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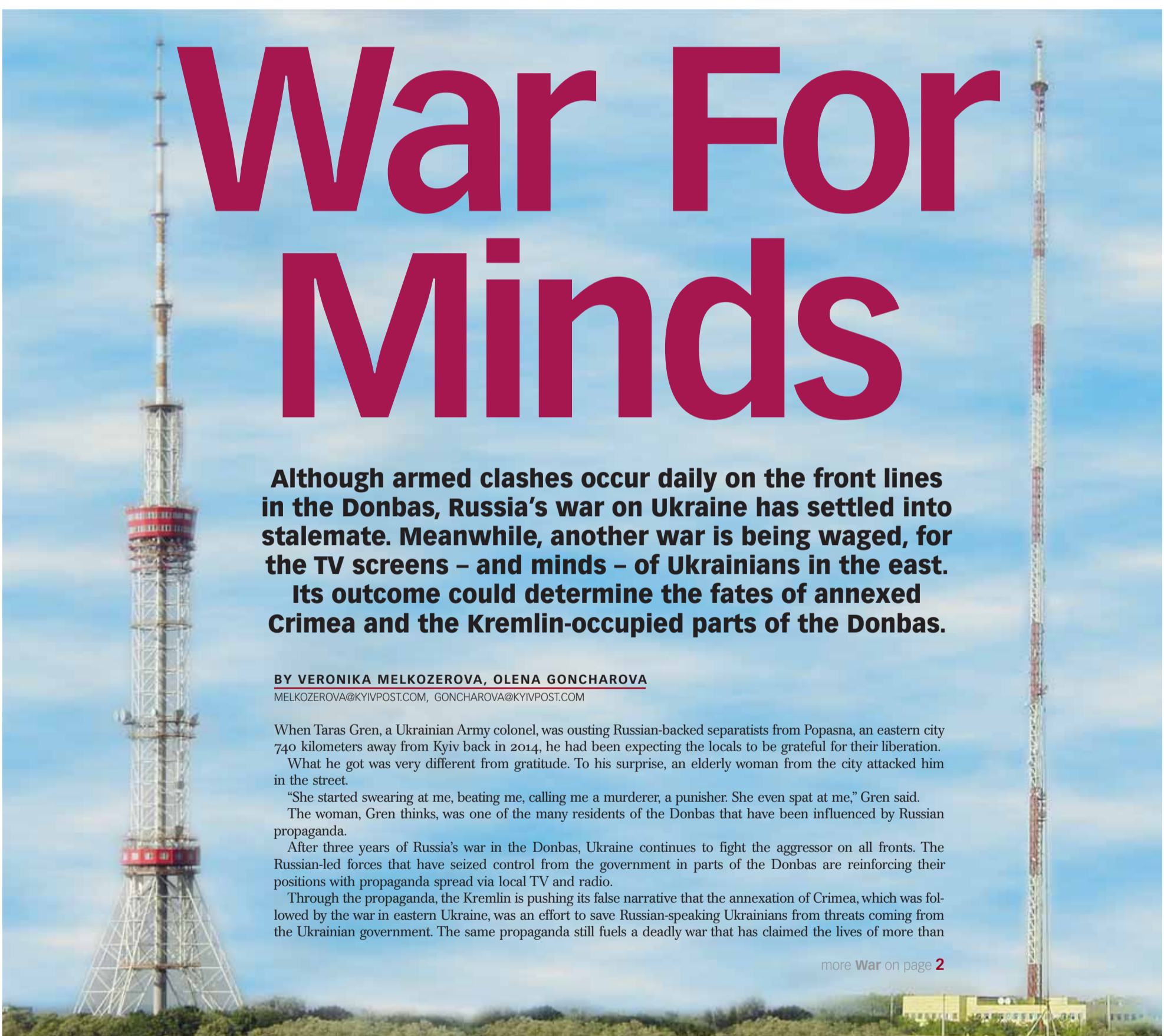
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War For Minds

Although armed clashes occur daily on the front lines in the Donbas, Russia's war on Ukraine has settled into stalemate. Meanwhile, another war is being waged, for the TV screens – and minds – of Ukrainians in the east. Its outcome could determine the fates of annexed Crimea and the Kremlin-occupied parts of the Donbas.

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA, OLENA GONCHAROVA
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When Taras Gren, a Ukrainian Army colonel, was ousting Russian-backed separatists from Popasna, an eastern city 740 kilometers away from Kyiv back in 2014, he had been expecting the locals to be grateful for their liberation. What he got was very different from gratitude. To his surprise, an elderly woman from the city attacked him in the street.

"She started swearing at me, beating me, calling me a murderer, a punisher. She even spat at me," Gren said.

The woman, Gren thinks, was one of the many residents of the Donbas that have been influenced by Russian propaganda.

After three years of Russia's war in the Donbas, Ukraine continues to fight the aggressor on all fronts. The Russian-led forces that have seized control from the government in parts of the Donbas are reinforcing their positions with propaganda spread via local TV and radio.

Through the propaganda, the Kremlin is pushing its false narrative that the annexation of Crimea, which was followed by the war in eastern Ukraine, was an effort to save Russian-speaking Ukrainians from threats coming from the Ukrainian government. The same propaganda still fuels a deadly war that has claimed the lives of more than

more **War** on page **2**

This collage shows the two biggest TV and radio broadcasting towers in Ukraine – the 380-meter-high Kyiv TV Tower (left) and 360-meter-high Donetsk TV Tower. Ukrainian authorities struggle to transmit Ukrainian TV into the war-torn Donbas, where Russian-led forces broadcast Russian and local television using the region's highest TV tower in Donetsk. Controlling the locals' TV screens is critical for winning their loyalty. While Russia is trying to fill Ukrainians' minds with Kremlin propaganda, spreading it from the TV and radio in the Donbas, Ukraine fights back, constructing more broadcasting towers to resume Ukrainian broadcasting in the war zone, and close to Russian-occupied Crimea. (Courtesy, Valeriy Ded)

See 12-page special Independence Day edition inside

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Kremlin's propaganda poisons minds in east

War from page 1

10,000 people in the last three years.

Compared to Russia, Ukraine is allocating very little money to countering the enemy's information war.

In 2017, Russia allocated \$1.2 billion to government-owned media. Ukraine provided just \$76 million in funding for state-owned media and the Information Ministry together. The difference is even bigger than between the two countries' defense budgets: Russia spends \$47 billion on defense, while Ukraine allocates \$5 billion.

TV battles

When in early April 2014, Russian-backed separatists seized a number of cities in eastern Ukraine, they also took over a number of TV towers, including the 360-meter one in Donetsk, which provides a signal to the whole oblast.

The separatists switched off Ukrainian TV channels and replaced them with Russian ones, including state-owned Rossiya 24 and Rossiya 1, known for their inaccurate news reports about the war in Ukraine.

Soon, separatists started broadcasting their own news on the channels Novorossia TV, Oplot, and DNR-



Ukrainian officer Hennadiy Sabdiyev watches the Rossiya 24 news TV channel on a commanding post at the Promzona combat area south of Avdiyivka on May 17. (Volodymyr Petrov)

News, which they launched using the equipment of existing local Donetsk stations. These, and over 25 Russian TV stations make up the TV diet

for most of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, including Ukrainian-controlled territories near the front line.

Kyiv has been struggling to make Ukrainian TV accessible in the region again.

"We can't build the trustful communication with the Ukrainian citizens in the occupied Donbas and Crimea without the renewal of Ukrainian broadcasting on those territories," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said in November.

Ukrainian TV in the occupied territories can be accessed only through a satellite dish or Internet streaming.

But these ways require payment, while many Ukrainians are used to watching TV for free, according to National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine member Serhii Kostynskyi.

"They still prefer to watch the free TV, which they can access with a TV antenna," Kostynskyi said.

This free TV is broadcasted via TV towers. With the biggest tower in Donbas controlled by the separatists and some smaller ones destroyed in the fighting, Ukrainian TV is broadcasted through 10 smaller towers: five in Luhansk Oblast, and five in Donetsk Oblast.

The Ukrainian-controlled TV towers in the Donbas can broadcast a signal for 20–100 kilometers, which leaves many blind spots in the two oblasts, which have a combined area of around 50,000 square kilometers.

The signals of Ukrainian-controlled towers don't reach the occupied territories at all, and they barely even reach the front line, leaving even Ukrainian soldiers exposed to Russian TV propaganda.

Volodymyr Nykonenko, who served with the Ukrainian Nationalist Battalion in 2015, said that on the front line the soldiers often had to watch Russian TV channels, including the notorious Zvezda and First Channel, because it was almost impossible to get Ukrainian TV.

"Russian TV often showed how the separatists' army is unbeatable and

Kremlin-backed fighters muzzle media in Donbas, expert says

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
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Despite Ukraine's efforts to win people's minds in the occupied territories of Donbas, the majority of the population there are still not receptive to Kyiv's message, according to experts.

At least 2.7 million Ukrainians still live in the occupied territories, says Dmytro Tkachenko, who heads the Donbas Think Tank analytical center, and some 44 percent of them see the current situation in eastern Ukraine as a civil war.

Tkachenko says the residents of the occupied Donbas fear to return to government control, and they mostly share the values and mode of thinking of people living in Russia, not in Ukraine.

The Donbas Think Tank has reported that at least 44 percent of those who live in the Kremlin-

controlled territories think the freedom of speech conditions there are better than in the rest of Ukraine. And only 11 percent think it is better protected in Ukraine.

The Kremlin-backed forces have taken control of the local media market apart from Moskovsky Komsomolets Donbas — a local branch of the Moscow-based daily newspaper of the same name. But the newspaper is hardly functioning.

Since 2014, the Russian-led occupiers have started publishing the Russian newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda every day, lead by Yevgeni Sazonov, the deputy chief editor of Komsomolskaya Pravda in Moscow.

There are two main trends in news coverage: the first is exclusively positive headlines for domestic events and the second very negative reporting about Ukraine.

There are about 20 newspapers, four TV channels and six radio

stations in the Donbas now under separatists' control. All of the papers from the two regional print houses in occupied Donetsk Oblast are approved by the so-called information ministry before the publication. On Aug. 9 it didn't approve an article on the Malorossiya project (a scheme to take over the whole of Ukraine and rename it Malorossiya) was killed. As Olexandr Zakharchenko, the leader of the Russian-backed separatists in Donetsk, announced the end Malorossiya project, saying that many people didn't accept it.

Separatists also blocked more than 100 websites in the occupied Donbas as well as all Ukrainian TV channels and radio stations. They only broadcast Shakhtar FC soccer games sometimes — but often without sound, so that the football fans' famous obscene chant "Putin is khuilo (dickhead)," cannot be heard.

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Ukrainians battling flow of fake news from occupied area

War from page 2

Ukrainians are doomed," Nykonenko said.

To bring Ukrainian TV to the soldiers, the Defense Ministry purchased 200 satellite dishes to be used on the front lines.

But according to Kostynskyi, few of these are left there today — soldiers have been taking them home when their service ended.

However, Gren said that in his experience, Ukrainian soldiers don't take Russian TV propaganda seriously.

In fact, they still use classic Russian propaganda fakes as a source of humor.

For instance, Russian TV news once featured a fake report about school teachers in Ukraine forcing students to kill bullfinches because their white-blue-red coloration was reminiscent of the Russian tricolor. Now, according to Gren, Ukrainian soldiers like to joke that they have nothing to eat because "bullfinch supplies are running low."

But many civilians in Donbas don't find these TV reports funny — or fake.

Showing progress

Ukrainian authorities made some progress in bringing Ukrainian television back to the Donbas since the region nearly lost it in 2014.

Three new TV towers were built in the Donbas, funded by private donations and local councils, to cover blind spots in Ukrainian-controlled territories and Crimea. One of the new towers even reaches the northern part of the annexed Crimea. Still, all of the Ukrainian towers are smaller than 200 meters, which means the 360-meter TV tower in separatist-controlled Donetsk can override their signal.

To encourage Ukrainian TV and radio stations to broadcast in the

Donbas, the National TV Council allows them to broadcast there without a license, which takes up to one year to get.

In early 2016, the new radio station Army FM was launched for Ukrainian soldiers based in Donbas.

But it also covers many cities close to the front line, providing the civilians with an alternative to Russian and separatist radio stations transmitted via the Donetsk broadcasting tower.

The government is also working to block anti-Ukrainian broadcasting.

In 2014, Ukraine blocked 14 Russian television channels from its cable networks, accusing them of spreading war-related propaganda. In 2016, three more were banned.

At the same time, Ukraine is trying to jam the Russian TV signal in Donbas. The first jamming system was tested on Aug. 3 in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Pokrovsk (formerly called Krasnoarmeisk), 537 kilometers southeast of Kyiv, according to Head of the National Security and Defense Council Oleksandr Turchynov.

It would take up to four months for the jamming system to start working. However, the authorities don't reveal how much of the territory of Donbas will lose access to Russian and separatist TV after the system is launched.

