A wide-angle photograph of a golden wheat field stretching to the horizon. The sky is filled with heavy, dark grey clouds, with some lighter patches where the sun might be breaking through. The wheat in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing individual stalks and heads. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Russia's War in Ukraine Toward War, 2000-2022

Acadia Senior College

February 2, 2023

Seth Singleton

The Tsar is coming.

“Putin is Russia and Russia is Putin”





Nicholas I, ruled 1825-54

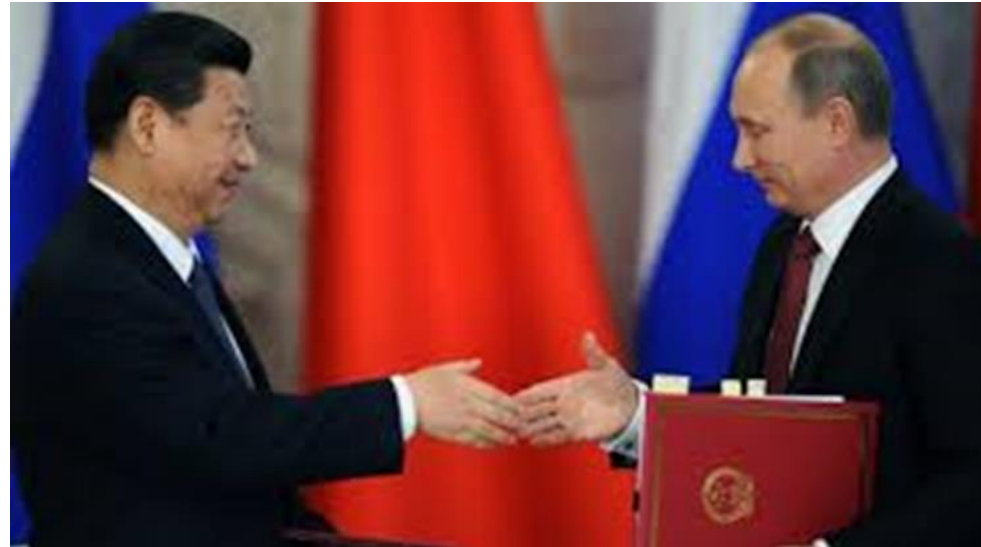
his doctrine- autocracy, the Orthodox faith,
and Russian nationalism

opposed foreign Western ideas
repressed the liberal intelligentsia
expanded the Empire

sound familiar?



Russians think Putin is steady, clever, competent, wise, and tough. A real leader. A real man.



Putin and Patriarch. Is the KGB man a Believer?





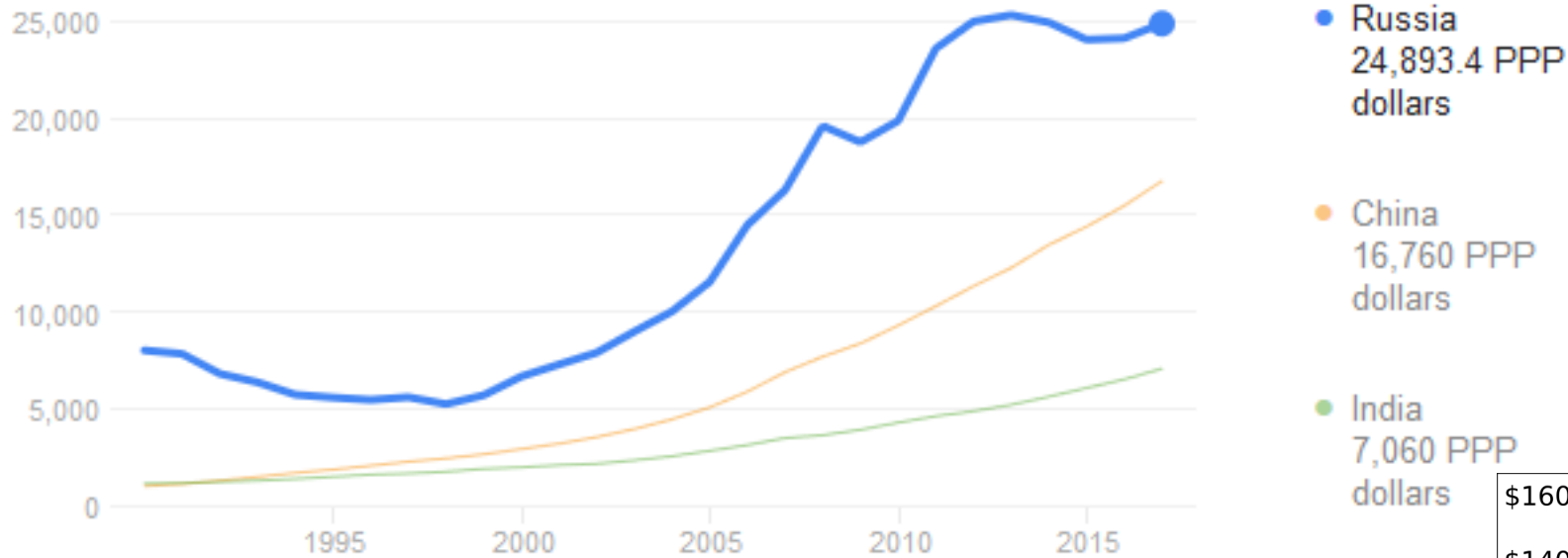
nationalist
conservative
upholding
traditional
values

national
conservatism is a
transnational
ideology –
Trump, Modi,
Bolsonaro,
Erdogan

russia gni per capita



24,893.4 PPP dollars (2017)



