

## Social, Cultural, and Political Studies of the Legendary Resistance of Ukrainians during Russia's War on Ukraine

**Oksana Koshulko**

Lancaster University M.A. Degree in Economy and Society, Ph.D. in Economic Sciences  
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics, Psychology and Social Science (CISEPS), at the  
University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy  
Email: oksanakoshulko2015@gmail.com

### ***Abstract:***

*The article is dedicated to exploring social, cultural, and political studies of the legendary resistance of Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and other multicultural and multinational minorities of the state during Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine, to discussing many significant topics of political and social prerequisites on the way to Ukrainian victory, starting from the glorious history of Kyivan Rus in the X-XI century; the character of ecocide and genocide during Russia's part- and a full-scale invasion of Ukraine of 2014-24-, post-traumatic stress of the Ukrainian nation because of the war during the last ten years of the war 2014-24; the situation about the Ukrainian heroes and traitors in Ukraine, explanation about Russian dissidents, 'Foreign Agents,' and traitors of Ukrainian origin in Russia; the situation how Ukraine became the focus of Western culture and arts.*

### ***Keywords:***

*War; Ukraine; Genocide; Victory; Ecocide*

## **I. Introduction**

Russia's genocidal and ecocidal war in Ukraine had laid bare a lot of the problems in the world, the E.U., and Ukraine. All the problems were necessary not only to detect, but also to analyze, and after that solve because without finding solutions to the issues it would not be possible to receive the victory of Ukraine in Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The article is dedicated to the analysis of a lot of issues and challenges that affect the future Ukrainian victory in Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Thus, the article shows the past, present, and future of Ukraine together with the Ukrainian peninsula Crimea during Russia's war against Ukraine during 2014-24, when the state of Ukraine became a shield for the whole civilized world.

## **II. Research Methods**

The methodology of the article consisted of qualitative research methods, which allowed the author to collect secondary qualitative data using, first of all, the desk research method. This method allowed the author to collect the secondary data from a variety of the open sourced information, among them were the PEN America (Gerntholtz, 2022), the New York Times (Kramer, 2022; Snyder, 2022), the Atlantic Council (Shmigel, 2022), the Guardian (Rankin, 2022), the GT Invest (Povaliaieva, 2023), the Foreign Affairs (Kotkin, 2022), the Interfax-Ukraine (Interfax-Ukraine, 2023), the Espresso TV (Espresso TV, 2014), the Irish Examiner (Clarke, 2022), and etc.

### **III. Results and Discussion**

#### *Glorious history from Kyivan Rus to Kyiv through the millennia*

Currently, increased facts in modern history show how Russia tried to appropriate and transcribe Ukrainian history for many centuries. As the outcome, for many centuries, Russia devalued Ukrainian importance since Kyivan Rus. Now, step by step, Ukraine is restoring its historical roots and refreshing the memory of the nation because Ukraine is of European origin.

Many centuries of Ukrainian slavery in the framework of the Russian empire together with the Soviet occupation of Ukraine in the 20th century forced Ukraine to be a 'little brother' to Russia with the strategy of Russia to humiliate, squelch, and devalue the Ukrainian statehood, of language, culture, traditions, symbols, and religion.

Since Kyivan Rus, Ukraine has a rich story of reliable and stable relationships with Europe.

Empress Anna Porphyrogenita from Constantinople (963 - 1011) became the wife of Volodymyr the Great, and due to the marriage, the couple received Caesar's title, and the status of Emperor and Empress (Nikitenko, 2023). In the 10th century, Kyiv had an impact and power, like Constantinople.

The son of Volodymyr the Great, Jaroslav the Wise, married the Swedish princess, the daughter of the Swedish king, Ingegerd Olofsdotter. This couple inherited Caesar's title and they were the vivid monarchs of the 11th century.

As a result, their daughters of Jaroslav and Ingegerd married the French, Hungarian, and Norwegian monarchs, and became Queens. Their granddaughter, also Ingegerd, or Ingegerd Haraldsdotter, became Queen of Denmark and Sweden. Jaroslav's sister became the wife of the Polish king.

Thus, Kyiv Royal Family blood fled in the veins of a lot of Royal Dynasties in Europe and continues to flow now.

So, the European history of Kyivan Rus and then Ukraine the extraordinarily rich and old, and now, in this war of the 21st century, a lot of Ukrainians see the chance for a historical fight for the restoration of historical justice, and surely victory in the fight for free Ukraine.

