RESEARCH & ANALYTICAL PAPERS

UKRAINE'S REGIONS
Eastern Research Group

This paper provides information on the size, population and ethnic breakdown of the region, as well as names of the main towns and current governor. The chapters include historical background, geographical and climatic information about the areas, details on economic activity and other particular points relevant to each.

RESEARCH ANALYSTS

UKRAINE'S REGIONS

Introduction

A defining feature of Ukraine's national structure is the existence of a regional divide. Travelling east from the Polish border in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, through to the capital, Kyiv, and on to the city of Luhansk on the Russian border, the internal variation becomes particularly apparent. In the west, the population is predominantly ethnic Ukrainian and Catholic (Uniate). As one moves eastward, Ukrainian language gradually gives way to Russian, Catholism (Roman and Greek) to Orthodoxy. Throughout Ukraine, however (except in Lviv), Russian is the language predominantly spoken in the cities. The regions of Kharkiv, Luhansk and their neighbours to the south, such as Donetsk, Zaporizhya, Odesa and Crimea are home to Ukraine's 11 million ethnic Russians, who make up 20% of Ukraine's total population. This ethnic distribution, and the different history of the two parts of Ukraine, have created the east-west divide which continues to tug at the centre and the allegiances of politicians in Kyiv today.

Despite these ethnic and linguistic differences, Ukraine has proved a cohesive state since independence in 1991. While there is a degree of devolution, Kyiv retains strong influence over the regions. These have rich and varied histories, distinct geographic and economic characteristics, as well as their own set of current problems and issues. While the northern region of Chernihiv, for example, still copes with the effects of the Chornobyl disaster, the mining region of Donetsk and industrial Zaporizhya attempt to deal with the consequences of the decline in industry since the collapse of the USSR. In the south, the Crimean authorities in Simferopol, who are faced with problems such as high levels of organised crime and the demands of the growing Tatar population, have frequently voiced their ambitions for greater independence from the centre.

Background to the regions

Under Chapter IX of the Ukrainian Constitution of 1996, Ukraine is divided into 24 administrative regions (*oblasts*), and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The regions are: Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Chernivtsy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Khmelnitsky, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil, Zakarpattya, Vinnytsya, Volyn, Zaporizhya and Zhytomyr. The cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol have special status. Lviv is the cultural centre of the west and Kharkiv the centre of the east.

Each region is broken down into administrative districts (*rayons*), of which there are 485, plus cities, city districts, towns and villages. At each level there is a degree of self-government carried out by locally elected councils. Each region is headed by a governor (Head of Regional Administration), who is appointed by the President. The councils at the city, town and village levels are headed by elected chairmen who serve a term of four years. The regions are financed in part from local budget revenues and other local resources and assets, and in part by the state, in particular for projects which are decided at the level of central government. In all their activities, the local councils may not introduce legislation or take decisions which contradict those of the state.

As an autonomous republic, Crimea has its own parliament and government, as well as the right to draw up its own Constitution. However, while the authorities have the right to legislate and regulate affairs in the region, they have limited powers over taxation. Their decisions, which should comply with Ukrainian law and the Constitution, can be vetoed by the President. A representative of the Ukrainian President is appointed to Crimea.

Structure of the paper

The paper devotes a chapter to each of the 24 regions and one to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Each provides information on the size, population and ethnic breakdown of the region, as well as names of the main towns and current governor. The chapters include historical background, geographical and climatic information about the areas, details on economic activity and other particular points relevant to each. We include a map which illustrates Ukraine's regional boundaries.

The names of the regions are spelt according to the transliteration of the Ukrainian title. However, since many are still known from Soviet times by their Russian equivalent (for example Mykolaiv is still called Nikolaev by some), the Russian name is provided in brackets.

The names of the regional governors are correct as of November 2000.

CHERKASY REGION (Russian - Cherkassy)

Population	1,536,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 89.9%
	Russians 7.9%
Area	20,900 square kilometres
Capital	Cherkasy (population 305,000)
Mayor of Cherkasy City	Volodymyr OLIYNYK
Governor	Volodymyr LUKYANETS
First Deputy Governor	Vadym LYOSHENKO

Historical Background

Cherkasy region claims to be the birthplace of the Southern Slavs, who appeared in the region around the first century AD and later became part of the population of Kyivan Rus. In the 13th century the area was laid waste by the Mongol Hordes. In the 14th century it became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This in turn brought the region under Polish influence, since Lithuania had allied with Poland to protect itself from Russia and Germany.   In 1648 the Ukrainian Cossack population rose up against their Polish masters in what is seen as the first wave of Ukrainian nationalism. Cherkasy was also the scene of a Cossack uprising in 1702. At that time the town of Chigirin in Cherkasy region was the home of the Cossacks and the political centre of Ukraine. After the Russians crushed the Cossacks in the late 18th century Cherkasy region was divided between the then provinces of Kyiv and Little Russia. The modern Cherkasy region was established in 1954.

Cherkasy region's most famous son is the poet and artist Taras Shevchenko (1814-61) who was born in the village of Moryntsi and who is buried in the hills overlooking the river Dnipro at Kaniv. Bohdan Khmelnytsky (1595-1657), the legendary Ukrainian Cossack *hetman* (leader) who fought the Poles and then took Ukraine into union with Russia, is also buried in Cherkasy region, at Subotiv. The Hassidic *zaddik* (holyman) Rabbi Nachman is buried at Uman in Cherkasy region and thousands of Orthodox Jews make pilgrimages to the site.

Political Background

There are 7 deputies (MPs) representing Cherkasy region in the Supreme Rada (Ukrainian parliament), the majority of whom are from the Communist Party of Ukraine. Oleksandr Tkachenko, the former Speaker of the Rada, was also elected from Cherkasy region.

Geography and Environment

Cherkasy region is located in the central forest steppe zone of Ukraine on the river Dnipr. It has a mild continental climate with warm summers (average temperature in July is 20 degrees centigrade) and cool snowy winters (average temperature in January is -6 degrees centigrade). It has quite high rainfall (on average 600 mm per year). The town of Cherkasy is situated on the western bank of the Kremenchug reservoir.

Domestic Economy

The city of Cherkasy is a large industrial centre. Its main industries are machine-building, food-processing, and the manufacture of man-made fibres, nitrous fertiliser and furniture. There are also tourist resorts along the shore of the Kremenchug reservoir. Cherkasy is one of the largest ports on the river Dnipr.

However, outside the capital, Cherkasy region as a whole has underdeveloped industrial production and infrastructure and its economy is based mainly on agriculture. The main crops grown are fruit (Cherkasy region is a centre for jam production) and sugar beet. Peatcutting is also carried out and dairy cattle are bred in the region.

External Trade

There are a number of joint ventures in the region, especially with the USA.

CHERNIHIV REGION (Russian - Chernigov)

Population	1,391,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 92.8% Russians 6.9%
Area	31,900 square kilometres
Governor	Mykola BUTKO
First Deputy Governor	Hryhoriy PANCHENKO
Capital	Chernihiv (population 300,000)
Mayor of Chernihiv City	Vitaly KOSYKH

Historical Background

Chernihiv is one of Ukraine's oldest cities, dating from the 7th century. It was the centre of one of the most important princedoms within Kyivan Rus. In the 12th century, countless battles against the Polovtsian hordes were fought in this area. The most famous of these battles, fought by the Kyivan Prince Ihor Svyatoslavovych in 1185, was immortalised in the epic poem, *The Tale of Ihor's Campaign.* The region was sacked by the Mongols in 1239 and subsequently came under the influence of the Lithuanians (in the 14th century) and of Poland (in the 17th century) before coming under Russian rule. Chernihiv region is famous for an abundance of churches built between the 11th and 18th centuries.