Explore more

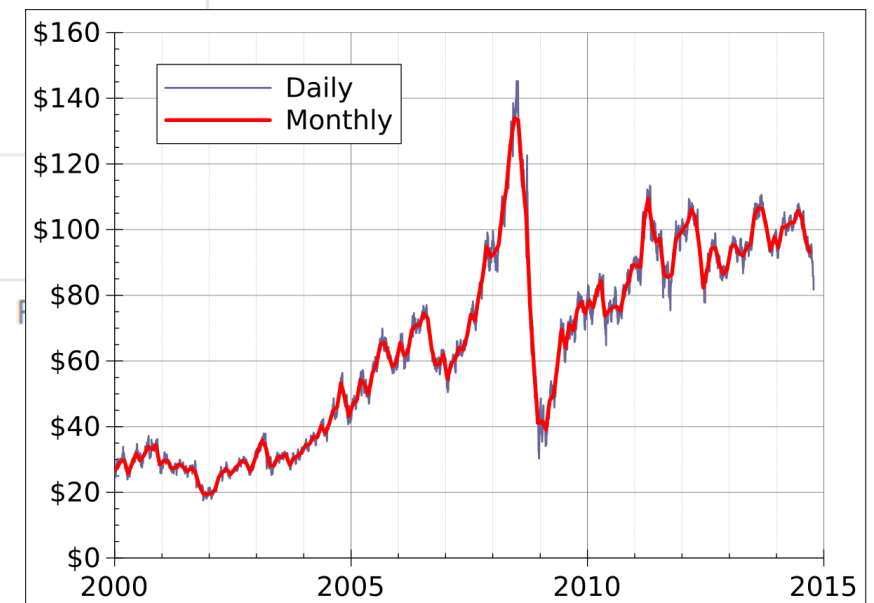
Sources include: World Bank

[data.worldbank.org > indicator > NY.GNP.PCAP.CD](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD)

Putin brought prosperity

Tracks the world oil price.

Russian per capita income is half the Western level. True for centuries.



Concentration of wealth

	Top decile	Top 5%	Top 1%
Russia	89	84.8	74.5
China	73.2	63.2	43.8
US	77.6	66.5	42.1

Top decile's share of national wealth has grown since 2000:

	2000	2007	2014	2015	2016
Russia	77.1	75.4	84.8	87	89
China	48.6	56.1	64	66	73.2
US	75.6	74.8	74.6	76	77.6

Source: Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report, 2016
Slide courtesy Prof. Thomas Remington



This 370-foot yacht ("Le Grand Bleu") was anchored in Penobscot Bay and Casco Bay in 2018. It is owned by Russian oligarch Evgenii Shvidler. Slide courtesy of Prof. Thomas Remington

This painting, The Savior of the World, by Leonardo da Vinci, is owned by Dmitrii Rybolovlev. He was the owner of the Uralkalii potassium company, and now owns the Monaco soccer club. He will sell the painting at auction, at Christie's, in November.

The estimated price is \$100 million.

(*Vedomosti*, October 11, 2017)

*Courtesy
T. Remington*





Men eat during a charity event to distribute meals for homeless people near a cathedral in Russia's southern city of Stavropol, Nov. 19, 2014. Photo: Reuters. *Slide courtesy of Thomas Remington.*



Chinovnik –
government official –
eats at the Budget
trough

About one third of
Russians get their
income directly from
the state

Putin's palace? Corruption is the issue of opposition leader
Alexei Navalnyi, who calls Putin the leader of crooks and thieves.



2nd Chechen war 2000-2005 Chechen rebels. Tough guys.



Russia's terror problem: Beslan school attack, 2004



As the war continued, more Chechen fighters turned to religion and foreign jihadists arrived.





Anna Politkovskaya exposed Russian military excesses and incompetence in Chechnya and called Putin a petty bureaucrat.



murdered in 2006

Ramzan Kadyrov, Chechen pro-Russia strongman, may have ordered the murder. Or was it the FSB, Russia's security police?

The mortal threat to Russia –

- The inexorable advance of NATO.
- “Color revolutions,” a US-managed conspiracy and technique for overthrowing governments.
- Ukraine in 2014 is a dress rehearsal for Moscow.



Economist.com/graphicdetail

“Geopolitical catastrophe”. The “Russian world” shrinks.



Economist.com/graphicdetail

<http://mapsontheweb.zoom-maps.com/post/80674194797/russian-territory-from-1938-to-2014-with-modern>

Rose revolution Georgia 2003





Orange revolution, Kiev December 2004

Perhaps Lenin will always be with us



Moscow 2007 demonstration



2008 - If Georgia and Ukraine join,
NATO will be on Russia's border
from Estonia to Azerbaijan.





© Reuters

Blessed are the
peacekeepers.
Invading
Georgia, August
2008

Georgian President
Saakashvili provoked the
war.

Russia demonstrated
will to invade and
military superiority.

France arranged a
peace. Russia withdrew.

Two regions, Abkhazia
and South Ossetia,
recognized as separate
states by Russia

Moscow 2011. Russia accused the US State Department and Hillary Clinton of promoting the protests





2011
Putin -
traitor

The flag is the
Tsar's
personal flag
from before
1917,
adopted by
Russian ultra-
nationalists