#### *Ecocide and genocide during Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine.*

Why has this war become genocidal and ecocidal for the Ukrainian population and land? The Russian occupiers have since 2014 tried to damage and destroy everything which connects to the history of Ukraine and the temporarily occupied Crimea. First, the occupiers murdered, arrested, raped, and tortured people, Ukrainians in Donbas, and Crimean Tatars in their historical land, Crimea.

Since 2022, when the big war, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, they started doing it in the bigger territory of Ukraine, and they planned to occupy the whole territory of the state until the moment when the Ukrainian Army stopped them.

The first stage of the plan of the occupiers was to kill people in Ukraine and Crimea and then damage everything, which was connected to the Ukrainian and Tatar history, religion, education, science, language, and culture. In a lot of cities of the country during the big war of 2022-24, the Russian invaders damaged many museums, schools, universities, and architectural and memorial monuments. In the occupied Crimea, they have appropriated, destroyed, and damaged thousands of different memorials, valuable for Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians (Koshulko, 2023a).

According to the data of the Director of PEN America (Gerntholtz, 2022), over four thousand valuable things from Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian history have been stolen or appropriated by the Russian occupiers in Crimea:

*'Russian occupying forces have systematically attacked Crimea's cultural heritage, took over 4,095 sites of national and local importance and including them in Russia's cultural heritage protection system' (Gerntholtz, 2022).*

Because of that, Russia's part- and a full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a genocidal act, done by this country-terrorist on Ukrainian territory, without any other sense. Due to the horrible news about the Russian atrocities of the invaders in Sumy, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and other cities of Ukraine during the first months of the big war, most of the EU countries understood very well that they could be the next. They helped and continue to help Ukraine very much to win the war.

Unfortunately, on the other side from friendly countries and countries-partners, is very easy to find some countries and even international organizations who still play games with the country-terrorist and help to kill the united Ukrainian nation, consisting of Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, Roma, and other minorities of Ukraine (Koshulko, 2023b).

Anyway Russia, without any other variants, 'Russia wins by losing' (Rankin, 2022). Concerning the ecocidal aspect of Russian aggression in addition to genocidal, irreparable damage to the ecosystem has been made in the Kherson and other regions of Ukraine where the occupiers blew up the dam. Due to that, a lot of representatives of flora and fauna were destroyed, together with a lot of people, who drowned because of the flooding of the big territories. The Russian occupiers on the occupied territories of Ukraine did not even try to help suffering people, especially those who decided to keep the Ukrainian citizenship.

*Post-Traumatic Stress and Ukrainian Realities during the last ten years of Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine during 2014-24 and before*

According to the opinion of Pete Shmigel (Shmigel, 2022), Ukraine has had chronic Post-Traumatic Stress because of its forced relationship with Russia for centuries:

*'Ukraine suffers from chronic Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) which has historically accumulated through events such as the country's experience under Russian imperialism, the Holodomor, World War II, and the systemic suppression of national and human rights during the Soviet era' (Shmigel, 2022).*

During the 2014-22 initial invasion, and the 2022-24 Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and other multicultural and multinational minorities of the state felt and continue to feel a new and extraordinarily strong wave of Post-Traumatic

Stress because of a cruel and horrible genocidal and ecocidal war on their land. Aggressive Russia came to their land just to murder the united nation of Ukraine, destroy their history, and take the territory of the independent country Ukraine together with Crimea. Why? Only because Ukraine together with Crimea wants to be free from the country-aggressor forever, and to have the right to self-determination.

Such atrocities, that the Russian occupiers and invaders made in Crimea and Donbas in 2014, and in the big part of Ukraine in 2022-24, the European land not seen since WW2. There were all the elements of fascism, from penetration into the territory of Ukraine and the start of the full-scale invasion of the country at 4 a.m. like the fascist regime of the 20th century did to creating the concentration camps and forced removal of children and adults from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and Crimea to the territory of the state-terrorist Russia.

Because of that, the American scientist Timothy Snyder (Snyder, 2022) gave the exact characteristics of the activity of the Russian occupier army on the territory of the independent state Ukraine together with Crimea: 'We Should Say It. Russia Is Fascist' (Snyder, 2022).

Due to that, the whole civilized world together with Ukraine must stop fascism in the world forever.

#### *Ukrainian Heroes and Traitors in Ukraine*

During Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine 2014-24, since the Revolution of Dignity of 2013-14, in Ukraine a lot of national heroes appeared, sons and daughters, but also a lot of traitors with a Soviet mentality, who still live in their dreams in the former U.S.S.R., and dream of returning it in their lives.

A lot of the traitors inside Ukraine are still among politicians of various levels, athletes, TV presenters, and show business stars, but also among ordinary people with a Soviet mentality. At the time, when some patriots at the start of the big war without any special equipment stopped the tanks of the Russian invaders from moving into the depths of the country, other people, the Ukrainian traitors, helped the occupiers to murder their compatriots.