The region's geographic location has produced a blend of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian cultures.

Political Background

A number of famous political figures in Ukraine were born in Chernihiv, including President Kuchma, the late leader of the nationalist *Rukh* party Vyacheslav Chornovil and former Prime Minister Vitaly Masol.

There are 6 deputies (MPs) representing Chernihiv region in the Supreme Rada (parliament), the majority of whom are from the Communist Party of Ukraine. Former Presidential Aide Oleksandr Volkov was also elected in Chernihiv region.

Geography and Environment

Chernihiv region is in the north of Ukraine on the border with Russia and Belarus. The river Desna runs through the area. Chernihiv region used to be famous for its abundant forests, rich with mushrooms and wild berries. Unfortunately, the region was badly affected by the 1986 Chornobyl disaster. Contamination caused by the catastrophe has rendered this produce harmful.

Domestic Economy

Since agriculture and forestry were the mainstays of its economy, Chernihiv region was significantly affected by the Chornobyl disaster. Livestock-breeding (particularly cattle and pigs) has declined since 1986. Chernihiv is now one of the poorest areas in the country. The main crops are winter wheat, maize, buckwheat, barley, rye, potatoes, flax and sugar beet. Tobacco is also grown.

The main industries in the region are food-processing, oil and gas extraction, machine-building and wool-production. There are also several mineral water spas and health resorts.

Apart from oil and gas, the region has deposits of phosphorous, peat, rock salt, kaolin, ozocerite, fire-resistant clays and graphite.

External Trade

Chernihiv region trades with 59 countries. 68% of foreign trade is with FSU countries. Chernihiv's main trading partners are Russia, Germany, Belarus and the USA. The region's main exports are food-products, vehicles and textiles. Its main imports are power industry equipment, paper and organic chemicals. About 19% of trade is done by barter (usually of raw materials) with Belarus and Russia. One of the most successful joint ventures is between British American Tobacco and Priluky Tobacco.

CHERNIVTSY REGION (Russian - Chernovtsy)

Population	944,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 70.5% Romanians 10.5% Moldovans 9% Russians 6.6% Jews 1.6%
Area	8,100 square kilometres
Governor	Teofil BAUER
First Deputy Governor	Stepan MEL
Capital	Chernivtsy (population 263,000)
Mayor of Chernivtsy City	Mykola FEDORUK

Historical Background

A settlement has existed on the site of the city of Chernivtsy at least since the 11th century when it was the main city of Bucovina (Beech Tree Land) - the northernmost part of the province of old Moldavia, one of the original constituent parts of Romania. In the 15th century Moldavia became an Ottoman vassal. From 1775 until the end of the First World War, it became part of the Habsburg empire and was called Galicia. The architecture of the capital still reflects that period, giving it a very Central European feel (it is sometimes called Little Vienna). After the First World War, it became part of the enlarged Romania and was known as Bucovina. In 1940 (as a result of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact) Northern Bucovina was annexed by the USSR. The capital was a very cosmopolitan city until the Second World War, when its large Jewish and Armenian populations were destroyed. Thousands of ethnic Romanians were deported from the region to Siberia in 1941. Southern Bucovina remains part of Romania.

Chernivtsy region today is comprised of three distinct areas: Northern Bucovina with the capital Chernivtsy; Hertsa (which was part of Moldavia from the 14th century until 1859 and part of Romania between 1859-1940 and 1941-1944) and northern Bessarabia (which was part of Moldavia until 1812, part of Russia between 1812-1918 and part of Romania between 1918-1940 and 1941-1944). After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Romania registered the fact that it had implicit territorial claims on Chernivtsy Region as the area had been annexed from Romania by the USSR during the Second World War. Independent Ukraine resisted Romania's claims, and in 1997 Romania and Ukraine signed a bilateral treaty which confirmed the existing Ukrainian-Romanian border.

Political Background

Chernivtsy region has 4 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament), the majority of whom are from the nationalist *Rukh* party, including Heorhiy Filipchuk, who was formerly Governor of Chernivtsy region.

Romanians and Moldovans are the second largest ethnic group after Ukrainians in Chernivtsy region. They speak the same language, the Moldovan dialect of Romanian, but have a distinct ethnic identity - Romanian for those who once lived under Austrian rule, Moldovan for those who once lived under imperial Russian rule. Both complain that their rights as a national minority are not observed.

Geography and Environment

Chernivtsy is in southwestern Ukraine on the border with Romania and Moldova, in the wooded foothills of the Carpathian mountains. The river Prut runs through the region.

Domestic Economy

The leading industries in the region are food-processing, machine-building and the manufacture of chemicals and textiles. There are several big military-industrial enterprises, including the *Kvarts* factory, which produces photosensors for use in space (it participated in the joint American-Russian programme to launch a research station to Mars). *Kvarts* has undergone a conversion programme and now also produces sparkplugs.

Chernivtsy region's economy is primarily agricultural, with livestock-breeding and grain the most important sectors, followed by fruit, sugar-production and timber-processing (which uses both

local wood and imported timber from Russia). However, Chernivtsy is said to be one of the least successful regions of Ukraine in terms of farm privatisation.

External Trade

There are over 100 joint ventures in Chernivtsy region. The main foreign investors are Italy, Germany, Russia, Hungary and Romania.

AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA (Russian and Ukrainian – Krym)

Population	2,642,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Russians 61.6% Ukrainians 23.6% Crimean Tatars 9.4% Belarusians 1.8% Jews 0.6%
Area	27,000 square kilometres
Capital	Simferopol (population 358,000)
Speaker, Crimean Parliament (Supreme Soviet)	Leonid GRACH
Crimean Prime Minister	Serhiy KUNITSYN
Mayor of Simferopol	Valery YERMAK
Mayor of Sevastopol	Leonid ZHUNKO

Historical Background

Between the 7th and 8th centuries BC the Greeks colonized the peninsula of Crimea. In succeeding centuries Crimea was occupied by a series of nomadic tribes beginning with the Goths in 250 AD and ending with the Tatars in 1237. In the 13th century the Genoese settled there and established towns which flourished until the conquest by Ottoman Turks in 1475.

After the destruction of the Tatar Golden Horde, the Crimean Tatar ethnic group emerged in Crimea as a result of intermarriage between Mongols and the local population. The Crimean Tatar Khan Haci Giray united the peninsula into a single Islamic state. He and his successors reigned as tributary princes of the Ottoman empire until 1777, when, as Turkey grew weaker, they became dependent on Russia. In 1783 Crimea was annexed by Catherine the Great and became part of the Russian empire.

After the Crimean War (1853-56) the Russian authorities began to transfer the Tatar population from the coastal area to the interior for security reasons (they were accused of collaborating with the Turks). This was followed by mass Slavic immigration.

In 1917 the Crimean Tatars set up a *Kurultai* (National Assembly) but it was overthrown by the Bolsheviks. In 1921 the Bolsheviks created the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Initially they operated a pro-Tatar policy but later there were purges and the Tatar language and culture were repressed.

During the Second World War Crimea was occupied by the Nazis. In 1944, one month after the German retreat, the Crimean Tatar people were accused of collaboration with the enemy and were deported *en masse* (188,000 of them) by Stalin to Central Asia. Crimea was demoted from a republic to a region (*oblast*) and traces of Crimean Tatar civilisation were eliminated.