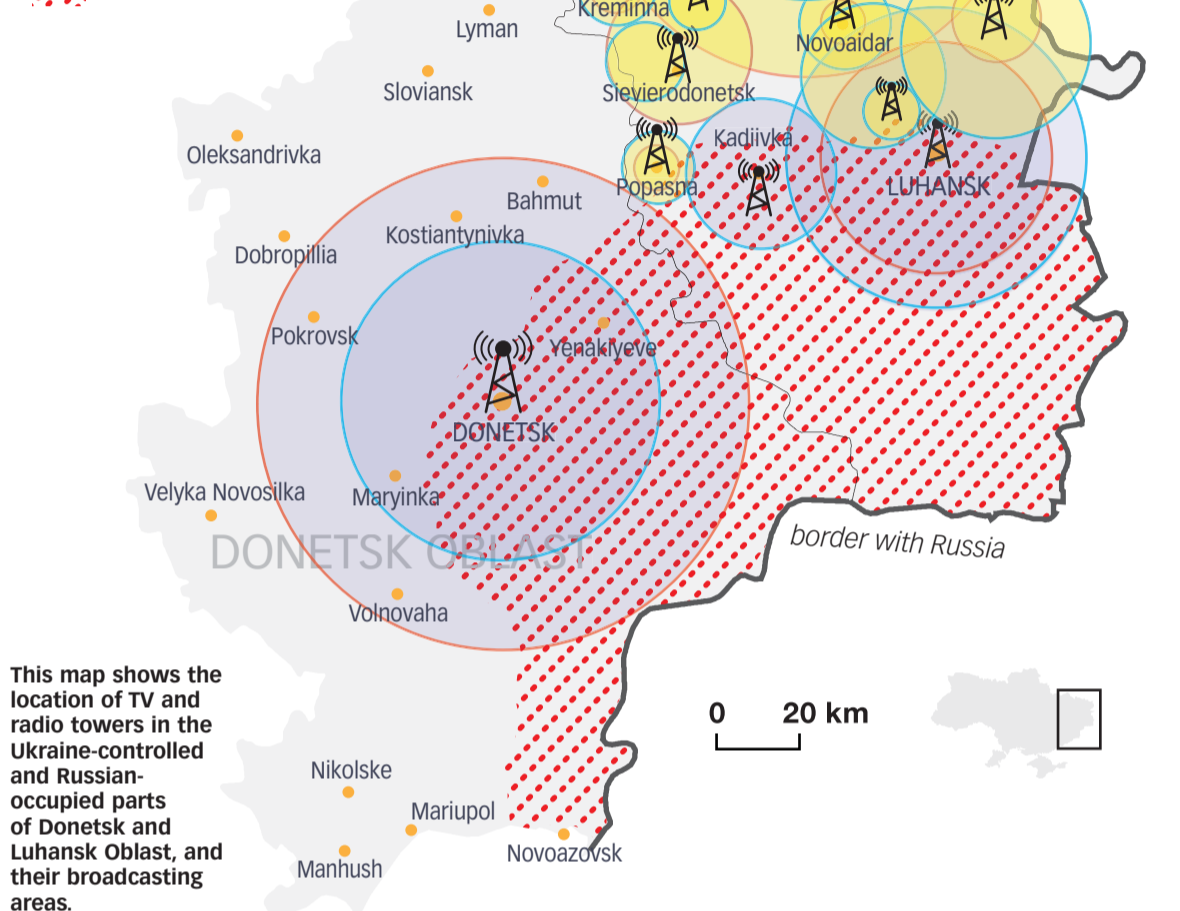
Critical media

Even so, Ukraine is still losing to Russia in the information war, Kostynskyi says. In his view, the reason is that the Russian media, almost all of which is state-controlled, stick strictly to a single narrative.

"While channel-surfing, viewers hear the same message: (Russian President Vladimir) Putin is the best, everything's fine in Russia, we are not afraid of sanctions... Russian media create a fake reality," Kostynskyi says.

Ukrainian broadcasting in Donbas

- Ukrainian towers
- Towers in occupied areas
- TV signal
- Radio signal
- Russian-occupied territory



This map shows the location of TV and radio towers in the Ukraine-controlled and Russian-occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast, and their broadcasting areas.



Sources: Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine, Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories, National Council of Ukraine for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

On the other hand, he says, the media in Ukraine keep the population in constant stress, reporting on stalled reforms, corruption, and economic problems.

However, Kostynskyi believes that

even though criticism in Ukrainian media is undermining people's trust in the authorities, strategically, it is a good thing.

"If we used the same propaganda tactics as in Russia, saying every-

thing's fine, we wouldn't have any progress," Kostynskyi said. "Clever social policies and better standards of living, not ideological propaganda, will reintegrate the Donbas and Crimea with Ukraine." ■

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Editorials

Explosive claims

Ukraine hit the international headlines again on Aug. 14 after the New York Times published an article suggesting that a Ukrainian military plant, Pivdenmash, was the source of rocket engines used in recent North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

The Soviet-designed engines, apparently identified as RD-250s, could have been illicitly sold to the North Korean regime to help Pivdenmash (often referred to by its name in Russian, Yuzhmash) stay afloat after Ukraine suffered economic turmoil in the wake of the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution, the NYT claimed in the article.

The article is based on a study by Michael Elleman, a missile expert, and unnamed sources in the U.S. intelligence community.

In the study, Elleman speculates that Pivdenmash could indeed have been the source of the rocket engines. However, he also points out that the Russian plant Energomash also could have been the source. Both plants, he argues, probably have “hundreds” of the engines stored at “loosely guarded” sites, that “a small team of disgruntled employees” or “underpaid guards” could be enticed to steal a couple of dozen engines from. However, no solid evidence is provided that any of this happened.

The article does use a frame from a North Korean video to point out similarities between the RD-250 and the propulsion system of Pyongyang’s latest rocket, but this is hardly conclusive evidence.

The claim that Ukraine is the source of these rocket engines, and thus partially responsible for North Korea’s recent progress in its nuclear weapons program (a program that now, according to U.S. intelligence sources, now threatens U.S. cities with nuclear strikes) could damage Kyiv’s vitally important relationship with Washington.

Pivdenmash, in a statement issued more than a month ago, on July 5, denied that it had sent any rocket engines to North Korea. Oleksandr Tychynov, the secretary of Ukraine’s National Security and Defense Council on Aug. 14 also dismissed the claim in the NYT article, and blamed the Russian security services for being behind the false report.

While it is possible that Ukraine is indeed the source of these rockets (though very remotely, in our view), the case so far is based on speculation and hypothesis. Nowhere is the government in Kyiv implicated.

And we have to ask ourselves who would benefit from damage to Ukraine’s image, damage to its ties with a key ally, and North Korea gaining the capacity to threaten the continental United States?

Certainly not Kyiv.

Red line

Vitaly Shabunin on Aug. 16 became the first major anti-corruption activist to face official charges under President Petro Poroshenko.

Shabunin could be jailed for three years on charges of assaulting journalist and activist Vsevolod Filimonenko. Although Shabunin’s punching Filimonenko for insulting a female colleague was wrong, his case is a classic example of selective justice and the use of law enforcement to crack down on the government’s critics.

The political character of the case is obvious, given that prosecutors on Aug. 1 closed a case against People’s Front party lawmaker Serhiy Pashynsky over him shooting at a drunk man in 2016. The Interior Ministry, which is investigating Shabunin, is also ignoring video footage in which the ministry’s state secretary, Oleksiy Takhtai, negotiates a corrupt deal to sell sand.

The charges also represent a red line that Ukrainian authorities have crossed on their way towards a more authoritarian and kleptocratic regime. The previous red line was on July 27, when Poroshenko stripped his major political opponent Mikheil Saakashvili of citizenship and made him stateless, resurrecting a Soviet practice explicitly banned by the Constitution.

Poroshenko and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov feel they are getting away with their disregard for the law and the Constitution, and the West has connived in their lawlessness by turning a blind eye to their obstruction of reform. Through their actions the Ukrainian authorities are further alienating the nation’s reformers and civil society, and could be pushing the nation towards another wave of protests. If more protests erupt, Poroshenko and his government only have themselves to blame.

After three years, they’ve failed to reform Ukraine and stamp out corruption. The persecution of Shabunin is just the latest evidence of this.



NEWS ITEM: The New York Times on Aug. 14 published the article quoting a U.S. missile expert Michael Elleman and unnamed sources in U.S. intelligence agencies who said that Ukrainian state rocket plant Pivdenmash could be illegally selling engine parts to North Korea. However, the expert offered no evidence of his theory and later backtracked from it.



NEWS ITEM: Kyiv police on Aug. 16 handed Vitaly Shabunin, the head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center’s executive board, a notice of suspicion, accusing him of punching journalist and activist Vsevolod Filimonenko. The investigators said that Shabunin had caused “long-term damage to his health in the form of a facial trauma.”



NEWS ITEM: Kyiv’s Svyatoshinsky District Court on Aug. 3 claimed that the mining of Bitcoins, a digital currency, was illegal. The National Police searched Bitcoin producers in various parts of Ukraine, and arrested some of them.

KyivPost

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Reformer of the week

Vitaly Shabunin

Kyiv police on Aug. 16 handed Vitaly Shabunin, the head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, a notice of suspicion, accusing him of assaulting journalist and activist Vsevolod Filimonenko. If convicted, Shabunin faces up to three years in prison.

On June 8, Filimonenko approached Shabunin when unknown people served him summons to a military enlistment office, in what Shabunin deemed to be harassment by the government. Shabunin then hit Filimonenko in the face, saying that it was payback for Filimonenko insulting Oleksandra Ustinova, an expert at the Anti-Corruption Action Center, and making her cry. Subsequently Filimonenko attacked Shabunin with pepper spray.

Shabunin's lawyers argue that medics had initially found no injuries, and Filimonenko's injuries were recorded only two weeks after the June 8 incident in what they suspect to be a falsified examination.

Meanwhile, Reanimation Package of Reforms expert Oleksandr Lemenov has accused Filimonenko of extortion and having links to Kremlin-backed separatists and ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, claims that Filimonenko denies.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center and other anti-corruption activists see the case as part of what they see as a campaign by President Petro Poroshenko to intimidate and weaken civil society. Ukraine's notoriously corrupt tax police opened a criminal case against the Anti-Corruption Action Center in early August.

— Oleg Sukhov



Volodymyr Petrov

Anti-reformer of the week

Michael Georg Link

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, then headed by Michael Georg Link, on June 30 recommended stripping the Public Integrity Council, a civil-society watchdog, of its right to veto judges deemed to be corrupt or dishonest.

The OSCE recommendation was commissioned by the notorious High Administrative Court, some of whose judges were negatively assessed by the Public Integrity Council, and published by the High Qualification Commission in Ukrainian on Aug. 10. Civic activists see the move as another effort to use foreigners to obstruct judicial reform in Ukraine.

In July European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker triggered a controversy by saying that President Petro Poroshenko had persuaded him that Ukraine should create an anti-corruption panel within the existing Supreme Court, instead of establishing independent anti-corruption courts.

The OSCE's opinion contradicts an Aug. 8 conclusion by the Group of States Against Corruption, which said that "during a transition period" the Public Integrity Council could play a positive role because "judges are deemed corrupt, and society's trust in existing institutions is low." GRECO also called for the creation of independent anti-corruption courts.

In July, the High Qualification Commission selected 120 judges of the new Supreme Court, who have yet to be approved by the High Council of Justice and appointed by Poroshenko.

As many as 25 percent of the 120 nominees were vetoed by the Public Integrity Council because of alleged evidence of corruption and dishonesty, but the commission overrode the vetoes.

— Oleg Sukhov



(AFP)

VOX
populi

WITH MARIYA KAPINOS
KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

Social Policy Minister Andriy Reva said that Ukrainians spend too much money on food. Do you agree?



Roman Sevastyanov,
business owner

"I have traveled a lot and what I noticed is that in general Ukrainians eat more

than Asians, but much less than Americans. We spend more money on food, but just because our salaries are very low."



Olha Petinova,
dentist

"I feel like Ukrainians worship food. If you serve them a table full of dishes,

they would sweep it right away and ask for more. I think the reason is in our past – we had too many wars and hunger. It's in people's blood – to crave for more food than they need."



Yarina Gordienko,
student

"Between a ride on kayaks and a dinner in the restaurant Ukrainians always choose

the restaurant. People spend too much money on food. Our culture worships food, the more – the better. But I would rather save some money and travel abroad or to invest it in my future."



Ihor Polup,
priest

"I don't think Ukrainians eat too much. I partly understand why the minister said what he said,

we really spend too much money on food but that's just because Ukrainians don't earn enough."



Olena Nazarova,
retiree

"Ukrainians do not eat well enough, especially children. We watch the TV, read news and we can

see that not everyone was born in a rich family. What Reva said is not true."



Anton Martynov,
publisher

"Ukrainians do not look overweight to me. From what I know we do not eat too much. Yet, we consume too much potato and carbohydrates in general."

Kyiv Post article on Aliyev was blatantly one-sided



**KHIKMET
DZHAVADOV**

Editor's Note: The following is an edited English-language version of an opinion written by Khikmet Dzhavadov, head of an organization of Azerbaijani diaspora in Ukraine, and originally published online in Russian on Report.az. It comes in rebuttal to an article published on Aug. 4 by the Kyiv Post under the headline "Azerbaijan's Aliyev keeps abusing human rights." The Kyiv Post stands by the accuracy of the story, but believes the author's response deserves to be published.

There is a well-known comparison of pessimists and optimists using a glass of water. A pessimist sees the glass half-empty, and an optimist sees it half-full. But what do you call the one who talks about the glass and the water, while not having it at hand, and moreover, not even wanting to get acquainted with the glass and its contents?

It's not an idle question. It stands up after reading an openly one-sided article in the Ukrainian English-language publication Kyiv Post of Aug. 4 headlined "Azerbaijan's Aliyev keeps abusing rights."

I always wonder about the origin of such articles and the motives of those who undertook their publication. There are several options. The softest name for anyone who starts up this kind of reasoning, about a subject to him completely unknown and incomprehensible, is an amateur.

The story caused just indignation in the ranks of the large army of

members of the United Diaspora of Azerbaijanis of Ukraine because of the fact that, in it, Azerbaijan is painted in an overtly black color.

The story refers to the ladies and gentlemen who have learned the craft of grant seeking and trading hatred for the motherland long ago. There is the usual set of critics. Just like the set of organizations supporting them. But what are they really worth? A penny on a good day. Because under the conditions of Armenia's continuing occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan for more than 25 years, in the conditions of having more than a million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons, whose rights were violated by Armenia, it is blasphemous to even listen to the edifications of these organizations.

They weren't able to bring justice in such an important issue as compelling Armenia to leave our lands, or returning of all the Azerbaijanis expelled from their homes by the Armenian invaders. They did not achieve a fair punishment for the organizers of the genocide of the peaceful Azerbaijani population in Khojaly, although many of them, including Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, are still alive and well. In these conditions, all their statements about our country are shallow.

But I am extremely depressed that this set of lies, with the help of which the campaign of denigrating Azerbaijan is traditionally conducted, was used in the Ukrainian media. It is amazing that the "harassment of journalists" is mentioned in the newspaper of a country where several journalists were murdered in the last couple of years. Not to mention regular searches in various media organizations. Certainly, it's not up to

Ukrainian media to act as a mentor.

And it's also not up to Ukrainian media to criticize Azerbaijan for honoring the memory of the national leader Heydar Aliyev. Nobody is to blame for the fact that Ukraine's recent history didn't have a political figure comparable in scale with Heydar Aliyev.

It also fails to mention the fact that Azerbaijan has made a huge economic breakthrough during the years of independence, being now the most powerful state of the entire South Caucasus. Just recall that the volume of gross domestic product in the South Caucasus amounts to more than \$75 billion, 70 percent of which falls on Azerbaijan. In addition, Azerbaijan produces 80 percent of the industrial goods in the South Caucasus, totaling \$20 billion.

In addition, it is Azerbaijan that is the gateway to Eurasia, the key state in the system of transport-communication and energy corridors. The transformation of Azerbaijan over the past few years into a decisive factor in the transport and communication connections on a global scale, as well as the restructuring of numerous transit systems within the west-east and north-south transport corridors, and bringing them to the level of modern requirements, is of great importance.