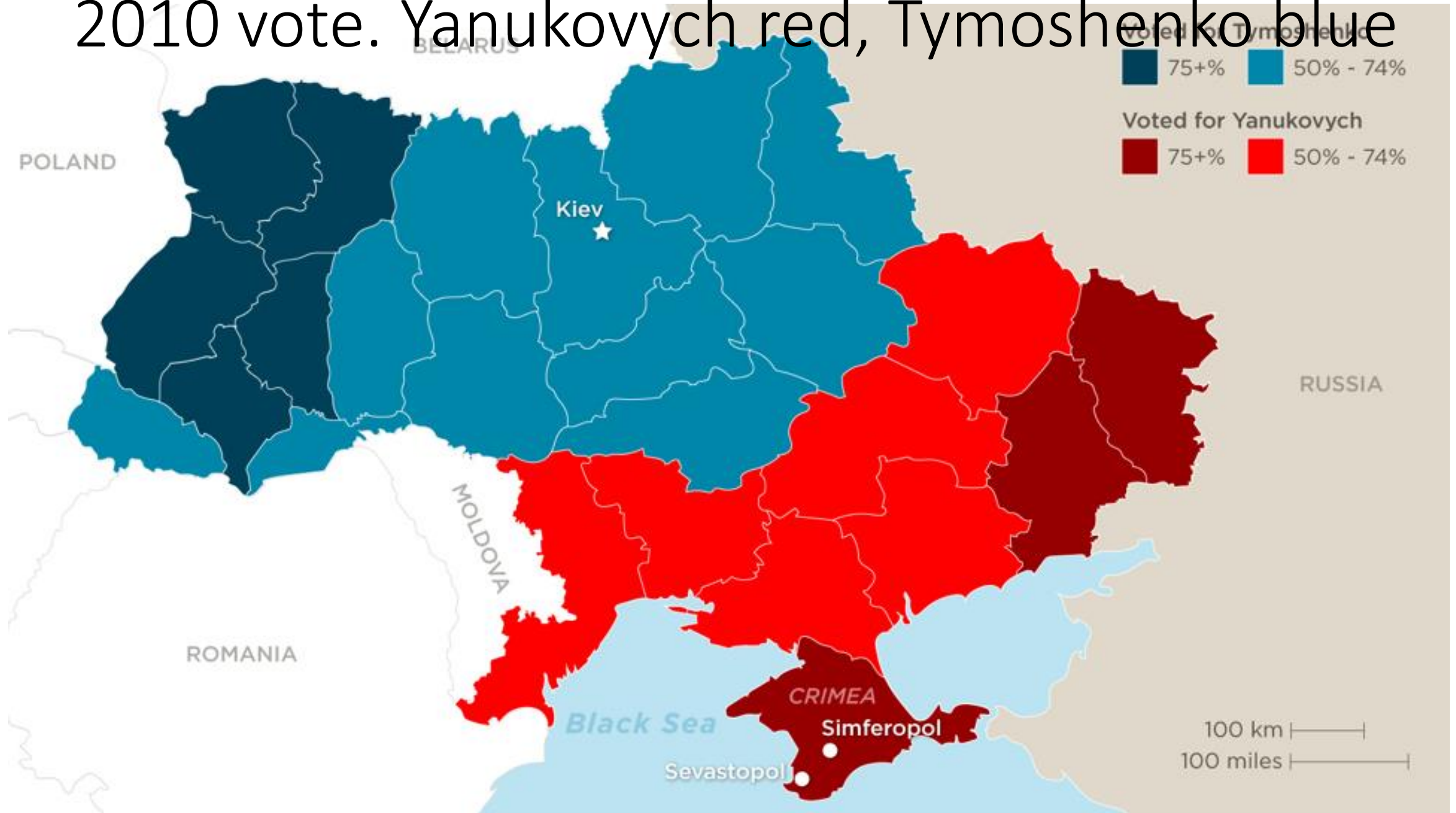
2010 rivals

Yulia
Tymoshenko

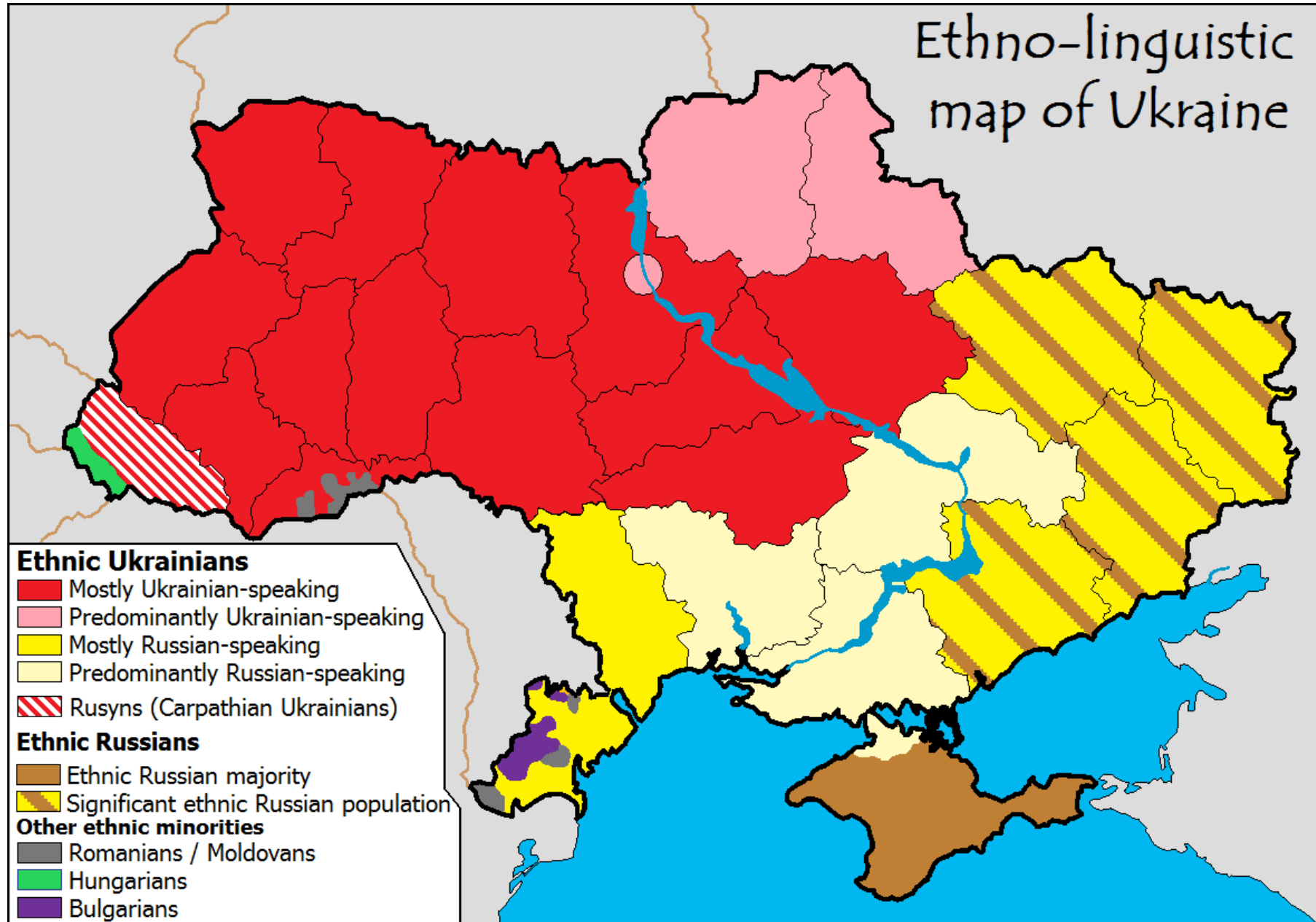
