Ukraine: A pilgrimage from fear to dignity

Bishop Borys Gudziak,
Paris Eparchy, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
President, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv
Soviet social legacy
Ukrainian history in XX century

*Bloodlands* (Timothy Snyder):
- Two World Wars
- Holodomor, Holocaust, GULAG, genocidal repressions—peasants, cultural, political, social, military leaders; language, religion
- 15-17 million victims in 20th century

Between 1914-45
every second man and every fourth woman
killed or died an unnatural death

Creation of *Homo sovieticus*—fear in the DNA
3.9 million famine deaths  At the height of the Famine Ukrainians were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day or 1,000 per hour or 17 per minute.
Lviv

1939
Population – 300.000
- Poles
- Jews
- Ukrainians
- Germans/Austrians

1945
Population 60.000
- Poles expelled
- Jews exterminated
- Ukrainians – 1/3 arrested and sent to Siberia

City with the highest per capita number of KGB agents in USSR
Ignorance of the other

- 77% never been abroad, 36% never travelled beyond their own region, only 17% percent have visited EU or North America
Corruption

Ukraine ranked 144th in Corruption Perceptions Index (2013)
18.9% Ukrainians paid bribes (TNS, 2013)
77.6% admit that bribes are “necessary”
Yanukovych residence
Corruption

Yanukovych’s “family” robbed the country for 100 billion USD. 32 billions transported across the border with Russia earlier this year in cash - in loaded trucks (Prosecutor general Makhnitsky)

Budjet of Ukraine 392,4 billions UAH ~ 41,5 billions USD
What is the Maidan?
That’s how the Lviv Maidan began
КИЯНИ, ВИХОДЬТЕ НА МАЙДАН
It started as a colossal festival...
With Ukrainian and EU flags
And one clear demand: sign the EU Agreement!
Smiles, creativity, hope...
November 30, 4 a.m.
St. Michael’s monastery
Next morning...
Maidaners (December 2013)

- Average age – 36 years
- 64% with university degree
- 40% - professionals
- 12% - students
- 9% - businessmen
- 9% - retired
- 8% - managers
- 92% - paid their trip and came individually

Reasons to join the Maidan movement:

- 70% - violence attack on student Maidan (November, 30 2013) and following persecutions
- 53% - Yanukovych’s refusal to sign the Agreement with EU
- 50% - to change life in Ukraine
- 39% - to change government.
For almost 2 months peaceful resistance of millions in the rain, snow, and frigid cold
Against provocateurs and riot police
Even after clashes on Epiphany day and three deaths
The Maidan was playing...
And praying
Pope Francis: “A pastor should have the smell of his sheep”
Faith and priests present and active
In times of joyous festival
And in times of fear and sorrow
St. Michael Golden-domed monastery (February 2014)
Seminarians with the people
In the night—when it was dark, cold and dangerous—for months there was inter-confessional prayer every hour, on the hour...
Голосом НАРОДУ ГОВОРИТЬ БОГ

ФOTO: БОГДАН ЄМЕНЬ
Liturgies
Weddings
Confessions
Ecumenism and interreligious dialogue on the field
Mufti and Greek Catholic priest on the Donetsk Maidan
Mufti of Crimea and Orthodox bishop Clement (rally in Crimea)
Lutheran pastor
Prayer tent (Evangelical Christians)
Rabbi
Orthodox priests and Buddhist
First tent chapel
Second tent chapel
25 minutes before...
The tent chapel burned down during the Berkut attack. This priest managed to rescue chalice and Gospel book.
Barricades ablaze. Priests and religious pray on the Maidan stage
THE MASSACRE OF FEBRUARY 20
In broad daylight, at short range, with the world's news cameras running, using high powered rifles that kill at two kilometers government snipers shot scores of unarmed protesters in the main square of Kyiv.
Last rites
Heavenly Hundred

2 Armenians, 2 Georgians, 3 Jews, 1 Belarusian, many ethnic Ukrainians and Russians (age: from 17 to 73)
Nazar, the youngest warrior of Heavenly Hundred, 17 years
Roman Huryk, 19  
Psychology student  
Ivano-Frankivsk

