The Ukraine List (UKL) #460
compiled by Dominique Arel
Chair of Ukrainian Studies, U of Ottawa
www.ukrainianstudies.uottawa.ca
15 October 2013

1-2013 Danyliw Seminar Program (31 October-2 November)
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10-New Book: Andriy Zayarnyuk, Framing the Ukrainian Peasantry, 1846-1914
11-New Book: Alexander J Motyl, Sweet Snow
12-New Book: Ivan Katchanovski et al., Historical Dictionary of Ukraine

13-New York Times: Envoys Near Deal to Free Tymoshenko
14-Ukrinform: Ukrainians prefer European Union to Customs Union, Poll Finds
15-Financial Times: EU Beckons, but Investors Still Getting a Rough Ride
16-Interfax: Council of Europe Calls for Tymoshenko Release
17-Moscow Times: Anders Aslund, On the Customs Union (9 September)
18-Kyiv Post: The Essentials between EU Treaty and Customs Union (19 September)

19-Eurasia Daily Monitor: Crimean Authorities Snub OSCE over Minority Rights
20-Human Rights in Ukraine: Book Defames Crimean Tatars (27 July)
21-AP: Refugees from former Soviet World Find Misery in Ukraine (22 August)

22-CIUS: Toronto Holodomor Conference a Major Success
23-World Jewish Congress: On the Galicia Division (22 August)

**Thanks to Anders Aslund, Orest Deychakiwsky, Ivan Katchanovski, J V Koshiw, Nadiya Kravets, Andrij Makuch, Alexander J Motyl, Olga Onuch, Marko Stech, and Roman Zurba**

#1
9th Annual Danyliw Research Seminar On Contemporary Ukraine
Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 31 October-2 November 2013

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies is proud to announce the program of its marquee annual event—the 9th Annual Danyliw Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, to be held on 31 October-2 November at the University of Ottawa, in Room 12102 (12th Floor) of the Desmarais Building, 55 Laurier Ave., on University of Ottawa campus.
The Seminar will feature 14 presentations and bring together 26 scholars and doctoral students from Ukraine, Western Europe, the United States and Canada.

The first day, on October 31 (3.00-6.30 PM), will feature three papers on Ukrainian society and economy — on philanthropy, foreign direct investment in the energy sector, and refugee migration.

The lecture will be followed by a public opening reception in the same room, Desmarais 12102, between 6.30 and 7.30 PM.

On Friday, November 1 (9.00-11.00 AM), the morning sessions will begin with two more papers on Ukrainian society — on press freedoms, as well as on Orthodoxy in postwar Ukraine. This will be followed, at by a special section marking the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor (Ukrainian famine 1932-33), with a paper (11.30 AM) by Tanya Boryak on “Violence as an Intentional Instrument of Killing,” and a special 90 minute joint presentation (2.00 PM) on “The 1932-33 Famine Losses in Ukraine,” by Oleh Wolowyna and Natalia Levchuk, among the leading experts on the demography of the famine.

The Friday afternoon session (4.00-6.00 PM) will conclude with two papers on World War II Ukraine — on sheltering Jews during the Holocaust, and on the Ukrainian Partisans.

The Saturday portion of the Seminar will be entirely devoted to “Galicia: History and Memory”, featuring two papers on Ukrainians under the Habsburg, one on Ukrainian-Polish-Jewish music in interwar Lviv, and two more on the memory of mass violence in Pavlokoma (Western Galicia) and Brody (Eastern Galicia).

As has become customary in previous years, the Seminar will introduce new talents, with all presenters but one — including eight doctoral students — making their first appearance in this annual event. As a sign of the vitality of Ukrainian studies, seven of the participants are Ukraine-born, two of whom currently living or studying abroad.

Ten presenters, who are currently at the doctoral or post-doctoral stage (defined as up to six years after the completion of a PhD) will be eligible for the Danyliw Seminar Emerging Scholar Award, which comes with a monetary prize. Launched at the 2011 Seminar, the first award was given to Serhiy Kudelia for his paper “The Impact of Collectivization on Insurgency Mobilization in Western Ukraine after World War II.” At the 2012 Seminar, the award was given ex-aquo to Mayhill Fowler for “Korniichuk and the Cabaret in Lviv: Art Between Center and Periphery, 1939-1941” and Joseph Livesey for “Stalinist Humanitarianism: State Practices in the Soviet Countryside during the Famine in Ukraine, 1932-1933.”
The 2013 Danyliw Seminar Program was prepared by an international selection committee comprised of Dominique Arel (Canada), Anna Colin Lebedev (France), and Ioulia Shukan (France).

The Seminar is made possible by the commitment of the Wolodymyr George Danyliw Foundation to the pursuit of excellence in the study of contemporary Ukraine.

Since seating is limited, people interested in attending the Seminar must register by email (chairukr@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Registration is free. The Chair of Ukrainian Studies can also be contacted by phone at 613 562 5800 ext. 3692.

Danyliw Seminar Program

Thursday 31 October

Political Economy

3.00-5.00 PM

Hanna Soderbaum (Uppsala U, Sweden, hanna.soderbaum@ekhist.uu.se)
Giving Effectively: Philanthropy in Ukraine
Discussant: Ioulia Shukan (U of Paris Ouest Nanterre, France, ioulia.shukan@gmail.com)

Olga Kesarchuk (U of Toronto, Canada, olga.kesarchuk@utoronto.ca)
Foreign Direct Investment in Energy Sector: Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan
Discussant: Kerem Oge (U Laval, Canada, keremoge@gmail.com)

Migration

5.30-6.30 PM

Raphi Rechitsky (U of Minnesota, US, rechio09@umn.edu)
Discussant: Natalia Stepaniuk (U of Ottawa, natalia.stepaniuk@gmail.com)

6.30 PM

Opening Reception

Friday 1 November

Ukrainian Society

9.00-11.00 AM
Anastasia Grynko (U Kyïv Mohyla Academy, Ukraine, agrynko@gmail.com)  
*Press Freedom Violations in Ukraine: Beyond Normative Concepts*  
Discussant: Ioulia Shukan (U of Paris Ouest Nanterre, France, ioulia.shukan@gmail.com)

Natalia Shlihta (U Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ukraine, nshlikhta@gmail.com)  
*A Bishop in Defense of His Diocese: Two Portraits—A Study of the Orthodox Episcopate in Postwar Soviet Ukraine*  
Discussant: Peter Galadza (Sheptytsky Institute, Saint Paul U, Canada, pgaladza@ustpaul.ca)

**Holodomor (80th Anniversary)**

11.30 AM-12.30 PM

Tanya Boriak (State Academy of Executives in Culture and Arts, Kyïv, Ukraine, tanusha_boryak@yahoo.ie)  
*Violence as Intentional Instrument of Killing during the Holodomor in 1932-33*  
Discussant: Ivan Katchanovski (U of Ottawa, ivan.katchanovski@utoronto.ca)

2.00-3.30 PM

Oleh Wolowyna (UNC Chapel Hill, US, olehw@aol.com)  
Natalia Levchuk (Institute of Demography, Ukraine, levchuk.nata@gmail.com)  
*The 1932-1933 Famine Losses in Ukraine*  
Discussant: Dominique Arel (U of Ottawa, darel@uottawa.ca)

**World War II**

4.00-6.00 PM

Anna Abakunova (Dnipropetrovsk State U, Ukraine, hana21anna@gmail.com)  
*Rescuing Jews During the Holocaust: An Oral History Project*  
Discussant: Jan Grabowski (U of Ottawa, jgrabows@uottawa.ca)

Alexander Gogun (Frei U Berlin, Germany, gogun@zedat.fu-berlin.de)  
*Special Forces from the Local Populations: Ukrainian Partisans, 1941-44*  
Discussant: Oleksandr Melnyk (U of Toronto, alex.melnyk@utoronto.ca)

**Saturday 2 November**

**Galicia: History and Memory**

9.00-11.00 AM

Hugo Lane (York College CUNY, US, hugolane@gmail.com)  
*The Habsburg State and the Making of Ukrainian Identity Reconsidered*
Discussant: Dominique Arel (U of Ottawa, Canada, darel@uottawa.ca)

Adrian Mitter (U of Toronto, Canada, adrian.mitter@mail.utoronto.ca)
*International Implications of Local Violence: The Struggle for a Ukrainian University of Lviv in the Years Between 1908 and 1914*
Discussant: Mayhill Fowler (Stetson U, US, mfowler1974@gmail.com)

11.30 AM-12.30 PM

Bohdan Nahajlo (Independent Scholar, France, bnahajlo@gmail.com)
*All That Jazz in Lwow, Lviv, Lvov: Capturing the Beat of Ukrainian-Jewish-Polish Predicaments in Western Ukraine in the 1930s and 1940s*
Discussant: Mayhill Fowler (Stetson U, US, mfowler1974@gmail.com)

2.00-4.00 PM

Daniel Fedorowycz (Oxford U, UK, daniel.fedorowycz@politics.ox.ac.uk)
*Setting the Stage for Violence: The Village of Pavlokoma—A Case Study of the Polish-Ukrainian World War II Conflict*
Discussant: Jean-François Ratelle (George Washington U, US, ratelle@email.gwu.edu)

Olha Ostriitchouk (U of Ottawa, Canada, ostriitchouk@yahoo.ca)
*Memory-Making and Local Dynamics in the District of Brody*
Discussant: Halyna Mokrushyna (U of Ottawa, Canada, halyna_mok@videotron.ca)

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Call for Papers
19th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)

International Affairs Building,
Columbia University, NY
Sponsored by the Harriman Institute
24-26 April 2014
www.nationalities.org

***Proposal deadline: 24 October 2013***
[Please note that the deadline is earlier than in previous years]

Contact information:
proposals must be submitted to:
darel@uottawa.ca and darelasn2014@gmail.com

Over 140 PANELS in nine sections:
Nationalism Studies
Migration & Diasporas
Balkans
Russia
Ukraine & Belarus
Central Europe (incl. Baltics & Moldova)
Eurasia (incl. Central Asia & China)
Caucasus (North and South)
Turkey, Greece & Cyprus

THEMATIC Panels on
History, Politics, & Memory
Ethnicity & Violence
Gender & Identity
Transitional Justice & Minority Rights
Energy & Nationalism

SCREENING of New Documentaries

SPECIAL ROUNDTABLES on New Books

AWARDS for Best Doctoral Student Papers,
ASN Harriman Joseph Rothschild Book Prize
ASN Award for Best Documentary

The Nationalities Papers Opening Reception

The ASN Convention, the most attended international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to nationalism, ethnicity, ethnic conflict and national identity in several regional sections on Balkans, Central Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Turkey/Greece/Cyprus, as well as the two cross-regional sections of Nationalism Studies and Migration & Diasporas. Disciplines represented include political science, history, anthropology, sociology, international studies, security studies, geopolitics, area studies, economics, geography, sociolinguistics, literature, psychology, and related fields.