Viktor
Yanukovych



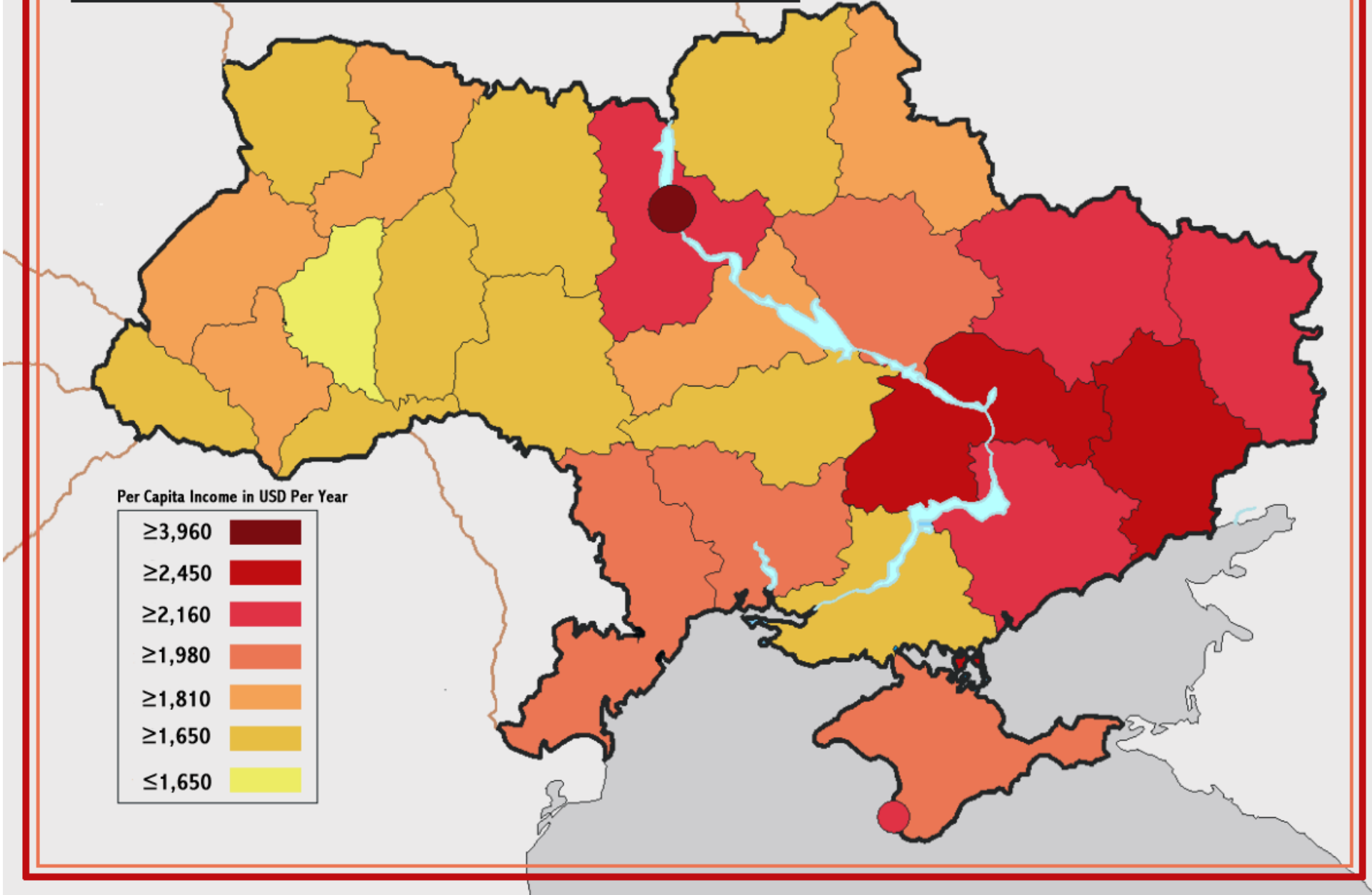
2010 vote. Yanukovych red, Tymoshenko blue