In 1945 the famous Yalta conference between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt took place in the Crimean palace of Livadia. In 1954 the region was transferred from Russia to Ukraine by Khrushchev to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Ukraine's 'union' with Russia. The area became heavily russified and by 1989 67% of its population was ethnic Russian. It was also politically very conservative - many USSR military personnel retired after service to live in Crimea.

With the liberalisation of Gorbachev's era, the Crimean Tatars began to return to the Crimea, mostly from Uzbekistan; they now represent just under 10% of Crimea's population. However, many families remain divided: some Crimean Tatars cannot yet afford to return to their homeland. Unemployment is high and housing is in short supply.

Political Background

In May1992, separatist pro-Russian forces (encouraged by the Russian parliament which viewed Crimea as part of Russia) declared the peninsula's independence and adopted a new constitution. Tensions also arose between Ukraine and Russia over the future of the Black Sea Fleet, based at Sevastopol.

At the beginning of 1994 the first (and only) president of Crimea, Yury Meshkov, was elected. He advocated Crimean independence and was supported by a large percentage of the politically conservative population. However, rifts between him and the Crimean parliament subsequently emerged, particularly on economic issues. A constitutional struggle for power developed. In 1995 the Ukrainian leadership finally took tough measures to bring Crimea under control. Ukraine abolished Crimea's 1992 constitution and the Crimean presidency. Parliamentary and government leaders with a more moderate stance towards Ukraine were subsequently elected and began work on a new constitutional arrangement.

The sheer number of Tatars returning from exile has made them a political force in Crimea (although for several years there was no representative of the Crimean Tatar minority in the Rada of Ukraine). In 1991 the Crimean Tatars set up a second *Kurultai* which asserted their right to self-determination. This initially strained relations with the Crimean authorities. However, progress has been made towards their integration and Mustafa Jemilev and Refat Chubarov (respectively Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the *Mejlis,* a representative body of the Tatar community that is not officially recognised have now limited their demands to representation and rights of the Tatar population. A large percentage of Crimean Tatars are still disenfranchised because of problems in renouncing their previous nationality (particularly the case with those returning from Uzbekistan) and acquiring Ukrainian citizenship (Ukraine outlaws dual citizenship). The Crimean Tatars are also trying to obtain guaranteed representation in the Crimean parliament.

Crimea has 10 party seats in the Supreme Rada (parliament), with the Communist and the People's Democratic Party equally represented. Deputies (MPs) from the Crimea include the Crimean Tatar leaders Chubarov and Jemilev, former Crimean Prime Minister Anatoly Franchuk and Franchuk's son, Ihor.

On 12 January 1999 the new Crimean constitution came into force. It set out guidelines for relations between Kiev and Simferopol, confirming Crimea's autonomy and granting it broad economic powers.

The Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean Tatar languages are all recognised as state languages in Crimea. In reality, only Russian is in widespread use.

Geography and Environment

The Crimean peninsula, connected with the mainland to the north by the narrow isthmus of Perekop, projects southward into the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The Kerch Strait, joining the latter and the Black Sea, separates the peninsula from the Caucasus Mountains on the east. The terrain consists predominantly of a level upland plain, an extension of the Russian steppes. The climate in the inland plains area (typified by Bakhchisarai, the historic capital of the Crimean Tatars) is fairly cold and windy in the winter and arid in the summer. The main river is the Salgir, which runs through the capital, Simferopol.

The southeastern part of the peninsula consists of a narrow coastal strip protected to the north by high mountain ranges, the Crimean Mountains. The highest peak is Roman-Kosh at 1545 metres. The mountains are covered in olive, laurel, cypress and cork oak trees and are rich in wildlife, including bears. The coastal strip has a milder climate than the rest of the Crimea and has a string of holiday resorts including Yalta. The air quality is high and there have been sanatoria here since the 19th century (the writer Anton Chekhov was one of many who moved to Yalta to recover from tuberculosis).

Domestic Economy

Crimea lags behind the rest of Ukraine on many economic indices. Crimea receives large subsidies for both agriculture and industry, although the republic has its own tax-raising powers. The main industries in Crimea are food-processing (particularly wine and tobacco) and fishing, followed by ship-building, machine-building and metallurgy (particularly in Kerch district, which has the second largest iron ore deposits in Ukraine).

The main crops in Crimea are flowers, fruit (particularly grapes), tobacco and rice (Krasnoperekop district produces 50% of Ukraine's rice harvest). The region has very little rainfall and is heavily dependent on the rest of Ukraine for water supplies.

The only branch of Crimea's economy which is not subsidised by the central government is tourism and recreation. This has been one of its main growth areas ranging from children's camps and sanatoria to Olympic sports centres and exclusive government-owned dachas (such as the one at Foros where Gorbachev was on holiday during the 1991 coup).

External Trade

Crimea is trying to develop an international reputation as a resort area. There has been some success - notably in Yalta. However, developments have been hindered by lack of investment, the paucity of Western-style hotels, as well as erratic water and electricity supplies and periodic outbreaks of cholera. Moreover, the tourism industry has attracted the interest of rival criminal gangs. In 1997, for example, the Crimean Deputy Minister for Tourism was assassinated.

Most foreign trade is with Russia and Turkey, followed by Cyprus, New Zealand and the UK.

Yalta is twinned with Margate.

DNIPROPETROVSK REGION (Russian - Dnepropetrovsk)

Population	3,940,000 (1998)
Ethnic breakdown	Ukrainian 70.3%
	Russian 23.7%

	Jews 12.6% Belarusians 12.6%
Area	32,000 square kilometres
Governor	Mykola SHVETS
First Deputy Governor	Mykola DERKACH
Capital Mayor of Dnipropetrovsk City	Dnipropetrovsk (population 1,153,000) Ivan KULICHENKO

Historical Background

The city of Dnipropetrovsk was founded in 1787 by the Russian statesman Grigory Potemkin on territory that had formerly belonged to the Cossacks. The city was originally named Yekaterinoslav in honour of Potemkin's lover, Catherine the Great. (From 1796 until 1802 it was known as Novorossiisk.) In the 1880s the coming of the railroad turned the city into an industrial centre. The city was held by Anarchists between 1917-1920 and given the name Sicheslav; it was renamed Dnipropetrovsk in 1926. The completion in 1932 of a major hydroelectric dam on the nearby Dnipr river hastened the city's industrial growth and Dnipropetrovsk became one of the main industrial cities in Ukraine. The region was occupied by the Germans from 1941 to 1943. In the 1960s Dnipropetrovsk acquired a special place in the hierarchy of Soviet cities since it was the power base of Soviet Communist Party leader, Leonid Brezhnev. Brezhnev's protege, Volodymyr Shcherbitsky (leader of the Ukrainian Communist Party from 1971 to 1989) also came from Dnipropetrovsk region.

Political Background

Dnipropetrovsk has long dominated national politics in Ukraine. In Soviet times, 53% of Ukraine's executive came from Dnipropetrovsk. Even today, the 'Dnipropetrovsk clan' - including President Kuchma and Deputy Prime Minister Tymoshenko - holds a number of key Ukrainian government posts, and former Prime Ministers Lazarenko and Pustovoitenko were also Dnipropetrovsk men.

There are 17 deputies (MPs) representing Dnipropetrovsk in the Supreme Rada (parliament). The majority of these are from the Communist or Hromada parties. Others elected in the region include former Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Tyhypko and former Presidential Adviser Dmytro Tabachnyk.