It is of great importance, among others, for Ukraine, with which our country has always had a friendly relationship.

Azerbaijan was always happy to share everything that was of interest to the Ukrainian side, including experience. It wasn't for nothing that the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine Andriy Reva, who visited Baku this January, paid special attention to Azerbaijan's experience

regarding helping the refugees and internally displaced persons. Many Ukrainian politicians, including Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and Minister of Justice Pavlo Petrenko were greatly impressed by their visits to Azerbaijan, and wanted to learn from its experience.

What is there to talk about if Kamaliya Zahoor, the well-known Ukrainian singer, actress, model, winner of the 2008 Mrs. World contest, wife of Mohammad Zahoor, the owner of the Kyiv Post, found Baku absolutely delightful?

"Baku is really beautiful. The city is flooded with lights. The people are nice and beautiful. It's comfortable and safe. Those are probably the main criteria in assessing any city in the world where the population is confident in the future and security and stability are guaranteed to the people," Kamaliya told the Baku media.

But the Kyiv Post story said nothing about this Baku, about this Azerbaijan.

Just like it said nothing about the Azerbaijanis who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainians on Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square during the Revolution of Dignity (that ousted former Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, 2014). There was also nothing about the Azerbaijanis who gave their lives in the Donbas, for the independence and integrity of Ukraine. A completely different Azerbaijan was presented to the readers – the one existing only in the inflamed brain of ill-wishers of our country, with whom it is impossible to argue about whether a glass of water is half empty or half full. Because they will argue that it is always and completely empty, even if there is no glass at all. ■

Aug. 25



(U.S. Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Chrissy Best)

‘USA Salutes Ukrainian Independence’ (symphony concert)

Brass Quintet of the United States Air Forces in Europe Band will join Academic Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine to follow the celebrating of the Independence Day of Ukraine and play a concert together. Musicians will play popular American music - the songs of Louis Armstrong, music by John Williams, Arnold Schoenberg, and Louis Prima. **“USA Salutes Ukrainian Independence” (symphony concert). National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Descent). Aug. 25. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350.**

Friday, Aug. 18
Live music
Jazz on the Roof. Love Songs. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350
Skryabin tribute concert. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Free
Music Under the Sky. Music from the movies “Amélie,” “Midnight in Paris,” “Love Me if You Dare,” “Scent of a Woman” and others. TSUM roof. 8 p.m. Hr 350

Chamber Jazz Evening With Anna Mia. Old Fashioned Bar. 8 p.m. Hr 150
Clubs
Fryday Afterwork (party on the beach). Bora Bora Beach Club. 6 p.m. Hr 100
Low: Lexx and Pavel Party. Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 200-280
Bodeguita says Bye-Bye (Cuban party). Bodeguita del Medio. 6 p.m. Free

Fryday in Jugendhub. Jugendhub. 11 p.m. Hr 100
Miscellaneous
Street Food Party. Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. Hr 50-75
ZaxidFest (music festival). Rodatychi village. 12 a.m.- 11 p.m. Hr 300-4,000
Shows
Julinoza (indie-jazz). Caribbean Club. 9 p.m. Hr 120-450

Nemnogo Nervno (dream-folk band). Free Gen Surf Cafe. 8 p.m. Hr 130-160
Saturday, Aug. 19
Classical music
Classics in the Garden. Compositions by Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Ravel, Handel. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300
Live music

Aug. 22, 24, 26



(Courtesy)

‘Kidnap’ (thriller)

An American movie directed by Luis Prieto features a story of a woman (starring Halle Berry), whose son got kidnapped. Instead of waiting for police to find her boy, she decides to try rescuing her son on her own and nothing can stop her. The screening will be in English. **“Kidnap” (thriller). Kinopanorama cinema (19 Shota Rustaveli St.) Aug. 22, 24. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50-70. Aug. 26, 27. 3 p.m. Hr 50**

Jazz on the Roof. The songs of Ella Fitzgerald. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350
Cartoon Jazz. Music from cartoons. Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 120-450
Clubs
Lesnoy Prichal: Tini. Closer. 11:55 p.m. Free
Best Summer Hits 2017 (Yampolsky, Dvblex, Remov DJ set). Indigo. 11 p.m. Free
Miscellaneous
Street Food Party. Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. Hr 50-75
Richka Beach Family Party. Skvorechnik Cafe. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 100
Summer Sale at Vsi.Svoi. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free
Ukrainian Jewelry Market. Izone. 10 a.m - 7 p.m. Free
ZaxidFest (music festival). Rodatychi village (near Lviv City). 12 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 300-4,000
Meeting with photographer Thomas Dvorzak. Lightfield Productions. 6 p.m. Free
Movies
The Duel (drama, western).

Marinita and Amir Shahsar Concert. Playing folk, classics and jazz. Dim MK. 7 p.m. Hr 200
Miscellaneous
Street Food Party. Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. Hr 50-75
Summer Sale at Vsi.Svoi. 10 a.m - 8 p.m. Free
Ukrainian Jewelry Market. Izone. 10 a.m - 7 p.m. Free
ZaxidFest (music festival). Rodatychi village. 12 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 300-4,000
Plivka Garage Sale. Plivka space. 1 p.m. Free
Movies
Girl With a Pearl Earring. Exhibition On Screen. Kyiv. 3 p.m. Hr 150
The Duel (drama, western). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50
Clubs
Birthday Party Miami Vibes. City Beach Club. 12 p.m. Hr 400-1,300
Who is in Charge (DJ Leo, Belka set) Bionica. 10 p.m. Hr 100

‘Antony and Cleopatra.’ British National Theater Live

The new version of the famous play by William Shakespeare is to be screened in Ukraine. It is a love story of two great rulers - Marc Antony, the Triumvir of the Roman Republic, and Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt. Torn between feelings and duty, the lovers can’t help but meet the tragic end. The screening will be in English with Ukrainian subtitles. **“Antony and Cleopatra.” British National Theater Live. Kyiv Cinema. (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Aug. 22. 7 p.m. Hr 175**



(Courtesy)

Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50
Shows
Bangladesh Concert (cover band). Docker ABC Irish Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100 - 125
Jeembo. Tveth (rap). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 200
Kablukami po Brushchatke (pop-rock). Docker pub. 8 p.m. Hr 125
Theater
Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? British National Theater Live. Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 175-225
Sunday, Aug. 20
Classical music
Classics in the Garden. Serenades Evening. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300
Live music
Ukrainian Ethno: Jazz on the Roof. Playing Ukrainian folk songs

Monday, Aug. 21
Classical music
Kyiv soloists ensemble concert. Playing Mascagni, Verdi, Massenet, Wagner. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250
Live music
Naoni. Best symphonic rock hits. Roof. 7 p.m. Hr 150-600
Friday Free Style Music. Fusion Trio playing jazz, funk, fusion, folk. Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 100-300
Jazz on the beach. Smooth Operation. UBK. 8 p.m. Hr 200
Miscellaneous
Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150 -1,650
Tuesday, Aug. 22
Classical music
National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine. The songs of Muslim

Magomayev. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 📍

Live music

Tango on the Roof. World hits, tango-style. Bel étage. 7 p.m. Hr 350 📍

Miscellaneous

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150 -1,650 📍

Movies

Kidnap (thriller). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50-70 📍

I, Claude Monet. Exhibition on Screen. Multiplex (SkyMall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 150 📍

Theater

Antony and Cleopatra. British National Theater Live. Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 175 📍

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Classical music

Vadym Borysov and Kyiv Chamber Orchestra concert. The music of Schubert, Grieg, Purcell. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250 📍

Classics on the roof. Compositions by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Strauss. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Miscellaneous

Brave. Factory Festival. Metrobud Factory. 8 p.m. Hr 690-4,760 📍

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150-1,650 📍

Shows

Antytila (pop rock). Docker Pub. 7 p.m. Hr 350-750 📍

Theater

Obsession. British National Theater Live. Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 175 📍



ZaxidFest (music festival)

Hidden in the middle of a forest, ZaxidFest offers its guests a tent camp, showers, food courts, parking lots, and special places to charge gadgets. The lineup includes foreign performers, such as Breaking Benjamin, Enter Shikari, In Extremo as well as Ukrainian artists: O.Torvald, Pianoboy, Vivienne Mort. **ZaxidFest Festival, Rodatychi village (Lviv Oblast). Aug. 18-20. 12 a.m. Hr 300-4,000**

Thursday, Aug. 24

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Ukrainian ethno. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350 📍

Jazz on the Beach. The songs of Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Bassey, Frank Sinatra, James Brown, Ray Charles, Herbie Hancock. UBK. 8 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Miscellaneous

Brave. Factory Festival (electronic music). Metrobud Factory. 8 p.m. Hr 690 – 4,760 📍

Koktebel Jazz Festival. Chornomorsk city. 7 p.m. Hr 190-1,290 📍

Kukulabia (family festival). Stolychnyi Market. 10 a.m. Hr 50-100 📍

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150 -1,650 📍

Movies

Kidnap (thriller). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50-70 📍

Shows

Dzidzio (pop). Dance Pool Bar Young Papa. 9 p.m. Hr 400 📍

Friday, Aug. 25

Classical music

The USA Salutes Ukrainian Independence (symphony concert). Playing American songs and music. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350 📍

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Ray Charles. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350 📍

Friday Free-Style Music. Playing disco, funk, jazz. Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 100-300 📍

Clubs

Entourage. Beat the Lake party. Nebrezh Lake. 3 p.m. Hr 50 📍

Miscellaneous

Koktebel Jazz Festival. Chornomorsk city. 7 p.m. Hr 190-1,290 📍

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150-1,650 📍

Shows

Brave. Factory Festival

At the Brave Factory Festival a huge industrial property will turn into a venue for electronic arts, contemporary art installations and urban culture. Walls will turn into a huge canvas for artwork, while pipes will transform into seats. The event gathers musicians from around the world, such as American music producer and DJ Robert Hood, Bill Patrick, John Object and Igor Glushko. **Brave. Factory Festival. Metrobud Factory (45-128 Avtoremontna St.) Aug. 23-24. 8 p.m. Hr 690 – 4,760**



Z-Games Festival

Z-Games Festival combines sports and music. Visitors can take part in extreme sports competitions: The program includes skateboarding, rollerblading, skimboarding, bouldering (rock climbing), slacklining, parkour, and breakdancing. Many come to sit on the beach and watch other people compete. This year, headliners are Pendulum, Monatik, Zebrahead. **Z-Games Festival, Zatoka village (Odesa Oblast). Aug 21-27. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150-1,650**

Mad Heads UA (punk-rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 125 📍

Christian Loffler (meditative sound).L8 Park. 11 p.m. Hr 300-350 📍

Saturday, Aug. 26

Classical music

Symphonic Concert. Music by Mozart, Beethoven, Liatoshynsky. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250 📍

Live music

Poetry. Letters. Jazz in the Garden. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Miscellaneous

Koktebel Jazz Festival. Chornomorsk city. 7 p.m. Hr 190-1,290 📍

Kukulabia (family festival). Stolychnyi Market. 10 a.m. Hr 50-100 📍

School Again Market at Vsi.Svoi. 10 a.m. Free 📍

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150 -1,650 📍

Movies

Kidnap (thriller). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50 📍

Sunday, Aug. 27

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Broadway. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350 📍

Miscellaneous

Motorcycle racing championship. Chaika Motodrome. 12 p.m. Hr 70 📍

Koktebel Jazz Festival. Chornomorsk city. 7 p.m. Hr 190-1,290 📍

School Again market at Vsi. Svoi. 10 a.m. Free 📍

Z-Games (music and sports festival). Zatoka village. 10 a.m. Hr 1,150 -1,650 📍

Movies

Kidnap (thriller). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50 📍

Shows

Rodeo FM (country). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 120 - 320 📍

Tartak (rapcore, punk rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 200-300 📍

Venues

Classical Music
📍 National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Descent) +38044 278 1697

Live Music
📍 Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazivska St.) +38044 285 4105
📍 Bel étage (16A Shota

Rustaveli St.) +38067 171 1616 info@etage.kiev.ua
📍 Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.) +38067 224 4111 caribbanclub@gmail.com
📍 TSUM Kyiv Department Store (38 Khreshchatyk St.) +38080 060 0202
📍 Old Fashioned Bar (32 Vozdvyzhenska St.) +38099 988 0836

📍 Dim MK art and education house (57 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38044 594 1063 info@masterklass.ua
📍 UBK Club (Trukhaniv Island) +38097 771 3143
Clubs
📍 Bionica Club (128 Borschahivska St.) +38063 441 3441
📍 Indigo Club (3 Kudriashova St.) +38044

500 0011
📍 Mezzanine Club (31 Nyzhnoyurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306
📍 Bora Bora Beach Club (Hidropark) +38073 707 0010
📍 City Beach Club (176 Horkoho St.) +38066 629 5555
📍 Nebrezh Lake (Darnytskyi district)
📍 Bodeguita del Medio. (21/20 Yaroslaviv Val)

+38044 272 6500
📍 Jugendhub. (1 Bahovutivska St.) +38097 034 4541
Miscellaneous
📍 Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) +38050 477 2620 info@izone.ua
📍 Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) +38044 338 5538
📍 Skvorechnik cafe (5 Trukhanivska St.) +38073

402 8151
📍 Vsi.Svoi (12 Desiatynna St.) vsi.svoi.food@gmail.com
📍 Rodatychi village (Lviv Oblast) zaxidfest.com/en
📍 Metrobud Factory (45-128 Avtoremontna St.) brave-factory.com
📍 Chaika Motodrome (Chaiky village, 2 Antonova St.) +38050 351 9943
📍 Zatoka village (Odesa Oblast) z-games.com.ua/en/home-en/
📍 Chaika Beach

(Chornomorsk city, Odesa Oblast)
📍 Stolychnyi Market (110A Kiltseva Rd.)
📍 Plivka space (1 Vasykivska St.) Plivka.info@gmail.com
📍 Lightfield Productions. (21 Polyova St.) +38096 400 6824
📍 Zatoka village (Odesa Oblast) z-games.com.ua/en/home-en/

Movies
📍 Kinopanorama Cinema (19 Shota Rustaveli St.) +38044 287 3041 adm. kinopanorama@gmail.com
📍 Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasykivska St.) +38044 234 7381
Shows
📍 Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 658 8951

📍 Docker ABC Irish Pub (15/4 Khreshchatyk St.) +38044 278 1717
📍 Free Gen Surf Cafe (12 Basseina St.) +38098 911 0112
📍 Dance Pool Bar Young Papa (2 Henerala Vatutina Ave.) +38095 283 6555
📍 L8 Park. (16A Parkova Doroha) +38063 633 7443
📍 Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrska St.) +38044 537 1340 docker@docker.com.ua

📍 Roof (37/41 Sichovykh Stritsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
Theater
📍 Multiplex (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0 800 505 333
📍 Multiplex (SkyMall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0 800 505 333

'Ukraine sold rocket engines to North Korea' story crashes

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

At first, it looked like very bad news for Ukraine.