Ukrainian and Russian Speakers



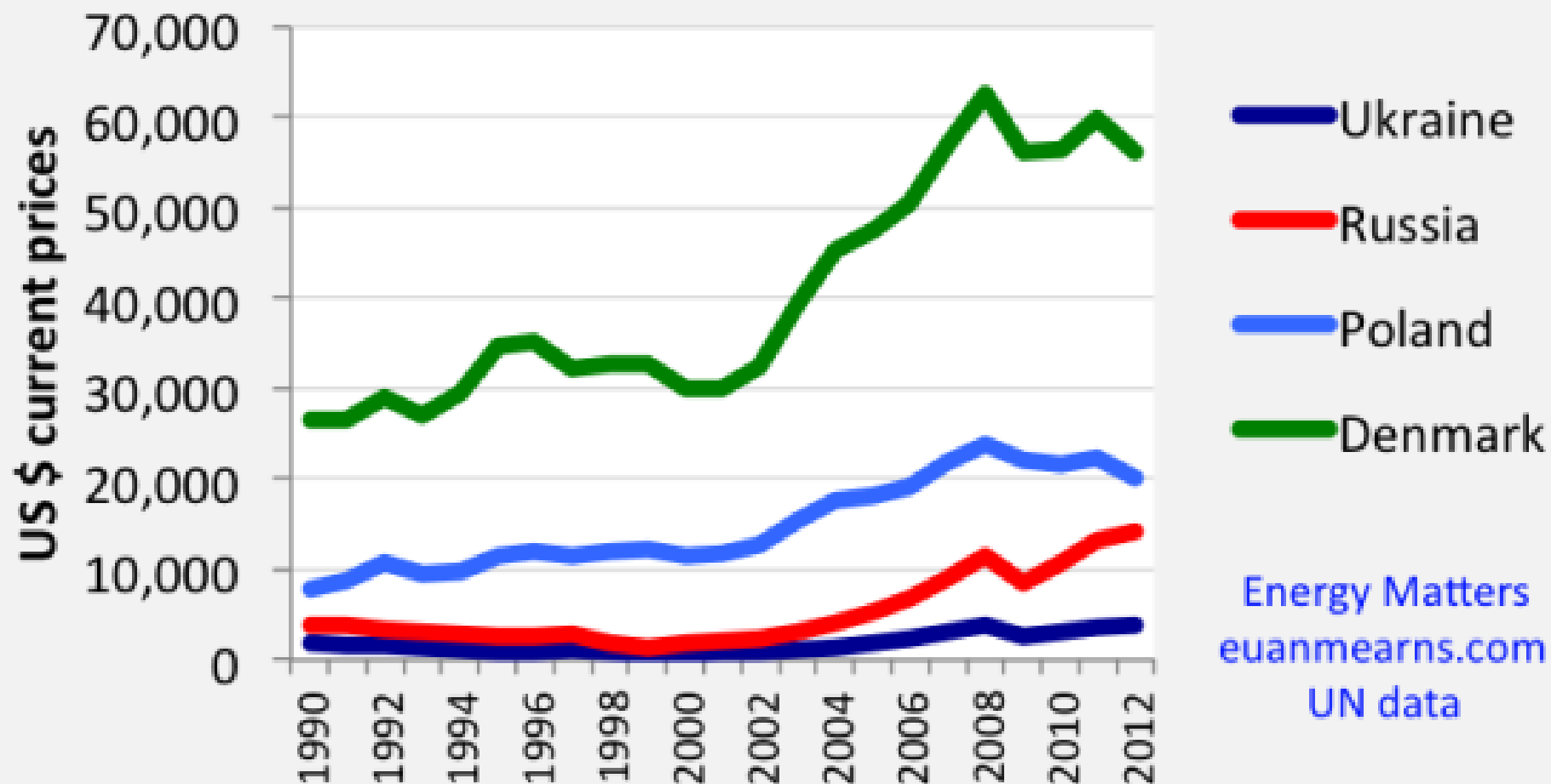
Annual Per Capita Income in the Ukraine per Oblast



Poorer west.

Industry linked to Russia in the east.

Per capita GDP



Between 1989 and 1998 the Ukrainian economy declined by 57 percent

Yanukovich residence; protestor with EU flag. The EU meant prosperity and escape from corruption and oligarchy,



Let's make a deal – Putin and Yanukovych



November 2013

Russia offers a big bailout loan to Ukraine and easier gas terms.

Yanukovych postpones EU Association Agreement; agrees to join Eurasian Union led by Russia.

December 1, 2013
300,000 protest in Kiev, call for revolution





Ukrainian
ultra-
nationalists
with portrait of
Bandera, 2014

Their party got
about 3% of
the vote in
2018

Maidan , Kiev, February 2014







Victoria Nuland, US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe, hands out goodies in Kyiv, 2014.



Her intercepted phone call discussed who the US should favor as leaders of a new Ukrainian government.



Russians
are told,
made in
America.

Is Moscow
next?

Crimea 2014. "Little green men." No insignia.