Geography and Environment

Dnipropetrovsk is located on the river Dnipr halfway between Kyiv and the Black Sea ports. It has a central coordinating position in the Dnipr Administrative Region which incorporates the other three industrial giants Donetsk, Zaporizhya and Luhansk. The region has good transport links. It has a continental climate with temperatures over 15 degrees centigrade for four months of the year.

Domestic Economy

Dnipropetrovsk contributes 9% of Ukraine's GDP and is one of the most heavily industrialised regions in the country. Its main industries are mining, machine-building, metallurgy and food-processing. The territory is also rich in mineral resources: all Ukraine's manganese deposits and 84.5% of its iron ore come from Dnipropetrovsk region.

The powerful United Energy Systems company, formerly headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tymoshenko, is based in Dnipropetrovsk and has virtually monopolised oil and gas trade with Russia, becoming one of Ukraine's largest private companies.

Agriculture accounts for around 12% of the region's total output. The soil is mostly *chernozem* (black earth) which is very fertile, but due to increased mining activities much arable land is unworkable.

External Trade

Dnipropetrovsk region was closed to foreigners until 1988 because the huge *Pivdenmash* strategic missile factory was located there (President Kuchma is a former director). These days the missile factory produces buses and Dnipropetrovsk is as keen to attract foreign investment as any other region of Ukraine, capitalising on its key position in the industrial heartland of south-east Ukraine. The region's significance in Ukraine was emphasised in 1994, when a decree by President Kravchuk gave it additional authority in the management of its foreign economic relations. The region has over 150 joint ventures.

DONETSK REGION

Population	5,377,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 50% Russians 43% Greeks 1.5% Belarusians 1.4% Jews 0.5% Tatars 0.4%
Area	26,500 square kilometres
Governor	Viktor YANYKOVYCH
First Deputy Governor	Anatoliy BLYZ
Capital	Donetsk (population 1,100,000)
Mayor of Donetsk City	Volodymyr RYBAK

Historical Background

The city of Donetsk is the capital of the *Donbass* (Donets Basin) - eastern Ukraine's great mining and industrial belt. It was founded in 1870 when a Welsh entrepreneur, John Hughes, received a concession from the Russian government to manufacture iron rails here. The community was named Yuzovka (also spelled Hughesovka) in his honour. The region developed rapidly in the 1920s. German troops occupied and severely damaged Donetsk from 1941 to 1943. The city was known as Stalino from 1924 to 1961, when the present name was adopted.

One of the region's most famous sons is the composer Sergei Prokoviev, born in Donetsk in 1890. Also from the region was Nikita Khrushchev who headed the Soviet Communist Party after Stalin's death in 1953.

Political Background

Donetsk region is a traditionally Russian-speaking area of Ukraine - 80% of its residents view Russian as their native language. Recent moves by the regional administration to increase the use of the Ukrainian language have been fiercely resisted. There have been calls for the Ukrainian and Russian languages to have equal status in the region.

Donetsk has 22 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament). They include former Prime Minister Zvyahilsky. The electorate in Donetsk region played an important role in Kuchma's victory over Kravchuk in the 1994 presidential elections. Since then the electorate in Donetsk has leaned more towards the left. The leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Petro Symonenko, is a Donetsk man. The Communist Party is now the most popular political party in the region, followed by the Socialists.

Donetsk's traditional rivalry with Dnipropetrevsk region has increased as the 'Dnipropetrovsk clan' has continued to dominate in central government. Donetsk region is also disgruntled with the current budgetary arrangements. Its leaders complain that Donetsk pays a disproportionately large share of budget revenues, more than any other region including Dnipropetrovsk, yet living standards in Donetsk are among the lowest in the country.

Donetsk's coal miners are one of the most militant labour groups in the country. They have been on strike several times in recent years to protest at non-payment of wages and mine closures.

Geography and Environment

Donetsk region is the most densely populated region in Ukraine. It lies in the steppe region of south-eastern Ukraine on the shores of the Sea of Azov. It has a long border with Russia to the east. The city of Donetsk is situated on the Kalmius river. It is a heavily industrialised city, with about 50 coal mines within the city itself. However it has won a UNESCO prize for being one of the world's cleanest industrial centres with a population over one million.

The Donbass is still feeling the effects of the Chornobyl disaster. Thousands of people evacuated from the Chornobyl exclusion zone and many of those involved in the clean-up of the disaster area now live in Donetsk region. The rate of thyroid cancer in the region has doubled since 1988.

Domestic Economy

Donetsk region ranks first in Ukraine in terms of industrial output (20.1% of GNP). However, production has fallen by 50% since 1991.

The main industries in the region are coal-mining, food-processing and the production of iron, steel, chemicals, machinery and electrical equipment.

International financial institutions are supporting the restructuring of the coal industry in Donetsk region. The coal-fired burners at the *Donbassenerho* power plant currently generate 15% of Ukraine's total energy production. Donetsk region is one of the priorities of the European TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) Programme.

External Trade

Donetsk region's main foreign trading partners are from the former USSR but the region has also developed close trade links with Israel. Natan Sharansky, the Soviet dissident who became Israeli Trade Minister, was born in Donetsk and has revisited the region recently to promote further trade.

In 1997 the State Energy Committee signed an agreement with British Petroleum giving it exclusive oil and gas exploration rights in Donetsk region. BP has since pulled out of Ukraine in all areas other than the operation of petrol stations.

Miscellaneous

The British Council has an office in Donetsk.

IVANO-FRANKIVSK REGION (Russian – Ivano-Frankovsk)

Population	1,458,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 92.1% Russians 3.9%
Area	13,900 square kilometres
Governor	Mykhailo VYSHYVANYUK
First Deputy Governor	Vasyl BROOSE
Capital	Ivano-Frankivsk (population 234,000)
Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk City	Zinoviy SHKUTYAK

Historical Background

The city of Ivano-Frankivsk has traditionally been the cultural and economic capital of the Carpathian region. It was off-limits to foreigners until 1990 due to the presence of defence-related industries located on the outskirts of the city. Founded in the 17th century on trade routes between the southern Danube and Lviv, it was soon annexed by Poland and a century later by the Habsburgs. It became the second capital of the short-lived Republic of Western Ukraine established in Lviv in the struggle for independence from Poland in 1919. Between the wars it belonged to Poland again.

During the Second World War the city was a centre for partisans who fought against both the Germans and the Russians. Until 1962, the city was known as Stanislaviv. It is now named after the Ukrainian writer Ivan Franko (born 1856). Franko was one of the most famous and prolific Ukrainian writers of the 20th century. His works such as *The Turnip Farmer* exposed the problems of Ukrainian society and led to his imprisonment.

Not far from Ivano-Frankivsk city is the town of Kolomiya, the traditional centre of the Hutzuls, ethnic Ukrainians from the Carpathian mountains, famous for their folk art. Kolomiya dates from the 13th century and was an important station on the salt trade routes between Galicia and the Black Sea.

Political Background

Ivano-Frankivsk, with a population which is 92% Ukrainian, is a strongly nationalistic region. The *Rukh* party has a stronghold here. There are 6 deputies (MPs) elected to the Supreme Rada (parliament) from Ivano-Frankivsk region, including former Presidential Adviser Oleh Lytvak. Other famous names from Ivano-Frankivsk include Stepan Havrysh, the Deputy Speaker in the Rada, and Roman Shpek, the Ukrainian Envoy to the European Union.

Geography and Environment

Situated in western Ukraine, Ivano-Frankivsk region has a mild continental climate. Its territory covers the north-east part of the Ukrainian Carpathians and borders Romania. The highest peak in the region is Mount Sivulya (1836 metres); the main rivers are the Dnistr, Prut and Cheremosh.

