

Minima Ucrainica

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a cura di

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AISU - Associazione Italiana di Studi Ucraini

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Minima Ucrainica

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Edited by A. Achilli, M. G. Bartolini, M. Puleri.



Experiencing 'Normality' in Times of War

- *'New Age' or 'Old Habits'?*
- *Hybrid Politics vs Hybrid Memories*
- *Who is listening to Donbas?*
- *The First 'March of Equality' Parade in Kiev*
- *The Debate on Decommunization - cont'd*
- *Beyond Ukraine*
and more...

Ukraine

- **‘New age’ or ‘Old Habits’?**

- On YaleGlobal Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and Mykhailo Minakov, associate professor in philosophy and religious studies at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy write about the "new Ukrainian exceptionalism", a deeply polarized worldview in which "constructive criticism, dissenting views, and even observable facts are rejected out of hand if they are seen as harmful to Ukraine".
- Timothy Snyder on Ukrainian bilingualism, its everyday dynamics and political meaning.
- Carnegie Moscow Center on Ukrainian oligarchs and the role of Petro Porošenko.
- The *European Council on Foreign Relations* hosts an analysis of Sakaashvili's appointment as governor of Odessa and the hard task that is ahead for him in the city.

- **Hybrid Politics vs Hybrid Memories**

- The last issue of Kennan Cable, Kennan Institute's official newsletter, is online with a report by Micheal Kofman and Matthew Rojansky on Russia's "hybrid war".
- Tanja Zhurzhenko on memory politics in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and Russia's "neverending war against fascism".
- Alina Poljakova, Associate Director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council, explains why the war in eastern Ukraine is a "Kremlin-manufactured conflict".
- Andreas Umland writes about the repercussions of the "Ukraine crisis" for international relations beyond Eastern Europe.

- **Who is listening to Donbas?**

- In a thought-provoking essay recently translated into English by Tom Rowley, *Krytyka's* Oksana Forostyna invites to "listen to the Donbas".
- Donbass' social and economic implosion casts the Russo-Ukrainian war in a different light, while opening up new possibilities for the Kiev government, argues Alexander Motyl on *Foreign Policy*.
- In a similar vein, historian Jaroslav Hrycak argues that by giving up its claims to Donbass and Crimea Ukraine would finally find the way to "internal reconciliation".
- Brian Whitmore is also persuaded that the one who loses Donbass wins the war.
- The Russian Council on International Relations, a think-tank headed by former Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, outlines three different scenarios for the conflict in Ukraine's eastern regions, while pointing out that an open war is not "a good option" for Moscow.

- **The First 'March of Equality' Parade in Kiev
(or Ukraine's difficult stance on gender issues and LGBT rights)**

- Marija Majerčyk, *Deščo pro prajd ta pravych* (*Krytyka*)
- Alisa Novichkova, *Democracy and the Right to Otherness* (*Krytyka*)
- Oleh Tkorych, *Ne tam šukajemo vorobiv...* (*voxukraine.org*)
- Masha Gessen, *The Assault on Kiev Pride* (*New Yorker*)

The Debate on Decommunization - cont'd

- Vladyslav Berkovs'kyj, *Duže vidkrytyj archiiv* (Krytyka)
- Oksana Forostyna, *Zakon pro dekomunizaciju ta dyskusija navkolo n'oho* (Hromads'ke radio)
- Volodymyr Kulyk, *Pro nejakisni zakony ta nečutlyvyx krytykiv* (Krytyka)
- Mychailo Gauchman, *Sprava pro dekomunizaciju* (Krytyka)

An English version is also available.

- Andrij Portnov, *Pro dekomunizaciju, identyčnist' ta istoryčni zakony deščo inakše* (Krytyka).

An English version is also available.

