

UKRAINE IN CRISIS КРИЗА В УКРАЇНІ

Курсант203 н.г Гавриш Ірина
Консультант з мови: доцент кафедри іноземних мов
НАВСГ алдецька Ірина Г ригорівна.

Ukraine's most prolonged and deadly crisis since its post-Soviet independence began as a protest against the government dropping plans to forge closer trade ties with the European Union, and has since spurred escalating tensions between Russia and Western powers. The crisis stems from more than twenty years of weak governance, a lopsided economy dominated by oligarchs, heavy reliance on Russia, and sharp differences between Ukraine's linguistically, religiously, and ethnically distinct eastern and western regions.

WHY IS UKRAINE IN CRISIS?

The country of forty-five million people has struggled with its identity since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Ukraine has failed to resolve its internal divisions and build strong political institutions, hampering its ability to implement economic reforms. In the decade following independence, successive presidents allowed oligarchs to gain increasing control over the economy while repression against political opponents intensified.

WHAT ARE RUSSIA'S CONCERNS?

Russia has strong fraternal ties with Ukraine dating back to the ninth century and the founding of Kievan Rus, the first eastern Slavic state, whose capital was Kiev. Ukraine was part of Russia for centuries, and the two continued to be closely aligned through the Soviet period, when Ukraine and Russia were separate republics. "The West must understand that, to Russia, [Ukraine can never be just a foreign country.](#)" wrote former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger in a *Washington Post* op-ed.

Ukraine is also a major economic partner that Russia would like to incorporate into its proposed [Eurasian Union](#), a customs bloc due to be formed in January 2015 whose likely members include Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Armenia.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?

The EU's [Eastern Partnership Program](#) was established in 2009 to expand political and economic ties between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, while stopping short of offering membership to partner countries.

After Poroshenko's election, he pressed forward plans to sign the association agreement and Ukraine did so along with Moldova and Georgia on June 27, 2014. Poroshenko said after signing the agreement: "Ukraine is underlining its sovereign choice in favor of membership of the EU."

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF CRIMEA?

Prior to the crisis, Crimea was an autonomous republic of Ukraine of two million people with its own parliament and laws that permitted the use of the Russian language in everyday life. After the ouster of Yanukovich in February 2014, Crimea's parliament called for a referendum, in which the peninsula's 1.5 million voters [opted overwhelmingly for union with Russia](#).

The peninsula only became part of Ukraine in 1954, when Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev transferred it from the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in what was seen as a largely symbolic administrative move.