The traitors coordinated the fire and sent information to the occupiers to shoot peaceful cities and villages in Ukraine. How is it possible to understand and forgive? All the traitors should be punished, starting with politicians, first from the ex-president of the country, who is still in Rostov city of Russia under the protection of the country-terrorist, and secondly, to ordinary Ukrainian traitors, who sold their honour and conscience to the Russian occupiers for 30 silver coins like Judas.

During the big war of 2022-24, some of the ex-Ukrainian singers, artists, actresses, and TV presenters recently lost their Ukrainian titles, earlier awards, and positions because their work in Ukraine was spreading Russian propaganda against Ukraine. Currently, during the big war, now, when Ukraine is bleeding, they entertained and continue to entertain the audience of the country-killer and terrorist Russia. Shame and dishonour covered their names. Without any doubt, Ukraine will forget their names after the victory forever, and one day they will die as traitors outside of their Motherland.

At the same time, Ukraine has very decent sons and daughters, modern heroes, whose names will be written in gold letters in the history of the post-war state-winner Ukraine (Koshulko, 2023c).

*Russian dissidents, 'Foreign Agents,' and traitors of Ukrainian origin in Russia*

This is not so easy to believe, but among the zombie population of country-terrorist, Russia was and still are a few people, who can see and tell the truth about Russia's war in Ukraine. They risk very much, they can lose everything, their jobs, careers, property, freedom, and even life, but they continue to talk about the war Russia in Ukraine.

Among the few people, was an incredibly famous female dissident, who was killed by the Russian aggressive regime in 2014, the year of the first invasion of the Ukrainian Crimea and Donbas. Before her death, on 10 April 2014, she told by phone on the Espresso TV broadcast, the Ukrainian TV channel, that '... it is difficult to find a better cause for which is possible to lose life than for freedom and welfare of Ukraine' (Espresso TV, 2014). After three months, she was killed in a hospital in Moscow.

In the year of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, a lot of famous and decent people in this country became 'Foreign Agents.' Among them was an incredibly famous historian and teacher of Russia who was forced to leave the country. This list may be continued, but the situation with the citizens of Russia, who just would like to be honest and decent people, is very vulnerable for them, they cannot be protected under the aggressive regime Kremlin and Putin, who can kill people very easily.

At the same time, in the Russian parliament, other governmental structures of Russia, and even in the Russian army is possible to find a lot and lot people of Ukrainian origin, who today kill and bomb Ukraine, their Motherland, where they were born.

Unbelievable, but at the start of a big war in 2022, the Ukrainian journalists in Western Ukraine found the parents of one from the Russian military chief who gave his orders to bomb Ukraine. The Ukrainian father of the Russian military traitor asked this traitor to stop killing his nation, using the broadcast of the Ukrainian TV channel with the hopes that his son-traitor would listen to him.

*From Defense to Offense: It Is the Time for the Ukrainian Victory*

The Ukrainian Army stopped the Russian enemies in Ukraine in 2022, and 2024 is the time to change the policy from defence to offence against Russia and the Russian occupiers to clean the whole territory of Ukraine from the invaders including the Ukrainian Crimea.

Without any doubt, Ukraine will always remember a great contribution of the whole civilized world to the Ukrainian victory, among these countries, are the USA, Canada, the EU, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries, who also helped Ukraine to win in this horrible and no sense war, which started the country-aggressor and terrorist Russia in 2014.

In the occupied territories of Ukraine including Crimea, the invaders continue to traumatize, injure, and murder adults and children by torture, rape, and diverse types of violence against human, women's, and children's rights, as well as, due to lack of good medical aid, food, and clean water.

In the recently de-occupied territories of Ukraine, a lot of civilian and military people died because of land mines, which the occupiers left in the Ukrainian ground. In general, because of the invaders, the Ukrainian land is full of land mines, and the country needs years to clean all the de-occupied territories from the mines. Also, the invaders know very well that Crimea will be free from them very soon. Because of that, the Russian occupiers started putting land mines on the beaches of Crimea because they could only sow death.

In the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine including Crimea, partisans have been activated, they know exactly and feel the approximation of the Ukrainian Army to the occupied territories. Because of that, they try to help the Army in ways how they can, sometimes, at the risk of their lives and freedom.

Also, of course, this war is the war of the 21st century using high-tech. Due to that, thanks to the help and support of international partners together with businesses and the populations of different countries, who donate to the Ukrainian Army, the Army formed an army of drones, which will be the eyes of the military and will allow saving the lives of the Ukrainian military, and international volunteers, males, and females, who stood up to protect the country. With the army of drones, Ukraine will win faster and more effectively.

