

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, golden wheat field stretching to the horizon. The sky is filled with heavy, dark, and dramatic clouds, with some lighter patches where the sun might be breaking through. The foreground is filled with the texture of the wheat stalks, and the horizon line is low, emphasizing the expanse of the field and sky.

Russia's War in Ukraine History I

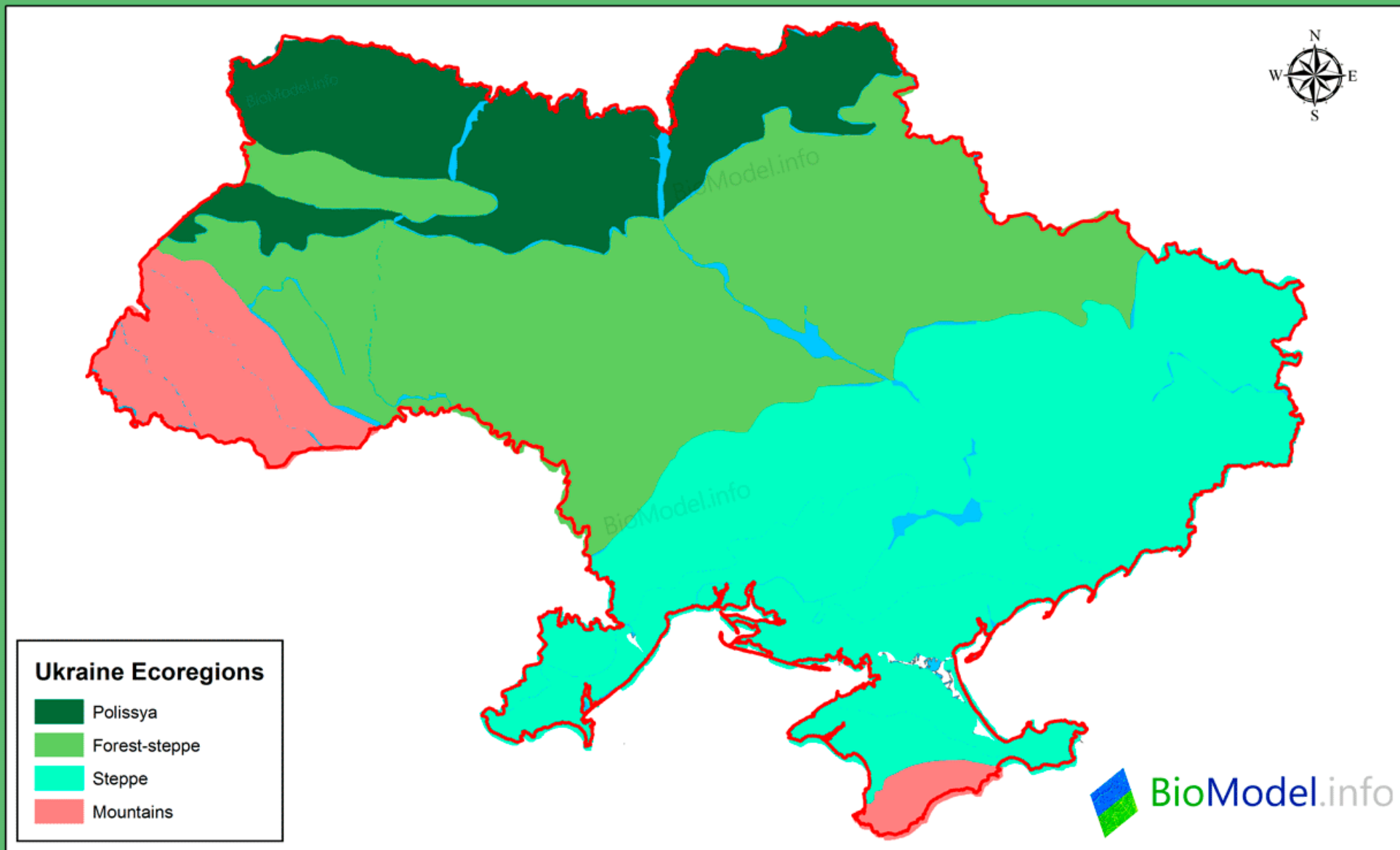
Colloquy

Blue Hill Library

September 9, 2024

Seth Singleton

Nature-Agricultural Zoning of Ukraine



The map layout was designed by BioModel team. Digital map source: http://www.ulmc.org.ua/services/ecoreg/start_pm.html
Permanent URL of the map: <http://biomodel.info/ua/training-package/ukraine-nature-agricultural-zoning/>
Primary source : Природно-сільськогосподарське районування»Україна: навчальний атласКиїв: ГУТК, 1998, с.82.

The Eastern Roman “Byzantine” Empire and Kyivan Rus'

approximate boundaries in the mid-eleventh century





Invitation of the
Varangians

19th century
realist painting by
Victor Vasnetsov



“From the Varangians (Vikings) to the Greeks”

furs
beeswax
slaves



Vladimir

Volodomyr

From Vladimir's
adoption of
Christianity in 988,
State and Church
were fused

Coin of Vladimir/Volodymyr the Great (10th century) and Ukrainian national symbol today - Poseidon's Trident.