Now you
wear a
mask

Crimea referendum 2014 :We will choose on March 16

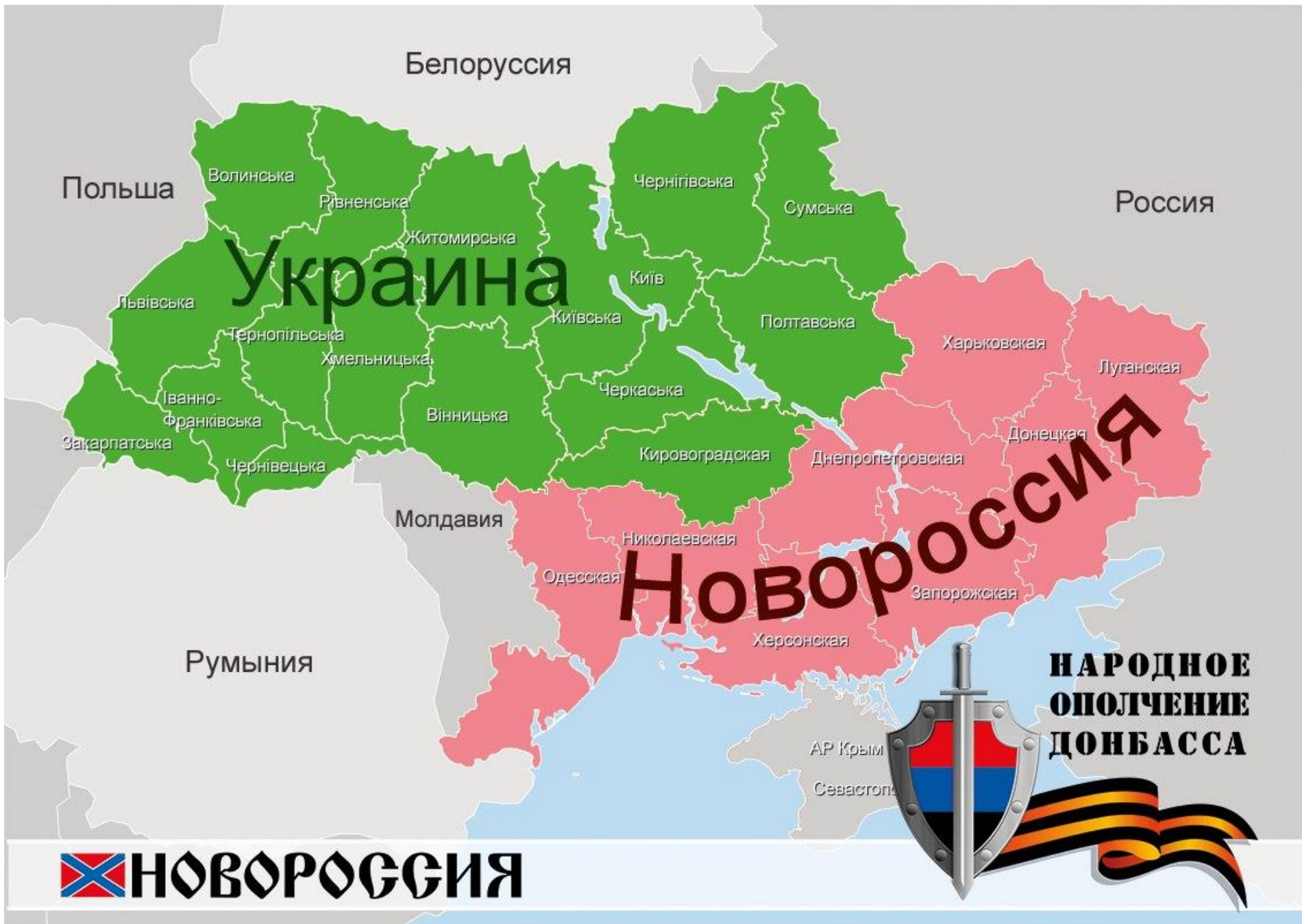


Message: you are either Russian or a Nazi. Amplified today.

Moscow 2014. Crimea is Ours.

Banners read, "fascism will not pass" "Russia+Crimea" "For Russian People" "Banderovists – criminals and murderers"





Separatist
vision.

“Novorossiya”
would restore
the territory
and name of
1770s-1873.



2014

2022





People's Army
of the Donbas.

We stand up for
all of us.

Russia wake up!

Ukrainian prisoners paraded in Donetsk, 2014. “Fascists”



In 2014-15, 2.6 million displaced people

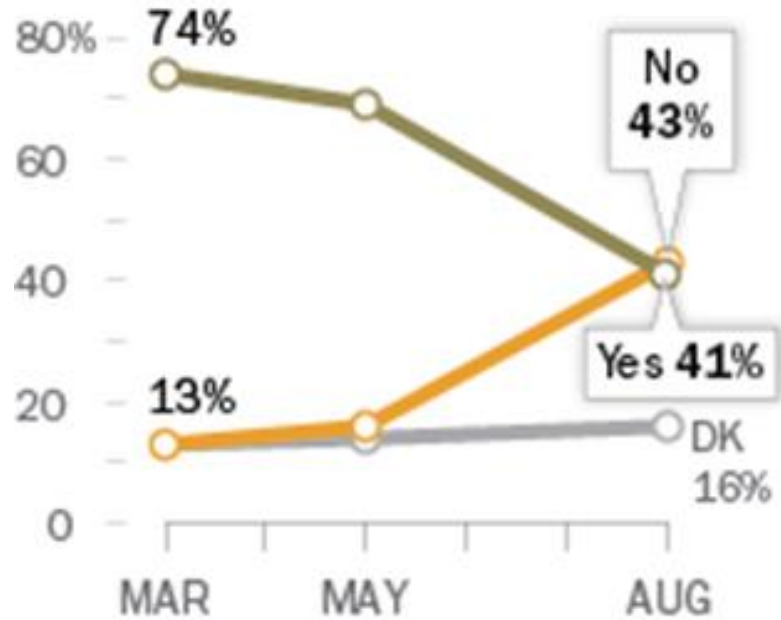


Frozen conflict 2014-2022



In Donbass the front has barely moved in eight years.

Would you support the Russian leadership in the event of open military conflict between Russia and Ukraine?



Source: Nationwide survey conducted by the Levada-Center August 22-25, 2014; reported margin of error + 3.4%.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

2014: Russians do not want a war in Ukraine

They also believed Russia did not intervene and that events in Ukraine are controlled by the US



Sorry, no weapons





The Minsk
negotiation

Merkel,
Poroshenko, and
Putin

Import substitution, in response to sanctions.
Let's Eat at Home. Forget McDonalds and EU cheese.



PHOTO: ALEKSEY DRUZHININ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

And Russia is mighty again! Victory Day 2015





Off to Syria
bombing
hospitals and
schools.