Realize that, in 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concluded and signed over fifteen contracts with Ukrainian enterprises, which create drones.

As a result, all the over-human efforts of the Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar, European, North American, Asian, British, Oceanian nations, and the rest of the civilized world, who supported and continue to support the state of Ukraine during this horrible war, will be rewarded with a long-awaited Ukrainian victory.

*Ukraine is the focus of Western culture and arts, or how Tvooy and Banksy became great supporters of Ukraine.*

At the start of 2023, a great Italian and Spanish street artist Tvooy came to the Kyiv region of Ukraine to support Ukrainians in this awful war with his street paintings. He left his paintings in a few cities, which suffered from Russian aggression a lot. These few cities are near Kyiv, among them were Irpin and Bucha (Povaliaieva, 2023). This step was especially important for Ukrainians because it inspired and showed them how the art world supported the country in the fight for freedom. Art is also freedom, so, painters know, what Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars are fighting for.

Besides, before, at the end of 2022, another very famous street painter, the British street artist Banksy (Kramer, 2022) also visited the Kyiv region, the same cities, Bucha, Irpin, and others, the most suffering and later de-occupied places, and cities near Kyiv, where he left his paintings.

Later, Banksy decided to help Ukraine more and to sell half of a hundred of his artworks to support the country in its fight against the Russian invaders and occupiers (Clarke, 2022).

Of course, visits of these famous artists together with other international artists, musicians, actors, and actresses inspire Ukraine to continue the heroic fight for freedom and independence from Russia, and, of course, Ukraine will win this battle.

### *The International War Criminal Court for the country-terrorist Russia*

Whereas Russia is a country-aggressor, a terrorist, a killer, and a fascist, the civilized world should create an international court for the investigation of all atrocities committed by this country in Ukraine and Crimea from 2014 to 2024.

It should be a strong antidote for a few countries in the world, who still would like to start wars and terrorism in the world, just kill others in the 21st century, not to progress, but for regress, chaos, fear, famine, and destructions. It must be the International War Criminal Court, the second Nurnberg tribunal like in the 20th century, for international investigations of Russian criminal activity in the territory of the whole of Ukraine including Crimea, in the 21st century.

Also, the fact that ‘The Cold War Never Ended’ according to the opinion of Stephen Kotkin (Kotkin, 2022) due to the terrorist activity of Russia during years in the world, must motivate the international partners to create an international war court and conduct a very honest and clear investigation against the state-terrorist Russia.

### *A Heroic Fight Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and Other Patriotic Forces During Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the 21st Century*

Only a heroic fight of Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and other multicultural and multinational minorities of the state against Russian invaders during Russia's genocidal war in Ukraine in the 21st already has shown the civilized world the original price of freedom, patriotism, and love for the Motherland Ukraine. Ukraine taught the world how without a modern weapon to go against the enemy and protect the country of origin because Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars do not have another land, and they must protect the country of their grandparents and children, as they can (Koshulko & Dluhopolskyi, 2022).

This war is genocidal, but Ukraine together with Crimea will surely restore and rebuild after the Ukrainian victory. A lot of civilian and military defenders, patriots, and lovers of Ukraine and Crimea have been murdered, tortured, and disappeared, but Ukraine together with Crimea will survive and prosper. Ukraine and Crimea will grow up like a seed in the phrase: ‘They tried to bury us. But they did not know we were seeds’ by Dinos Christianopoulos (Saspe, 2021).

## **IV. Conclusion**

The article allowed the author to explore social, cultural, and political studies of the legendary resistance of Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and other multicultural and multinational minorities of the state during Russia's part- and full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In general, the article is a very timely and extremely important documentary because it has demonstrated the deep roots of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and Crimea, explained the basis of the genocidal and ecocidal war for Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, and other multicultural and multinational minorities of the state, showed different sides of modern societies in Ukraine and Russia, where sometimes was possible to find traitors and heroes of the nations and the Motherlands during the war. Also, the article analyzed the situation with corruption during the war, and the roots of chronic Post-Traumatic Stress among Ukrainians,

Crimean Tatars, and other minorities because of the neighbourhood with the state-aggressor Russia.

In addition, the article analyzed the impact of Western famous artists in helping and supporting Ukraine and its victory, as well as the necessity to create the International War Criminal Court for the state-aggressor and terrorist Russia, and the way Ukraine became a shield for the whole civilized world the 21st century. Girl child can learn well, when they are given equal opportunity to do so, irrespective of their environment, hence government should sensitize the parents of the need to train a girl child.

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