The Convention is also inviting paper, panel, roundtable, or special presentation proposals related to:

• “History, Politics and Memory,” on the construction and contestation of the memory of historical events in sites, symbols, discourse and research;
• “Ethnicity and Violence,” on the conditions, construction, and implications of violence perpetrated against “ethnic” or culturally-defined groups;
• “Gender & Identity,” on the saliency of gender in discourse, representation, practices and mobilization;
• “Transitional Justice & Minority Rights,” encompassing human rights, minority rights, war crimes, genocide, international tribunals, and related issues;
• “Energy & Nationalism” touching on oil and gas revenues, pipelines, the “oil curse”, ecology, sustainable development and the securitization of energy
Prospective applicants can get a sense of the large thematic scope of ASN Convention papers by looking at the 2013 Final Program, which can be accessed at http://nationalities.org/convention/pdfs/ASN13_Final_Program.pdf. Popular topics have also included language politics, religion and politics, EU integration, nation-building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Papers presented at the Convention will be made available for $10 on a CD to Convention attendees, but will neither be posted on the ASN website, nor be sold to Convention non-attendees.

*Nationalities Papers*, the ASN flagship journal, will present the consistently popular roundtable “How To Get Your Article Published”, which features the editors of some of the leading journals in the field. *Nationalities Papers* will also sponsor the opening reception.

For several years, the ASN Convention has acknowledged excellence in graduate studies research by offering Awards for Best Doctoral Student Papers. The ASN 2013 Doctoral Student Awards were given to:

Özkan Akpinar (History, Boğaziçi U, Turkey), Turkey, Greece & Cyprus  
Bruce Burnside (Anthropology, Columbia U, US), Central Europe  
Katharine Holt (Literature, Columbia U, US), Eurasia  
Jean-François Ratelle (Political Science, U of Ottawa, Canada), Caucasus-Russia  
Andrej Tusicisny (Political Science, Columbia U, US) Nationalism Studies  
Yuri Zhukov (Harvard U, US), Ukraine

Doctoral student applicants whose proposals are accepted for the 2014 Convention, who will not have defended their dissertation by 1 November 2013, and whose papers are delivered by the deadline, will automatically be considered for the awards. Each award comes with a certificate and a cash prize.

The ASN Convention inaugurated in 2010 an annual ASN Harriman Book Prize—the *Joseph Rothschild Prize in Nationalism and Ethnic Studies*. At the 2013 ASN Convention, the prize was awarded to Şener Aktürk for *Regimes of Ethnicity and Nationhood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). An honorable mention was given to Sherrill Stroschein for *Ethnic Struggle, Coexistence, and Democratization in Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). The award comes with a certificate and a cash prize. For information on how to have a book considered for the ASN 2014 Convention Book Prize, please contact Dmitry Gorenburg at asnbookprize@gmail.com, or go to http://www.nationalities.org/prizes/Rothschild.asp.

The Convention is also inviting submissions for documentaries made within the past few years and available in DVD format (either NTSC or PAL). The documentaries selected will be screened during regular panel slots and, in several cases, will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker. At the 2013 Convention, the Audience Award for Best Documentary went to *The Other Chelsea* (Germany, 2011). Runner-ups included *An Act*

Proposal Information

The ASN 2014 Convention invites proposals for individual papers or panels. A panel includes a chair, three or four presentations based on written papers, and a discussant.

The Convention is also welcoming offers to serve as discussant on a panel to be created by the Program Committee from individual paper proposals. The application to be considered as discussant can be self-standing, or accompanied by an individual paper proposal.

In order to send proposals to the Convention, the three mandatory items indicated below (contact information, abstract, biographical statement) must be included in a single Word document (PDF documents will not be accepted) attached to a single email message.

Each applicant – single or multiple authors in individual proposals, every member of a panel proposal – must also fill out a Fact Sheet online that can be accessed at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PS7FCBM.

IMPORTANT: Applicants can only send one paper proposal -- whether as an individual proposal, or as a paper part of a panel proposal. The Program will not consider more than one paper proposal from the same applicant. At the Convention, each panelist can only appear on a maximum of TWO panels, only one of which can be in the capacity of a paper presenter. For example, a panelist can chair a panel and present a paper on another, or chair a panel and be discussant or another, and so forth. This rule applies to co-authored papers, thus a co-authored paper presentation counts as one appearance.

Individual paper proposals must include four items:
* Contact information: the name, email, postal address and academic affiliation of the applicant.
* A 300- to 500-word abstract (shorter abstracts will not be considered) that includes the title of the paper.
* A 100-word biographical statement, in narrative form (a text with the length of one paragraph). Standard CVs will be rejected.

Individual proposals featuring more than one author (joint proposal) must include the contact information and biographical statement of all authors and specify who among the co-authors intend to attend the Convention. Only joint presenters attending the Convention will have their names in the official program.
* A Fact Sheet, to be filled out online (see above). In the case of co-authors, only those intending to attend the Convention must send a Fact Sheet. The Word document proposal must indicate that the Fact Sheet has been filled out online.

Panel proposals must include four items:
* Contact information (see above) of all proposed panelists.
*The title of the panel and a 200- to 300-word abstract of each paper.
*A 100-word biographical statement (see above) for each proposed panelist. Statements in standard CV format will be rejected. The rules on joint proposals are the same as with individual proposals (see above).
*A Fact Sheet, to be filled out online (see above), for each panelist attached to the proposal. The Word document proposal must indicate that all panelists have filled out their Fact Sheet online.

Proposals can also be sent for roundtables and book panels. Roundtables include a chair, four presenters, but no discussant, since the presentations, unlike regular panels, are not based on written papers. Roundtable proposals include the same four items as a panel proposal, except that the 200- to 300-word abstracts are presentation abstracts, rather than paper abstracts.

The Convention is also inviting proposals for Book Panels, based on books published between January 2013 and February 2014. The proposal must include the Chair, three discussants, as well as the author. A Book Panel proposal must include the same four items as a panel proposal, except that the abstract is limited to a 200- to 300-word abstract of the book. The discussants need not submit an abstract.

Proposals for documentaries must include four items:
*Contact information (see above)
*A 300- to 500-word abstract of the documentary
*A 100-word biographical statement (see above). CVs will be rejected.
*A Fact Sheet filled out online (see above).
Two copies of the documentary on DVD (in NTSC or PAL format) will also need to be sent to the Convention, unless there is an agreement to provide a streaming link. These and other matters will be discussed upon receipt of the film proposals.

Proposals for a roundtable following the screening of a film are most welcome. In these cases, the requirements of a panel proposal apply, in addition to the 300- to 500-word abstract of the film.

Proposals to serve as a discussant must include four items:
*Contact information (see above)
*A 100-word statement about your areas of expertise
*A 100-word biographical statement (see above). CVs will be rejected.
*A Fact Sheet filled out online (see above)
Proposals for applicants already included in an individual paper or panel proposal need only include the 100-word statement on areas of expertise.

IMPORTANT: All proposals must be sent in a single email message, with an attached proposal in a Word document (PDFs will not be accepted) containing contact information, an abstract, a biographical statement, as well as a confirmation that the Fact Sheet has been filled out online (or multiple Fact Sheets, in the case of co-authors and/or panel proposals). Proposals including contact information, the abstract and the bio statement
in separate attachments, or over several email messages, will not be considered. The proposals must be sent to darel@uottawa.ca AND darelasn2014@gmail.com.

The receipt of all proposals will be promptly acknowledged electronically, with some delay during deadline week, due to the high volume of proposals.

IMPORTANT: Participants are responsible for covering all travel and accommodation costs. Unfortunately, ASN has no funding available for panelists.

An international Program Committee will be entrusted with the selection of proposals. Applicants will be notified by January 2014 at the latest. Information regarding registration costs and other logistical questions will be communicated afterwards.

The full list of panels from last year’s convention can be accessed at http://nationalities.org/convention/pdfs/ASN13_Final_Program.pdf.

The programs from past conventions, going back to 2001, are also online at http://nationalities.org/convention/past.asp

Several dozen publishers and companies have had exhibits and/or advertised in the Convention Program in past years. Due to considerations of space, advertisers and exhibitors are encouraged to place their order early. For information, please contact ASN Executive Director Lydia C. Hamilton (lch2111@columbia.edu).

We very much look forward to hearing from you and receiving your proposal!

The Convention Organizing Committee:
Dominique Arel, ASN Convention Director
Lydia C. Hamilton, ASN Executive Director
Zsuzsa Csergo, ASN President
Florian Bieber, Julie George, Dmitry Gorenburg, Lisa Koriouchkina, Vejas Liulevicius, Harris Mylonas, and Peter Vermeersch, ASN Executive Committee

Deadline for proposals: 24 October 2013 (to be sent to both darel@uottawa.ca AND darelasn2014@gmail.com)

The ASN Convention’s headquarters are located at the:

Harriman Institute
Columbia University
1211 IAB
420 W. 118th St.
New York, NY 10027
212 854 6239 tel
212 666 3481 fax
lch2111@columbia.edu
Kule Doctoral Scholarships on Ukraine
Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa

Application Deadlines:
1 December 2013 (International Students)
1 February 2014 (Canadian Students)

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa, the only research unit outside of Ukraine predominantly devoted to the study of contemporary Ukraine, is announcing the second competition of the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Doctoral Scholarships on Contemporary Ukraine. The Scholarships will consist of an annual award of $20,000, plus all tuition, for a maximum of four years.

The Scholarships were made possible by a generous donation of $500,000 by the Kule family, matched by the University of Ottawa. Drs. Peter and Doris Kule, from Edmonton, have endowed several chairs and research centres in Canada, and their exceptional contributions to education, predominantly in Ukrainian Studies, has recently been celebrated in the book Champions of Philanthrophy: Peter and Doris Kule and their Endowments.

Students with a primary interest in contemporary Ukraine applying to, or enrolled in, a doctoral program at the University of Ottawa in political science, sociology and anthropology, or in fields associated with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies, can apply for a Scholarship.