Bogatyр – a hero-knight

Victor Vasnetsov, 1882

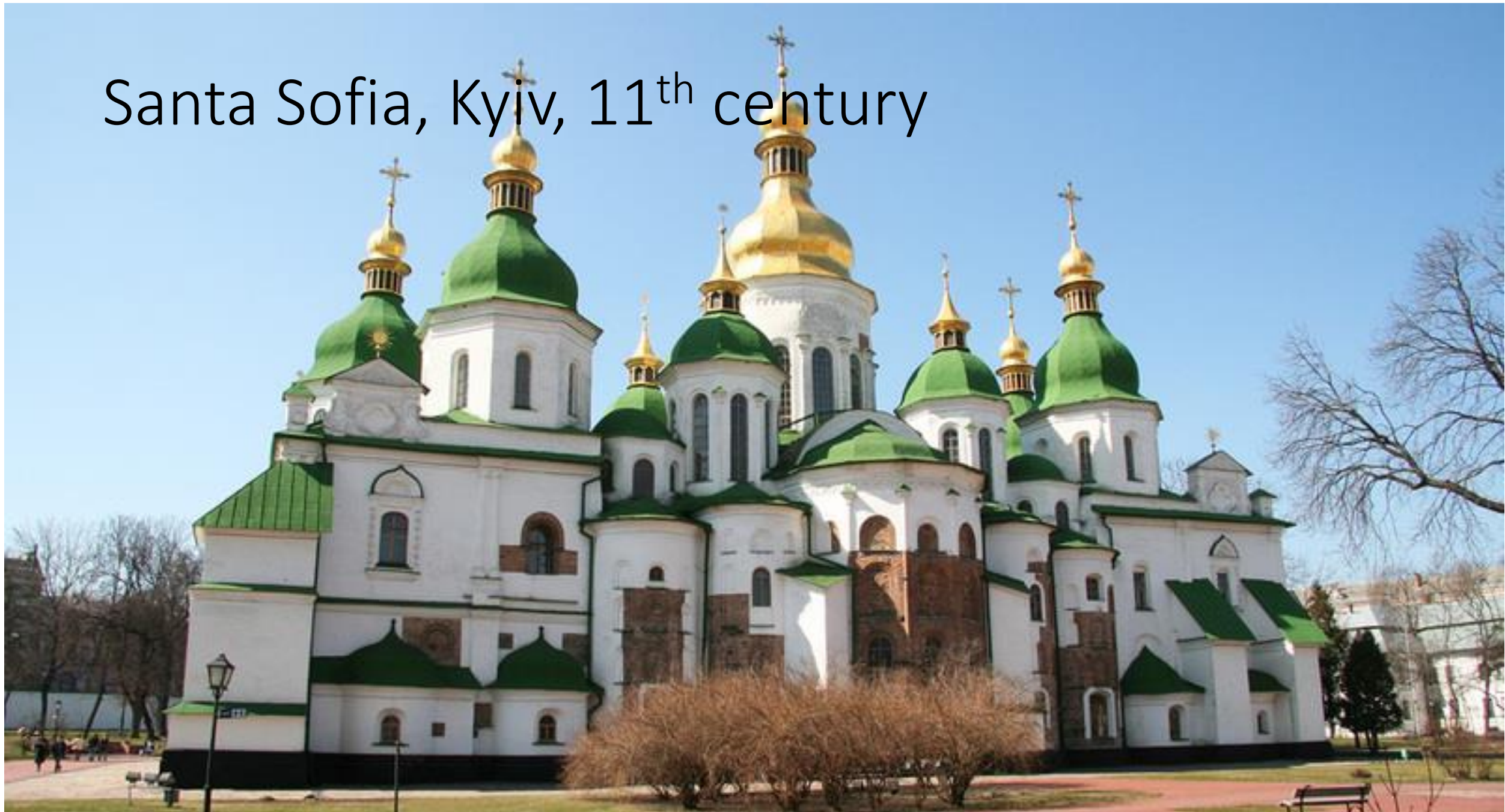




Khazars
Kumans
Pechenegs
Polovtsi

“Dear friends! Everything passes and this will pass, too. Our country has repeatedly gone through serious trials: the Pechenegs tormented it, the Polovtsy, too — Russia dealt with everything. And we’ll also defeat this coronavirus scourge. Together we will overcome everything.” Putin compares the coronavirus to the plague of nomads of the 10th century.