Domestic Economy

The major industry in Ivano-Frankivsk region is the huge chemical plant at Kalush which supplies many CIS states. The region has reserves of gas, oil, gold, manganese and brown coal. The oil and gas industry plays an important part in the domestic economy. Other industries include wood-processing and furniture-manufacture.

A high proportion of the population is engaged in agriculture and agriculture-related industries, especially forestry and food-processing. In general, the region is under-developed and reliant on exploitation of its natural resources. Decline in output in Ivano-Frankivsk region has been considerably greater than in the rest of Ukraine.

External Trade

Trade links with neighbouring countries are diverse but limited in number. Canada is a major trading partner. There are also several joint ventures with the UK, including *Bob Sopel's Travel Company* and *Manchester Shop.* Many people from the Ukrainian diaspora originated here and there is a well developed charter flight business between Manchester, London, Frankfurt and, less regularly, the USA.

KHARKIV REGION (Russian - Kharkov)

Population	3,184,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 62.5%
	Russians 33.1%
	Jews 1.5%
	Belarusians 0.7%
Area	31,400 square kilometres
Governor	Oleh DYOMIN
First Deputy Governor	Vasyl POTAPOV
Capital	Kharkiv (population 1.6 million)
Mayor of Kharkiv City	Mykhaylo PYLYPCHUK

Historical Background

Kharkiv is Ukraine's second largest city. It is situated only 40 kilometres from the Russian border. Over half of its population is Ukrainian. Kharkiv was founded in 1654 as a Cossack outpost. It was one of the first Ukrainian cities to be absorbed into Russia's sphere of influence, supporting Moscow's Tsars consistently through Cossack uprisings and campaigns against the Crimean Tatars. It grew into an important frontier fort, and became the administrative and cultural centre of Russian Ukraine in the 1760s. In 1805 Kharkiv set up Ukraine's first university. Kharkiv was the capital of Soviet Ukraine from 1917 to 1934 and was the site of the first wave of Stalin's repression against Ukrainian nationalists and intelligentsia. During the Second World War 400,000 people lost their lives in the region and most of the city was destroyed.

Political Background

The region is by tradition a Communist stronghold. There are 14 deputies (MPs) representing Kharkiv region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). These include the former Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko and former Economics Minister Viktor Suslov. Other famous names from the region include former Presidential Adviser Yevhen Kushnarev.

Given its proximity to the Russian border and a population which is 33% Russian, Kharkiv feels a very Russian city. There is some resentment towards efforts from Kyiv and Western Ukraine to introduce Ukrainian language and culture into everyday life. However, there is little separatist sentiment in the region. The Russian and Ukrainian languages have equal status and the local administration uses Russian as its working language.

In 1997 the region was the scene of large demonstrations against the decline in living standards.

Geography and Environment

Kharkiv region is located in north-eastern Ukraine and has a border with Russia to the north. Most of Kharkiv region lies in the Dnipr lowlands. The region has a mild continental climate. The main river is the Siversky Donets.

Military

Kharkiv is the site of the prestigious National Guard Academy.

Domestic Economy

Kharkiv region is heavily industrialised and is the main economic centre and transport hub of north-eastern Ukraine, with an international airport. It is famous for the manufacture of tractors, turbines and engines. one of its biggest enterprises - the *Malyshev* factory - makes T80 tanks but has diversified to produce coal-mining machinery, sugar-refining equipment and wind farm equipment. Another important local employer is *Stroyhidravlika,* a factory which makes equipment for construction and agriculture. Kharkiv is also home to the famous Antonov aircraft factory.

Kharkiv's industry has been hit hard by the economic decline since independence and factory closures have created high unemployment in the area.

Kharkiv region's local authorities were among the slowest in Ukraine to implement privatisation, particularly in the agricultural sector. The main crops are grain, sugar beet, maize, fruit and vegetables. Pig- and cattle-breeding are also important.

External Trade

Before independence, 70% of the region's trade was with Russia and 30% with the rest of Ukraine. That situation has now been more or less reversed and the region now attracts over $3 million annually in foreign investment. One of the main foreign trading partners is Poland, which opened a consulate-general in Kharkiv in 1996.

The Antonov aircraft factory has recently signed agreements to supply aircraft to Taiwan and Laos. It also has joint ventures with Germany and Turkey to produce gas cookers. The Malyshev factory supplies tanks to Pakistan. It has also set up a joint venture with British company Spencer Hammond Associates of Welwyn Garden City, producing mini tractors.

The city of Kharkiv is twinned with Manchester, Cincinnati, Lille and Nuremburg. The British Council have an office in Kharkiv.

KHERSON REGION

Population	1,283,000 (1998)

Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 73%
	Russians 19.4%
	Belarusians 1%
	Jews 0.5%
	Crimean Tatars 0.4%
Area	28,500 square kilometres
Governor	Oleksandr VERBYTSKIY
First Deputy Governor	Serhiy SHKARAPU
Capital	Kherson (population 360,000)
Mayor of Kherson City	Mykola ORDYNSKIY

Historical Background

There have been settlements on the site of Kherson since the 7th century BC when the Scythians inhabited the area. For centuries it was a Cossack stronghold but the city of Kherson itself was founded in 1778 as an outpost for Ukraine's battles with the Turks. It was named after Khersones, a Greek city on the Crimean peninsula (which is now only a ruin, having been destroyed by the Tatars in the 14th century). Kherson grew as the southern steppes were claimed by Russia and as Russian trade on the Black Sea developed. It became the cradle of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and its main industry was shipbuilding. In 1803 Kherson province was created. Large numbers of Germans moved there as traders or workers in the shipbuilding industry. One of Kherson's most famous sons was the Russian Admiral Ushakov (the main street in the city is named after him). The modern region of Kherson was founded in 1944. Many of the Germans were deported during the Second World War.

The Kherson-based training ship *Tovarishch* (Comrade) and its crew drew media attention after becoming stranded in the UK in 1995. The ship remained at North Shields for over a year because of disputes over payment for vital repairs.

Political Background

There are 6 deputies (MPs) representing Kherson region in the Supreme Rada (parliament); the majority belong to the Communist and Socialist Parties.

Geography and Environment

Kherson region is situated in southern Ukraine, in the basin of the lower Dnipr river. It has a moderate continental climate with mild winters and dry summers. The area is covered by flat plains and is bordered by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Domestic Economy

Kherson's main industry is still shipbuilding, but it has suffered greatly since Ukrainian independence. Other major industries in Kherson region are gas- and oil-refining, machine-building (especially combine harvesters), food-processing (particularly jam and fruit juices) and the manufacture of paper and fabrics. Industrial production in Kherson region is growing at a faster rate that most other regions of Ukraine.

External Trade

Kherson is a big international port handling large amounts of river and sea traffic and is famous for its floating docks. The majority of external trade is with the CIS, but Greece, Romania and the USA are also major trading partners.

A joint venture has been set up with the UK to build ships in Kherson using British equipment. British banks have invested in the Kherson-based company *Dnipro* which produces telephone exchanges.

KHMELNITSKY REGION

Population	1,524,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 90.2% Russians 5.7% Poles 2.4%
Area	20,600 square kilometres
Governor	Viktor LANDYSHEV
First Deputy Governor	Anatoliy OVCHARUK
Capital	Khmelnitsky (population 253,000)
Mayor of Khmelnitsky City	Mykhaylo CHEKMAN

Historical Background

The capital, Khmelnitsky, was formerly known as Ploskirov. It was founded as a military outpost in the late 15th century and was repeatedly pillaged by the Tatars. In the 17th century Ploskirov's inhabitants took part in uprisings led by the Cossack *hetman* (leader) Bohdan Khmelnitsky against occupying Polish forces. The city was subsequently occupied by the Turks.