The application for the Kule Scholarship must include a 1000 word research proposal, two letters of recommendation (sent separately by the referees), and a CV and be mailed to the Office of the Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Social Sciences Building 3021C, 120 University St., Ottawa ON K1N 6N5, Canada.

Applications will be considered only after the applicant has completed an application to the relevant doctoral program at the University of Ottawa. Consideration of applications will begin on 1 February 2014 and will continue until the award is announced. Please note that the application deadline for international students seeking to enroll in a doctoral program is 1 December 2013. Canadian students have until 1 February 2014.

The University of Ottawa is a bilingual university must have a certain level of French. Specific requirements vary across departments.

Students interested in applying for the Scholarships for the academic year 2013-2014 are encouraged to contact Dominique Arel, Chairholder, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, at darel@uottawa.ca.

CIUS Launches New Online Scholarly Journal
In 2014 the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies will launch a new online scholarly journal, *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, which will replace two venerable publications—*Skhid/Zakhid*, issued by the Kowalsky Eastern Ukrainian Institute in Kharkiv since 1998, and the *Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, published by CIUS since 1976.

Dr. Oleh S. Ilnytzkyj, professor of Ukrainian literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta, has been appointed editor of the new journal. Dr. Ilnytzkyj has held the McCalla Professorship at the University of Alberta. He is the author of numerous studies on Ukrainian Modernism and culture formation in the Russian Empire and an expert in humanities computing specializing in the application of Internet technologies to Ukrainian studies. He was editor of *Canadian Slavonic Papers* for many years.

“My colleagues at CIUS have entrusted me with the exciting task of launching an online scholarly journal dedicated to advancing Ukrainian studies within an interdisciplinary and international context,” says Dr. Ilnytzkyj, commenting on his appointment.

The aim is to create an attractive venue for scholars, who will see their work published in timely fashion and disseminated widely, as well as a valuable resource for readers and researchers around the globe. Although this will not be an open-access journal, it will be inexpensive for individuals to access through the Internet on computers and mobile devices. Over the last decade, scholarly publishing has been moving online relentlessly for reasons of cost and convenience. And while these transformations are controversial, even painful, there can be no doubt that in the digital age an online presence is mandatory.

*East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* anticipates being not only part of this general trend but also a leader, especially in the field of Ukrainian and Slavic studies. With the resources of CIUS as a basis and the assistance of scholars in several disciplines at the University of Alberta, *EWJUS* will be reaching out to the international community of researchers to establish editorial and advisory boards that can guide its activities and set its standards.

*East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* will be a scholarly, peer-reviewed, online periodical publishing original research articles, reviews, and review articles. *EWJUS* will encourage the submission of previously unpublished work by academics, graduate students, and policymakers. The journal will welcome thematic issues organized by guest editors and original scholarship presented at conferences. It will be open to sponsoring online forums for scholarly debates and exchanges. The journal will accept research that incorporates web technologies and multimedia (e.g., audio and visual materials).
The projected focus and themes of the journal will include, among others, the following: Ukrainian humanities and social sciences in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective; the early modern, modern, and contemporary periods; cultural geography and geopolitics; empires, regions, borders, and borderlands; dominant and subordinate cultures; collective identities, multiculturalism, nationalism; and the sociocultural foundations of modernization.

“I am very enthusiastic about this new project. At the moment we are tackling a number of organizational, technical, and financial challenges, but I am optimistic that by early 2014 we will be in a position to unveil a product worthy of CIUS and of great service to the scholarly and academic community in both ‘East’ and ‘West,’” says the new editor.

#5
New Journal: The Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society

May 2, 2013 - Kyiv, Ukraine, and Cambridge, MA, USA

Contact: Oleh Kotsyuba
Email: kotsyuba@krytyka.com
Phone: +1-617-500-8289

The Krytyka Institute Launches the First English-language Scholarly Journal of Ukrainian Social Sciences

The Krytyka Institute (Kyiv, Ukraine) is proud to announce the launch of the first peer-reviewed English-language scholarly journal with a focus on Ukrainian social sciences - the Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society (JUPS).

The project will be headed by a team of young scholars in political science, serving as Editors-in-Chief: Dr. Nadiya Kravets and Dr. Olga Onuch. The journal has attracted a number of internationally acclaimed scholars to serve on the Journal’s Editorial Board (please find full list below). The Journal has announced its first Call for Submissions (please find below).

The Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society's mission will be to aid the development of social sciences in Ukraine. The Editorial Board that will peer-review all articles submitted consists of world-renowned experts on Ukraine as well as exceptional emerging scholars. Published bi-annually and in an open-source format, the Journal will have a quick turn-around time between submission, review and consequent publication.

"In launching this new groundbreaking scholarly initiative, we aim to widen the pool of scholars who provide knowledge about Ukraine to global readership by helping local academics communicate their ideas to peers worldwide and in English," adds George G. Grabowicz, Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard and President of The Krytyka Institute.
The Journal particularly seeks to publish articles that place knowledge of Ukraine in wider comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives (within the region and with countries in other regions), and which shape and identify new directions in the study of Ukraine.

All materials will be published in bi-annual editions in an open-source format available to wide audience at no charge. Krytyka’s English edition team will perform the editing for the project, as well as translation and copy-editing of submissions in Russian and Ukrainian. The Krytyka Institute will host the Journal's website on its new web platform that is currently in development. Krytyka reserves all rights to materials published.

Call for Submissions

We invite article contributions for an inaugural issue of the Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society from scholars working on developments in Ukrainian economics, history, international relations, law, politics, public policy, and sociology.

All methods and approaches will be considered.

Manuscripts should not have been previously published. Preference will be given to articles that present findings from new research.

Please adhere to the following guidelines:

Authors should limit their manuscripts to 8,000-10,000 words (including footnotes), although occasionally we will consider longer articles of an exceptional quality.

Please remove your name or any references in the manuscript that might identify you.

Include an abstract (100-150 words) on the first page of your manuscript.

Please send your submissions and all queries to the following email address: jups@krytyka.com.

#6
Call for Papers
March 14-15, 2014
“Ukraine: Lessons of the Past and Outlook to the Future”

International Graduate Symposium
New Perspectives on Contemporary Ukraine: Politics, History, and Culture
Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, U of Toronto
The University of Toronto’s Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES) is pleased to announce the sixth bi-annual Graduate Student Symposium entitled “Ukraine: Lessons of the Past and Outlook to the Future” to be held in Toronto on March 14-15, 2014. This interdisciplinary Symposium will bring together aspiring young scholars for two days of presentations and intensive discussions on the study of contemporary Ukraine.

The goal of the Symposium is to present new research and innovative thinking that explores the political, socioeconomic, and cultural dynamics in Ukrainian society. The Symposium seeks to integrate and draw on a wide range of theories and new scholarly research by applying them to Ukraine as a case study.

The Symposium is open to current graduate students and recent graduates (those who graduated in the past two years) from North America and Europe. Cross-national and cross-historical comparisons in the wider context of the post-communist space are encouraged. Submissions can focus on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

• Sociopolitical and Economic Development;
• Identity and Regionalism;
• National Security, Foreign Relations, and Diaspora;
• Language (translation, bilingualism, etc.);
• Literature, Film, and Media;
• New Approaches to National History and the Politics of Memory.

Previous Symposia have seen a wide range of participants from: Canada, the United States, England, Holland, Ukraine, Germany, Poland and other countries. Emerging international scholars are provided with a diverse, professional, and open environment that allows for constructive dialogue. Participants will also have the opportunity to interact with academics.

Participants will also have the opportunity to interact with academics working in similar fields.

Previous attendees and guest lecturers include: Dominique Arel, Paul D’Anieri, Marta Dyczok, Taras Koznarsky, Alexander J. Motyl, Mykola Riabchuk, Peter Solomon, Maxim Tarnawsky, Frank Sysyn, Serhy Yekelchyk, Paul R. Magocsi, and Lucan A. Way.

Please submit an abstract (maximum 400 words) and the following curriculum vitae form by Friday, November 29th, 2013. Proposals should be submitted via email to ukrainian.gradsymposium@utoronto.ca.

Authors whose papers are selected will be notified by Friday, December 6th, 2013. Applicants should indicate funding needs at the time of submission. Although funding may be available in the form of travel and accommodation grants,
presenters are encouraged to seek external sources of funding.

# Kyiv Initiative
Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute
http://www.huri.harvard.edu/kyiv-initiative.html

The Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University (HURI) has received a seed grant from the Sustainable Ukraine Foundation to explore the possibility of opening a research center in Kyiv. A research center in Ukraine would provide Harvard University with an opportunity to build on its unique strength in the area of International and Slavic Studies. The main purposes of the potential Kyiv center would be to pursue excellence in research and education in the area of Ukrainian Studies, to identify and utilize both academic and research resources, and to foster scholarly involvement of both faculty and students in Ukraine.

Like all Harvard offices outside the United States, the proposed HURI research center in Kyiv will need review by Harvard's University Committee on International Projects and Sites (UCIPS) and approval by the Provost. HURI looks forward to working with Ukraine-based partners to develop an effective proposal and, if approved, to augment that proposal for Harvard's required second stage of review and the potential launch of the center.

During this exploratory phase, HURI hopes to identify potential donors who would be willing to commit funds that would support the programming and operation of such a center and to begin the legal and administrative planning that will be required for Harvard approval and necessary to lay a strong foundation for the potential center's success. It is our hope that support will come from multiple sources, including the Ukrainian philanthropic and business communities. HURI's representatives in Ukraine, Ms. Natalia Sheiko and Dr. Mykhailo Minakov, have started contacting leaders in the Ukrainian business community to discuss possible support.

#8
U of A arts cuts risk relationship with community, professor warns
Impacted programs each have 10 or fewer students enrolled
CBCnews.ca, 18 August 21013

Suspending arts programs at the University of Alberta could have a large impact on the school's relationships with students and the community, warns the head of one of the affected programs.

In a letter sent Friday, Faculty of Arts Dean Lesley Cormack informed faculty members that programs with low enrollment should be suspended, effective immediately.

The 20 programs impacted each had 10 or fewer students enrolled as majors in each of the fall terms from 2005 to 2012. Cormack says the admission freezes will
help ensure the faculty’s limited resources are allocated to programs with higher enrollment, better meeting students’ needs.

“Programs should not continue to be offered simply because they have been offered in the past,” she writes.

Among the programs on the chopping block is the university’s Ukrainian Folklore studies.

“It’s always been a small program. The program is about 30 years old. It’s been small and is going down,” said Andriy Nahachewsky, Director of Kule Ukrainian Folklore Centre.