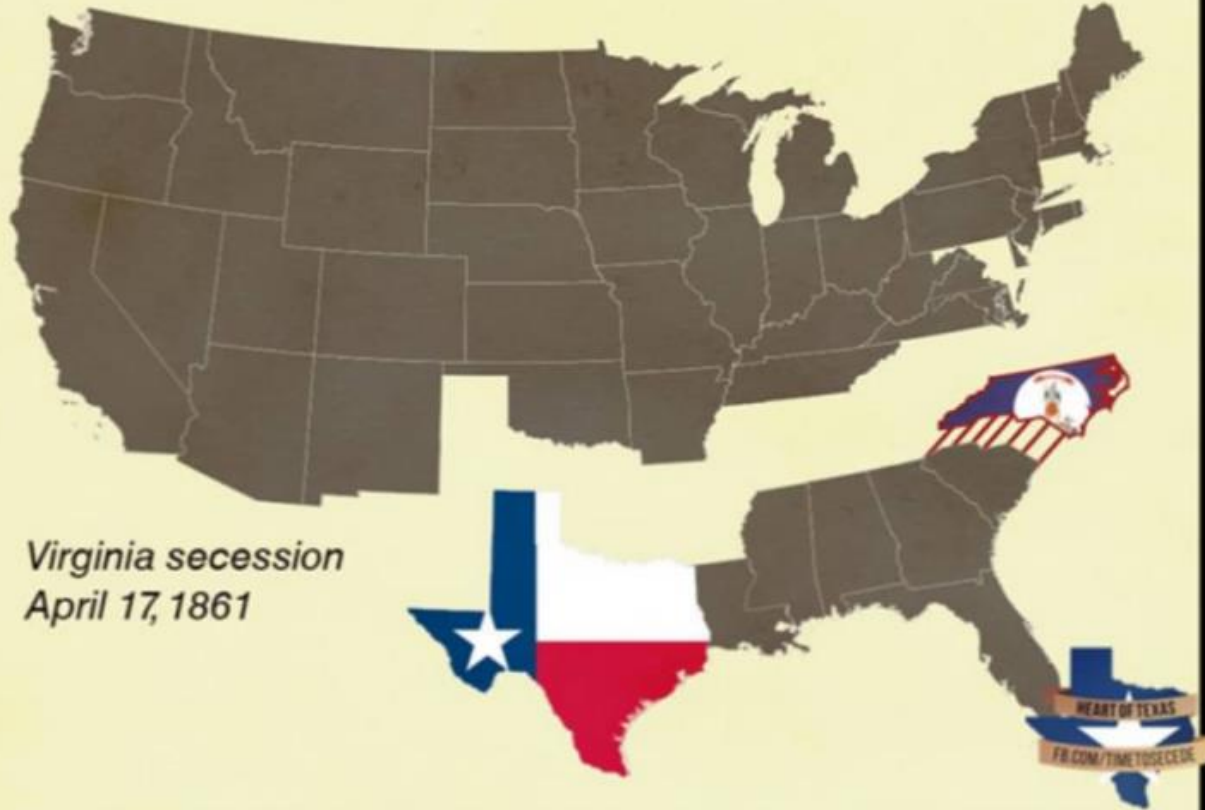
God bless
our bombs.

(A sentiment
not unknown
in the US.)

The Trump – Russia conundrum



WE DID IT ONCE



Virginia secession
April 17, 1861

LET'S MAKE IT TWICE

 Heart of Texas
Page Liked · 12 hrs · 

155th anniversary of Virginia secession from the U.S.


The Virginia Convention of 1861, also known later as the Secession Convention, convened on February 13, 1861, on the eve of the American Civil War (1861–1865), to consider whether Virginia should secede from the United States.

Its 152 delegates, a majority of whom were Unionist, had been elected at the behest of the Virginia General Assembly. Eventually the momentum turned toward secession, and the convention voted on April 17 to leave the Union. Virginians expressed their agreement at the polls on May 23. The state had joined the Confederacy.

The secession initiative, first and foremost, was perfectly legal and Constitutional. Technically, Virginia had no other choice as the state couldn't put up with the lawlessness of the federal authorities. Both back then and today many southern states have enough reasons for secession. Feds don't protect states from illegal immigrants, they try to rob Americans of their Constitutional right to bear arms, don't hesitate to stick to land grabbing (Red River issue), impose gay marriages and...well, the list goes on.

What we all are facing are 4 years of Hillary's presidency. I guess it's about time Texans did realize secession is the only option left. We should leave the Union of lies and show the way for the other Southern states. Let's do that until it's still legal to say "secession" and "Confederacy" and fly the Texas flag. Come and take it, Washington.

 Like  Comment  Share 

   861 Top Comments 

315 shares 48 comments

 Stephen W Peel The Civil War wasn't about slavery it was about States rights. Slavery was already on

Heart of Texas Facebook page

produced by Russian hackers, had 200,000+ followers, pushed secession and organized an armed anti-Muslim demonstration

Army of Jesus facebook page



Hit that Like button if you love Jesus and hate Hillary

ДАВАЙТЕ ВМЕСТЕ СНОВА
СДЕЛАЕМ МИР ВЕЛИКИМ!



ИН4С портал www.in4s.net
LET'S MAKE THE WORLD
GREAT AGAIN - TOGETHER!

Moscow billboard after
Trump's election

Putin Made Russia
Great Again

Role model?



The Russian Army store across from the US Embassy had a 10% off sale in honor of Trump's inauguration.

Lower right: "To the workers of the Embassy and to the citizens of the USA."



Stronger
together!

A (white, blonde)
Russian journalist
holds aloft a
poster
celebrating
(white, blond)
Putin, Trump, and
Marine Le Pen.

Trump vs the Europeans. Is the West over?



Confrontation at the 2017 G-7 summit. Trump and Merkel glower.

Putin's dream fulfilled?

Trump and Putin in Helsinki, July 2018



The US Department of Justice had just indicted officers of the GRU, Russian military intelligence, for hacking the Democratic National Committee to help Trump in the 2016 election.

Trump said he accepted Putin's word that this did not happen.

"He said he didn't meddle, he said he didn't meddle. I asked him again. You can only ask so many times," "Every time he sees me he says I didn't do that, and I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it."

Politicians of both parties and the media were outraged.



At a July 2018 Ohio rally

“I’d rather be a Russian than a Democrat”

Rudy Giuliani with Andriy Derkach, 2019



Derkash, a pro-Russian Ukrainian politician, claimed to have documents proving that former Ukrainian prosecutor Lutsenko was fired because he tried to investigate Hunter Biden, who was on the Board of a gas company, Burisma.