In 1793 Ploskirov was taken over by the Russians and was renamed Proskurov. It burned to the ground in 1822 but later became an important trading centre. It suffered severe damage during the Second World War. In 1954 it was renamed Khmelnitsky.

The most famous town in Khmelnitsky region is perhaps Kamyanets Podilsky, which became the temporary capital of the brief Ukrainian National Republic in 1919. During the Second World War an estimated 85,000 people were killed there by the Nazis.

In Soviet times Khmelnitsky region was the site of a large nuclear missile base. However, by 1996 all the warheads were de-activated and shipped to Russia.

Political Background

There are 7 deputies (MPs) representing Khmelnitsky region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). Most of these are from the Socialist and Communist parties, including Ivan Chyzh, the leader of the *Spravedlyvist* (Justice) party.

Geography and Environment

Khmelnitsky region is located in western Ukraine in the centre of the Volyn-Podilsky Plateau. The region has a mild continental climate, with average temperatures in January- 5 degrees centigrade and in July +18 degrees centigrade. It has on average 600mm of rainfall a year. The region is covered in forest and has more than 90 rivers flowing through it including the Dnistr, the Southern Bug (on which the capital Khmelnitsky is located) and the Pripyat.

Domestic Economy

Khmelnitsky region's main industries are food-processing (particularly sugar), machine-building, wood-processing and the manufacture of clothing.

The southern part of the region has very fertile *chernozem* (black earth). The main crops are sugar beet, wheat and peas. The northern part of the region is covered in trees and marsh. Forestry is the main industry, although rye and potatoes are also grown.

Khmelnitsky's nuclear power station has been plagued by technical problems. An employee was killed in the latest accident there and a radiation leak occurred. Its workers went on strike in 1997 to complain at not having been paid for nearly a year. The nuclear power station has links with Hunterston nuclear power station in Scotland, whose employees have been sending charitable donations to their Ukrainian counterparts.

A new nuclear reactor was to have been built in the region to supplement Ukraine's electricity requirements when the Chornobyl plant (located in Kyiv region) shuts down. However the EBRD - which was to have financed the new reactor - has withdrawn its support after studies revealed that such a project was neither safe nor economically viable.

External Trade

Power engineering equipment manufactured in Khmelnitsky region is exported to China, Brazil, Egypt, Argentina, Pakistan, Malaysia and CIS countries. There are a number of joint ventures, mainly with Swedish and Swiss companies.

KIROVOHRAD REGION (Russian - Kirovograd)

Population	1,251,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 83.6%
	Russians 11.5%
	Moldovans 0.8%
	Belarusians 0.7%
Area	24,600 square kilometres
Governor	Vasyl MOTSNIY
First Deputy Governor	Mykola LAVRENK0
Capital	Kirovohrad (population 200,000)
Mayor of Kirovohrad City	Oleksandr NIKULIN

Historical Background

The city of Kirovohrad was founded in the middle of the 18th century as a fort for defence against the Tatars and Turks. At that time it was known as Elizavetgrad. It became an important trading point for grain, wool and cattle. In 1934 the city was renamed Kirovo after the famous revolutionary Sergei Kirov, whose murder that year served as the pretext for Stalin's purges. In 1939 it was given the name Kirovohrad. The city was occupied by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Political Background

There are 5 deputies (MPs) representing Kirovohrad region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). The strongest party in the region is the Communist Party. Yuliya Tymoshenko was elected to the Rada from Kirovohrad region before being appointed Deputy Prime Minister.

Geography and Environment

Kirovohrad region is in central Ukraine, between the Dnipr and Southern Bug rivers. The climate is temperate continental; the average January temperature is -5 degrees centigrade and the average July temperature is 20 degrees centigrade. The average rainfall is 445 mm per year.

Domestic Economy

The industry and agriculture of Kirovohrad region are under-developed and the income of the population generally below the national average. It is estimated that at least a third of the working population is currently on unpaid leave.

Industry employs 121,400 people in the region and provides 41% of the region's income. The main industries are food-processing (including the successful Kirovohrad Poultry Company), engineering, energy-production, building materials and non-ferrous metallurgy.

Kirovohrad has exploitable deposits of graphite, coal, nickel, iron-ore, gold, clay, kaolin and oil shale. There are also mineral water springs and 170 hectares of forest.

Kirovohrad region is rich in *chernozem* (black earth). The main crops are winter wheat, barley, corn, buck-wheat and millet, legumes, sunflower and sugar beet. The region also has extensive dairy herds.

KYIV REGION (Ukrainian - Kyiv; Russian - Kiev)

Population of Kyiv region (not including Kyiv city)	1,938,000
Ethnic Breakdown of Kyiv region (not including Kyiv city)	Ukrainians 89.2% Russians 8.6% Belarusians 0.6% Jews 0.3%
Area	28,900 square kilometres
Ethnic Breakdown of the city of Kyiv	Ukrainians 70.8% Russians 20.4% Jews 3.8% Belarusians 0.9% Poles 0.3%
Governor	Anatoly ZASUKHA
First Deputy Governor	Volodymyr SEMYANIVSKIY
Capital	Kyiv (population 2,630,000)
Mayor of Kyiv City	Oleksandr OMELCHENKO

Historical Background

Kyiv city was founded in the 5th century by Kii, Prince of the East Slavs. By the 8th century the city had become a major centre of commerce and culture. In 988 Volodymyr (Russian - Vladimir) the Great adopted Christianity and began to unite all the Slav principalities into a single state,

Kyivan Rus, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Kyiv thereby became the mother city for all Eastern Slavic peoples.

After Yaroslav's death, Kyiv began a lengthy decline only briefly stemmed in the 12th century under Volodymyr Monomakh. Separatist tendencies amongst the principalities grew and were exacerbated by the Mongol invasions which culminated in the sacking of Kyiv in 1240. (Saint Sophia's Cathedral, built in 1031, and the Caves Monastery, founded in 1073, are the only monuments of Kyivan Rus still standing in modern Kyiv, although the 12th century Mykhaylivsky church was recently rebuilt.) Kyiv's influence continued to wane and in the 14th century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania extended its control over virtually all Ukrainian land. After the 1569 Treaty of Lublin between Lithuania and Poland, most Ukrainian territory was annexed by Poland.

The Cossack *hetman* (leader) Bohdan Khmelnitsky led an uprising against the Poles and made Kyiv the centre of an independent Cossack state. In 1654 at Pereyaslav he signed an agreement with Russia bringing Kyiv under Russian control. Nevertheless the city retained its Ukrainian identity and was at the heart of the Ukrainian cultural and national movements which developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Russian authorities became alarmed at the Ukrainian cultural revival and began to suppress it, banning the Ukrainian language and exiling nationalist leaders (including the serf-turned-poet Taras Shevchenko who died in 1861 after 10 years of exile in Siberia).