Nahachewsky says fewer than ten students have enrolled in the Ukrainian Folklore major for the past eight years. He says while they serve a small number of students, the program provides an important connection with the Ukrainian community in the province and allows people to explore its heritage.

“I think there is a real value in connecting university life with the community life,” he said.

“That's one of the cornerstones of the University of Alberta's goals is to be really community connected. We're one in particular because we're narrow we can go deep and we're good at that, I think.”

Nahachewsky says shutting the major may have an impact on the university’s relationship with the community, which could have an effect on endowments. He says it is a difficult decision for the university, faced with the province’s decision to slash postsecondary operating grants by nearly 7 per cent in the last budget.

“The university is a large boat. You can’t steer a barge very quickly. So, forcing it to steer it quickly means they have to do a lot of decisions because they are fast, rather than because they are the good decisions in the long-term.”

If the program is suspended, Nahachewsky says Ukrainian Folklore minors will continue and that there have been discussions of rolling up several areas of study into a general folklore certificate program.

“What we have now is a challenge. We have to find ways to continue being relevant, ways to continue being meaningful, ways to continue to support the community.”

Programs must be relevant, minister says

In the future, Cormack says guidelines should be established to determine when programs should be suspended. Factors to consider in the decision-making process would include total enrollment and the ratio of students to faculty members.
Programs should then be reviewed annually to make sure the necessary resources are in place.

“We need to be constantly checking in to see whether the programs we offer are current and useful to students, so I think this really is good management to do this,” Cormack told CBC News.

Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk spoke in favour of the program cuts Sunday afternoon, commending Cormack for her recommendations.

“The dean of the faculty of arts is taking some very courageous ... steps that should be taken by all deans of all faculties in all schools in Canada in every year.” Lukaszuk said it is important for academic staff to consider whether students are willing to spend their tuition on the programs being offered, and to adjust programming accordingly.

“These are good questions to ask yourself – ‘are these programs still relevant, are they of any interest to our students?’ – and if the answer is no, then you have to eliminate those programs,” he said.

“To be the best... you have to offer the most relevant programs that students want to take and be excellent at delivering them.” Faculty members have until Sept. 3 to respond to Cormack’s recommendations.

If the program cuts go forward, all students currently enrolled in the affected programs will be allowed to finish their degrees.

#9
Abuse of Power: Corruption in the Office of the President
by J V Koshiw

Paperback: 322 pages
Publisher: Artemia Press Limited; 1 edition (August 13, 2013)
ISBN-10: 0954376412
http://www.amazon.com/dp/0954376412/ref=pe_385040_30332200_pe_309540_26725410_item

Abuse of Power – Corruption in the office of the president reveals Ukraine’s ruling elite to be exploiting the state for its personal benefit. The book focuses on the first four presidents of Ukraine starting in 1991, and in particular on the two considered to be the most corrupt: the second president Leonid Kuchma (1994-2004) and the fourth and current president Viktor Yanukovych (2010). Its genesis is in the author’s personal experience as a journalist in Ukraine since the fall of the USSR in 1989. The book is the first to make extensive use of secret recordings of President Kuchma’s conversations, and of those of Viktor Yanukovych’s lieutenants who
J.V. Koshiw is a specialist on Ukraine. Abuse of Power – corruption in the office of the president is his most recent book. His first book, Workers Against the Gulag (Pluto Press, London 1978), which he co-authored under the pseudonym Viktor Haynes, dealt with a group of Donetsk coal miners who attempted to organize an independent trade union. This was followed by The Chernobyl Disaster (Hogarth Press, London 1988), also co-authored with the same pseudonym. After the fall of the Soviet Union, he visited the Chernobyl exclusion zone on three occasions to make documentaries for HTV Wales. Between 1998 and 2001, he worked as a journalist in Ukraine, first with the Kyiv Post, and then other publications. He investigated the disappearance of the journalist Georgi Gongadze, whose headless body was discovered outside the capital. The research formed the basis for his book, Beheaded, the killing of a journalist (Artemia Press, Reading 2003). An updated version of the book was published in Ukraine (2004). On May 20, 2004, the book was launched inside Ukraine’s parliament building. A further updated version was published in Moscow the following year. In 2007-8, the author was a visiting scholar in Washington DC at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and George Washington University, during which time he analysed the hundreds of hours of recordings of President Kuchma’s conversations secretly made by his guard Melnychenko, and the recordings of the group of people who fixed the 2004 presidential elections – the catalyst for the Orange Revolution. The recordings presented a wealth of new information, which became the impetus for this book.

#10
Andriy Zayarnyuk
Framing the Ukrainian Peasantry in Habsburg Galicia, 1846-1914
CIUS Press, 2013

$34.95 (paperback)
http://tinyurl.com/peasantry-in-Galicia

About the Book
In his monograph Framing the Ukrainian Peasantry in Habsburg Galicia, 1846–1914, Andriy Zayarnyuk traces the evolution of modern collective identities among Ukrainian peasants in Austrian-ruled Galicia. His examination of identity-construction processes spans from the introduction of a new social system by Austrian emperors in the late eighteenth century to the establishment of an organized nationally conscious rural public space at the beginning of the twentieth century. Zayarnyuk’s inquiry probes several contexts: intellectual discussion of peasant national and social identity; popular representation of the peasantry; and peasant self-representation, including response to peasant-targeted programs and the work and influence of political and social activists in villages.

The book focuses on a particular region of Galicia (the Sambir area in the Boiko
region) for its discussion of identity politics at the grass-roots level, narrowing in on specific villages and analyzing the work of village-activist networks. The breadth of his data allows the author to explore an alternative to the generally accepted notion of the linear development of the Ukrainian national movement and Ukrainian national consciousness in Galicia. The book presents a complex articulation of peasant-identity recognition based on competing visions of national-community identity, modern individual identity, as well as social problems and their proposed solutions. The author emphasizes the peasants’ own influence on those identity-construction processes by including insightful accounts of the lives and agendas of peasants and peasant activists.

This book also provides a rich source of information on the local history of the Boiko region, and in particular, the Sambir and Staryi Sambir areas of Galicia.

About the Author
Andriy Zayarnyuk is an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Winnipeg. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alberta. His specialized area of study is the social and cultural history of Eastern Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

#11
Sweet Snow
by Alexander Motyl
Paperback: 156 pages
Publisher: Cervena Barva Press (April 9, 2013)
ISBN-10: 0988371375

Fiction. SWEET SNOW is set in the winter of 1933 in Ukraine. A terrible famine is raging in the countryside, while the Soviet secret police is arresting suspected spies in the cities. A German nobleman from Berlin, a Jewish communist from New York, a Polish diplomat from Lwów, and a Ukrainian nationalist from Vienna come to share a cell in some unknown prison. One day, as they are being transported to another prison, their van overturns, their guards are killed, and they are freed—to wander amidst the devastated villages, desolate landscapes, snowbound villages, and frozen corpses. As they struggle to survive, they come to grips with the horror of the famine as well as with their own delusions, weaknesses, and mortality.

About the Author
Alexander Motyl is a writer, painter, and professor. He is the author of four novels, Whiskey Priest, Who Killed Andrei Warhol, The Jew Who Was Ukrainian, and SWEET SNOW, and two novellas, Flippancy and My Orchidia; his poems have appeared in Mayday, Counterexample Poetics, Istanbul Literary Review, Orion Headless, The Battered Suitcase, Red River Review, Green Door, and New York Quarterly. He has done performances of his fiction and poetry at the Cornelia Street Café and the Bowery Poetry Club in New York. Motyl’s artwork is represented on the Internet gallery, www.artsicle.com, and has been exhibited in
solo and group shows in New York, Philadelphia, Westport, and Toronto. He teaches at Rutgers University-Newark and lives in New York.

#12
Historical Dictionary of Ukraine, 2d edition
Ivan Katchanovski; Zenon E. Kohut; Bohdan Y. Nebesio and Myroslav Yurkevich
Scarecrow Press, 2013
968 p., ISBN 978-0-8108-7845-7 hardback

Although present-day Ukraine has only been in existence for something over two decades, its recorded history reaches much further back for more than a thousand years to Kyivan Rus’. Over that time, it has usually been under control of invaders like the Turks and Tatars, or neighbors like Russia and Poland, and indeed it was part of the Soviet Union until it gained its independence in 1991. Today it is drawn between its huge neighbor to the east and the European Union, and is still struggling to choose its own path... although it remains uncertain of which way to turn. Nonetheless, as one of the largest European states, with considerable economic potential, it is not a place that can be readily overlooked.

The problem is, or at least was, where to find information on this huge modern Ukraine, and since 2005 the answer has been the Historical Dictionary of Ukraine in its first edition, and now even more so with this second edition. It now boasts a dictionary section of about 725 entries, these covering the thousand years of history but particularly the recent past, and focusing on significant persons, places and events, political parties and institutions as well as more broadly international relations, the economy, society and culture. The chronology permits readers to follow this history and the introduction is there to make sense of it. It also features the most extensive and up-to-date bibliography of English-language writing on Ukraine.

#13
Envoys Near Deal to Free Ex-Premier of Ukraine
By Andrew E. Kramer
New York Times, 9 October 2013

MOSCOW — European diplomats appear close to negotiating the release of Yulia V. Tymoshenko, the former prime minister of Ukraine, whose imprisonment by the government under her political rival has strained ties with the West and threatened to derail a trade agreement with Europe scheduled for signing in November.

Under the agreement, Ms. Tymoshenko would be pardoned by the rival, President Viktor F. Yanukovich, in exchange for a commitment from Ms. Tymoshenko to leave the country, at least initially by traveling to Germany for medical treatment.

European envoys, led by a former president of the European Parliament, Pat Cox, and a former president of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski, made the offer to both the government and Ms. Tymoshenko, her lawyer and political ally, Sergey
Vlasenko, said.

In 2011, the former prime minister was convicted of corruption in what was widely considered a politically motivated trial, and she is serving a seven-year sentence.

In an open letter released Friday, Ms. Tymoshenko wrote that she had accepted the offer to leave the country, though only for the sake of removing an obstacle to Ukraine’s conclusion of the trade deal with the European Union.

That deal, called an Association Agreement, is a first step toward tighter economic relations and in theory eventual membership. In her letter, Ms. Tymoshenko vowed to return and remain active in politics.

With the publication of this letter, “the ball is in his hands now,” Mr. Vlasenko said of Mr. Yanukovich. Mr. Yanukovich has not responded publicly to the European proposal.

