin supported separatist movements on the peninsula, and in the 1994 elections Yuri Meshkov became the 'president' of Crimea. He takes a course to 'return' Crimea to Russia. Ukraine transferred national guardsmen to the peninsula to prevent separatism.





## THE ARMY WAS BIG, BUT HAS BECOME SMALL

After being freed from the Mongol yoke, Prince Vasiliy III of Moscow began his "collection of Rus' lands" with an army of 80,000. He captured Smolensk, but on 8 September 1514, near the city of Orsha in modern-day Belarus, he met a 35,000-strong Lithuanian-Ukrainian army led by Volyn Prince Kostiantyn Ostrozhsky. Despite their numerical advantage, the Muscovites suffer a crushing defeat.

## THE FIGHT FOR HERITAGE

In the 14th century, Ukrainian lands were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. 100 years later, Prince Ivan III of Moscow proclaimed himself "sovereign of all Rus'", and so began 50 years of wars for the historical heritage of Kyiv, in which the Ukrainians sided with the Lithuanian state. Neither side gains a convincing victory, and Muscovy went on to greater strength.

## BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE ON ALL TSARS

With the help of the Cossacks, in 1605 False Dmitry I was on the Muscovy throne, and the Time of Troubles began. When the boyars elect the Polish prince Wladyslaw as tsar, the Cossack army led by Petro Sahaidachnyi paves the way for him to reign, but the hetman unexpectedly refuses to deliver a decisive assault on Moscow.

## WHY DID YOU FORGET ABOUT KONOTOP?

After the death of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, who agreed to an alliance with Muscovy, the tsar starts to conquer the Hetmanate. A new hetman, Ivan Vyhovskiy, agrees to a federation with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Then a 50,000-strong Muscovite army invades Ukraine, but gets stuck near Konotop against 4,000 Cossacks. In two months, they are freed from the siege by allied troops and the Muscovites are defeated.

## WHAT A TWIST!

In 1706, Hetman Ivan Mazepa learned that Tsar Peter I was planning to abolish the Cossacks. To defend the Hetmanate, in the midst of the Northern War of Muscovy with Sweden, Mazepa goes to Charles XII with a 3,000-strong detachment. They are joined by the 7,000-strong Zaporozhian Host, but part of the Cossack command is sympathetic to the Muscovites. Finally on 8 July 1709, the Swedes are defeated near Poltava.

## THIS IS FOR ME, AND THIS IS FOR YOU

In 1667, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Muscovy agree to divide Ukraine along the Dniester. However, no one authorised the Muscovites to so freely dispose of Ukrainian lands, and so an anti-Moscow uprising breaks out. Near the city of Zolotonosha, Petro Doroshenko's troops defeat the Muscovite army and free most of the left bank, but their neighbours oppose the strengthening of the Hetmanate.

## SIGN HERE, AND WE WILL BE FRIENDS OF NATIONS

On 17 October 1659 in Pereyaslav, surrounded by Muscovites, hetman Yuriy, son of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, signed an agreement with Muscovy that limited the sovereignty of the Hetmanate, subordinated the Metropolitanate of Kyiv to Moscow, and legalised the presence of Russian troops. Within a year Yuriy broke the agreement and switched his allegiance to the Poles.

ACCOUNT DEACTIVATED

## WHERE THERE IS A RUSSIAN SOLDIER, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE

In 1995, Ukraine and Russia reach an agreement on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, according to which more than 80% of the ships remain with the Russians, and later basing Russians in Sevastopol until 2017. However, in 2010, the traitor president Viktor Yanukovich extends their stay for another 25 years. And in 2014, the Russian naval base in Crimea played a decisive role in the annexation of the peninsula and the beginning of Russia's military aggression.

## "CRIMEA IS OURS AGAIN!"

In 2014, Vladimir Putin took advantage of the crisis of state power in Ukraine during the Revolution of Dignity and Viktor Yanukovich's escape, introducing troops into Crimea without identification. Under their pressure a pseudo-referendum on the annexation of the peninsula to Russia was held. Ukrainian law enforcement agencies were persecuted by Kremlin agents and lacked resources for military protection.

## THE REPUBLICS OF THE RUSSIAN SECRET SERVICE

On 6-7 April 2014 in Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv, Russian 'tourists' together with local separatists seize administrative buildings and proclaim 'people's republics'. The Kyiv authorities send special forces into the city, and, on the morning of 8 April, the Kharkiv administration is liberated in 15 minutes by the "Jaguar" squad, and the 'activists' lie face down on the asphalt – but the special forces are unsuccessful in Donetsk and Luhansk.

