

Timeline of Ukrainian History

482: Founding of Kyiv, the future capital of Ukraine.

Late 9th century: Founding of the eastern Slavic proto state of Kyivan Rus.

1037: Construction of the Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Kyiv, which, still stands today.

1240: A Mongol army captures Kyiv, bringing most of present-day Ukraine under the control of the Golden Horde, a segment of the vast Mongol Empire.

1476: Ivan III of Muscovy declares independence from the Golden Horde and lays claims to a portion of present-day Ukraine.

1569: Lithuania and Poland officially complete their political merger, forming the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1648: Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky launches a major Cossack rebellion against Polish-Lithuanian rule.

1654: The Cossack Hetmanate turns to the Tsardom of Russia for assistance and protection in their war against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth leading to the signing of the Treaty of Pereiaslav.

1667: The Tsardom of Russia and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth sign a truce dividing Ukraine between them with the Dnieper River as the boundary.

1709: Following Sweden's defeat at Poltava during the Great Northern War, Russia cements its control over the eastern half of Ukraine.

1764: The Cossack Hetmanate is politically dissolved.

1783: The Russian Empress Catherine the Great annexes Crimea from the Ottoman Empire.

1795: As a result of the three partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the territory of today's Ukraine is divided

between the Habsburg Monarchy and Romanov Empire with Russia gaining the vast majority of the Ukrainian lands.

1800s: Various national movements gradually spread throughout the Ukrainian lands.

1863: The Valuev Circular is issued, forbidding the use of the Ukrainian language, claiming that “A Little Russian [Ukrainian] language never existed, does not exist, and never shall exist. Its dialects as spoken by the masses are the same as the Russian language”.

1876: The *Ems Ukaz* bans the right to publish in the Ukrainian language.

1917: The Ukrainian Central Rada, the legislative authority of the future Ukraine's People's Republic is founded. Ukraine is also proclaimed as an autonomous state within a federative Russia, whose people should “have the right to order their own lives in their own land.”

1918, January: Ukraine is proclaimed a fully independent state following the signing of a separate peace treaty between the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Central Powers.

1918, December: The Ukrainian Soviet Republic is proclaimed in Kharkiv.

1919: Following the end of the First World War, the territory of present-day Ukraine is partitioned between Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

1921: The Russian Civil War in Ukraine culminates in a Bolshevik victory.

1922: The Soviet Union is established with Soviet Ukraine as a founding member.

1932–33: The great famine in Ukraine, known as the Holodomor, claims the lives of an estimated 3.9 million people.

1936–38: Stalin's purges include a number of national operations targeting Ukraine's minority communities.

1939: Under the Nazi-Soviet Pact, the Soviet Union invades western Ukraine and proclaims it as part of Soviet Ukraine

1941–42: Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union and establishes a military occupation across most of Ukraine's territory by 1942. During the Second World War, Ukraine suffers an

estimated 5 million to 7 million deaths, or roughly 16 percent of its pre-war population with an estimated 1 million Ukrainian Jews believed to have perished in the Holocaust.

1944: The Soviet authorities launch the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars. Altogether, some 200,000 people are relocated from Crimea to Soviet Central Asia. The Crimean Tatars were permitted to return during the late 1980s.

1954: Crimea is transferred to Ukraine.

1986, April: The Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

1991, August: Ukraine declares independence from the Soviet Union.

2004: The Orange Revolution breaks out as a response to election fraud.

2005, January: Victor Yushchenko is elected President of Ukraine and launches a series of reforms.

2010, February: The pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovych is elected President of Ukraine.

2014: The Revolution of Dignity takes place in Kyiv, resulting in the ousting of Victor Yanukovych, who flees to the Russian Federation. Moscow annexes the Crimean Peninsula in response while also lending support to pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. This marks the beginning of an ongoing war against Ukraine, which would claim some 14,000 lives by 2022.

2022, February: The Russian Federation launches a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine.