The New York Times, one of the most reputable newspapers in the United States, on Aug. 14 published an article with the attention-grabbing headline "North Korea's Missile Success Is Linked to Ukrainian Plant, Investigators Say."

The claim that Ukraine had aided North Korea in developing its nuclear weapons delivery system, if true, would be a massive blow to Ukraine's international image, given that North Korea, a belligerent Far Eastern hereditary dictatorship, has threatened to use nuclear weapons against the United States.

It might also put strain on the relationship between Ukraine and the United States, its strongest ally.

The NYT article was based on a study by missile expert Michael Elleman published on the same day by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a think tank. The journalists quoted Elleman and cited unnamed sources in the U.S. intelligence community as saying that the rocket engines – identified as RD-250s – "likely" came to North Korea from Ukraine's Pivdenmash (often referred to by its name in Russian, Yuzhmash) missile plant.

But soon after the publication of the article, Ukraine's authorities, commentators and journalists quickly began to cry foul.



People watch as coverage of an ICBM missile test is displayed on a screen in a public square in Pyongyang on July 29. (AFP)

That was because Elleman's study did not support the main thesis of the NYT article – that the rocket engines had probably come from Pivdenmash. In fact, Elleman's study implied that it was equally possible that the engines had come from a Russian plant, Energomash.

Besides, while accusing Ukraine

of leaking the technology to North Korea, the authors of the article neither reached out to the Ukrainian authorities nor Pivdenmash for comment.

Ukraine's answer

Ukraine's Security and Defense Council's Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov, responding to the claim, said that the whole story was a deliberate attempt by Russia's security services to frame Ukraine, and that the New York Times had spread "false information."

According to him, the Ukrainian defense-industrial complex has never supplied weapons and military technology to North Korea.

"Ukraine has never supplied rocket engines or any missile technology to North Korea," Turchynov said on Aug. 14. "We believe that this anti-Ukrainian campaign was triggered by the Russian secret services to cover their participation in the North Korean nuclear and missile programs."

He said Ukraine considers the regime in Pyongyang "totalitarian, dangerous and unpredictable," and supports all sanctions against this country, as well as sanctions against Russia, "the regime of which is becoming increasingly similar to the North Korean one."

Ukraine's Pivdenmash, issuing a statement the same day, said the story was built on untrustworthy facts. "The assumptions... have nothing to do with reality," it read.

Pivdenmash CEO Sergii Voyt also went public – just not deliberately.

Russian pranksters Vladimir "Vovan" Kuznetsov and Alexei "Lexus" Stolyarov called Voyt, pretending to be Turchynov. The two posted a recording of the call on YouTube on Aug. 16. In it, Voyt appeared to have had no doubt he was speaking to Turchynov, answering all of the questions about the

issue the prankster Kuznetsov asked.

But during the prank call, Voyt said nothing that contradicted Ukraine's official position – Pivdenmash had nothing to do with the North Korean missile program. He speculated that either Russia or China may have provided rocket engine secrets to North Korea.

"I can't imagine how (the secrets) could've got (to North Korea). It might happen through our neighbor (Russia)," Voyt said, adding that Russia had access to Pivdenmash developments in times of the Soviet Union. But it might be China as well, as the plant's design bureau has been working with the country for 20 years, helping it develop rocket engines, he said.

Anyway, Voyt said, "our design bureau could not give (any secrets) away."

Expert backtracks

After the story, Ukraine issued its official denial, IISS missile expert Elleman, quoted by the New York Times, appeared to backtrack.

"I don't believe the Ukrainian government condoned or knew, if the engines were sourced in Ukraine," Elleman tweeted on Aug. 14 late in the evening. "To the contrary, Ukraine arrested North Koreans in 2012!" he wrote, referring to a case when North Korean spies attempted to steal technology from Ukraine in 2012.

There was a second reported attempt by North Korean spies to steal missile technology secrets in 2015, also from Pivdenmash. Ukraine reportedly detained the spies when they attempted to photograph secret documents from the plant, and they were tried and imprisoned.

Elleman pointed out that it was equally possible that the engines had come to North Korea from Russia – something that the NYT story had not made clear.

"Let me be clear about DPRK's (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) source of ICBM engine: (Pivdenmash) is one of the several possible sources, there are other potentials in Russia."

Russian links?

However, the NYT story still earned Elleman bitter criticism from commentators and journalists in Ukraine, with Elleman himself being accused of being biased.

Some pointed to Elleman's supposed links to Russia – he had worked in Russia for six years from 1996 to 2001, heading the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program for dismantling Russia's obsolete long-range missiles. His Facebook page contained pictures of his Russian family.

As criticism of him raged on social media, Elleman deleted his Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Story fallout

The reaction to the story was shrugged off by the New York Times, while later on Aug. 14 updated the story online to include Turchynov's official denial, keeping the same headline and angle of the story.

However, the Reuters news agency also jumped on the story, publishing a story on Aug. 16 quoting U.S. intelligence officials as saying they believe North Korea can produce its own missile engines and does not need to import technology from Ukraine.

The cited U.S. official said that the U.S. has "intelligence to suggest that North Korea is not reliant on imports of engines... Instead, we judge they have the ability to produce the engines themselves."

When asked about the matter on Aug. 15, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said that Ukraine has a "very strong non-proliferation record."

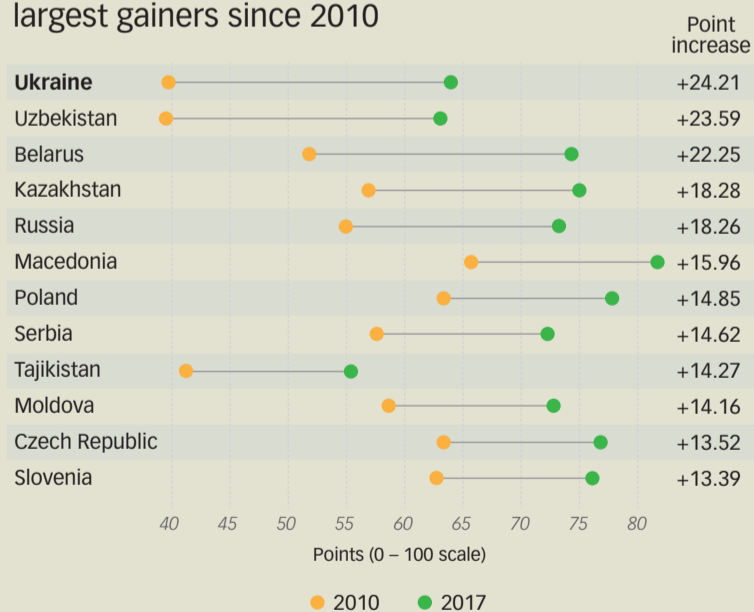
The U.S. intelligence assessment quoted in Reuters, was also supported by an earlier, Aug. 10 post on the website of the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation. In the post, it was suggested North Korea certainly used indigenous missile technology development.

"Reliance on external sources for technology is clear," said RAND expert Daniel M. Gerstein. However, he did not single out a particular country or mention Ukraine. According to Gerstein, North Korea's current interest in developing missile technology "has far exceeded that of the previous two regimes" and could come from various sources.

"Several of the designs incorporated in the North Korean program came from old Soviet systems. In other cases, North Korea procured entire rocket systems, for example from Egypt in the 1970s," Gerstein wrote.

He underlined that experts must examine the ties between Pyongyang, China and Russia, but that nothing was certain, leaving the source of North Korea's new ICBM rocket engines a mystery. ■

World Bank Ease of Doing Business Ratings, largest gainers since 2010



Sources: World Bank, FT Research. By Stella Shabliovska, Kyiv Post.

Ukraine in Doing Business: Progress, but still low

Ukraine has become the world's largest gainer since 2010 on World Bank's latest ease of doing business rating. Ukraine ranked 80 out of 190 countries featured in the 2017 Doing Business survey. The World Bank classifies Ukraine and 24 other countries as "Europe and Central Asia," in which all but three are former communist states of Yugoslavia and Soviet Union. The data shows that ex-Soviet Bloc states have improved their business environment more than anywhere else in the world over the past seven years, with Ukraine as the largest gainer on the scale.

But despite tremendous progress, Ukraine still lags behind the Baltic countries, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan. In 2017 the country jumped three places on last year. It ranked the 20th best place in the world to start a business, and 63rd for ease of registering a property.

– Bermet Talant



Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the Independence Day of Ukraine on Aug. 24. For the list of festive events go to page 10 of the Independence Day takeout.

How to escape heat on waterways of Kyiv



People relax during a boat ride along the River Dnipro in Kyiv on Aug. 16. (Oleg Petradiuk)

BY MARIYA KAPINOS
KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

Not many capital cities can boast sandy beaches, lakes, and a wide river right in their center. Kyiv offers all of it, and a wide range of water-based recreational activities, from water-skiing to cruises on yachts.

To arrange a day on the water, one can go online or book a preferred activity on the phone. Travelers can ask a hotel front desk, since many hotels have partnerships with water-sports clubs.

The Kyiv Post offers a list of places to try water skiing, rent motor boats and yachts, or go on a cruise on the Dnipro River.

Wakeboarding

Wakeboarding and waterskiing are fun, although physically demanding. Most people who try wakeboarding for the first time say they won't come back for a second attempt, according to the administrators of Kyiv's Wave Riders Club. Nevertheless, once the first-time fatigue and nerves wear off, wakeboarding novices usually give it another try.

Ten minutes of wakeboarding, which involves being pulled along by a motor boat or a pulley system while riding on a short surfboard, costs Hr 400 (\$16). That's usually long enough for a beginner, the Wave Riders Club says. A brief lesson before the ride costs Hr 150 (\$6). More experienced wakeboarders

can enjoy a one-hour ride for Hr 1,500 (\$58).

Water skiing is a bit cheaper - Hr 250 (\$10) for 10 minutes, but there is no discount for a longer ride.

Wave Riders, 11A Pryrichna St. (Obolon Embankment), +38066 432 3201

X-Park in Druzhby Narodiv Park (near Moscovskiy Bridge). Take bus No. 95, No. 100, or No. 101, or trolleybus No. 30 or No. 31 from Petrivka metro station and get off at Druzhby Narodiv Park bus stop, +38063 136 2585

Try Wake Club (Trukhaniv Island), +38067 607 4971

Kayaks

Those who love active sports but

don't want to get wet can rent a kayak, and paddle their cares away.

Kyiv sports clubs offer kayaks for one, two, or three people. At Sup Kayak Club, a single-seat kayak costs Hr 60-80 (\$2-3) per hour, and Hr 250-450 (\$10-18) for the entire day.

Two- and three-seat kayaks cost Hr 80-150 (\$3-6) per hour and Hr 400-650 (\$15-25) for the whole day.

Sup Kayak Club in Druzhby Narodiv Park (near Moscovskiy Bridge). Take bus No. 95, No. 100, or No. 101, or trolleybus No. 30 or No. 31 from Petrivka metro station and get off at Druzhby Narodiv Park bus stop, +38044 537 1009, +38050 411 9828

more **River** on page 10

City Life

WITH MARIYA KAPINOS
KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

Visit Kyiv's venerable old venues

In the 1990s, to order a cup of coffee in some of Kyiv's cafes, clients had not only to pay for the beverage itself, but also to pledge money, a valuable object like a piece of jewelry, or a passport as security for the cup.

There aren't many restaurants and cafes from those times left in Kyiv, and those that are still on the map won't ask for collateral on a loan of a cup.

But while most venues have been extensively renovated, some still bear a few reminders of their long pasts.

Here are six of the oldest venues in Ukraine's capital, some of which have histories that stretch back into Soviet times.

Yaroslava bakery

Time has passed, the city has changed, but Yaroslava bakery, opened in 1947, has remained the same. Several generations of Kyivans have grown up with the tradition of dropping by the bakery on weekends to have one of the bakery's famous buns with cinnamon. The variety of bun fillings on the menu is enticing to those with a sweet tooth: cranberry, strawberry, blueberry, poppy seeds, sea buckthorns, and many others.

This place is not very popular with tourists, but it does retain the atmosphere of old Kyiv. The bakery has stone flooring, metal chairs, wooden tables and old drawings on its walls.

15 Yaroslaviv Val St. Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., weekends - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. +38044 272 4260

Praha restaurant

Unlike bakeries, restaurants in the Soviet Union were fancy places that not everyone could afford, with diplomats, foreigners and civil servants as the usual guests.

Praha restaurant, built in 1956, is the oldest restaurant in Kyiv. Back then, to reserve a table at this classy place, the average Soviet citizen had to make "an arrangement" beforehand with the receptionist - or pay a bribe in other words.

Praha used to serve mainly Czech cuisine. When the restaurant opened, Czech cooks came to Kyiv and taught the staff how to prepare their national food. Praha was also known for its top-notch beer, delivered directly from Czechoslovakia.

Two years before the collapse

more **Restaurants** on page 10

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KyivPost

Few of Kyiv's pre-independence pubs, clubs now remain

Restaurants from page 9

of the Soviet Union, in 1989, the restaurant closed. It reopened in 2011, with a new design and a new menu with dishes from Asian, Italian and Ukrainian cuisine.

The restaurant is located in a park zone, near a lake next to the National Exhibition Center in the Holosiivsky district of the city. The elegant restaurant building evokes memories of an old European manor, with a white colonnade and balconies with forged metal railings.

1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. +38044 526 9990

Vavilon restaurant

While Praha mostly hosted diplomats, lawmakers and other top officials, Vavilon restaurant, opened in 1987, was a favorite place for creative minds: actors, stage managers, singers, and playwrights.

Olena Sakina has been working in Vavilon for 30 years. She has witnessed how their visitors, sitting at a table having dinner, were coming up with new ideas for movies, performances and future hit songs.

The majority of Vavilon's visitors

are locals, with just a few rare tourists, Sakina says. The menu reflects tastes of the clients: Ukrainian food with no hint of foreign cuisines. Despite its renovated interior, visitors describe Vavilon as a place frozen in the late 1980s.