How that will be decided is not known, but a pro-government newspaper provided a rather strong hint when it ran a picture of Ms. Tymoshenko under the headline “Guten Tag, Berlin!”

The deal for Ms. Tymoshenko’s freedom is the first sign of a thaw in a fierce political feud between Ukraine’s two most influential politicians.

In addition to the 2011 conviction, the authorities have filed several additional charges against Ms. Tymoshenko, including one of murder in connection with the 1996 assassination of a lawmaker.

She has denied all of the charges and appealed her conviction to the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Yanukovich has nursed a grudge against Ms. Tymoshenko for her role in leading the street protests known as the Orange Revolution, which overturned his victory in a rigged election in 2004. In 2010, he narrowly defeated Ms. Tymoshenko in an election observers deemed free.

In her letter from prison addressed to “my dear Ukrainians,” Ms. Tymoshenko, 52, wrote that she viewed integration with Europe as so vital for her country that she had asked the European Union to cross her release off a list of conditions that Ukraine would need to meet before signing, at a summit meeting scheduled in November.

“I didn’t want the European future of my country to suffer for some reason, moreover because of my fate,” she wrote. Ms. Tymoshenko has said she needs surgery to treat back pain. In April she was beaten by guards, a routine event in Ukrainian prisons, her lawyer said.
Because the Europeans did not drop their demand for her release, she wrote in her letter, she would be willing to accept the offer presented by Mr. Cox and Mr. Kwasniewski to leave Ukraine for medical treatment.

European diplomats, acting on the axiom that Russia without Ukraine is just a country while Russia with Ukraine is an empire, have been trying to cut a deal with Ukraine before it agrees to join a Russian-backed customs union. They want a face-saving deal for Ms. Tymoshenko quickly.

Ukrainians prefer European Union to Customs Union, Poll Finds
Ukrinform, 3 October 2013

KYIV—Almost 76 percent of Ukrainians are ready to take part in a referendum on Ukraine’s accession to the European Union or the Customs Union. About 41 percent of those surveyed would vote for joining the EU, against 35 percent who would support integration with the Customs Union. These are the findings of a survey conducted by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS).

"The number of supporters of EU accession exceeds the number of supporters of entry into the Customs Union in the western and central regions of the country (73 pct vs. 13 pct, and 45 pct vs. 25 pct), and supporters of the Customs Union dominate in the southern and eastern regions (46 pct vs. 26 pct, and 57 pct vs. 18 pct)," the KIIS press office said.

At the same time, the attitude of Ukrainians to Ukraine's accession to the EU and the Customs Union, in principle, is contradictory, and it can influence the referendum, if people are not asked to choose the integration vector.

Thus, in case of holding a separate referendum on Ukraine's accession to the EU, more Ukrainians are ready to vote "in favor" than "against" - 43 percent and 30 percent, respectively. In case of a separate referendum on accession to the Customs Union, more Ukrainians are ready to vote "in favor" than "against" - 40 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

Also, the survey found that young people are more inclined to vote for joining the EU (18-29 and 30-39 years old - 50 pct and 48 pct), including the middle age group (40-49 years old - 46 pct), whereas joining the Customs Union is rather supported by older age groups (50-59 years old - 44 pct, 60-69 years old - 47 pct and not less than 70 years old - 53 pct).

The opinion poll was conducted on September 13-23.

EU Beckons, but Investors Still Getting a Rough Ride
by Roman Olearchyk
Financial Times, Beyond Brics Blog, 3 October 2013
Ukraine stands a chance to achieve much more than a pivotal westward shift away from Moscow’s grip by signing historic association and free trade agreements with the EU at a Vilnius-based summit in late November.

In setting course for EU convergence, it could rise up on the global investment radar, portraying itself as following Poland’s economic success, and in turn luring in much needed FDI. At least, that’s the theory.

The EU has set conditions before it will sign the landmark agreement, saying Kiev must undertake reforms that include improving its democracy and freeing jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. But even if it does sign up, Ukraine faces massive domestic homework if free trade with the EU is to provide big benefits, reversing a 90 per cent plunge in FDI to a tiny $224m in the first half of 2013.

And local officials must improve the nation’s notoriously horrible business climate.

That was the blunt message delivered by EU trade commissioner Karel De Gucht on Wednesday during a visit to Kiev, where he held talks with President Viktor Yanukovich and other officials.

“What I heard from businesses... [is that] the business climate is worsening, becoming more unpredictable,” he told journalists.

Indeed, you don’t need to talk to many businesses on the ground to find out that the most basic of investor rights are unprotected in Ukraine. Unfriendly taxes, customs duties regulations continue to choke margins, profits and revenues. Meanwhile, unruly courts make many that manage to stay afloat in muddy business waters easy prey.

Aggressive corporate raiders are increasingly exploiting weak legislation and unpredictable judges to wrestle away ownership of businesses and assets, even from prominent foreign investors.

Swissport, for example, claims to have spent much of this year struggling to reverse a court ruling that stripped it of a 70 per cent stake in Ukraine’s largest air cargo handler. It won a victory in Ukraine’s highest commercial court on October 2, but could face further legal challenges.

London & Regional Properties recently lost management control over Globus, one of Ukraine’s top shopping malls.

Even McDonalds has been caught up. The fast food giant claims that raiders are trying to seize ownership of one of its 75 local restaurants. Other investors whose assets have faced legal threats in Ukraine steelmaker ArcelorMittal, the biggest foreign investor in the country.
Sometimes, pressures appear to be applied by state law enforcement itself. In two separate incidents last month, fraud investigators raided and temporarily paralysed the local subsidiary of Italy’s Unicredit bank; at Vitmark Ukraine, a juice manufacturer owned by private equity fund Horizon Capital, documents, computers and other items were seized.

If foreign investors continue to face this kind of operational risk, signing EU trade and association agreements is unlikely to encourage more investors to follow.

An investment index prepared by the Kiev-based European Business Association shows the heightening frustration felt by the relatively few investors that have decided to brave Ukraine’s business environment.

PACE Calls for Tymoshenko Release
Interfax-Ukraine, 2 October 2013

Kyiv – The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has adopted a resolution calling for the release of Ukraine’s former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Serhiy Sobolev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian delegation in PACE and deputy chairman of the Batkivschyna faction of the Ukrainian parliament, said.

The resolution states clearly that “all available legal means of releasing Mrs. Tymoshenko should be used, bearing in mind that the judicial procedures that led to her conviction has drawn serious criticism,” Sobolev was quoted by the Batkivschyna press service as saying.

“Sobolev is convinced that this can be interpreted as a direct call for Tymoshenko’s release,” the party’s press service said in its report.

The resolution also “states very fairly that Ukraine has made a number of breakthroughs in the sphere of legislation thanks to the agreement reached by the majority and the opposition, which makes us closer to the European Union, specifically, a number of so-called anti-corruption laws and laws establishing transparent rules of the game on economic markets have been adopted, and the legislation dealing with the protection of human rights has been improved,” Sobolev said.

“However, the key idea stated in the resolution, the issue of the illegality of the conviction of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko for political motives, remains unresolved,” Sobolev said.

This resolution is in effect the last warning to the Ukrainian authorities before the Vilnius summit, stating that European integration is impossible without resolving the Tymoshenko issue and without resolving the issue of the judicial administration and prosecutors service reform, he said.
British Prime Minister David Cameron took umbrage last week when President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov allegedly ridiculed Great Britain as a "small island." But Russia and Britain suffer from similar ailments: their inability to overcome their glorious imperial past and adjust to the modern world. Their minds are too 19th-century, but Russia far more so.

By pushing its plan to build a political Eurasian Union of neighboring states, the Kremlin is digging itself even deeper into a neo-imperialist hole, presumably to appeal to Russian nationalist sentiments. It is on an offensive to expand this entity of unwilling allies. This costs Russia large amounts of money, harms its economy and alienates the country from the rest of the world. Russia's immediate aim is to hinder Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia from signing free trade agreements with the European Union at its summit on the Eastern Partnership in Vilnius in late November. The Kremlin proceeds with threats and sanctions rather than trying to attract anybody.

Since Russia is comparatively protectionist, any country that joins the current Customs Union is compelled to raise its custom tariffs, which leads to trade diversion that reduces economic welfare. Since nobody wants to join voluntarily, Russia has to pay costly subsidies to any potential member. Ironically, the post-Soviet countries with the best relations with Russia are probably Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania because they have never joined any of Russia's post-Soviet alliances.

Nobody is closer to Russia than Belarus. Through subsidized oil and gas supplies, Belarus receives from 15 percent to 18 percent of its gross domestic product from Russia every year. Even so, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko's populist economic policies put the country in financial jeopardy in 2011. Russia had to bail it out with a financial package of some $20 billion over three years. Yet with huge and unjustified wage increases, Lukashenko has driven his country into a new financial crisis while refusing to sell enterprises to Russia. At present, Belarus and Russia have entered a trade war within the Customs Union.

No post-Soviet leader is a finer diplomat than Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Given his country's great dependence on its northern neighbor, Nazarbayev always tries to get along with Russia. But its entry into the Customs Union hit Kazakhstan hard. It almost doubled its customs tariffs, compelling the Kazakh middle class to purchase substandard Russian cars rather than freely imported ones. Its tariff raises will block Kazakhstan's almost consummated membership of the World Trade Organization. Even Nazarbayev has put his foot down and said there will be no Eurasian Union.
On Tuesday, Putin called Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to the Kremlin. Without warning, Putin and Sargsyan announced that Armenia would join the Customs Union. This looked like straightforward Russian blackmail. Since the ceasefire with Azerbaijan in 1994, Armenian troops occupy one-fifth of Azerbaijan’s territory, but Azerbaijan has taken off economically thanks to oil and Armenia has become comparatively weaker. Russia guarantees Armenia’s security, but recently it has also sold large volumes of arms to Azerbaijan.

Presumably, Putin told Sargsyan that Armenia had to join the Customs Union instantly. Otherwise, Russia would no longer guarantee Armenia’s security. The Customs Union makes no sense for geographically isolated Armenia, and it now has to abandon a comprehensive free trade agreement it concluded with the European Union in July.

Moldova has also concluded a free trade agreement with the EU and Russia’s nationalist Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin paid a visit. In his usual malicious fashion, he warned that the people in Transdnestr, which is occupied by Russian troops, might oppose an agreement with the EU. He also suggested the Moldovans might freeze this winter if they signed their EU agreement, implying that Russia may turn off its gas supply again. Needless to say, Moldova is hastily building a gas pipeline from Romania and is adamantly sticking to the EU.