- Andrij Portnov, *On Decommunisation, Identity and Legislating History in Ukraine* (*opendemocracy.net*).
- Oxana Shevel, *Ščob vidpovidaty jevropejs'kym standartam Zakony pro Dekomunizaciju potrebujut' zmin* (Voxukraine).
- Halya Coynash, *Dekomunizacijni zakony: nebezpečnyj potencijal sijannja rozbratu i garantovanyj sudovyj rozhljad v Strazburzi* (Krytyka)
- Serhij Lunin, *Antikomunistyčni zakony 9 kvitnja: ščo varto bulo by pererobyty* (Krytyka)
- Volodymyr V'jatrovyč, *Dekomunizacija i akademična dyskusija* (Krytyka)
- David Marples replies to *Volodymyr Vjatrovyč, Volodymyr Vjatrovyč i ukrajins'ki dekomunizacijni zakony* (Krytyka)
- Mykola Rjabčuk, *Xto i čomu povalyv pamjatnyky Leninu* (*gazeta.ua*)

Beyond Ukraine

- *Balkans*

- An armed group battling Macedonian police in the northern town of Kumanovo on May 9th left 22 people dead and aimed to destabilize the country with terror attacks. The fighting comes as Macedonia is grappling with its deepest political crisis since its independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991.
- The shoot out in Kumanovo leaves Macedonia's stability in the breach, while the whole region (especially Bosnia) is slowly falling apart, argues E.P. Joseph on *Foreign Policy*.
- Around 60,000 people gathered in front of the government building in Skopje on Sunday May 17th at a mass rally against PM Nikola Gruevski's administration, which they accuse of widespread corruption, undemocratic practices and large-scale illegal surveillance.

- *Russia*

- Putin. The War (*Putin. Vojna*), the final report of prominent opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was killed in Moscow in February, is available for download on Google Docs.
- Nemtsov's political allies accomplished the uneasy task of finalizing the report by restoring the documents the assassinated leader had gathered, reports *The Guardian*.
- The celebrations of the 9th of May have inspired Mikhail Shishkin's musings on the "real meaning" of the "Great Patriotic War" (*New York Times*).
- A contribution on the same topic by Andrej Movčan, director of the Economic Policy Program of the Carnegie Moscow Center (www.slon.ru).
- Vitalij Portnikov on the meaning of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact for Russian contemporary political culture.
- The *Moscow Times* on Russia's "growing army of censors".
- *Moscow Times'* Georgij Bovt on Russia's "war on immorality".

Beyond Ukraine

- *Armenia*

- A chronicle of the protests against electricity price hikes in Erevan ([meduza.io](#)).
- Vadim Dubnov ([Carnegie Moscow Center](#)) explains why the protests in Armenia are not going to become a new 'Majdan'.
- Paul Stronski ([Carnegie Moscow Center](#)) reflects on the different reactions in Russia and in the West concerning the Armenian protests.
- A review of Russian reactions, by [Brian Whitmore](#) (RFE/RL).
- Is [Electric Yerevan](#) an Armenian version of Euromaidan? (RFE/RL).

- *Poland*

- Ukraine is not going to benefit from Andrzej Duda's victory in Poland, argues Jurij Opocha on [zaxid.net](#).
- Poland and the Baltic states seek permanent NATO presence to deter Russia, reports the [Moscow Times](#),
- [The Guardian](#) on Poland's immigration policies and its problematic stance on refugees.

- *Moldova*

- Russian historian Serhij Markedonov on [Transnistria's uncanny position](#) between Russia and Ukraine.

Society and Culture

- Ukrainian writer Jurij Andruchovyč on Ukrainian society after Majdan.
- The Italian translation of two poems about the conflict in Ukraine's eastern regions, Borys Humeljuk's *Quando il lanciamissili Grad spara...* and Serhij Žadan's *Da dove vieni, stormo di uccelli neri?*, is available online.
- Russian historian Aleksej Miller and Ukrainian writer Jurij Volodarskij discuss today's Russian-Ukrainian relationships.
- Elena Taranenko on the use and abuse of Donetsk's "identity myth".
- Mirroring history: Mykola Rjabchuk believes that the only solution for Ukraine to overcome the current turmoil is to become for Donbass and Crimea what Western Germany was in the imagery of Eastern Germans.
- Četvertaja vlast' hosts an analysis of the European Left's fascination for the separatist movements in eastern Ukraine.
- Italian historian Ettore Cinnella on Holodomor as a key to understanding the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Literature and Literary Criticism

- *Krytyka* remembers legendary Ukrainian writer and polemist Mykola Chvyľovyj with two essays by Marko Carynnyk and Jurij Šapoval.
- Agnieszka Matusiak on the postcolonial elements in the prose of Serhij Žadan.
- *Zbruč* hosts some philological remarks on the Collected Works of Ivan Franko in fifty volumes.