Following the First World War and the abdication of the Tsar Nikolai II, a Central Rada was formed in Kyiv as a Ukrainian representative body. It refused to accept the authority of the Bolsheviks and declared a Ukrainian national republic in 1919. In 1919 Ukraine was engulfed by civil war. Six mutually hostile armies invaded the country. Finally the Red Army under General Budyenny drove the Kyiv-based Ukrainian army out of Ukraine and Ukraine's brief experience of independence came to an end. In 1922 Kyiv became the capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

During the Second World War Kyiv was occupied by the Nazis for two years; 42% of the city was destroyed. Thousands of Kyiv's inhabitants were killed at the nearby Darnytsya concentration camp. In Babiy Yar, a ravine at the edge of the city, 100,000 people were shot; many of them were Jews.

The russification of Kyiv and Ukraine increased after the Second World War under Khrushchev. The extremely conservative Kyiv-based Communist Party of Ukraine continued the process and it was only in 1989 that Ukrainian language was given official status.

Political Background

Kyiv is the capital of Ukraine and the seat of the government and the Supreme Rada (parliament). There are 8 deputies (MPs) representing Kyiv region in the Supreme Rada, the majority of them unaffiliated to any political party. Big political names from the region include the leader of the Socialist Party and former Speaker of the Supreme Rada, Oleksandr Moroz, and the former Head of the Presidential Administration, Dmytro Tabachnyk. The city of Kyiv has separate representation in the Rada - it has 12 deputies. They include former Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty.

Geography and Environment

Kyiv region is situated in central Ukraine; its northern part shares a border with Belarus. Much of the region is forest and steppe. It has a continental climate with an average of 620 mm of rainfall a

year. The average temperature in January is - 5 degrees centigrade, while in July it is +19 degrees centigrade.

The region's main rivers are the Dnipr, Pripyat, Irpin, Desna and Ros. The city of Kyiv is very green, with 40,000 hectares of woods and parks. A green belt has been created and new factories have to be built outside the city's boundaries.

In the northern part of Kyiv region is the Chornobyl nuclear power station, whose Reactor Number 4 exploded in 1986. The explosion released 90 times more radioactive material than the Hiroshima bomb. 31 people died during the explosion and a further 5,000 of those sent to clean up the area have since died of radiation sickness. An estimated 4.9 million people in northern Ukraine, southern Belarus and south-west Russia were affected by fall-out carried north-west by the prevailing winds.

Domestic Economy

The main industries in the region are food-processing (particularly sugar-production), machine-building, metallurgy and chemical manufacture. Other important industries are car and aeroplane-production, tourism and the manufacture of construction materials, clothing and paper. Although 25% of Kyiv's enterprises are running at a loss, the region has lower unemployment and higher salaries than elsewhere in Ukraine.

The main crops grown in the region are wheat, rye and barley; millet, oats, sugar beet, sunflowers, hops and vegetables are also important. Cattle-farming and pig-farming are a major source of income in the region.

External Trade

Kyiv's main trading partners are CIS countries, Canada, the US, and the UK as well as Central European states. The city of Kyiv has received more than $500 million in foreign investment since 1991.

In 1997 Ukraine signed a memorandum of understanding with the UK for British safety experts to help close down the remaining nuclear reactors at Chornobyl. BNFL won a tender to reinforce the sarcophagus over the damaged reactor.

Miscellaneous

The British Council has an office in Kyiv.

LUHANSK REGION (Russian - Lugansk)

Population	2,887,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 51.3% Russians 44.3% Belarusians 1.1% Tatars 0.4%
Area	26,700 square kilometres
Governor	Oleksandr EFREMOV
First Deputy Governor	Mykola HAPOCHKA
Capital	Luhansk (population 350,000)
Mayor of Luhansk City	Anatoliy YAGOFEROV

Historical Background

The city of Luhansk was founded in 1795 as an ironworking centre and developed when large-scale coal-mining began in the region in the 1890s. Luhansk became an administrative region of Ukraine in 1938. During World War II, the city was occupied by the Nazis. For a total of 43 years (1935-1958 and 1970-1990), the city was called Voroshilovgrad in honour of the Soviet leader (later Defence Minister) who fought in the civil war. The central square still displays two tanks seized by Voroshilov from the White Russians in 1919.

The famous 19th century writer and lexicologist Dal' was a native of Luhansk.

Political Background

Luhansk region has 12 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament), of whom the large majority are Communists. Yuly Yoffe, a former Deputy Prime Minister, was also elected in Luhansk region.

Ethnic Russians represent 44% of the population of the region and the use of Russian is widespread. In the period immediately after Ukrainian independence there were rumours of separatism in the region. These did not however come to anything.

he region's economy suffered badly during the period of transition after independence. Local miners have a strong political voice - there have been many strikes in recent years in the coal industry because of wage arrears.

Geography and Environment

Luhansk is Ukraine's easternmost region and has a long border with Russia. It has a mild continental climate and its landscape is characterised by rolling plains (the highest point, Mohyla-Mehetna, is 367 metres above sea-level). Its territory also includes part of the Donetsk coal basin. The region has 60 lakes, the biggest of which is Lake Vovche. The city of Luhansk is situated at the confluence of the Luhan and Olkhovaya rivers.

Domestic Economy

Luhansk is a major industrial centre. Coal-mining, machine-building (including railroad and mining equipment), metallurgy and the chemical industry account for 87% of Luhansk's economic activity. Only 13% is based on agriculture and food-processing.

The region's economy was hit hard by the collapse of the USSR. The coal industry in particular is suffering from a slump in the supply of machinery, a drop in the number of skilled employees (many have migrated to Russia in search of higher salaries) and competition from cheaper open-cast mines in other CIS countries. The Luhansk locomotive factory used to employ 36,000 people and produced 1500 locomotives a year. Now it produces only 120 locomotives a year and has cut its staff by two-thirds. However, other major enterprises such as the Steel Pipe Welding Factory (which receives substantial subsidies) are more successful and still fulfil state orders. Despite its economic problems, the region has remained second in Ukraine in terms of its industrial output (20% of the gross national product).

External Trade

A free trade zone has been set up in Luhansk region, in the hope of making the mining sector more profitable. There are joint ventures with Russia, Australia and Canada to exploit gas and coal deposits.

A British-Ukrainian joint venture, Britannica, has been set up in Luhansk. It manufactures telephones with Ukrainian labour and British components. These telephones are sold on the domestic market and also exported to Africa and the Middle East.

Luhansk is twinned with Cardiff.

LVIV REGION (Russian - Lvov)

Population	2,777,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 88.7% Russians 7% Poles 0.9% Jews 0.5%
Area	21,800 square kilometres
Governor	Stepan SENCHUK
First Deputy Governor	Ihor DERZHKO
Capital	Lviv (population 810,000)
Mayor of Lviv City	Vasyl KUYBIDA

Historical Background

Lviv city was founded as a hilltop fort in the 13th century by Prince Danylo Halytsky of Galicia and Volhynia (an important principality of Kyivan Rus). The city is said to be named after his son Lev (the name means 'lion', and to this day the symbol of the city is a lion).

Lviv was a strategically important city as it was located on east-west trade routes and controlled the Carpathian mountain passes. Between the 14th and 18th centuries it was ruled by Poland. During this period intense religious, social and ethnic rivalries developed between the ruling Poles and the native Ukrainian peasantry. In 1772 the region was annexed by Habsburg Austria (and modern-day Lviv still has a very Central European feel). Ukrainian national consciousness developed strongly in Lviv and there was also a large Jewish community there. The famous writer and Ukrainian nationalist Ivan Franko, author of such works as *The Turnip Farmer,* was born in Lviv in 1856.