Lutsenko was apparently fired because he was himself corrupt.

Fired by Trump for refusing to withhold Ukraine aid.



NATO forces in the Baltic States, deployed in 2015-17. Britain, Canada, Germany, and the US lead them. These are small trip-wire deterrent forces of about 1,000 soldiers each. They ensure that the NATO countries would fight.

4 Multinational Battlegroups

ESTONIA:
 United Kingdom
 France

LATVIA:
 Canada
 Albania
 Italy
 Poland
 Slovenia
 Spain

LITHUANIA:
 Germany
 Belgium
 Luxembourg
 The Netherlands
 Norway

POLAND:
 United States
 Romania
 United Kingdom
 Croatia


 Framework Nation
 Contributing Nation
 Valid as of 30 October 2017



NATO Enhanced Forward Presence

US soldiers in Poland

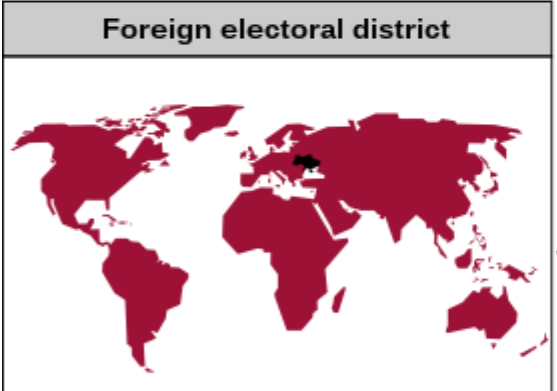
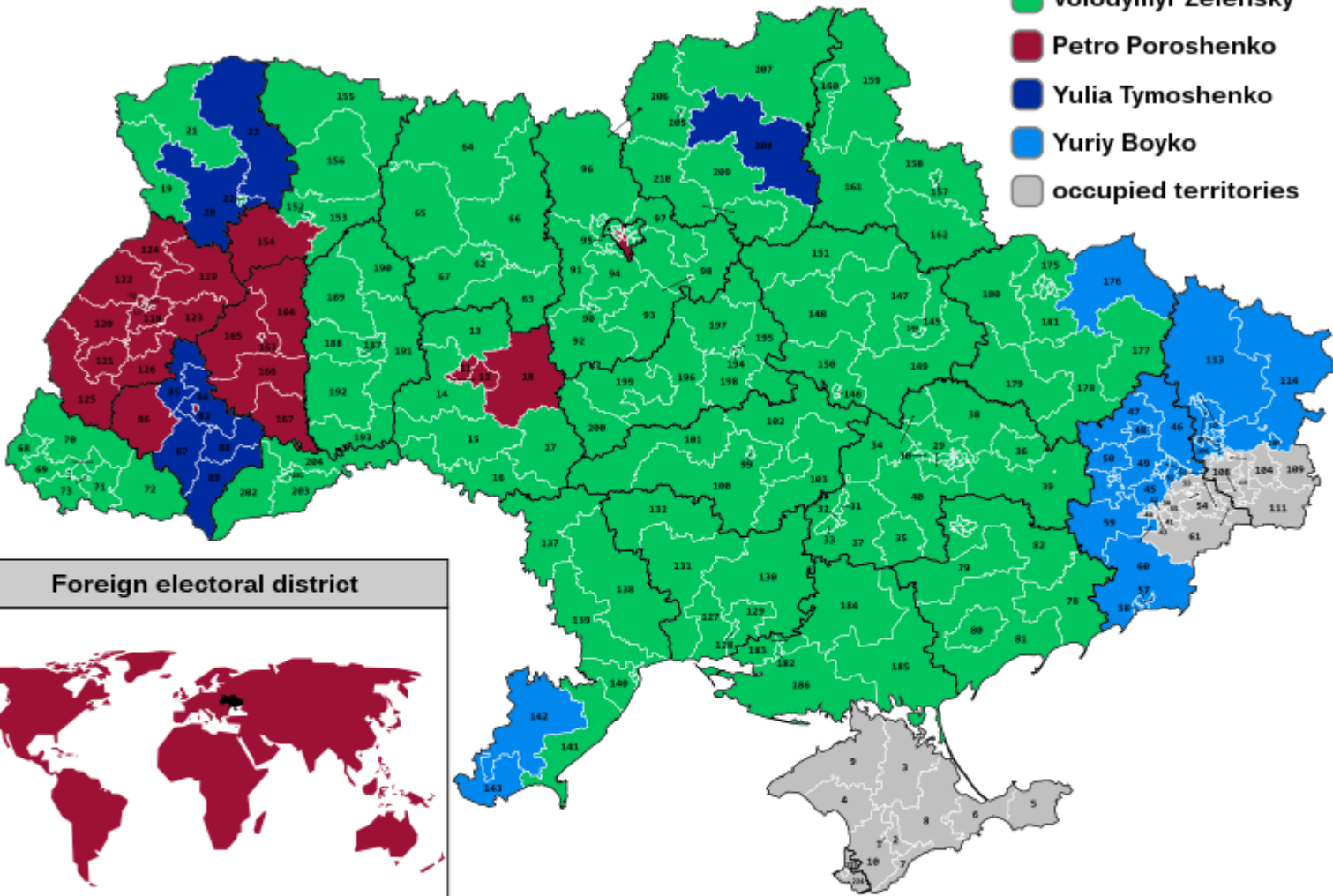




US –
Ukraine
training
exercise,
2021

- Volodymyr Zelensky
- Petro Poroshenko
- Yulia Tymoshenko
- Yuriy Boyko
- occupied territories

Zelensky election 2019



Kyiv	Kharkiv	Odesa	Dnipro	Zaporizhia

The Zelensky center includes most of the country. No longer a split of east vs west.



TERS/VALENTYN OGIRENKO

2021

Has Ukraine
really left
“the Russian
world”?

Perhaps.