## THERE IS A WAR, BUT THERE IS NO WAR

In November 2018, Russians fired at and seized three Ukrainian warships with 24 sailors in the Kerch Strait. Martial law was immediately introduced for the first time in 10 of 25 regions of Ukraine. In 2014, due to political reasons, Russia's war against Ukraine was never called a war. Officially, it was known as an 'anti-terrorist operation', and later a 'joint forces operation'.

## REHEARSING ANNEXATION

In the autumn of 2003, in the Kerch Strait, Russia begins the unilateral construction of a dam to the island of Tuzla, which until the storm of 1925 was connected to the Russian mainland by a spit. Now, however, the island belongs to Ukraine, and it reacts harshly: a detachment of Ukrainian border guards arrives in Tuzla, fighter jets take off in Crimea, and the National Guard concentrates heavy equipment in Kerch. As a result, the 'reunification of lands' stops.

FOREVER WITH RUSSIA



# THE POST-TRUTH EMPIRE

Ukraine is an artificial territory of historical Russia, created by Lenin, which was taken over by drug-addled Nazis under the supervision of the United States. They have been bombing the Russian-speaking Donbas with Western weapons for eight years. And then they invented combat mosquitoes and they're just waiting for a chance to attack the original Orthodox Rus. Our grandfathers fought against the Nazis and we can do it again! We were left with no choice!

This is the picture of the world painted by the Kremlin's propaganda machine, explaining the necessity of war. Total lies, hate speech, dehumanisation of Ukrainians, incitement to genocide – 80 years after the end of the Second World War, the unpunished evil of Russian chauvinism is bringing the forgotten demons of the past back to Europe. And hundreds of thousands of Russians are ready to die for what the TV tells them.

## WE WERE FORCED TO ATTACK

A democratic, economically strong Ukraine that is rapidly moving towards NATO and the EU creates problems for Putin's authoritarian regime and the federation, which is immersed in an economic crisis. Propagandists complain that the US turned Ukraine into an "anti-Russia", making the 'special military operation' a forced measure.

## THE KREMLIN MADE IT UP

Breaking news: Ukraine never existed! When Lenin created the Soviet Union in 1922, he decided to invent the state entity of Ukraine, and in fact, Kyiv, with its 1,500-year history and the whole of Kyivan Rus from time immemorial were "originally Russian", just like Alaska, Crimea, and the Kuril Islands.

## "VICTORY" SYNDROME

Russia, wholly disregarding the anti-Hitler coalition, monopolises victory in the Second World War, and, as a "great nation" of victors, brags to the whole world that it can repeat the feat of its grandfathers. Russia militarises the consciousness of children from a young age and even constructs a temple dedicated to the Armed Forces, where Hitler's service cap is kept.

## THE SLAVES DIDN'T DREAM

The Revolution of Dignity in 2014, in which Ukrainians demanded that the authorities continue their course towards the EU, is presented by the Russians as a civil coup. The country has been taken over by illegal armed formations: radicals and Nazis who terrorise the Russian-speaking inhabitants of Crimea and Donbas, and ordinary Ukrainians actually want to embrace Russia.

## EVERY RUSSIAN'S NIGHTMARE

For centuries, the national idea of Ukrainians was that of a united and independent state, which does not fit in at all with the imperial policy of Russia. This is why Stepan Bandera, a revolutionary and leader of the national resistance, is declared enemy number one, and the supporters of his liberation movement, i.e., Ukrainians, are called Banderites by propagandists.

## "REPEAT A LIE OFTEN ENOUGH AND IT BECOMES THE TRUTH"

The propagandists of the Kremlin use the same techniques as the USSR during the Cold War. They try to find ways to divide society, mix the truth with obvious fakes, and disguise it with clever words. The defeat in the Kharkiv region is called a negative offensive, the retreat in the Kyiv region is called a gesture of goodwill, and the most important thing is to remind the population that the special operation is going according to plan.



## "RELIGION IS THE BRAKE OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN"

After the October Revolution of 1917, the propaganda of the USSR began to 'liberate' Ukrainians from religious traditions. Christmas celebrations, carols, and even Christmas trees were banned. Only in 1937, to divert attention from the terrible Stalinist repressions, was 'Grandfather Frost', similar to Father Christmas, invented, turning away from the traditional St. Nicholas. The Christmas tree was also rehabilitated, but with a five-pointed communist star.

## THE ROTTEN WEST

Only 15% of Russians have personally visited the EU, so the tsarist myth about the backward and soulless Europe and US lives on in Russia. The impoverished British are forced to eat dog food, the Germans are about to freeze without Russian gas, and the US controlled by zophiles, Satanists, and as many as 58 different types of homosexuals.