Ihor Kostenko, 22  
Geography student  
Lviv

Oleksandr Plekhanov, 22  
Student of architecture  
Kyiv
Bohdan Solchanyk, UCU lecturer
28 years old, historian,
engaged to be married to UCU PhD candidate
Звідки люди, які загинули під час подій Євромайдану
25.03.2014
09:00

Ідентифіковано
126

Загибли протестувальники
108

Загибли співробітники МВС та ПР
18

Місце походження загиблого наразі невідоме
18

Джерело:
Iсточник - Source - Źródło
Quelle - Fuente - Fonte - La source
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_killed_during_Euromaidan
uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Евромайдан
www.facebook.com/Euromaidan505

Видання з місця та моніторинг інформаційних сайтів
27/06/2014 – Association Agreement signed
16/09/2014
Ratified
EuroMaidan won...
But...
The pilgrimage from fear to dignity is punished by war.
Annexation of Crimea

On February 27, when Ukraine was still mourning heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, “green men”, soldiers without insignia, invaded Crimea, blocked military and navy bases, helped occupy state buildings
Colonel Mamchur. On 3 March, Mamchur was given an ultimatum to surrender by pro-Russian forces in the aeroport of Belbek. He instead chose to march to a pro-Russian checkpoint with his men unarmed while only carrying the flag of the 62nd Fighter Aviation Regiment.
Student of the Navy Academy in Sevastopol cries executing an order to remove national flag (the rector and professors switched to Russian side) while his classmates sing Ukrainian anthem (Later Academy evacuated to Odesa)
Mustafa Dzhemilev, Crimean Tatar leader, human rights activist, Soviet prisoner. Led longest hunger strike in history of human rights movement (303 days). Denied entry to Crimea to take part in the Tatar national commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the genocidal deportation of all 240,000 Tatars from Crimea in 1944 to Central Asia and Siberia. Already in 1917-1933 50% of the Crimean Tatars had been killed or deported. 5,000 Crimean Tatars came to the “boarder” to greet Dzhemilev.
Annexation of Crimea: aftermath

- 17,000-20,000 people left Crimea (7,000 Crimean Tatars)
- Leaders of Crimean Tatars Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov are personae non-gratae in Crimea. Many activists are afraid to enter the peninsula
- Pro-Ukrainian activists persecuted, the only Ukrainian gymnasium closed
- Several Crimean Tatar activists found murdered
- Ukraine has lost part of its fleet and gas shelf in the Black Sea.
War in the east
March-April. So called separatists started occupying state buildings in the Donbas proclaiming “People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk”. Kyiv authorities lost control over some territories in the Donbas and in April launched the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO).
MH17 Shot down

298 deaths (3 infants)

Netherlands 193
Malaysia 43
Australia 27
Indonesia 12
United Kingdom 10
Belgium, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Philippines
Buk missile system on the way from Ukraine to Russian Federation (one missile missing)
Fr. Tykhon Kulbaka, UGCC priest from Donetsk, held captive for 10 days
Fr. Pawel Witek, Catholic priest, kidnapped in Donetsk, released after one day
Fr. Victor Vonsovych, Catholic priest, detained in Horlivka, spent a few days in captivity
Sloviansk. 8 protestant believers (among them 2 deacons and sons of the local pastor) killed and found in a mass grave after the city was freed.
Three Orthodox priests killed:

Pavel Zhuchenko at a terrorists check point

Volodymyr Kresliansky during shelling in Luhansk

Georgiy Nikishov in Pervomaysk
• 980,000 internally displaced people countrywide. Some 600,000 Ukrainians have sought asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighboring countries (February 2015)
• 5,358 killed, 12,235 wounded (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, February 2015).
• War has directly affected 5 million people
• Officially more than 1500 Ukrainian soldiers killed.
• Greek and Roman Catholic, Orthodox of Kyiv Patriarchate, and some Protestant structures ceased to exist on the territory controlled by the terrorists
• Collapse of economy and national currency
• Trauma and division
From east to west
What can we do?

• Pray and work for peace
• Critically analyze what we hear, see and read
• Speak out about the truth
• Respond to the humanitarian needs: support the wounded, orphaned, displaced
• Rebuild homes and institutions and rebuild trust
• Foster reconciliation
I'M A DROP IN THE OCEAN

THAT WILL CHANGE UKRAINE

imadropintheocean.com