Art and Urban Geography

- Calvert Journal's photography section hosts an amazing selection of art projects focusing on the post-Soviet region.
- Photography website *Bird in Flight* offers well-known photographers the opportunity to choose their favorite 10 photos from their own archives. Find out the choice of Ukrainian photographer Valerij Miloserdov (Cherson 1954).
- Vasyl' Lozyns'kyj on Andrij Bojarov's last photo exhibition, *Sitespecific/Kohaspetsifika*.
- Kiev's executive board on urban matters is now collecting proposals for redesigning Kontraktova plošča.
- GuardianWitness is collecting readers' stories and opinions about Moscow's urban regeneration programme.



Photo by Valerij Miloserdov

Editorial News

- A new book by Serhy Yekelchuk on the conflict in Ukraine.
- Newly released special issue of Eastern European Politics and Societies and Cultures (EEPS): Whither Eastern Europe? Changing Approaches and Perspectives on the Region in Political Science.
- A new issue of Krytyka is now online.
- The inaugural issue of the Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society is dedicated to Russian media representation of the war in eastern Ukraine.
- The first issue of the Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society is now online. Contributions by Paul D'Anieri, Rory Finnin, Serhiy Kovalchuk, Jessica Zychowicz and others.
- A newly released book by Maxim Tarnawsky on Ukrainian 19th century writer Ivan Nečuj-Levyc'kyj (1838-1918).
- A comprehensive study of Ukrainian literary anthologies by Olena Haleta, published by Smoloskyp.
- CIUS Press has recently released Religion, Nation, and Secularization in Ukraine, a collection of scholarly essays about the interrelationships between religion and religious institutions, nations and nation building, and secularization.
- Jurij Radčenko reviews Grzegorz Rossolinski-Liebe's monograph on Stepan Bandera, Stepan Bandera: The Life and Afterlife of a Ukrainian Nationalist: Fascism, Genocide, and Cult (Stuttgart: Ibidem-Verlag, 2014).
- Alessandro Vitale, Professor of International Relations at Milano State University, reviews Eugenio Di Rienzo's controversial book on Ukraine, Il conflitto russo-ucraino (Rubbettino 2015).
- The last issue of Die Welt der Slaven (LX/2) hosts several contributions on Ukrainian linguistics.
- A new issue of the bulletin UkraineAnalysen (24 June 2015).

Resources for scholars

- Yale University Press digitizes Stalin's massive personal archives.
- The Russian German Project: a newly released full-text and open access database on German Documents in Russian Archives.
- The mapa. Digital Atlas of Ukraine: a new program undertaken by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute together with partners in Ukraine. By their first project the researchers gave birth to a new important online resource, created to study the demographic consequences of the Holodomor.

Events and Multimedia

- ASEEES second biennial summer convention in the region will be hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, on June 9-11, 2016.
- ASEES 2015 preliminary convention program is now available.
- On July 1-2 the University of Southampton hosted the International Workshop *Jews and 'small nations' in Eastern Europe: cultural autonomy and nation-building in the western borderlands of Russia (1905-1939)*.
- On 30 June and 1 July the University of Cambridge hosted a conference about Polish-Ukrainian relations (www.PolandUkraineConference.org), which had two daily roundtable sessions live-streamed to audiences around the world.
- On 20 June 2015, a workshop that brought together scholars, human rights and gender equality activists, artists and journalists working on Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, took place at Robinson College at the University of Cambridge. The participants discussed the implications and intersections of gender, nationalism and citizenship in the recent and ongoing protest movements in the three countries.

- Historian Andryi Portnov announced the launch of the Berlin-Brandenburg Ukrainian Initiative and its forthcoming international Winter Academy (2-12 December 2015), which attempts to strengthen current debates in the field of East European Studies.

Call for applications

- From July 24th to July 31st Tallin University will host the Summer School Late Socialism (1956-1985). The Forgotten Years between Stalinism and Perestroika. The Tallin Summer School in Social and Cultural Studies will bring together scholars and PhD students interested in discussing the Soviet Union from late 1950s to early 1980s.



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