6 Saksahanskoho St. (in the Budynok Kino building) 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. +38044 287 4513

Miami Blues restaurant

This restaurant, in contrast to Praha and Vavilon, did not exist in the times of the Soviet Union – it opened three years after it fell, in 1994. Regular clients of Miami Blues often say the place hasn't changed at all in the last 20 years. It still has leather chairs, dim lighting, and lots of wood in its design.

The menu is a mix of Ukrainian and Italian cuisine. Miami Blues was also the first restaurant in Kyiv to introduce a breakfast menu.

114 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 24/7. +38044 239 1133

Caribbean Club

While there are still a few restaurants in Kyiv that have been open for more than 20 years, there are no



Men sit at a counter wearing art leather masks during a photoshoot in Parovoz Speak Easy bar in Kyiv. (Courtesy)

night clubs as old as this. The oldest is the Caribbean Club, which opened in 1998.

Vlad Povshednyi has been a bartender in Caribbean for almost five years. He says the club was always popular among foreign tourists, but before it was renovated in 2013 it was a small one-storey place that mostly played salsa music. Now it is

a three-storey concert hall and night club. At least two or three times a week the club holds jazz and rock concerts, dance shows, or theater performances.

"We have clients that come from other countries just to spend an evening at Caribbean Club," Povshednyi tells.

4 Petlury St. 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. +38067 224 4111

Parovoz Speak Easy bar

Up until 2002, there were few true pubs in Ukraine – people going out drinking would most commonly go to a restaurant or club. Parovoz, opened in 2002, was one of the first popular bars, as it had more class than most others, says Nikolay Golotin, the owner of Parovoz Speak Easy bar. The bartenders didn't just serve vodka – they mixed new (for Kyiv) drinks like margaritas or Bloody Marys.

"We gave a new meaning to the word bar," Golotin says.

The bar was renovated 2014, with new drinks added to the menu, and the place now resembles an American bar from the 1920s and 1930s.

"The world has changed, our clients grew up, and we had to change too," says Golotin.

The only thing that remains the same is the absence of any sign outside, and the only way to get in is to know where it is – or to know someone who does.

19 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 12 p.m. – till the last client. +38044 235 2413 ■

Messing about on Dnipro River

River from page 9

Kayak Center. Korabelna Street (near Hydropark metro station), +38097 967 7576

Zenit Sport Club (Trukhaniv Island, near Zenit Café), +38063 435 1035, +38066 512 9555

Motor boats

Looking for a venue for a summer-time party? Large parties of up to 30 people have the option of partying on a motor boat.

The first three hours on a motor boat cost Hr 4,200 (\$163) per hour, the fourth hour is Hr 2,100 (\$82) and the cost of subsequent hours can be negotiated, depending on the route.

Mayachok, a Kyiv restaurant that has its own motor boat, can serve food and drinks for a party if these are ordered beforehand.

A motor boat from the Rentflot Kyiv Shipping Company can host parties of up to 100 people.

Mayachok restaurant, 58A Lutneva St., +38050-462-3928

Rentflot Kyiv Shipping Company, 72 Verkhniy Val St., www.rentflot.ua, +38044 451 4058, +38063 237 1096

Riverside Station

Those who don't have time to book anything or organize a boat trip, can just go to the Kyiv's Riverside Station and take one of the scheduled river trips.

Long cruises along the River Dnipro haven't been running since 2013, but good one-hour and three-hours trips are still available.

One of them, "Kyiv Panorama," is an hour-long ride to Paton Bridge, which costs Hr 100 (\$4). It is available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. However, the ship won't sail until all the seats are sold out.

Another option is a three-hour evening party that starts every day at 8 p.m. Each ticket costs Hr 200 (\$8).

The Riverside Station also offers river rides to the Kyiv Reservoir (also known as Kyiv Sea), leaving on weekends at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Address: near Poshtova Square, along Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska

St., 10th pier, +38044 227 6076, +38098 995 1399

Private yachts

There's no need to go to the Mediterranean for a classy cruise – several Kyiv clubs now rent out yachts of various lengths, capacities and speeds.

Offering expensive on-board entertainment, these yachts don't come cheap: At Azimut Yacht Club, a 15-meter yacht for 12 costs \$550 per hour to rent. It has three cabins, a shower, a kitchen and a fridge. A 24-meter yacht for 12 costs \$700 per hour. Such vessels are capable of sailing as far as Dnipro, or even Odesa and the Black Sea.

Discounts are available if a yacht is booked for an entire day.

Azimut Yacht Club, 8 Naberezhno-Luhova St., +38067 575 1149

Omar Yacht Club, 4A Naberezhno-Pecherska Rd., +38044 284 6533, +38067 360 6063

Kyiv Racing Yacht Club, 18/1 Rusanivska Naberezhna St., +38067 467 4949 ■

To rent a boat in Kyiv, go to:

www.katera.ua
www.teplohod-prokat.kiev.ua
www.kievflot.com
www.rentflot.ua
www.centrus.ua
www.rechflot.kiev.ua

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- Collect and archive press-clippings and maintain program’s photo and video archive;
- Perform other tasks consistent with qualifications and program’s requirements.

Job Qualifications:

- Degree in public relations, journalism or other relevant discipline from a Ukrainian university.
- Three years of experience in public relations or communications, including maintaining websites and social media accounts, media relations, preparation of public outreach materials.
- Excellent writing and speaking skills in English and Ukrainian.
- Previous USAID or other international donor experience preferred.
- Knowledge of the Ukrainian legal and judicial system preferred.

Application Instructions: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to office@new-justice.com. Please include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Application Deadline: September 04, 2017 at 6 P.M. Kyiv time



Ukraine Health Reform Support Project John Snow, Inc. (JSI) seeks:

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To apply please send your CV, cover letter with summary of your experience to and at least three references to ukrainerecruitment@jsi.com indicating "UKRAINE HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT " in the subject line by Sunday, August 20th. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for the interview.



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GRB Project is currently hiring for three long-term positions:

- Communications and monitoring officer
- National expert for supporting the work at local level
- National expert for supporting the work at state level

For a detailed description of jobs duties and responsibilities, please visit GRB Project website www.grbproject.org.

To apply for a position, please, send your application to nadiya.ivchenko@grbproject.org by August 31, 2017. Please, insert the position you are applying for in the subject line and include your CV and a cover letter/statement of interest in English explaining interest in and qualifications for the job. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.




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For more detailed information please visit Vacancy rubric on the web-site: <http://network.org.ua>

To apply, send your CV and Motivational letter in Ukrainian and English, with the title of the position and you family name in the subject to HR (hr@network.org.ua) Submission ddeadline is **August 31st, 2017**
Contact person: Anna Konstantinova, 467-75-67 (int.762).

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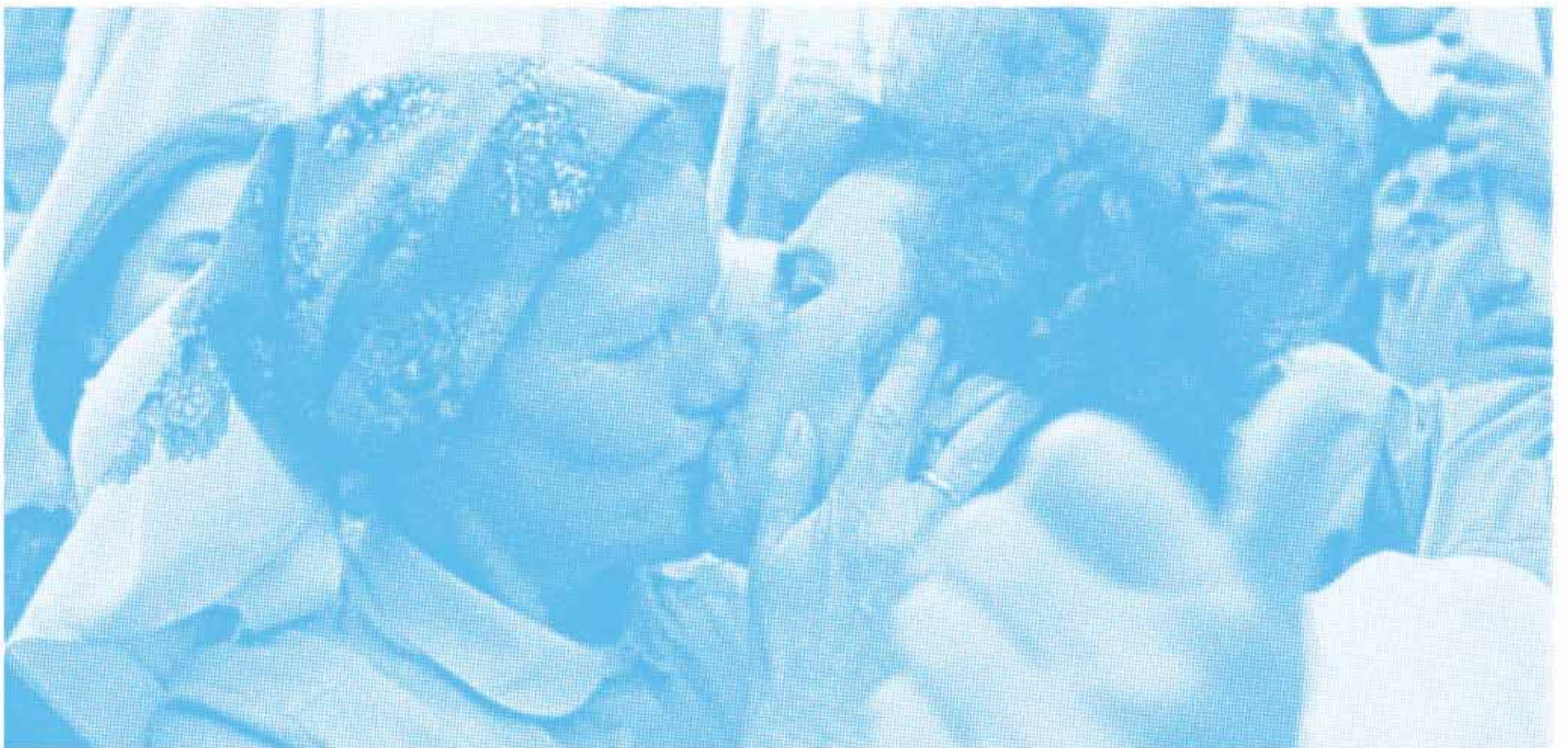
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Famous Ukrainians who are as old as their country

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Being born in 1991, the year Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union, many of Ukraine's "children of independence" are now fighting for a better country on all fronts.

They've witnessed everything from currency devaluation in the 1990s and two revolutions, in 2004 and 2013, to Russia's annexation of Crimea and the start of Russia's war on Ukraine in the Donbas, which has now been raging for more than three years.

Raised over two tumultuous decades, these 26-year-old Ukrainians are ones to look out for in future. ■

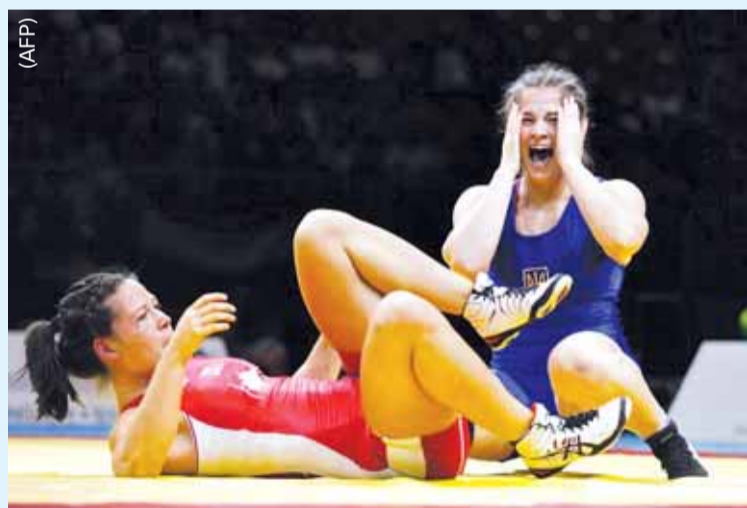


Zhan Beleniuk

The son of a Ukrainian mother and a Rwandan father, Beleniuk has been dubbed Ukraine's wrestling prodigy. The Greco-Roman style wrestler Beleniuk won a silver medal in the 85-kilogram weight category at Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics in 2016, his first games.

"I want Ukraine to prosper, to top every ranking, and not just the ones to do with poverty. I live here and I want it to be a great place," Beleniuk told the Kyiv Post. "I believe it will become one sometime."

However, there's not much to celebrate this Independence Day, Beleniuk says, because the country has to improve its economy and keep developing.



Alina Makhynia

As a teenager, Ukrainian female wrestler Makhynia (pictured on the right) had to decide what citizenship to take — as she was born to a Russian mother and a Ukrainian father. She didn't hesitate to choose Ukrainian. She was born in Russia, but grew up in Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine, where she started her career in wrestling. In 2013, Makhynia became World Champion in Women's Freestyle in the 67-kilogram weight category.

"Being the first is something unbelievable. And if I dream about the podium, I always see myself with the yellow-and-blue flag," Makhynia said. "I love my country and its people."

On the Cover

A couple shares a kiss during the rally to celebrate the pronouncement of Ukraine's independence on Aug. 24, 1991, next to the parliament building in Kyiv. (UNIAN)



Svitlana Yarova

Yarova, who hails from Vinnytsia, is proud to be a child of independence.

"It's something in my blood," Yarova said. "I've always made all my decisions myself, and gone against any stereotypes."

Now Yarova is the youngest member of Vinnytsia's city council.

She graduated from Yaroslav the Wise National Law Academy and also studied decentralization processes in Switzerland with the help of the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn charity foundation, which supports talented young people.

"I want to make Vinnytsia a small Switzerland," Yarova said. "Young people could be the fuel the country needs for its progress."



Vitaliy Kuzmenko

Kuzmenko (pictured in the center), then a history student in one of Kyiv universities, went to Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square to support the Euromaidan protests on Nov. 30, 2013. That night, he was severely beaten during an attack by Berkut riot police as they violently broke up the protests. Kuzmenko ended up in hospital with concussion and broken arm, but he refused to be intimidated. Weeks later, he was back at the protests, and fought on Maidan until the EuroMaidan Revolution's victory over then-President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014.

Following the revolution, Kuzmenko volunteered to fight

against Russian-led forces in the Donbas, saying he wanted "to prove everything I stood for on Maidan." Two years later, in 2016, he returned to Maidan Nezalezhnosti — this time as a soldier marching in the Independence Day parade. "When I was standing there with my fellows I felt so proud for my country," Kuzmenko recalls.