Santa Sofia, Kyiv, 11th century





Kyiv Pecherska
Lavra
(Monastery of
the caves)

11th century,
with later
additions

11th century church, Suzdal, Russia

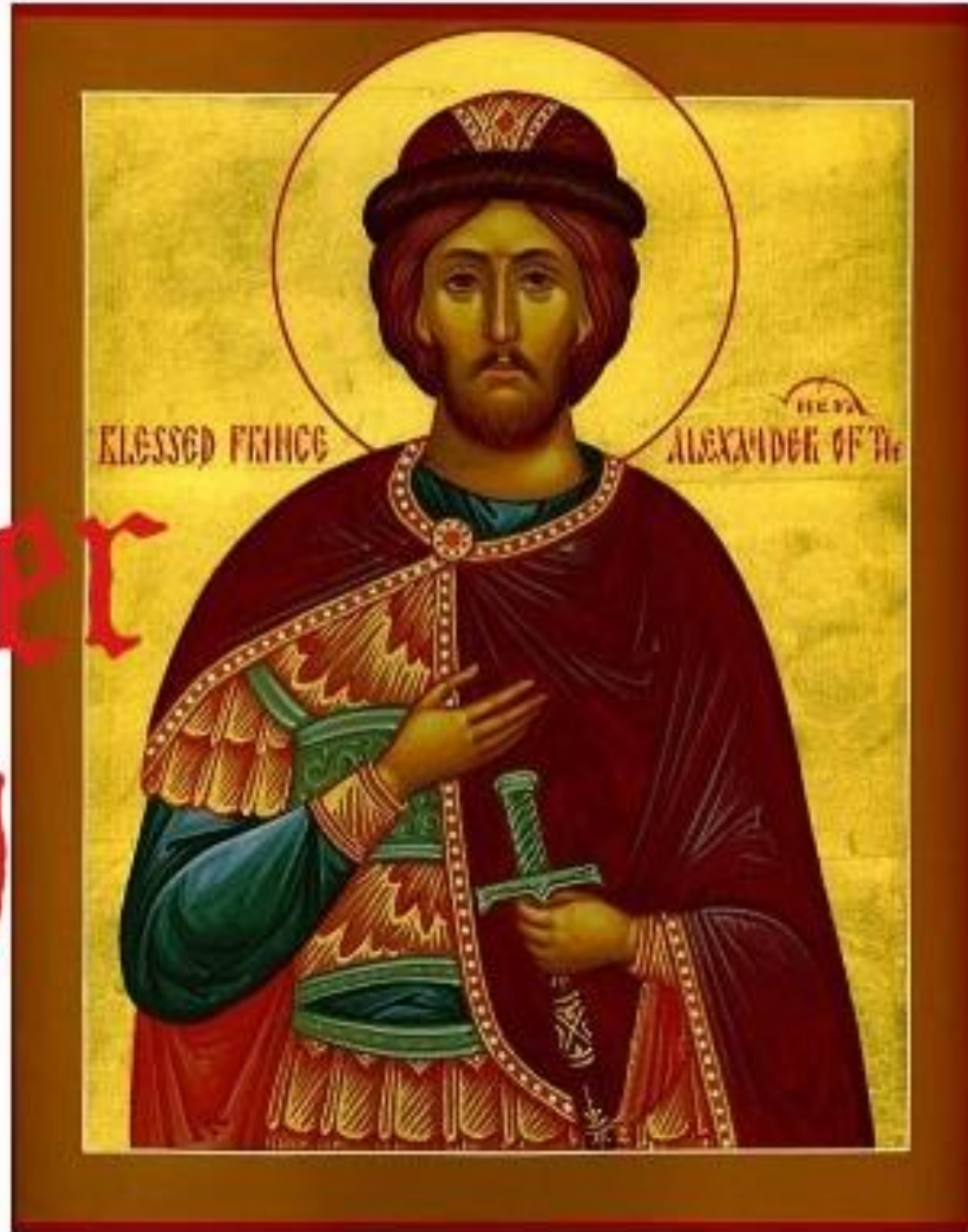




Virgin of Vladimir

12th century

Alexander Nevsky



Nevsky, a Prince, defeated invading Baltic knights in 1240, just after the Mongol invasion. He ignored the East to defeat the West.

He is canonized for his defense of Holy Russia.

The battle was fought near the Neva river, later site of St.

Petersburg, hence "Nevsky".