Russia’s main Eurasian battlefront is with Ukraine, which is the most important country at stake and the frontrunner in EU integration. In November 2011, Ukraine concluded negotiations with the EU on a deep free trade agreement and it has also concluded a political Association Agreement with the EU. Both are supposed to be signed in Vilnius in November.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych's problem has been that the EU demands that Ukraine complies with European values. Until recently, it appeared as if he preferred to stay above the rule of law and keep former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in prison, but suddenly everything has changed thanks to Russia's offensive.

In July and August, Russia started a trade war against Ukraine. It picked key Ukrainian tycoons as its victims, gradually broadening its attack. In late July, Putin seemingly went to Ukraine just to insult Yanukovych, offering him nothing. He has resorted to standard Russian nationalist slurs, such as calling Russians and Ukrainians "one people" with "a common language."

Moscow is threatening Kiev with severe trade sanctions if Ukraine signs its agreements with the EU. Putin’s economic adviser, Sergei Glazyev, said: "By signing an Association Agreement with the European Union, Ukraine would be depriving itself of its sovereign right on all issues of trade policy that we have handed over to the Customs Union. For us, Ukraine would stop being a strategic partner because it would be disappearing as an international partner, as an entity under international law because it will have to agree with all its actions on trade
with the European Union."

Suddenly, Ukraine has no choice but to accept the EU demands, and Yanukovych understands that. "For Ukraine, association with the European Union must become an important stimulus for forming a modern European state," he said in his Independence Day speech last month. On Thursday, the Ukrainian parliament adopted a major reform package, including constitutional changes of the judicial system.

Today, only one important EU demand remains to be fulfilled: the release of Tymoshenko. Considering how concerned Yanukovych is about Russian aggression, her release has suddenly become plausible.

The Customs Union is a disaster for all involved, but most of all to Russia, which it isolates. Economically, its protectionist collection of semi-developed countries keeps all these economies back. Politically, Russia's relentless aggression to bring countries into its union turns potential friends into foes. In various ways, Russia has to pay for the costs it causes others, leaving it with the bill. Nobody suffers more from the Customs Union than Russia.

*Anders Åslund is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington.*

#18
The Essentials between EU Treaty and Customs Union
by Marcin Swiecicki
Kyiv Post, 19 September 2013

The European Union is the largest market in the world, about 10 times as large as the Russian, Belarusian and Kazakhstani markets combined. Under the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, more than 95 percent of trade is to be liberalized. The experience of central European countries proves that open access to the EU market gives enormous stimuli to small as well as big industries. Only in 1995-2003, after an Association Treaty was signed, but before entering the EU, Poland’s exports to the EU increased 2.6 times.

Besides liberalization of trade, the free trade agreement aims to deepen and comprehensively harmonize economic legislation. The mechanism for bringing legislation in-line with the EU’s, such as Twinning programs, are designed to assist Ukraine to modernize its economic legislation. The chief EU negotiator Philippe Cuisson compared the legal status of relations between the EU and Ukraine after the implementation of the free trade agreement with that of Norway or Switzerland.

The free trade agreement will provide Ukrainian companies access to EU service markets and public procurement. The public sector comprises one-third of the EU economy. It means that Ukrainian companies can compete on equal footing
in construction works, transport services, supplies of goods and services for central and local governments in the entire EU. If not as the main contractor, they can qualify as a valuable subcontractor in the beginning as it happened to many companies in new member countries.

When Ukraine changes its laws, administrative procedures and restructures some of its institutions so that they mirror the rules and regulations of the 28 EU member states, the EU will treat Ukrainian institutions as their own and will accept their authority and judgement. It means that a product approved in Ukraine will be accepted without any further checks in the EU.

Ukraine will become much more attractive to foreign investors, making Ukrainian industry competitive. The same happened to Polish, the Baltic states’, Romanian and Bulgarian industries. Free trade between Ukraine and the EU will open vast opportunities for deep integration including highly specialized intraindustrial integration. Ukraine is not as rich in natural resources as Russia. Therefore, Ukraine has to focus on exporting processed goods. Russia is not able to bring to Ukraine competitive technologies, access to global distribution networks, etc. Russia itself is a negligible exporter of processed goods (except for weapons). Of course, the free trade agreement will not suffice to bring investors to Ukraine. Combating corruption, illegal company takeovers, enforcing reliable protection of property rights, fostering an independent judiciary, and other measures are also needed.

The free trade agreement is based on World Trade Organization rules whereas the Kremlin-led Custom Union is not since Belarus and Kazakhstan are not WTO members. It means that any arbitrary decisions and trade disputes within the Custom Union will not be subject to an internationally recognized dispute resolution mechanism. Disputes do happen quite often.

Under the free trade agreement, only the agricultural sector will have restrictions between the EU and Ukraine. But the free trade agreement will be reviewed after five years. Restrictions in agricultural trade might be lifted then to benefit both sides, whereas the Customs Union treaty also implies exceptions, perhaps even more.

The free trade agreement can bring a lot of investment and new jobs, but at the same time some will be lost due to the opening of the Ukrainian market and increased competition. One should remember, however, that the essence of this transformation will be that Ukraine will be gaining highly productive and competitive jobs on a global scale whereas it will lose the least competitive, low productive jobs that engage a lot of energy, raw materials and labor but bring little wellbeing. It is worth noting that the Ukrainian market is already relatively open for competition but is not attractive for foreign investors under present conditions.

Under the free trade agreement, Ukrainian companies will also secure measures
that protect against unfair competition, such as, dumping, illegal subsidies, etc. Having the free trade agreement, Ukraine can keep FTA agreements with other countries in force, including Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Rules of origin protect unlawful flight of EU goods into other markets through Ukraine as in all other free trade agreements across the world. Therefore, the free trade agreement provides no justification for any “sanctions” against Ukraine on the side of Russia, Belarus or any other country with which Ukraine has a free trade agreement. Of course, it would be good for Ukraine to upgrade the free trade agreement with Russia to a WTO status agreement in order to base it on recognized international rules, including a dispute resolution mechanism, protection against arbitrary decisions etc. Problems in trade happen between the best of friends. The EU has many trade disputes with the U.S. but in civilized way, under WTO rules.

Joining the custom union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan would make the free trade agreement with the EU technically next to impossible. Ukraine, if it joins the Customs Union practically cannot have a free trade agreement with a third party like the EU.

Joining the Customs Union with countries that are not members of the WTO like Belarus and Kazakhstan would also require Ukraine to re-negotiate an accession agreement with the WTO that took 15 years to conclude. Free trade agreements and a customs union with countries that are not WTO members are deprived of that body’s arbitration should a trade dispute arise. To summarize: a free trade agreement with any country or group of countries, even with non-WTO members, is compatible with a free trade agreement with the EU, the Customs Union is not. Successful implementation of a free trade agreement will open the way to negotiations on joining the EU, the Schengen Area, etc. It is possible within one generation. When Poland negotiated an Association Agreement with the EU in 1991, the EU did not agree to put a membership prospective in it as joint statement, only as Poland’s wish to join. Only in 1994 did the EU agree to negotiate accession, which took place finally in 2004. The same sequence transpired with other central European states, the Baltic states and now with the Western Balkans. There is no doubt that after successfully implementing the free trade agreement and the rest of the Association Agreement, that membership will be possible for Ukraine. In 1990 gross domestic product per capita in Poland, the Baltic states, Bulgaria and Ukraine were more or less on the same level. Today GDP in Ukraine is about one-third of their level. Gradual integration with the EU gave enormous advantages to these countries that have chosen this path of modernization. It is possible also for Ukraine.

Marcin Swiecicki is a member of Poland’s parliament, and the former minister of foreign economic relations, and former director of the UNDP Blue Ribbon Analytical and Advisory Center in Kyiv.

#19
Ukrainian and Crimean Authorities Snub OSCE over Minority Rights
On September 19, a roundtable on inter-ethnic relations took place in Simferopol, Crimea. At this gathering, the European Union’s Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara and other members of Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers, deputies of the Crimean Parliament, members of the Council of Ministers of Crimea, including its chairman Anatoly Mogilev, as well as representatives of the Crimean Tatar people. The purpose of this three-hour official meeting, which was organized by the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union and with the support of the local Crimean government, was to discuss the socio-political predicaments of the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine.

In his opening address to the participants, Fule identified Crimea as one of the most important regions for the EU’s policy in the Eastern Partnership region (Eastern Partnership countries include Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia). Moreover, he encouraged the Crimean authorities and the Crimean Tatar representatives to find common ground and establish a constructive dialogue so that a roadmap for conflict prevention could be designed that would address the unresolved issues vis-à-vis the peoples forcibly deported from Crimea in 1944. Fule also urged the Crimean authorities to officially recognize the Mejlis, the executive body representing the Crimean Tatar community. Additionally, he advocated for the adoption of the law “On the Restoration of the Rights of the Deported Peoples on Ethnic Grounds” by the Ukrainian authorities, which was previously rejected and/or vetoed. Although this law was adopted by the Ukrainian Verhovna Rada (Parliament) in 2004, the then-President Leonid Kuchma vetoed it. In June 2012, it was passed at its first reading, but the second reading was postponed again.

One of the main topics of discussion in Simferopol was the realization of the “International Forum” on the restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people in their homeland, which is to take place in 2014. According to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), this Forum is quite important for the security and the socio-political future of Crimean Tatars in Crimea. Indeed, the HCNM’s August 16, 2013 report, prepared by seven international experts and titled, “The Integration of Formerly Deported People in Crimea”, emphasized support for the International Forum (2014) under the auspices of the OSCE HCNM. Furthermore, Commissioner Fule stated that this Forum could provide a great platform for a discussion on the restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people in their historical homeland. “[In lieu of] successful cooperation with the OSCE HCNM, a recognized authority in conflict prevention, I would like to recommend the careful examination of their report and recommendations, and their participation in this process,” Fule declared.
As a response to the EU commissioner, Leonid Kozhara (who, as Ukrainian foreign minister, assumed the OSCE chairmanship in January 2013) flat out rejected to work with the OSCE report. He argued that compiling such a report could be appropriate under European law, but it was absolutely unsuitable with respect to the laws of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government’s hostility toward the OSCE became even more apparent when the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities ignored proper diplomatic protocol and did not allow the three representatives from the HCNM (Director Ilze Brands Kehris, Senior Advisor Bob Deen, and Legal Advisor Vincent De Graaf) to sit around the roundtable with all the other participants, but instead seated them in the press box reserved for Crimean journalists. Ali Khamzin, the head of external relations of the Mejlis, pointed out that this was a serious insult toward the European guests who came to Crimea to present their report to the Ukrainian authorities.