Oleksiy Furman

A young yet accomplished Ukrainian photographer, Furman uses his skills to illustrate the life of Ukrainian soldiers in Donbas as well as Ukrainian civilians affected by the war. Once a Kyiv Post photographer, now Furman shoots for TIME, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Al Jazeera America, Der Spiegel, the Guardian, the Financial Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Independent and other media. He says he works according to his own rules, without pressure and censorship — what he calls his "personal independence."

Furman says his attitude towards Ukraine's independence has changed over the years: "The EuroMaidan Revolution and Russia-Ukraine war helped us understand how precious our independence is. Since 2013, I've been telling the story of our fight for independence, and it's probably the most important story I've ever had to tell."

Anastasia Baklan

This young Ukrainian has an ambitious goal: She wants to revive Ukraine's economy and has already started doing it. Baklan is the CEO of Business Gathering, a company that organizes networking meetings for businesses and entrepreneurs associations. She's also a facilitator of the Public Private Dialogue activity in Ukraine within the European Union Project East Invest 2, a regional investment and trade facilitation project for the economic development of the Eastern European neighbors of EU.

Baklan has also been working with international programs of the Center for International Private Enterprise of USAID, where she focuses on business and government partnerships and advocacy campaigns in Ukraine and Eastern Partnership Countries.



26 years after fall of USSR, Ukraine still seeks freedom

BY BERMET TALANT
BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

As Ukraine celebrates 26 years of independence, the nation's journey out of Russia's orbit to the circle of European nations is continuing.

While there is still a long way to go, Ukraine passed some major milestones in the last year as it seeks to shake off Kremlin influence once and for all.

Escape from the USSR

In the future, it might seem that the EuroMaidan Revolution three years ago was the day when the new Ukraine was born. But Aug. 24, 1991 was a date of no less importance.

It marked the end of 70 years of propaganda, purges, and oppression. A quarter of a century on, Ukraine, like other former Soviet states, is still trying to rebuild its national identity and recover hidden or falsified parts of its history.

An entire generation has grown up that has never lived under Soviet rule, but the Soviet legacy hasn't disappeared. Vladimir Putin's Russia continues to use lies and aggression to meddle in other countries' internal affairs and steal their territories.

The war in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimean peninsula has entered its fourth year, with no end in sight. The war in the Donbas has killed more than 10,000 people, wounded 21,000, and displaced an estimated 1.7 million people. The Crimean Tatars remain deprived of their civil rights, and those who dare to speak out in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea face persecution and imprisonment.

However, the divorce from Soviet legacy isn't about tearing down Communist monuments, or rewriting history books, or prohibiting Russian social networks. The divorce requires fighting against all Soviet ills — corruption, bureaucracy, the stifling of dissenting voices, and selective justice.

That's why it's important for Ukraine to continue challenging Russia in a civil and diplomatic way, though with the support of powerful allies. The Normandy format talks between Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany have been unsuccessful so far, but keeping Ukraine's European



Ukrainian band O. Torvald performs at the Eurovision Song Contest in Kyiv on May 10. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

allies engaged in the peace process as Ukraine faces the powerful aggressor state Russia is vitally important.

Earlier this year Ukraine took Russia to the United Nations International Court of Justice in The Hague to hold the Kremlin accountable for its military occupation of the Donbas and annexation of Crimea.

So it is important for Ukraine to maintain good relations with the European Union and the United States, both of which have so far kept their sanctions against Russia in place. Visa-free travel for Ukrainians to the Schengen Area, which came into force in June, was a long-awaited gift to the country, but Ukraine also needs EU and U.S. support to strengthen its economy, cyber security,

and energy sectors.

Ukraine also needs to prosecute officials from the regime of former President Viktor Yanukovich, recover billions of dollars stolen by him and his cronies, and find the killers of Putin critics who were murdered in Ukraine — Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet and former Russian lawmaker Denys Voronenkov. No progress has been made in any of these issues over the last year.

And last year was also notable, in a negative way, for the emergence of serious cyber-attacks on the country and the resignations of top reformers.

Key events

1 E-declarations

Ukraine's long-awaited electronic asset declaration system went live last year. Despite attempts to sabotage the system by public officials, and general skepticism, it has worked. By Nov. 1, nearly 200,000 public declarations by officials and members of parliament had been made, marking a new stage in the fight against corruption.

The staggering wealth of Ukraine's poorly-paid officials certainly stirred discussion over how they had come by hundreds of millions in cash, mansions, cars, and luxury goods. Moreover, not a single top official has been investigated over the sources of their wealth, or been punished for making fraudulent earnings.

The first, and so far only "big fish" on trial for corruption is Roman



Former Chief of State Fiscal Service Roman Nasirov lies in a bed in the defendant's cage during his trial on corruption charges in Solomiansky District Court in Kyiv on March 4. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Nasirov, the former chief of the State Fiscal Service. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau has linked him to an embezzlement scheme with the state-owned gas producer Ukgazvydobuvannya. He was arrested in March and is currently in custody.

2 Chornobyl safety

On Nov. 29 a new metal confinement was moved into place over the decaying concrete dome that covers the destroyed reactor No. 4 at the Chornobyl nuclear plant. The 108-meter-high structure is expected to protect Ukraine and neighboring states from radioactive contamination from the ruined reactor for 100 years. The structure was built by the French consor-

tium Novarka and cost \$1.6 billion, funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

3 IMF tranche

After a one-year delay, the International Monetary Fund in September approved a third, \$1 billion aid tranche to Ukraine as part of a \$17.5 billion program that is to run through the end of 2018. Although the country hasn't completed any of the stipulated reforms, the IMF went easy this time, praising a good beginning to five out of its 14 conditions.

However, the next tranches will be more difficult to get in future, and the IMF may be the main driving force for Ukraine's leaders to finally



A man holds a Geiger counter near the New Safe Confinement covering the destroyed reactor No. 4 at the Chornobyl nuclear plant on July 9. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Events that shaped Ukraine's 26th year of independence

fulfill their commitments and finish the long-stalled privatization of state enterprises, the removal of the moratorium on the sale of agricultural land, pension reform, the creation of anti-corruption courts, and other vital reforms.

4 PrivatBank buyout
In December the Ukrainian government acquired a 100-percent stake in the largest bank in the country, PrivatBank, which previously belonged to oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Bogolyubov. The trigger for nationalization was said to be PrivatBank's toxic credit portfolio, which had at least Hr 89 billion (\$3.39 billion) in unpaid insider loans. The resolution of the problems at PrivatBank is one of the key conditions for the granting of the fourth IMF loan tranche in future.

5 Eurovision
Despite some doubts that Ukraine, a country de-facto at war, would be able to host a \$32 million international event, and attempts by Russia to create a scandal, Eurovision 2017, held in Kyiv in May, was a great success.

An estimated 20,000 foreigners came to Kyiv during the contest,

and a total of 64,000 people attended the nine Eurovision shows at the International Exhibition Center. With Salvador Sobral emerging as the winner, Eurovision goes to Portugal next year.

6 Visa-free travel
On May 17, after several years of negotiations, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, finally confirmed visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens to 34 European states. The decision came into force on June 11.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko hailed the move as Ukraine's "final farewell to the Soviet and Russian empire."

And at the end of May, Dutch senators voted in favor of Ukraine's trade and political Association Agreement with the EU. The provision should formally come into force on Sept. 1. The EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker stated that the vote, "sends an important signal from the Netherlands and the entire EU to our Ukrainian friends: Ukraine's place is in Europe."

7 Trump effect
After Donald J. Trump won the presidential elections in the United States on Nov. 8,



Passengers line up at passport control at Kyiv's Boryspil International Airport on the first day of visa-free travel to the Schengen Area on June 11. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Ukraine suddenly found itself in the spotlight across the Atlantic as the United States began an investigation into Russia's interference in the elections, and whether Putin had helped Trump to become president.

In response to accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia, Trump supporters demanded an investigation into "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage (Trump's) 2016 campaign" by helping his rival Hillary Clinton. The claimed evidence of Ukrainian interference involved Democratic National Committee operative Alexandra

Chalupa, who had investigated the ties of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort to the Russian government and Ukraine's ousted President Viktor Yanukovich.

In July the Republican-led U.S. Congress passed a bill, signed by Trump in August, on toughening sanctions against Russian companies, primarily oil and gas producers. The bill expressed U.S. support for the government of Ukraine in restoring its territorial integrity, and condemned Russia's invasion of eastern Ukraine and its annexation

of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea.

8 IT success
Thirteen Ukrainian IT companies won places on the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IAOP) annual list of top tech firms, The Global Outsourcing 100. The ranking included EPAM, Luxoft, Ciklum, Intetics, TEAM International Services, and Softjourn, all of which have R&D centers in Ukraine. The six local Ukrainian firms are N-iX, SoftServe, Program-Ace, Eleks, Miratech, Softengi and Sigma Software. ■



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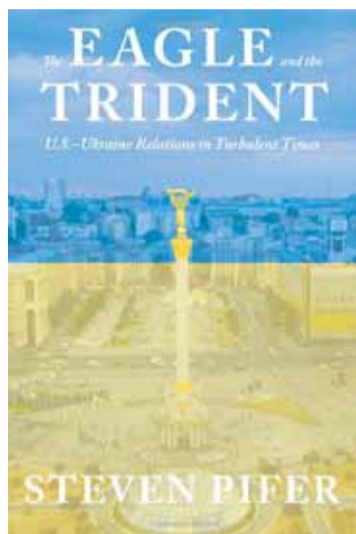
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Six new books on Ukraine's past, present, and future

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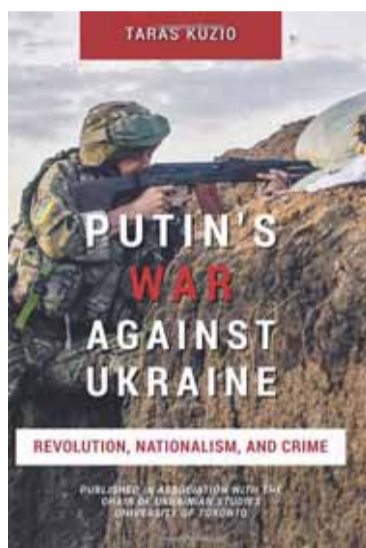
Steven Pifer
"The Eagle and the Trident:
U.S.-Ukraine Relations in
Turbulent Times"

Steven Pifer spent over a decade working on U.S.-Ukraine relations with the Department of State. He also served as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 1998 to 2000.

"The Eagle and the Trident" provides a comprehensive account of the development of U.S. diplomatic relations with an independent Ukraine, covering the years 1992 through 2004 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Pifer reflects on what worked and what did not work in the various U.S. approaches towards Ukraine. He also offers practical recommendations for current U.S. policies in the context of ongoing uncertainty about the political stability of Ukraine and Russia's long-term intentions toward its smaller but important neighbor.

Buy on Amazon: \$25 hardcover, \$16 Kindle edition.



Taras Kuzio
"Putin's War Against Ukraine:
Revolution, Nationalism, and
Crime"

Taras Kuzio is a Ukrainian-British academic based in Toronto.

"Putin's War Against Ukraine" focuses on national identity as the root of the crisis through Russia's long-term refusal to view Ukrainians as a separate people and unwillingness to recognize the sovereignty and borders of independent Ukraine.

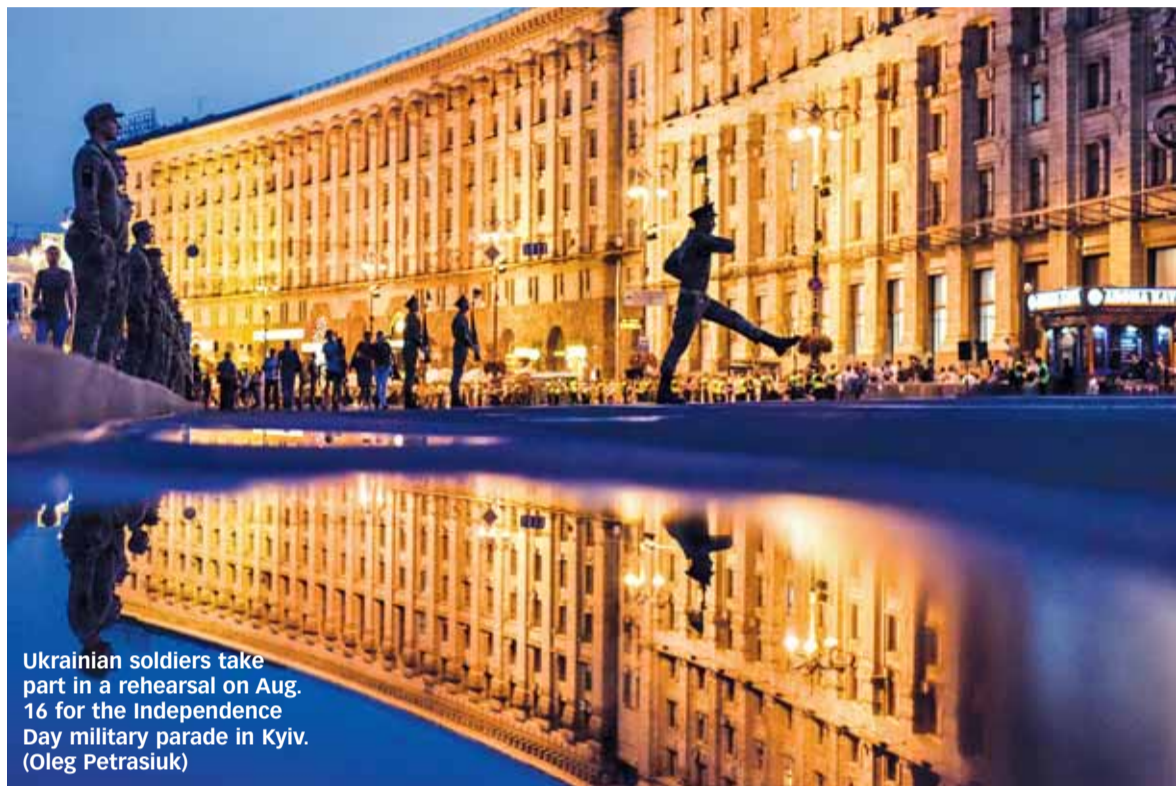
Kuzio attempts to debunk myths surrounding Russia's military occupation of eastern Ukraine and annexation of Crimea.

Buy on Amazon: \$19 hardcover, \$6 Kindle edition.

Anne Applebaum
"Red Famine: Stalin's War on
Ukraine"

Anne Applebaum is an American journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author who extensively writes about communism.