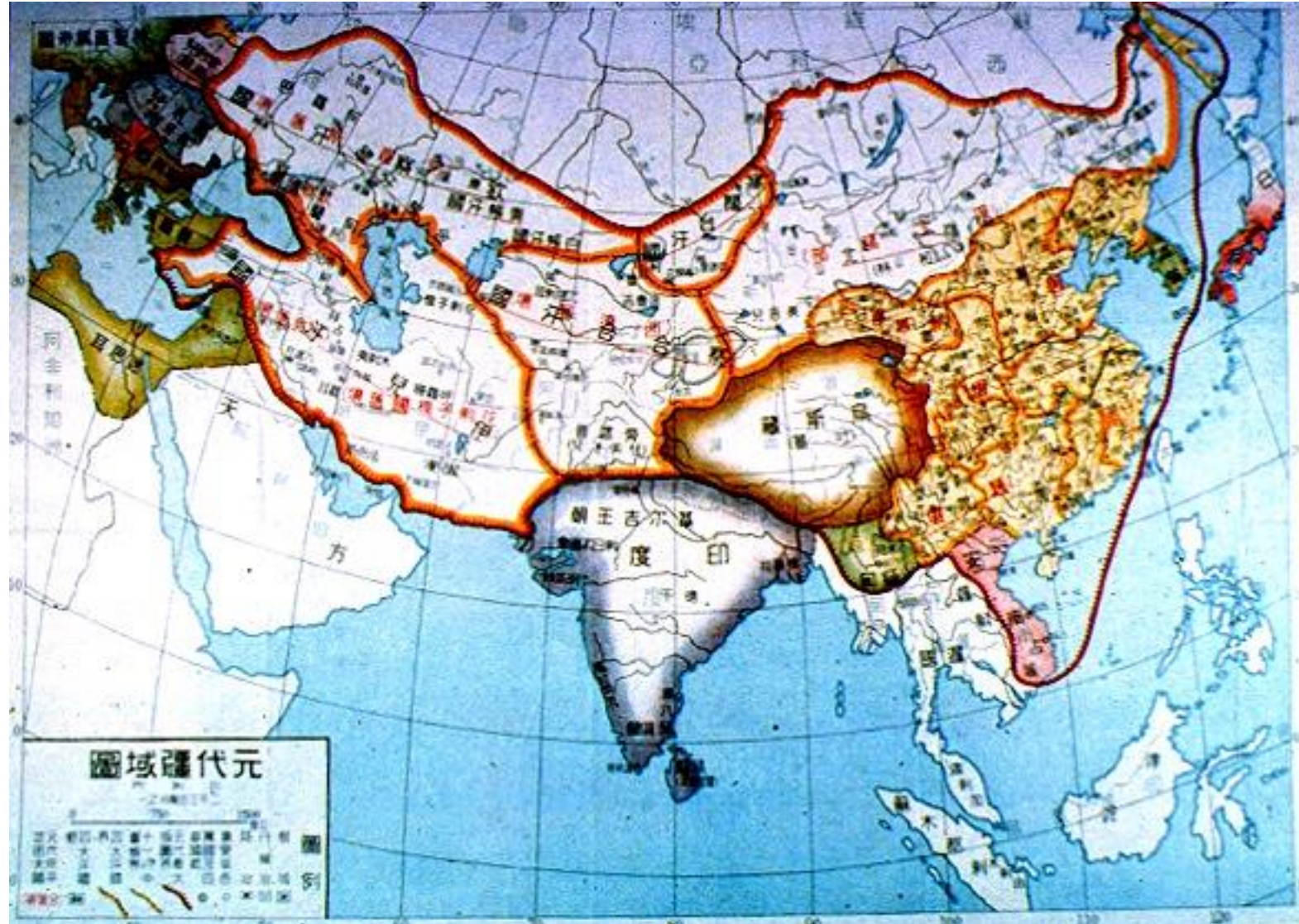
Peoples Army of
the Donbas.

We stand up for
all of us.

Russia, wake up!

Note Alexander
Nevsky upper left

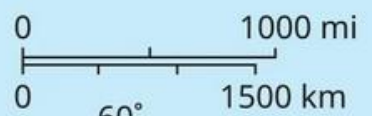
Mongol Empire, 13th century





EXTENT OF THE EURASIAN STEPPES

- ★ Ancient site
- Steppes





Andrey Rublev (1360-1430)

The Holy Trinity



Vasilevsky Sobor (St. Basil's Cathedral),
Red Square, Moscow, 16th century.

Ivan IV (Grozny – the Awesome), who
built it, proclaimed himself “Tsar of all
Rus”. He was the first to use the title
“Tsar” (Caesar).