Despite Fule’s recommendations about the recognition of the Mejlis, the chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers, Anatoly Mogilev, who is well-known for his anti-Tatar rhetoric, once again refused to cooperate with the Crimean Tatar executive body in front of Fule’s team. Moreover, he paradoxically told the EU officials that the process of the return and resettlement of the Crimean Tatars and other formerly deported peoples (Greeks, Germans, Armenians and Bulgarians) to Crimea is complete and that these ethnic groups possess the same standard of living and enjoy the same rights and privileges as the rest of the Ukrainian and Crimean population. Consequently, he also rejected the idea of holding the International Forum in 2014. Similarly, Foreign Minister Kozhara also stated that Crimean Tatars in Crimea are not discriminated against by any means and that they are able to enjoy all the rights open to other Ukrainians.

These statements by Kozhara and Mogilev, which contradict the recent (September 10) National Expert Commission of Ukraine report that addresses the increasing Tatarophobia in Crimea, fueled negative reactions among the Crimean Tatars. In fact, the US State Department’s 2011 and 2012 reports on human rights in Ukraine, as well as its International Religious Freedom Report, all comment on the increasing discrimination against Crimean Tatars after 2010, and point out the non-recognition of the Mejlis by the Ukrainian authorities. Similarly, a report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Ukraine, prepared by the International Minority Rights Group (MRG), which monitors the protection of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples in Europe and Central Asia, also displays cases of radical discrimination against the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine.

Khamzin, the Mejlis’ external relations head, is nevertheless hopeful following the September 19 roundtable in Simferopol. He believes that after Fule and his team personally witnessed the negative situation of the Crimean Tatars in their historical homeland, the European authorities may facilitate the modification of Ukrainian politics toward national minorities. He argues that that this awareness in turn, will
lead to the realization of the planned International Forum for the restoration of their rights in 2014.

#20
Book defaming Crimean Tatars published with local authority funding
Human Rights in Ukraine, 27 July 2013
[from an Interfax Ukraine story]

A book has just been published in the Crimea, partly with funding from the Kirov District budget, which accuses the Crimean Tatars of collaboration with the Nazis and effectively justifies the 1944 Deportation.

This lie, first generated by Stalin in order to justify the Deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar People, is pulled out with monotonous regularity despite having been refuted even by the Soviet regime itself. A Decree issued on 5 September 1967 by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR stated that: “*After the liberation of the Crimea from Fascist occupation in 1944, accusations of active collaboration of a section of the Tatars resident in the Crimea with the German usurpers were groundlessly levelled at the whole Tatar population of the Crimea. These indiscriminate accusations in respect of all the citizens of Tatar nationality who lived in the Crimea must be withdrawn, the more so since a new generation of people has entered on its working and political life*.”

Interfax Ukraine reports that the First Deputy Head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Refat Chubarov and members of the Crimean Tatar community including relatives of Crimean Tatar partisans who fought in the Second World War are planning to ask the Prosecutor’s Office to give a legal assessment of the actions both of the authors of the anthology, and the public officials who made its publication possible. They are convinced that the book, entitled “*Remembrance Book of the Eastern Crimea: “They asked us to remember” (Kniga pamiati vostochnogo Kryma “Prosili pomnît”) is aimed at inciting inter-ethnic enmity and hatred."

Refat Chubarov notes that among those outraged by the book are relatives of the Soviet intelligence agent Alime Abdenannova who was captured by the Nazis and shot. She received Soviet awards, yet the authors of the book Vladimir Shirshov and Maria Shirshova claim that she became an agent of the German security service.

Refat Chubarov points out that more than a quarter of the print run (1200 copies) of the book was funded by the district council, as well as some village councils in the district who were asked by the district council for help in financing publication.

A presentation of the book had been planned for 25 July in the Kirov District Administration however this was cancelled following protest from Crimean Tatars.

#21
Refugees from former Soviet World Seek Haven in Ukraine and Find Misery
Associated Press, 22 August 2013

KIEV, Ukraine — Emin Akhmedbekov feared persecution for his numerous lawsuits against Azerbaijan. So the former police officer took his wife, three children and elderly mother and fled to Ukraine, hoping to find refuge in one of the freer ex-Soviet republics. Instead, the family found itself holed up in a small village with little hope of getting asylum and terrified of being sent back.

“We are afraid to leave the house,” Akhmedbekov told The Associated Press. “Ukraine is dangerous for us.”

The United Nations refugee agency says Ukraine is a harsh asylum destination, plagued by neglect, discrimination and illegal expulsions. Global watchdog Amnesty International goes further, accusing it and several other former Soviet states of running an illegal rendition program that puts refugees at risk of torture back home — all in the name of security cooperation that’s valued more than rights.

Many asylum seekers running away from Central Asian dictatorships or a crackdown on opposition activists in Vladimir Putin’s Russia seek refuge in Ukraine, a country they can enter without a visa and where they can easily communicate in Russian. Ukraine remains one of the more democratic ex-Soviet states, even with the rollback of the reforms that followed the 2004 Orange Revolution. Ukraine also shares borders with several European Union member states, and some asylum seekers hope to make a move further west.

But most refugees soon find a chilling reality. Last year, Ukraine, a middle-income country of 46 million people granted refugee status only to 13 percent of about 1,800 applicants, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. That was in contrast to 32 percent in Hungary, which receives a comparable amount of asylum seekers, but is nearly five times less populous.

Oldrich Andrysek, the UNHCR representative in Ukraine, said the decisions are not taken in a transparent manner, with many applicants who clearly need asylum denied, and others getting it for no clear reason. “On balance, the system does not work,” Andrysek told the AP.

Over the past three years, Ukraine has unlawfully sent more than 20 asylum seekers home, according to a recent report by UNHCR, despite efforts to block the expulsions by the agency, local and international rights groups and the European Court of Human Rights. Some of those, U.N. officials say, were sent back right at the border without even having a chance to apply for asylum. And some asylum seekers in Ukraine have simply gone missing.

In October, a Russian opposition activist disappeared from Kiev in broad daylight and turned up several days later in a Moscow prison, where, he said, he was abducted and tortured. A spokesman for the Ukrainian Interior Ministry
acknowledged that Leonid Razvozzhayev was taken by Russian security agents, but contended the case was not a criminal matter and thus would not be investigated. In December 2009, an Uzbek asylum seeker fleeing likely arrest and torture disappeared from Kiev and soon contacted his family from a prison in Uzbekistan’s capital, Tashkent, according to Amnesty.

In a July report called “Return to Torture” Amnesty claimed the disappearances were linked to an alleged rendition program practiced by Ukraine, Russia and Central Asian republics that the group calls a “cynical subversion of justice.” Serhiy Hunko, a spokesman for Ukraine’s State Migration Service, denied that: “Naturally, there is no illegal program,” Hunko told AP. The Service said in an earlier press release that it needs more money and appropriate legislation to improve its asylum system.

Even if refugees are not sent back, their lives in Ukraine are still an ordeal. Some spend months in detention while their applications are being considered, even if they present no apparent threat to society and have families waiting for them outside.

The government provides little translation and legal aid, so refugees who don’t speak Ukrainian or Russian have extra difficulty filing for refugee status and receiving an official document to legalize their presence in Ukraine. Even if they manage to receive the asylum seeker’s card, they have to renew it every month. Because the card is only valid for a short period of time, they have virtually no chances of finding a legal job. And many Ukrainian government bodies don’t even recognize that card as a valid document, preventing refugees from receiving international money transfers or, in some cases, even boarding a train.

Palestinian asylum seeker Hesham Abu Hmeid, 43, earned an engineering degree from a respected Ukrainian university, but as an asylum seeker he cannot find a job in his field. He had a job working in second-hand clothing shops, but his first boss fired him because he regularly missed work in order to prolong his asylum seeker’s card or attend court hearings as part of his refugee bid. His second boss fired Abu Hmeid after he moved the shop to a more upscale location, and said he needed a worker with proper documents.

“We are simply asking to protect us by giving us a document so that I can find a job. That’s all I am asking for,” Abu Hmeid, a soft-spoken man, told AP outside a hospital in Kiev, where he was to undergo treatment for a hernia, paid for by UNHCR. “All I am asking for from the Ukrainian state is to give me protection, a status, a document.”

Maksym Butkevych, an activist with the Ukrainian group No Borders, said survival is all refugees can hope for in Ukraine, not rebuilding lives. “Some people break psychologically, some survive and adapt,” said Butkevych, “but we are talking just about surviving.”
Akhmedbekov, the former Azerbaijani police officer, alleges that back home authorities threatened to harm his children if he refused to withdraw claims against his country in the European Court of Human Rights, prompting him to flee to Ukraine. Akhmedbekov had filed a complaint against a three-year prison sentence he had served on charges of resisting the orders of a police officer and attacking him. Akhmedbekov claims the case was fabricated in order to punish him for earlier complaints to the European Court about alleged unlawful dismissal.

Akhmedbekov, 46, says he feels threatened in Ukraine, after receiving menacing phone calls from Baku demanding he withdraw his lawsuits and has asked UNHCR to resettle him to a safer country. Ukrainian police have refused to grant him protection after the alleged threats, he says. Migration authorities are still considering his application for refugee status.

In Baku, Ehsan Zahid, spokesman for Azerbaijan’s Interior Ministry dismissed the Akhmedbekovs’ allegations as “absurd” and “complete lies.” He accused the family of simply trying to raise its public profile in order to secure a nicer life in the West.

“It was obvious that their goal was to emigrate to some European country and win better living conditions,” Zahid told AP.

Meanwhile, Akhmedbekov’s 15-year-old daughter, Dilyara, has developed severe depression, unable to sleep at night, afraid to attend school and hiding in her room most of the time.

“You are left on your own here,” said mother Nigyar, “nobody gives a damn about you.”

#22
Toronto Holodomor Conference a Major Success
CIUS Press Release

15 October 2013—Scholars from Canada, the United States, Italy, France, and Ukraine took part in the Contextualizing the Holodomor conference in Toronto on September 27–28. The event, marking the 80th anniversary of the 1932–33 Famine in Ukraine, was organized by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. By all standards, it was a great success.