In "Red Famine" she studies the 1929 Joseph Stalin's policy on agricultural collectivization which forced



Ukrainian soldiers take part in a rehearsal on Aug. 16 for the Independence Day military parade in Kyiv. (Oleg Petrasyluk)



millions of peasants off their land and onto collective farms. The result was a catastrophic famine, the most lethal in European history with at least five million people dying between 1931 and 1933.

Applebaum argues that more than three million of those dead were Ukrainians who perished not because they were accidental victims of a bad policy, but because the state deliberately set out to kill them. She sheds the light on Holodomor — a famine, artificially created on Stalin's orders, in order to destroy the Ukrainian independence movement.

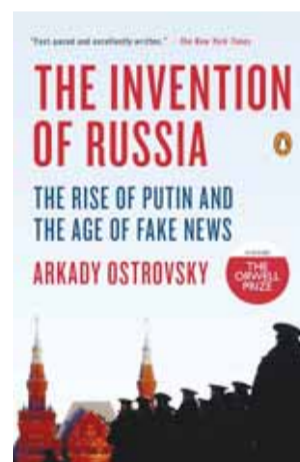
Buy on Amazon: \$23 hardcover, \$22 Kindle edition.

Arkady Ostrovsky
"The Invention of Russia: The
Rise of Putin and the Age of
Fake News"

Arkady Ostrovsky is the Russia and Eastern Europe editor for The Economist.

A winner of the Orwell Prize, "The Invention of Russia" explains the phenomenon of Vladimir Putin — his rise and astonishing longevity, his use of hybrid warfare and military interventions.

In the preface, Ostrovsky explores how Putin influenced the 2016 U.S. presidential elections and considers how Putin's methods — weaponizing the media and serving up fake



news — came to enter American politics.

Buy on Amazon: \$16 hardcover, \$12 paperback, \$12 Kindle edition.



Svetlana Alexievich
"Chernobyl Prayer: A Chronicle
of the Future"

Svetlana Alexievich is a Belarusian writer, the winner of 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature.

A new translation of "Chernobyl Prayer" — it was first published in English in 2016 — is based on the extended and updated story of 1986 explosion of reactor No. 4 at Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine.

While officials tried to cover up the accident, Alexievich spent years collecting testimonies from survivors — liquidators, residents, firefight-

ers, resettlers, widows, orphans — and crafting them into monologues of human tragedy.

Another book by Alexievich, "The Unwomanly Face of War," was translated into English and published in 2017. It is the classic oral history of Soviet women's experiences in the Second World War.

Buy on Amazon: \$43 paperback, \$14 Kindle edition.



Yevhen Nikiforov
"Decommunized: Ukrainian
Soviet Mosaics"

Yevhen Nikiforov is a Ukrainian photographer.

The book presents the first comprehensive study of Soviet monumental mosaics, outstanding artifacts of the cultural heritage of the era. Nikiforov spent three years traveling around Ukraine (including the presently occupied Crimea and war-torn Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts) in search of the most interesting art pieces from the 1950s to 1980s within the context of Soviet Modernism.

The book includes around 200 unique photographs of monumental panels: officially sanctioned gigantic images of workers, farmers, astronauts, and athletes of colored smalto or ceramics illustrate Soviet life as it was meant to be represented by state propaganda.

Buy on www.osnovypublishing.com for \$1,200. ■

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Top 6 Ukrainian products popular abroad

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Although the bulk of Ukraine's exports are industrial and agricultural commodities, some of the other goods made in the country have seen an extraordinary rise in popularity abroad in recent years.

At home, the made-in-Ukraine craze is still going strong, and local producers keep racking up domestic sales, but a few producers have won a share of foreign markets.

The Kyiv Post picked out some of the best products that were created by Ukrainians and are loved abroad.

MyBOOKmark

This Ukrainian company produces quirky bookmarks that look like legs sticking out of a book.

The company sells more than 150 kinds of handmade bookmarks, including traditional designs with people's legs — men's and women's in different shoes, socks, and in a range of positions, — and also bookmarks in themed or seasonal collections. One of their most popular items is based on the Wicked Witch of the East's legs sticking out from under



Dorothy's house in "The Wizard of Oz."

They mostly sell their handcrafted products through the e-commerce websites Etsy, Amazon, and Fancy. According to the company, customers mostly buy the products to give as interesting and unusual gifts. The company's bookmarks are in high demand in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Australia and South America.

*Bookmark Hr 520-780 (\$20-30).
www.mybookmark-shop.com*

Vita Kin

A Ukrainian designer Vita Kin, inspired by ancient traditions and techniques, creates embroidered dresses and blouses that are now popular all over the world. Her clothes are sold in boutiques in the world's fashion capitals — London, Paris, Milan, Berlin and New York, — as well as other cities in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Numerous fashion stylists, bloggers, and celebrities wear apparel by

Vita Kin, including the lead singer of the Florence and the Machine band Florence Welch, and U.S. burlesque dancer and model Dita Von Teese. Light and

loose, yet elegant and classy, Kin's clothes are perfect summer-wear for any occasion.

Dress — Hr 16,025-63,565 (\$626-2,483), blouse — Hr 13,340-49,000 (\$521-1,914).

www.vitakin.net

Petcube

Petcube is probably the most successful IT startup launched by Ukrainians, and reportedly also one of the favorite mobile apps of British actress Emma Watson.

Developed by a Ukrainian team that is now based in the U.S., Petcube helps pet owners stay in touch with their cats and dogs when they're away. It uses a cube-shaped device that has a camera, a laser pointer, and speakers, and is controlled via a mobile app.

Watson, the owner of two cats, called Petcube "life changing" in an interview with the lifestyle website Coveteur. Since its foundation in 2012, Petcube has sold over 100,000 devices in 18 countries.

Petcube Bites (camera with treats) — Hr 6,474 (\$249), Petcube Play (camera with laser) — Hr 5,174 (\$199).

www.petcube.com



Kachorovska Atelier

Kachorovska Atelier sells ready-to-wear and custom-made shoes. It's a family business with over 50 years of history, guided by the idea of making high-quality shoes. They bring genuine leather and heels from Italy to make stylish and comfortable shoes for both men and women. The products are sold abroad through their website, and the company has taken orders from Western Europe, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Russia. Some foreign clients visit the atelier in Kyiv and order up to 10 pairs at a time, the company says.

Female high-heel pumps — Hr 2,284 (\$88), male espadrilles — Hr 1,787 (\$69).

www.kachorovska.com

Konstantin Kofta

Ukrainian designer Konstantin Kofta creates bold accessories — his leather bags and backpacks resemble architectural elements like pillars, natural objects like stones, and parts of the human body, and look very realistic. Although dark and serious, the accessories still look elegant and appear to carry philosophical messages.

Kofta presented one of his last collections, "Fear," at the New

York Fashion week in 2016 along with the U.S.-based designer Zam Barrett. His brand won acclaim from the fashion blogger Hwahwa Lala, famous for her Gothic all-black looks, who occasionally shows off leather accessories by the Ukrainian designer on Instagram.

Backpack — Hr 25,500-60,000 (\$981-2,308).

www.kofta.com.ua



Ohhio

This brand is famous for its chunky wool blankets knitted with extremely large needles or by hand. Two years ago the brand's founder, Anna Marinenko, started selling her products through the e-commerce website Etsy, where the chunky blankets quickly gained popularity. Today Ohhio sells blankets through their own website and attracts admirers from all over the world. The brand's Instagram account now has 247,000 followers.

Blanket — Hr 4,394-12,948 (\$169-498), pet mat — Hr 1,794 (\$69).

www.ohhio.com ■

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Under occupation, Crimean Tatars still fighting for justice

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Editor's Note: This article is a part of the "Journalism of Tolerance" project by the Kyiv Post and its affiliated non-profit organization, the Media Development Foundation. The project covers challenges faced by sexual, ethnic and other minorities in Ukraine, as well as people with physical disabilities and those living in poverty. This project is made possible by the support of the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development and Internews. Content is independent of the donors.

Not all Ukrainians will be able to openly celebrate Independence Day on Aug. 24. After three years of Russian occupation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, the historic homeland of more than 300,000 of Ukraine's Crimean Tatar population, many of them are still fighting for justice and independence in the face of Kremlin repression.

Despite April's ruling by the International Court in The Hague that Russia must stop discrimination and prosecution of Crimean Tatars, the repression has continued.

But while earlier Crimean Tatars have felt lost and scared, and didn't know how to resist Kremlin repression, in the past months they have become more united, standing up for each other, fighting in the courts and protesting on the streets of Ukraine's Russian-occupied Crimea, says Tamila Tasheva, a founder of Crimea SOS, a Kyiv-based non-profit organization.

"The Crimean Tatars have stopped being scared," Tasheva told the Kyiv Post. "They're uniting in active groups, like the Crimean Solidarity and Our Children. Such organizations help the families of political prisoners and many others who have suffered from Russian injustice."

Oppression in action

Since the Russian military invasion, human rights watchdogs have documented at least 289 cases of human rights abuse in Crimea, including kidnappings, illegal searches of offi-

es and apartments, and arrests and criminal cases being brought on bogus charges against people who support Ukraine.

Russian authorities deny all accusations, saying they operate within the law.

Crimea SOS has reported that, as of April, 37 Crimean Tatars had been arrested in politically motivated cases since 2014, 20 Crimean Tatars were in prison, and 17 were under house arrest or under travel restrictions.

Out of the 37 arrested, 19 Crimean Tatars were accused of terrorism and extremism. The authorities said that they were members of Hizb

Ut-Tahrir, an international Islamic political organization, which is banned in Russia as a terrorist organization, but is not banned in Ukraine.

Some Crimean Tatars have been ordered to pay huge fines for making pro-Ukrainian posts in social media.

And Russia's occupying authorities in Crimea are becoming more harsh: on Aug. 9 they sentenced a 76-year-old Crimean Tatar, Server Karametov, to 10 days in prison and a 10,000-ruble fine (\$176) for disobeying the police.

Karametov's "crime" was to stage a one-person protest next to the Crimean Supreme Court in Simferopol. The elderly man was protesting against the prosecution of Crimean Tatars with a banner addressing Russian leader Vladimir Putin, reading: "Putin! Our children are not terrorists!"

After the Russian court denied Karametov's lawyers' appeal for a softer penalty, at least dozen elderly Crimean Tatars staged one-man protests in the same way as Karametov in various Crimean cities, this time demanding freedom for him, as well as other Crimean Tatars.

At least eight of them have since been detained by the police.

Ignoring justice

In April, the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that Russia had to answer to charges that it was discriminating against ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in Crimea.



Server Karametov, a 76-year-old Crimean Tatar, came to the Simferopol District Court with a sign that reads "Putin! Our children are not terrorists." He was arrested, jailed and fined for "disobeying the police" on Aug. 9. (Courtesy)



Crimean Tatars pose for a group photo with 10-ruble coins next to the Supreme Court building in Simferopol, Crimea. They are going to donate the coins to the Crimean Marathon, a campaign to collect the money for the penalties that Russian authorities illegally ordered several Crimean Tatars to pay. (Ayshe Umerova)

Under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Russia must refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to maintain its representative institutions, including the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatar's representative body.

Under that convention, the Russian authorities in the occupied Crimea also have to ensure that Crimean citizens can be educated in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages in schools, the court ruled.

"It was a really important decision, but not for Russia, because the occupants did not take it seriously. They continue the repression," Tasheva said.

Already after the ruling, Russian-backed courts in Crimea arrested at least five Crimean Tatars in politically motivated cases in July and August. Seven more were fined, according to Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

"The Russian (occupying) authorities conducted at least three illegal searches in the houses of Crimean Tatars during last week — cynical Soviet-secret-police-style searches," the ministry wrote. "(They were) as cynical as the arrests of those elderly men who were protesting against Karametov's arrest."

Stronger together

Whenever a Crimean Tatar is convicted in Crimea, dozens of other Crimean Tatars show up near the court in support. Similarly, they gather every time Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) conducts an illegal search of a Crimean Tatar home.

Deliyaver Memetov, a coordinator of the Crimean Solidarity Movement, told the Kyiv Post that in April

2016 the relatives of illegally arrested Crimean Tatars, together with lawyers and human rights activists, had created the movement to help anyone who has suffered from politically motivated charges and discrimination.

Crimean Solidarity activists provide legal aid to Crimean Tatars in trouble, financial aid to families of illegally arrested Tatars, and inform journalists and people in Crimea about the actions of the Russian occupying authorities.

"The Russian-backed authorities in Crimea don't approve of our existence, of course," Memetov said. "But we can't stand aside during such a mess — it's our shared problem."

"First, the Soviet authorities demonized the Crimean Tatars as 'traitors of the Soviet regime.' Our parents were dubbed traitors' children. Today history is repeating itself. For the Russian authorities, we are terrorists and extremists."

Penalty marathon

Trying to help their compatriots, Crimean Tatars went online, posting pictures on social media, in which they pose with a 10-ruble coin, adding a #CrimeanMarathon hashtag. The campaign, called Crimean Marathon, was launched by Crimean lawyers and activists to help several Crimean Tatars, who were ordered by Russian courts to pay from 10,000 rubles (\$176) to 300,000 rubles (\$5,000) fines in June.

"One young woman got a 300,000-ruble (\$5,000) fine for making a pro-Ukrainian post on Facebook. A regular person in Crimea just can't afford to pay such a fine," Tasheva said.

Karametov was also given a 10,000-ruble (\$176) fine on top of

his 10-day jail term.

Tasheva said that every Crimean Tatar on the annexed peninsula can help their convicted fellows pay fines by contributing just 10 rubles each.

"Why 10 rubles? Because that is what you get when you divide the whole sum of fines between all of the Crimean Tatars on the peninsula," Tasheva explained.

Tasheva said Tatars also intended there to be an element of humiliation for Russian law enforcers in raising the money in this way.

"A person can contribute money only in 10-ruble coins," Tasheva said. "When we collect all the money, the activists will bring it to the law enforcers in several big heavy bags. Let them count it."

Within a month the Crimean Marathon campaign has spread all over Ukraine and abroad. However, people outside the peninsula can't pay in coins, as there is no way to get them to Crimea. The only option is to send the money to Crimea SOS bank account, and "we will change the money into 10-ruble coins," Tasheva said.

More than Hr 6,000 (\$234) have been already sent to Crimea SOS in week and a half, its press service said on Aug. 15.

Memetov said Crimean Tatars would continue to fight for their rights in the occupied peninsula.

"The Russian occupiers will use force against the truth," Memetov said, "as they have nothing more to offer to the people. But mass arrests, searches, penalties, and raids won't stop the expression of the Crimean Tatars' will."