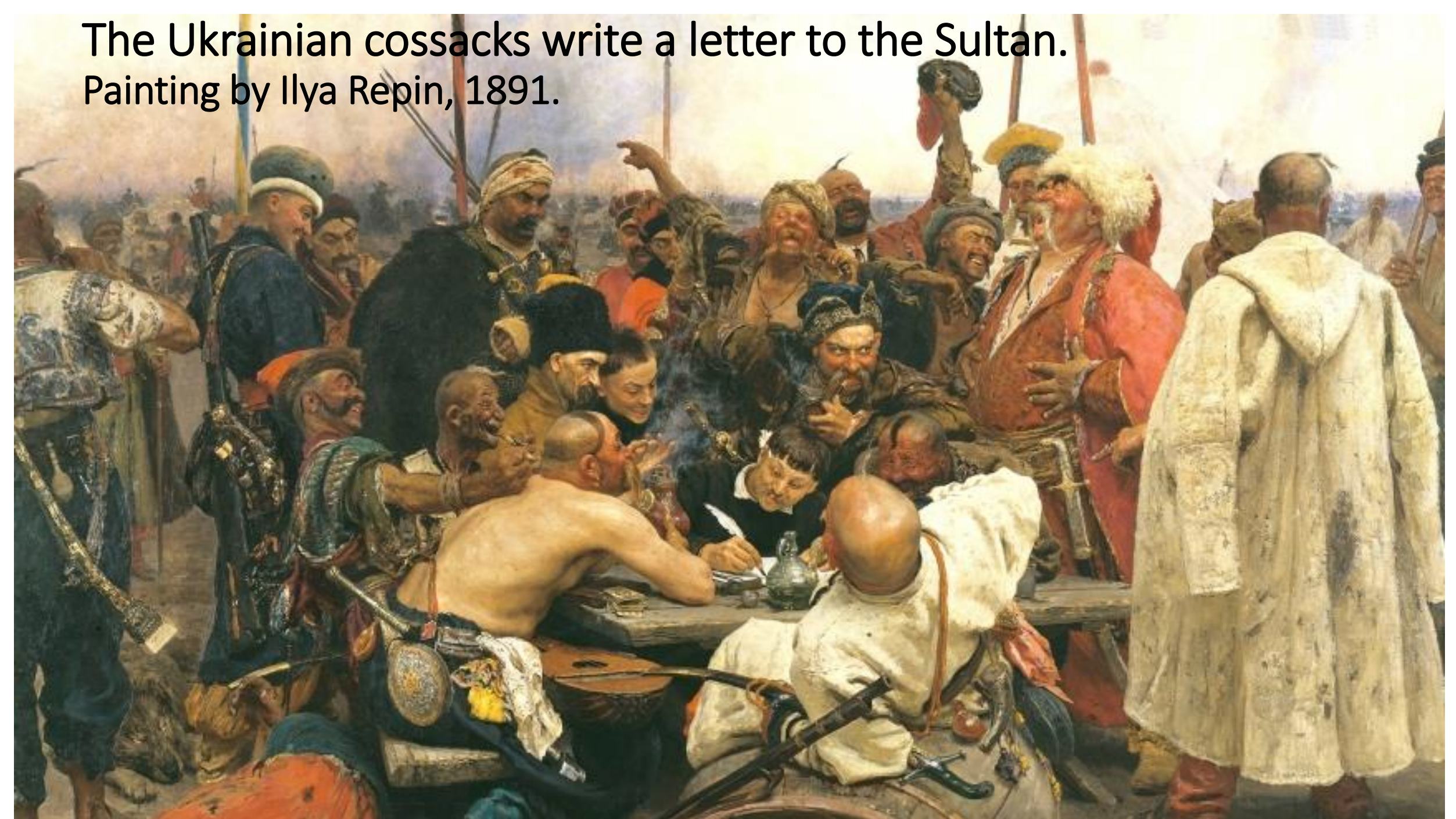
It commemorates Ivan's victory over the
Tatars at Kazan



At its height, the Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom included most of Ukraine.

Polish nobles ruled over Ukrainian-speaking peasants, who became serfs.

The Ukrainian cossacks write a letter to the Sultan.
Painting by Ilya Repin, 1891.





Zaporozhizhya Cossacks

Painting by Josif Brandt

Cossacks lived in a *stanitsa* and were led by their *hetman* or *ataman*. Many borderlands had Cossack *hosts* – the word in Russian or Ukrainian, *voisko*, means a military troop. Hosts were named after their location – Zaporozhizhya, Don, Kuban, Terek, Siberian, Ural, Amur.

Ukrainian Cossacks late 19th century



Cossack fashion in Ukraine



This 1648 map uses the word 'Ukraine' and describes it as an "empty field". Cossacks first used the name.



Bogdan Khmelnytsky, Cossack leader, allied with Russia in rebellion against Polish rule. His statue in Kyiv points toward Moscow. Ukraine ("little Russia") is part of Russia 1654-1991.



Treaty of Pereslav, 1654, on a Soviet 1 ruble stamp



In the “uniting of Ukraine with Russia” – the title of the stamp - note that the Russians are higher and in charge.

1954, the year of the stamp commemorating 300 years of unity, was also the year that Khrushchev “gave” Crimea to Ukraine.



Russian Expansion 1533 - 1894



The present Russian Federation is about the same territory that Peter inherited in 1689.

333 years of expansion has been erased.

Poltava, Ukraine, 1709: the great Northern War. Peter took the Baltic countries from Sweden and consolidated Russian rule over eastern Ukraine.





Putin, today, compares his “special military operation” to the conquests of Peter the Great.

Poltava is not far from the front in Donbas, and will the Baltics be next?

Note the inscription in Latin letters: to Peter I from Catharine II, 1782

The sculptor was French, Etienne-Maurice Falconet

Catherine's victory over the Turks.
Russia took Crimea.

Painting by Torelli, 1772



Catherine and her general, minister, and lover Potemkin, one of the great royal soap operas. She built a palace for him named after Crimea.*



In October 2022 Russia dug up Potemkin's bones and took them from Kherson, Ukraine, a city which he founded, as the Russian Army retreated from the city.

*I once worked there. My Russian boss used the small bedroom, where Catherine visited Potemkin, as his office. Cherubs were painted on the ceiling.

Crimean Tatars



Les Tatars de Crimée d'après les originaux de la Société Impériale géographique de Russie par Stebnikoff. Lith par Winckelmann et Diez à Berlin.



14th century Crimean mosque

The Crimean Khanate dated from Mongol times. Tatars fled to Turkey as refugees starting in the 1780s. Majority population of Crimea until the 20th century. Deported to Kazakhstan by Stalin in 1944; allowed to return only in 1989. Tatar land taken by Russians and Ukrainians. About 250,000 now in Crimea; millions in Turkey. Generally pro-Ukrainian; the current Defense Minister, Rustem Umerov, is a Tatar.



Poland disappeared in the 1790s, divided among empires.

Fast forward to the Stalin-Hitler partition of 1939.

The taking of peoples “in between” without their consent is an old story.