“Given that it was only in the 1980s that Western academia began to study the Ukrainian Famine intensively and Soviet archives became available, we chose as the focus of our conference what 30 years of the study of the Holodomor have contributed to our understanding of a number of fields: Ukrainian history, Soviet history, the study of communism and Stalinism, and genocide studies,” said Frank Sysyn, who heads the HREC executive committee.

The first session led off with Andrea Graziosi (University of Naples) speaking about
the Famine within the framework of Soviet history in a wide-ranging and insightful presentation, and David Marples (University of Alberta) as discussant. Explaining that it would be hard to overstate the impact of the Holodomor on Soviet history Professor Graziosi considered “What can it mean for a state and a regime to have a genocide (and possibly, in the Soviet case, more than one) hidden in its own past, and for a “system”—because the Soviet one was indeed a peculiar social and economic system—to have been born out of a genocidal confrontation with the majority of its own population?” Dr. Marples acknowledged the persuasiveness of the speaker’s points, but countered that the depiction may have been too sweeping and then followed up with specific areas of discussion.

Françoise Thom (Sorbonne University, Paris) participated via a Skype connection and focused on the centrality of Stalin’s role in the implementation of the Holodomor. She suggested that Stalin deliberately provoked the collectivization crisis, drawing a parallel with events in China during the Great Leap Forward. Discussant Mark von Hagen (Arizona State University) had misgivings about the speaker’s portrayal of the overarching power and influence of Stalin. He noted that a session on comparative famines would have been useful and raised the question of colonial relations in the creation of famines.

Norman Naimark (Stanford University) spoke on the Holodomor as genocide, providing an overview of the work and views of Raphael Lemkin, the father of the term “genocide.” He addressed a number of key issues related to the Famine: the Holodomor as a case study of communist and also Stalinist genocide; the Holodomor as an example of food as a weapon; the problematic nature of “thinking about genocide in exclusively ethnic and national terms”; and the critical issue of intent, which can be attributed according to the facts of the case “even if the chain of command to the very top cannot be established.” Discussant Douglas Irvin (Rutgers University) noted the irony that even though Lemkin’s conceptualization of the idea of genocide drew upon his reading of the USSR’s nationalities policy and the Ukrainian Famine, the Holodomor was largely sidelined from the discourse as a result of Soviet efforts to “scrub” its crimes from the formal Convention.

The conference’s second day started with a presentation by Olga Andriewsky (Trent University) who provided a wide-ranging examination of the interplay between the Holodomor and Ukrainian history. She called for the study of accounts of people affected by the Holodomor, including more localized and social history research. She also noted the extent to which the Famine constituted a severe disruption or turning point in Ukrainian history, “the end of a social order ... that had persisted, with modifications of course, since the 17th century.” Discussant Serhii Plokhii agreed with Dr. Andriewsky that the Holodomor represented an epochal change in Ukrainian history as a result of the elimination of the peasantry as a social group.

Stanislav Kulchytsky (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) started the final session (on the Holodomor and communism) with insights on some of the research on the Famine in Ukraine as well as the genocide question, and spoke in more detail on how a pan-Soviet famine or “holod” turned into the Holodomor in
Ukraine. He ended his presentation by reviewing collectivization and the Famine in the light of communist theory, Leninist practice, and Stalin’s attempt to implement the communist program. In her discussant remarks, Liudmyla Hrynevych (National Academy of Science of Ukraine) raised the issue of Ukraine’s colonial status within the Soviet Union, pointing to Ukraine’s role in the Soviet economy as a granary of the USSR, and suggested that research into the topic could help us understand this important aspect of the Famine.

Following the thematic sessions, Roman Serbyn (Université du Québec à Montréal) gave a presentation on the Famine as part of a broader genocidal assault on the Ukrainian people, citing Raphael Lemkin in this regard:

"These have been the chief steps in the systematic destruction of the Ukrainian nation, in its progressive absorption within the new Soviet nation. Notably, there have been no attempts at complete annihilation, such as was the method of the German attack on the Jews. And yet, if the Soviet programme succeeds completely, if the intelligentsia, the priests and the peasants can be eliminated, Ukraine will be as dead as if every Ukrainian were killed, for it will have lost that part of it which has kept and developed its culture, its beliefs, its common ideas, which have guided it and given it a soul, which, in short, made it a nation rather than a mass of people."

The presentation was followed by brief remarks by Paul Grod, National President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, who spoke of Dr. Serbyn’s years of dedication and activity in the field of Holodomor studies in Canada. Then, Frank Sysyn, representing HREC, presented an award to Dr. Serbyn—a replica of the statue that stands at the entrance to the Holodomor museum in Kyiv—in recognition of his long-standing service. He thanked all involved in organizing the conference, especially HREC executive director Marta Baziuk and HREC associate director of research Andrij Makuch.

A notable element to the proceedings was the participation of 18 graduate students and early career scholars who received stipends from HREC to support their attendance at the conference. They included people from various disciplines and from as far away as California, New Orleans, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. The conference was co-sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program at the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES) at the University of Toronto, the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre, and St. Vladimir Institute, with generous support from the Ukrainian Studies Fund, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. HREC was established in January 2013 with funding from the Temerty Family Foundation. At a reception on the Friday night of the conference Louise and James Temerty were recognized for their generosity in promoting the study of the Holodomor.
A podcast of Day One of the Contextualizing the Holodomor conference can be accessed at: http://hosting.epresence.tv/MUNK/1/watch/418.aspx. HREC may be reached at hrec@ualberta.ca.

#23
WJC Urges Ukrainian Orthodox Church Leader to Act Against Glorification of Nazi Soldiers
www.worldjewishcongress.org, 22 August 2013

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church should work to stop clergy from participating in neo-Nazi events in Ukraine, the World Jewish Congress said today in a letter to the head of the church. WJC President Ronald S. Lauder asked Patriarch Filaret in a letter to speak out against events glorifying the Nazis. Lauder referred to a recent ceremony near Lviv marking the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Galician division of the Waffen SS, in which Ukrainians fought on the side of Nazi Germany.

The WJC president wrote: “I was horrified to see photographs [...] of young Ukrainians wearing the dreaded SS uniform with swastikas clearly visible on their helmets as they carried the caskets of members of this Nazi unit, lowered them into their new graves, and fired gun salutes in their honor. I was especially troubled by the participation in this ceremony of a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that appeared to give a religious legitimacy to the rehabilitation of the SS.”

In late July, Ukrainians wearing SS uniforms were photographed trudging through trenches and fire rifles in a reconstruction of a key battle against the Soviets during World War II. An Orthodox priest led a ceremony for fallen soldiers of the Nazi unit, sprinkling his blessing over several men sporting swastikas who lowered a coffin in a ritual reburial.

In his letter, Lauder expressed hope that Filaret would use his “moral authority to prevent any further rehabilitation of Nazism or the SS, and that you will call on the clergy of your Church not to participate in any future ceremonies or events that glorify or legitimize a uniform that epitomizes the evil of genocide.”

Lauder also mentioned that Oleg Pankevich, a lawmaker for the extreme-right Svoboda party, took part in the reburial ceremony.

“As you know, leaders of Svoboda, like their counterparts in Jobbik in Hungary and Golden Dawn in Greece, frequently engage in anti-Semitic rhetoric that has ominous implications,” Lauder wrote the church leader.

He said that the World Jewish Congress would hold a meeting of its Executive Committee in Kiev next year and invited Patriarch Filaret to attend the gathering.

Full text of the letter of Ronald S. Lauder to Patriarch Filaret

Your Excellency:
I vividly recall the evening you and other Ukrainian religious leaders spent at my home in April of 2012. I also know from Rabbi Yaakov Bleich of your longstanding friendship with him and with the Jewish community. I greatly admire both your commitment to strengthening the bonds among Ukrainians of different faiths and your opposition over the years to anti-Semitism and other forms of racial and religious prejudice.

It is in this spirit I am writing to you today to express the deep concerns of Jews throughout the world at the recent glorification of the Ukrainian Halychyna (Galician) Waffen-SS division during a reburial ceremony in the village of Gologory in Western Ukraine on July 28. I was horrified to see photographs, some of which I enclose with this letter, of young Ukrainians wearing the dreaded SS uniform with swastikas clearly visible on their helmets as they carried the caskets of members of this Nazi unit, lowered them into their new graves, and fired gun salutes in their honor. I was especially troubled by the participation in this ceremony of a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that appeared to give a religious legitimacy to the rehabilitation of the SS.

As you know, men and women wearing the uniforms of the SS and the Waffen-SS committed unspeakable atrocities against Jews and members of other religious and ethnic groups during World War II. As you so wisely and sensitively said in your remarks following your visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in May of 2012, while the inhumane Holocaust atrocities are unlikely to be repeated in the future, “the evil can happen in another form if people are indifferent to its emergence at the beginning.” We are also deeply troubled by the fact that Oleg Pankevich, a deputy from the ultra-nationalist Svoboda party, also took part in the Gologory reburial ceremony. As you know, leaders of Svoboda, like their counterparts in Jobbik in Hungary and Golden Dawn in Greece, frequently engage in anti-Semitic rhetoric that has ominous implications. Urging Ukrainians to join the Halychyna SS division in 1943, Volodymyr Kubiyovych, the head of the Ukrainian Central Committee, declared that:

"The long-awaited moment has arrived when the Ukrainian people again have the opportunity to come out with guns to give battle with its most grievous foe -- Muscovite-Jewish Bolshevism. The Fuehrer of the Great German Reich has agreed to the formation of a separate Ukrainian volunteer military unit under the name SS Riflemen's Division “Halychyna” ... You must stand shoulder to shoulder with the unbeatable German army and destroy, once and for all, the Jewish-Bolshevist monster.”

In this context, the frequent references by Svoboda leader Oleh Tyahnybok to a “Moscow-Jewish mafia” take on a sinister significance.

I hope that you will your unique moral authority to prevent any further rehabilitation of Nazism or the SS, and that you will call on the clergy of your Church not to participate in any future ceremonies or events that glorify or legitimize a uniform that epitomizes the evil of genocide.
I hope to have the opportunity to meet with you again soon. The World Jewish Congress, which represents more than 100 Jewish communities throughout the world, is planning to hold a meeting of our Executive in Kiev in 2014, and it will be our privilege to have you with us as our honored guest on that occasion.

As we approach the most sacred time of the Jewish calendar, allow me to extend my best wishes to you and all the members of your Church.

Respectfully yours, Ronald S. Lauder

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UKL 460, 15 October 2013

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