To support Crimean Tatars, contact Crimea SOS via Facebook: www.facebook.com/KRYM.SOS ■

VOX populi

WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO
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Editor's note: The Kyiv Post asks people in Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, two cities in Ukraine's Donetsk Oblast that were occupied by the Russian-backed separatists for several months in 2014, how they feel about the upcoming Independence Day.

How will you celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day? Has your attitude to this day changed after Russia annexed Crimea and unleashed its war against Ukraine?



Viktoria Tishenko
nurse in Kramatorsk
"I started to appreciate Independence Day more after the war started in 2014. We all

became more patriotic, and started to appreciate our homeland. I will probably go to the (Independence Day) concert with my family, we always have very nice musicians performing there."



Vladimir Tkachenko
cultural worker in Kramatorsk
"My family and I will celebrate as usual: we'll go to the events prepared by the city council. I

appreciated Independence Day before the war started in 2014, so my attitude towards it hasn't changed. You can meet people in Kramatorsk who appreciate this day, and some who don't, but for the city it was always a holiday."



Arina Nakonechnaya
student in Kramatorsk
"Me and my boyfriend will go to the 95 Kvartal performance (of stand-up comedians) in Bernadsky

Garden. More people have started to attend public events and celebrate this holiday, but in general nothing changed much."



Vladyslav Kravtsov
student in Kramatorsk
"For me, July 5, when the city was freed (from the Russian-separatist forces), is a bigger holiday

than Independence Day. We always celebrated Independence Day on Aug. 24, so it's become something more usual, like Easter and New Year. On Aug. 24 I will lay flowers at the memorial to (Ukraine's) soldiers, located between Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, and attend a charity concert for veterans."



Oleksandr Begunov
roller-skating teacher in Kramatorsk
"On this Independence Day I will perform with my roller show. The most patriotic holiday for me

was the celebration of the liberation of Kramatorsk in 2014, when I returned to the city and there was no water or electricity, but people organized a celebration for children. No other celebrations are comparable to this one."



Andrii Ruban
councillor in Sloviansk
"I have several options: to go to my friends in another city, to relax somewhere close to nature, or to join in the celebration

on the square. After the war started, I changed not only my attitude to Independence Day, but towards life in general. I speak Russian, but I'm still a patriot, and I appreciate my country. I hope that after the war more people begin to appreciate Ukraine as I do, but the reality is that many still support Russia or separatism."

Inna Zaitseva
post office worker in Sloviansk
"I want to spend time with my family.



I'm more concerned about finding new job than any kind of celebrations. For me, when we speak about Ukraine's Independence, we're also talking about employment for the people. The post office department where I work will move to Kramatorsk next month, and people will lose their jobs. I'm a citizen of this country, and I think that the country should take care of me."



Tamara Nazarenko
bank employee in Sloviansk
"I will celebrate Independence Day with my daughter at home. People are tired of

the war, we want to see happy faces, stability and Sloviansk blossoming. People have suffered enough, and even now everyone feels the presence of war – people are scared to go out at night. People will celebrate Independence Day not in the city centre, but at home."

Viktor Kompanichenko
student in Sloviansk
"After the war started I began to appreciate Independence Day and my country



more, and I became more patriotic and interested in Ukrainian traditions. I will probably go to the parade or other official celebrations."



Lidia Safonova
retiree Sloviansk
"I will go to the health retreat in Sviatogirsk with my daughter. Independence Day for me equals peace and aspiring for a better life, so I think people have started to celebrate this holiday more."



Vlad Polsky
construction worker in Sloviansk
"I think people have started to be more indifferent to this holiday. Before the war started, the city was in a festive mood, but now it's neutral. People are more concerned now with their problems and with prices, which have gone up."

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What to do on Independence Day

BY NATALIA KUCHERIAVA

NKUCHERIAVA@GMAIL.COM

Independence Day of Aug. 24 is a state holiday in Ukraine, and many are using this opportunity to take a long weekend and enjoy it to the fullest. For those who plan to do a bit of traveling on Independence Day, the Kyiv Post features some of the best events in Lviv and Odesa.

Odesa



Koktebel Jazz

Ukraine's annual Koktebel Jazz Festival has been going on for 15 years. It used to welcome its guests in Koktebel, a town in Crimea, until Russia annexed Ukraine's peninsula in 2014. Since then, the festival takes place near Odesa, in Chornomorsk. German DJ Shantel, electronic band Asian Dub Foundation, Jay-Jay Johanson, a Swedish singer-songwriter, are on this year's lineup.

Koktebel Jazz Festival, which starts on the Independence Day of Ukraine, announced that Aug. 24 will be the Day of Ukrainian Music. More details at www.koktebel.info/new.

Koktebel Jazz Festival. Chornomorsk, Odesa Oblast (Chaika Beach), Aug. 24–27. Hr 190–1,290

Patriotic Rally for the Independence Day of Ukraine

Car drivers can join a huge rally devoted to the Independence Day. Auto rally will start on Aug. 24 at 4:30 p.m. on Prymorsky Boulevard and will proceed to Italian Boulevard. Participants are encouraged to attach national flags to their cars.

Patriotic Auto Rally. Near the Duc de Richelieu Statue (7 Prymorsky Blvd.). Aug. 24. 4:30 p.m. Free



Lviv



Ethnovyr (folklore festival)

Annual international folklore festival Ethnovyr which will take place on Aug. 24–26 is the beginning of the Independence Day celebration program in Lviv. Bands from Macedonia, Turkey, Estonia, India, Poland and Ukraine will represent their ethnic culture on Museum Square, Market Square and Victoria Gardens shopping mall. The festival will also have an Ethno Fashion block. For more details, go to: www.ethnovyr.org.ua/en.

Ethnovyr (folklore festival). Museum Square, Market Square and Victoria Gardens shopping mall (226A Kulparkivska St.). Aug. 24–26. 4 p.m. Free

'Ukrainian Song Project'

The celebration of the 26th year of Ukraine's Independence will be ending with the final of the TV song contest "Ukrainian Song Project" on Arena Lviv. "Ukraine is waiting, Ukraine demands Ukrainian songs!" is the motto of the music marathon. The finalists of the song contest will perform on Aug. 26 together with Ukrainian pop stars Zlata Ognevich, Antytila, Skryabin, Tartak, etc.

"Ukrainian Song Project." Arena Lviv (199 Stryiska St.). Aug. 26. 6 p.m. Hr 150–500



Vyshyvanka human chain

Odesa will also be establishing a national record on the Independence Day — locals will try forming the longest line of people wearing vyshyvankas. They will be standing side by side holding their hands. Organizers of the event say the aim is to demonstrate the unity of Ukrainians and their ability to support each other. More details at www.vf.od.ua.

Vyshyvanka Human Chain. Potemkin Stairs, Aug. 24. 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Free



Lviv MozArt Festival

Lviv MozArt International Festival was launched to unite Ukrainian and world musicians. To celebrate Ukraine's independence, it offers eight days of classical music in 12 locations, children's events, as well as the international forum and exhibition devoted to Franz Xaver Mozart, the youngest son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who lived in Galicia for over 30 years.

Lviv MozArt Festival. See locations and tickets at www.mozart.lviv.ua/en. Aug. 18–26. Hr 100–500, some events are free

Kyiv



(Volodymyr Petrev)

Military Parade

The Independence Day military parade will start at 10 a.m. on Aug. 24 and will proceed along Khreshchatyk Street and Maidan Nezalezhnosti. More than 4,500 uniformed soldiers will participate, including almost 1,000 soldiers who have fought in the war-torn Donbas.

This year Independence Day parade will also include a display of modern weapons developed by Ukrainian designers over the past three years.

Militaries from other countries will also march in Kyiv this time, including British, Estonian, Georgian and Latvian soldiers.

To watch the march, go to Ukraine's First TV Channel's website at www.1tv.com.ua.
Military Parade. Khreshchatyk Street, Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square. Aug. 24. 10 a.m.



(Courtesy)

Jazz on the Roof

Jazz fans will have a chance to celebrate Ukraine's independence with their favorite music. Kyiv's Bel étage club invites to the ethno jazz night, where Ukrainian traditional motives will be performed in the jazz style.

Jazz on the Roof. Ukrainian Ethno. Bel étage (16A Shota Rustaveli St.). Aug. 24. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350



(Anastasiya Radkova)

Vyshyvanka/Pyrohovo Run

Independence Day is an official holiday, but there's no reason to skip the morning run. Vyshyvanka Run and Pyrohovo Run encourage beginners and professional athletes to wear traditional Ukrainian vyshyvankas and join their races.

Pyrohovo Run will be held in one of the biggest outdoor museums in Europe — Pyrohovo Museum of National Architecture and Daily Life. Runners are offered distances from 100 meters to 8 kilometers.

Vyshyvanka Run is a yearly charity race. It aims to raise money for a military hospital in Kyiv, where Ukrainian soldiers injured in Russia's war against Ukraine undergo rehabilitation.

This year Vyshyvanka Runs will be also held in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Toronto, Munich and other cities.

Pyrohovo Run. National Museum of National Architecture and Daily Life in Pyrohovo (Akademika Tronka Street). Aug. 24. 9 a.m. Hr 300-500

Vyshyvanka Run. Rusanivska Embankment. Aug. 24. 9 a.m. Hr 150-400



(Volodymyr Petrov)

The Biggest Map of Dreams (street festival)

For the Independence Day, Kyiv's Khreshchatyk Street will turn into a huge Map of Dreams. Those who want to share their dreams can create their own collage that will be put on a joint map. Organizers plan to set a new national record with what is planned to be the biggest Map of Dreams on Aug. 24.

The Biggest Map of Dreams (street festival). Khreshchatyk Street. Aug. 24. 11 a.m. Free

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Ukrainian voices from abroad

Looking forward to Independence Day on Aug. 24, the Kyiv Post asked Ukrainians living abroad to answer a number of questions and share what they think of their homeland.

To read all of the replies, go to the "Ukrainian Voices From Abroad" hot topic on www.kyivpost.com. Here are some selected excerpts.



Aleksey Mohov
Texas, U.S.

Was adopted by an American family in 2001. Attends a university in Texas.

KP: How do you feel about your homeland? Is Ukraine making progress as a nation?

AM: I feel as though Ukraine is at a crossroads. I watched the tense events of the EuroMaidan through live streams and news reports and cheered silently when the new government was formed — on my birthday that year. I feel like it is very much a better place than under the prior regime, even with the conflicts in the east and in Crimea. I think time is on the side of Ukraine. I have faith in the young people — the ones growing up in an independent Ukraine. As the generation that protested in the square grows to fill the chairs in the government, we will start to see real and lasting change. The biggest threat is international apathy.



Elena Polischuk

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Left in 2013 to work in the hotel industry in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

KP: How do you feel about your homeland? Is Ukraine making progress as a nation?

EP: Yes, Ukraine is making progress, though it's hard to see and feel for Ukrainians. Free entrance to Schengen countries, police reform, etc. In June I was a volunteer at GoCamp Ukraine and I could see the education boom in Ukraine, there were so many summer camps, specialized schools, I see more competition in education which is amazing. I see that children and teenagers are eager to learn, dream big which make teachers change their methodology, listen to their internal client (children and parents).

KP: What do you wish for your country?

EP: I wish Ukrainians to believe in themselves, overcome all obstacles which sometimes in our head, to listen and support each other more. I wish them peace and prosperity which they deserve.

KP: Do you think that wish will come true?

EP: As a businesswoman, I believe that what is not written is a wish. I think it's time for Ukraine to articulate a big national idea or plan. Every town and city should have a national strategy minimum 10 years ahead.

And the United Arab Emirates, a very young state, is the perfect example. Ukrainians, dream big. You can and you will!



Sasha Borovik
Munich, Germany

Initially left in 1991, came back in 2015 to be Deputy Economy Minister, left again in 2016. Lived in Boston, Palo Alto, Paris, Seattle and London. Now lives in Munich.

KP: What do you miss most about Ukraine?

SB: Today I miss the post-revolutionary hope and enthusiasm of the Ukrainian people.

KP: What do you miss least about Ukraine?

SB: I can live without Ukrainians' constant self-doubting and suspicious mindset. The poor infrastructure always reminds me of the lack of basic organization in the society.

KP: What would it take for you to return?

SB: I doubt that I would ever return. I tried once in 2015 and it was an interesting but negative experience. Ukraine would need to send a very strong signal that it wants its expats back and that it wants to build a free society. I do not see that happening in the next five years.



Andrii Zaitsev
Le Mans, France

Left to France in 2010 for studies. Lives in Le

Mans and works on scientific projects on temporary basis.

KP: Do you regret leaving Ukraine? Why or why not?

AZ: Sometimes. When I look how my classmates from university in Ukraine live — with permanent jobs, some of them have already bought an apartment — yes, I regret. But, surprisingly, all of them and even all my family say not to return as there is no job there. The thing is, here I don't have a permanent position and moving from one city to another is a nightmare. On the other hand, during these years in France, I could visit a lot of places, which is impossible living in Ukraine. And when I return sometimes, I like the feeling of not looking at the prices in supermarkets and taking just what I want.

KP: What would it take for you to return?

AZ: To sell some stuff and to buy a ticket. However, I would not return without a job waiting for me. More precisely, I'll try to find one here until the end, but if nothing comes I will return. That's the main condition.



Olga Gassan-zade
Norway

Left in 2007 for a work opportunity. Lived in Japan, now lives in Norway.

KP: Do you ever regret that you are not in Ukraine — why or why not?

OG: Recently, every time I visit I

start wishing we could return. It has changed a lot since I left, it's dynamic, it's fun, it's full of energy.

KP: Does where you live have more opportunities for you than in Ukraine?

OG: I don't think so, on the contrary, Ukraine is now the country of opportunities. It's growing, changing and it has a lot of potential.

KP: How do you feel about your homeland? Is it making progress as a nation?

OG: I think the progress is colossal and I feel very sad that Ukrainians on average don't notice that, or rather they tend to focus on things that have not yet changed. Ukrainians as a nation have become freer, more confident, more open to the outside world. Sometimes too open because they tend to think that other places are perfect and Ukraine is not. I've moved around a lot and I think any country or place has its pluses and minuses.



Tanya Goldsmith
Miami, U.S.

Moved to U.S. in 2014 to be with her American husband. Lives in Miami.

KP: What do you miss most and least about Ukraine?

I do feel nostalgic sometimes and miss many lovely city areas in Kyiv where I used to hang out while growing up. Of course, they keep a lot of memories. Mostly I miss my family. ■

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