Putin could divide Ukraine in a deal with the West. As in 1795, Russia will take the most.

AN IMPERIAL STRIDE!



18th century English cartoon – Catherine takes a step too far toward Constantinople.



Crimean
war,
1854-56.

Russia
lost, but
kept
Crimea.

Nikolai Gogol, 1809-42

Born and raised in Ukraine, lived in St. Petersburg.

Won fame with stories and folklore of rural Ukraine.

Wrote hilarious satires of Russian officials and rural landlords.

Became religious and concerned with Russia's moral and spiritual destiny.

Ukrainian or Russian?



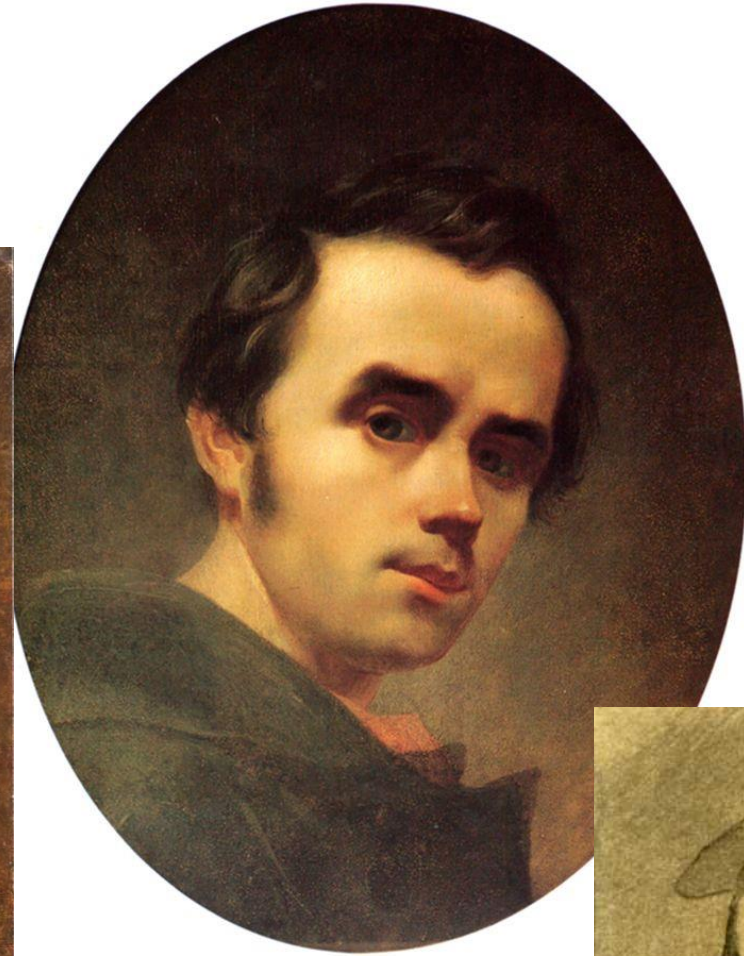
“And you, Russia of mine--are you not also speeding like a troika which nothing can overtake? Is not the road smoking beneath your wheels, and the bridges thundering as you cross them, . . . the air roars past you, for you are overtaking the whole world, and shall one day force all nations, all empires to stand aside, to give you way!”

From Gogol's *Dead Souls*



Taras Shevchenko, 1814-1861

Artist, dissident poet, and Ukrainian nationalist



Serfdom was little different from slavery



Serf family traded for a pack of hounds.



Serfdom, Polish and Russian

-codified by Peter I and expanded by Catherine II.

- practiced earlier in both Russia and the Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom.

- in Ukraine, Russian landlords and Polish feudal nobles were targets of local hatred and peasant uprisings.



Serfs at the base
of the Taras
Shevchenko
monument,
Kharkiv

*“That’s the First – he who
crucified our Ukraine,
And that’s the Second – she
who delivered the blow of
death to our widowed and
orphaned motherland.”*
Taras Shevchenko



Provinces of “Little Russia”, 1914

The Empire did not recognize national differences or boundaries. Ukrainians were “Maloross”, Little Russians.

Religious procession in Kursk

Painting by Ilya Repin, 1883



Kyiv market, 19th century

*Street in Kiev
market
today.*

№ 317. Кієвъ — Kiev

Спейні на житнемъ базарѣ — Les scènes au bazar.



Собственность. Фото. Марк... Кієвъ, Грещатикъ № 6.

Harvest in Ukraine

Painting by Nikolai Pimonenko, 1886



Reality was muddier





The Pale, area of Jewish settlement. During the reign of Alexander III, 1881-93, restriction was tightened and Jews were deported from Moscow and St. Petersburg. Jews were barred from universities. Odesa, on the Black Sea, became a major center of Jewish culture.

Perhaps two million Jews emigrated to the US, Europe, South America, South Africa, and a few to Palestine.

Pale probably derives from Latin *palus* (Spanish, *palo*), a stick or pole, which may be used to mark a boundary.

Jews in Odesa, 19th century.

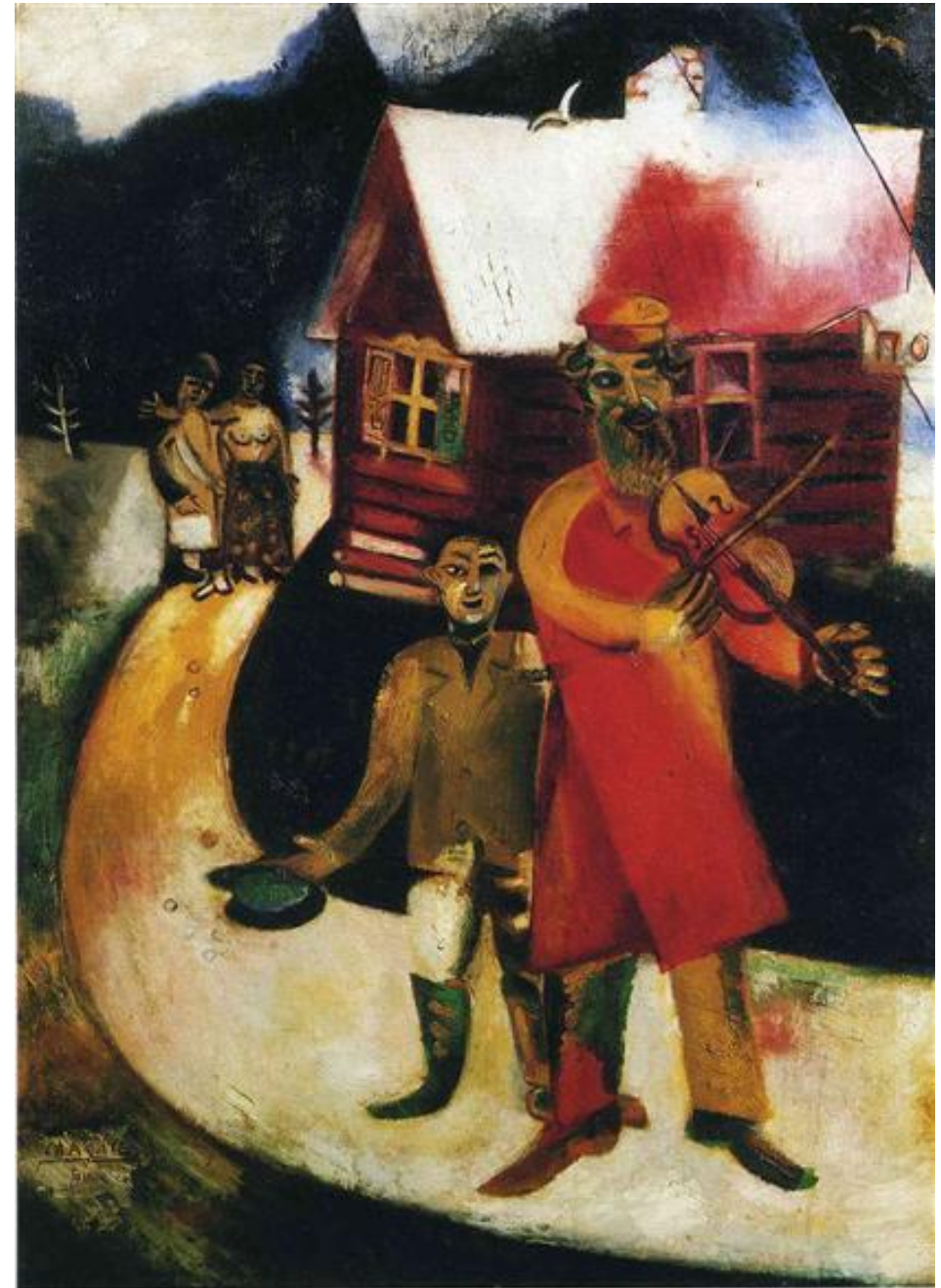




Marc Chagall

My Village, 1911

The Fiddler, 1914



36 The Violinist (1911)



Leon Trotsky
Marxist revolutionary,
Soviet politician,
founder of the Red Army.
(1879-1940)
Born Lev Davidovich Bronshtein in Yanovka



Isaac Babel
Noted Soviet journalist and author
(1894-1940)
Born in Odesa



Natan Sharansky
Noted Soviet Refusnik
and Israeli politician
(b.1948)
Born in Donetsk



Golda Meir
Prime Minister of Israel
(1898-1978)
Born in Kiev



Menachem Mendel Schneerson
7th Rebbe, Chabad-Lubavitch movement
(1902-1994)
Born in Nikolayev



Vladimir Horowitz
Famous pianist
(1903-1989)
Born in Kyiv



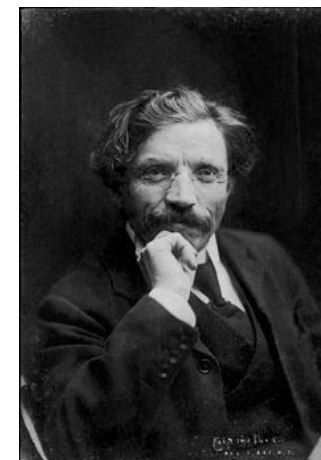
David Oistrakh
World-renowned violinist
(1908-1974)
Born in Odesa



Selman Waksman
Inventor of Streptomycin and
Nobel Prize winner
(1888-1973)
Born in Nova Pryluka



Isaac Stern
Violinist
(1920-2001)
Born in
Kremenets



Sholem Aleichem
Famous writer
(1859-1916)
Born Solomon Naumovich
Rabinovich in Pereyaslav



President Zelensky is Jewish. Some of his relatives were murdered in the Holocaust. Others fought with the red Army. He grew up speaking Russian.

April 2022, Ukrainian law criminalizes antisemitism.

Ukraine is (now) the least antisemitic country of eastern Europe (Pew research center, 2018). Jewish culture has returned to Odesa and other places.

However, the government does not go out of its way to condemn antisemitic Ukrainian nationalists or expose Holocaust collaborators.



Donbas
miners

“arise,
workers
of the
world”

Yuzovka

Stalino

Donetsk





Donbas, the heart of Russia (1921)



Chekhov and Tolstoy meet in Crimea, 1901. Chekhov is from Crimea.



This sculpture in Yalta commemorates Chekhov's famous story, *The Lady With the Dog*



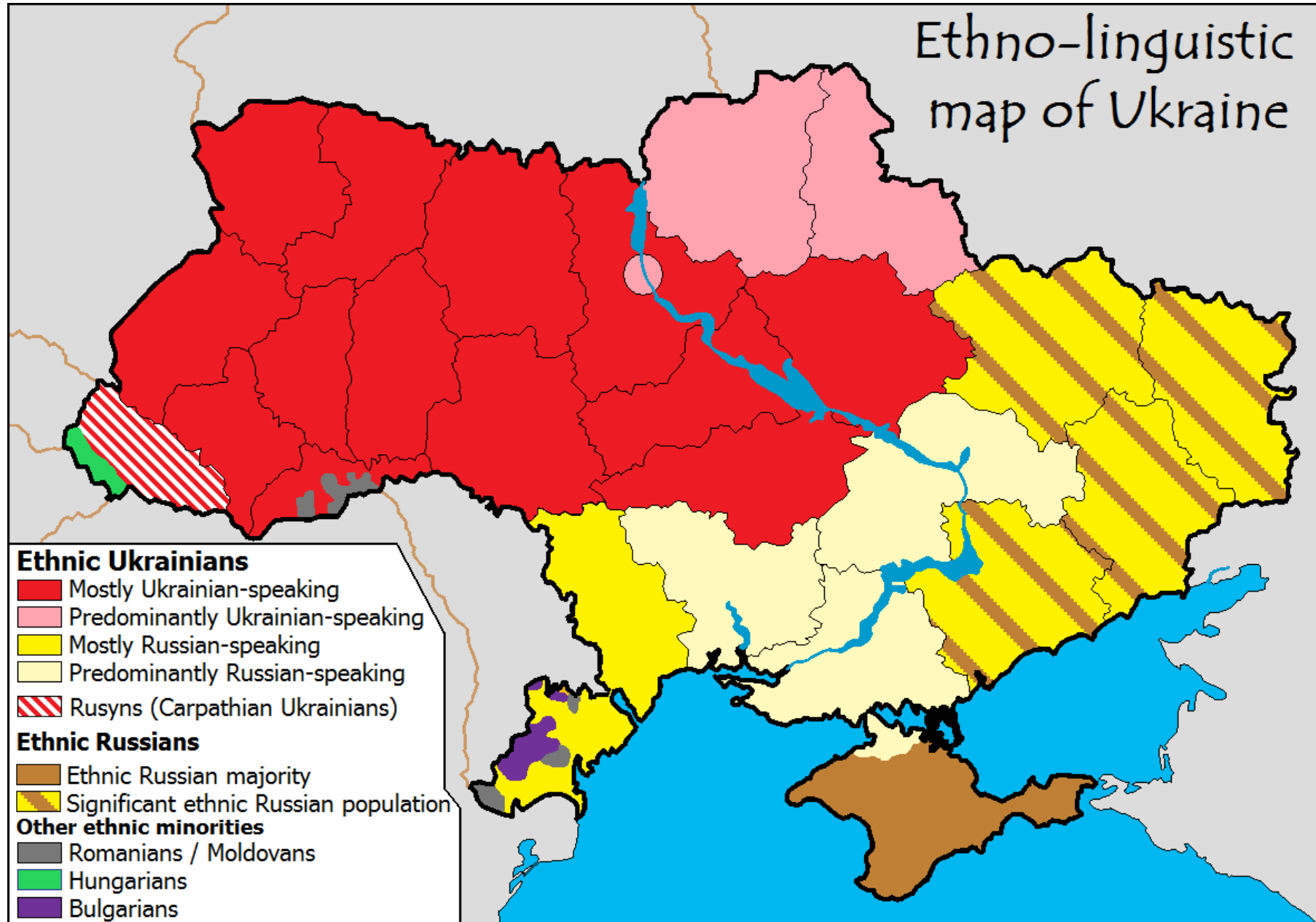
Nikki and family enjoy summer at the beach



Battleship at Sebastopol, 1895.



Ukrainian and Russian Speakers



- Land added to Ukraine