With the collapse of the Habsburg empire at the end of the First World War, Lviv was for a few days the seat of an independent government of what was known variously as Ruthenia, Western Ukraine or East Galicia. However, Polish troops ousted this government and the region returned to Polish rule until the Second World War (except for a brief takeover by Soviet forces in 1920). In 1939 the Soviet Army invaded and Lviv came under Russian control. Between 1941 and 1944, Lviv was occupied by German forces. An estimated 500,000 people including some 136,000 Jews died in concentration camps.

After the war, Soviet forces brought all western Ukraine, including Lviv, under their control. Most Poles left for Poland. Post-war Sovietisation was a prolonged and violent process. Lviv was re-named Lvov in 1945 (it had been known as Lemberg while under Austrian, and later German, control). The Ukrainian Catholic Church (also known as the Uniate or Greek Catholic Church), based in western Ukraine, was forced underground by Stalin in 1946. It re-emerged in the late

1980s with the advent of *glasnost* to play a part in the new Ukrainian independence movement. In 1991 Ukraine became independent and Lvov was re-named Lviv.

Political Background

Lviv has long been a centre of Ukrainian nationalism of various hues - from the broadly pro-government *Rukh* party to the extreme right-wing Ukrainian National Assembly. Ukrainian is spoken by most people and anti-Russian sentiment is at its strongest here. Past conflicts beween ethnic Russians and ethnic Ukrainians in the region have included a bomb attack on the Russian cultural centre and the murder of the well-known Ukrainian composer Ihor Bilozir in 2000.

Lviv region is a stronghold of Ukrainian Catholicism. There has on occasion been conflict between Greek Catholics (Uniate) and Roman Catholics (mostly Poles) in the region.

The majority of the 12 deputies (MPs) representing Lviv in the Supreme Rada (Ukrainian parliament) belong to nationalist parties, particularly *Rukh.* Taras Chornovil, the son of the late leader of *Rukh,* was elected in the region in 2000.

The city of Lviv has developed quite close relations with Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. In 1996 Lermontov Street in Lviv was renamed Jokar Dudaev Street after the Chechen leader killed that year.

Geography and Environment

Lviv region is in the extreme west of Ukraine on the border with Poland. It has a moderate continental climate. The average temperature in January is -5 and in July +15 degrees centigrade. The average annual rainfall in the region is 660 mm. Lviv region has many forests, rivers and lakes. One of the biggest rivers in Ukraine, the Dnistr (1,362 miles long), has its source in Lviv region. The other main rivers in the region are the Western Bug, Striy and Vereshnytsya.

The Skole and Turkovsk districts of Lviv region contain part of the Ukrainian Carpathian mountain range. The range is 280 kilometres long and, on average, 1000 metres high. The highest point in Lviv region is Mount Pikui (1405 metres). The Carpathians have an average annual temperature of +6 degrees centigrade and have the highest rainfall in Ukraine. They are home to a range of rare species of flora (such as the Carpathian bluebell) and fauna (including brown bears and wolves).

Military

Lviv is the centre of the Carpathian Military District.

Domestic Economy

Lviv region is an important transport and industrial centre and has an international airport. The *Zahidenergo* power plant (one of the top 100 companies in Ukraine), the *Drohobych Halychyna oil* refinery and the LAZ bus factory are located in the region. Other important industries include the manufacture of electronic equipment, agricultural machinery, chemicals and textiles. Tourism is also important to the region's economy.

The main crops in the region are wheat, sugar beet and sunflowers. Vegetables (particularly potatoes) and flax are also grown.

Food-processing is an important part of the agricultural sector. Cattle, pigs and poultry are bred in the region.

External Trade

The LAZ bus factory has been cooperating with the French company Renault for many years. It also trades on a barter basis with Russia (swapping buses for petroleum products).

Lviv region's other main trading partners include Poland, Germany and Sweden. A Coca-Cola factory opened in Lviv in 1995. American tobacco companies have set up joint ventures in the region.

Lviv is twinned with Rochdale.

Miscellaneous

The British Council has an office in Lviv.

MYKOLAIV REGION (Russian - Nikolaev)

Population	1,360,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 73.8% Russians 18.9% Moldovans 1.2% Belarusians 1% Jews 0.8%
Area	24,600 square kilometres
Governor	Oleksiy HARKUSHKA
First Deputy Governor	Mykhaylo TULSKY
Capital	Mykolaiv (population 500,000)
Mayor of Mykolaiv City	Volodymyr CHAIKA

Historical Background

Greek settlers formed the first state on what is now Ukrainian territory in Mykolaiv region. The ancient Greek settlements of Borisfen and Olviya on the Ukrainian coast were described by Herodotus in 450 BC. The area was successively taken over by Scythians, Romans and Huns. Slav tribes arrived in the area in the 5th century and in the 9th century the region became an outpost of Kyivan Rus. In the 13th century the territory was invaded by the Mongols. From the 14th to the 16th centuries the area was held by Lithuania and Poland although the southern part of the region remained under the control of the Crimean Tatars, descendents of the Mongols. In the 17th century part of the area became a stronghold of the Zaporizhya Cossacks.

In 1788, when Russia had extended its empire over the region, the city of Mykolayiv was founded as a Russian naval base. It became an important wheat trading centre in the 19th century; however, after 1917, Stalin's forced collectivisation and purges severely curtailed the area's agricultural sector. During the Second World War the region was occupied by the German Army.

Political Background

Mykolaiv has 6 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament), divided between Communists and centrist Agrarians. Anatoly Kinakh, President of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, was also elected in Mykolaiv region.

Geography and Environment

Mykolaiv region is situated in the extreme south of Ukraine on the shore of the Black Sea. The main rivers in the region are the Dnipr, Southern Bug and Ingul (the city of Mykolaiv is located at the confluence of the latter two). The area is mostly flat with low hills. It has a mild maritime climate.

Military

Mykolaiv region is the headquarters of the Shiroky Lan military base.

Domestic Economy

Mykolaiv was the largest military shipbuilding centre in the USSR. This tradition has continued and it is now Ukraine's second biggest Black Sea port after Odessa. It is also an important industrial centre. Mykolaiv's aluminium factory is one of the biggest in Europe and is one of Ukraine's highest earning industries. Other industries in the region include machine-building (particularly construction and agricultural machinery), metallurgy, food-processing and the manufacture of clothes and glass.

The main crops grown in the region are wheat and sugar beet. Dairy cattle and poultry are also important to Mykolaiv's agricultural sector.

External Trade

The Black Sea Shipbuilding Company in Mykolaiv has successfully maintained its operations since the breakup of the USSR. It sells ships to Turkey, Greece, India and China.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping has an office in Mykolaiv.

ODESA REGION (Russian - Odessa)

Population	2,635,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 54.3%
	Russians 27.3%
	Bulgarians 6.2%
	Moldovans 5.5%
	Jews 2.6%
	Gagauz 1%
	Belarusians 0.7%
Area	33,000 square kilometres
Governor	Serhiy HRYNEVETSKY
First Deputy Governor	Mykola TYNDUK
Capital	Odessa (population 1.2 million)
Mayor of Odessa City	Ruslan BODELAN

Historical Background

Odesa is Ukraine's third largest city. The first settlement on the site of Odesa was a colony from ancient Greece. Later the area was inhabited by Tatar traders from the Crimea. The modern city was founded by Catherine the Great in 1794 as a naval fortress on territory annexed from Turkey in 1792. By the early 19th century the Russian settlement had become an important grain-exporting port and a cosmopolitan cultural centre. During the Crimean War (1853-56), Odesa was bombarded by joint French and British naval forces. In 1905 the city was the site of a workers' uprising, supported by the crew of the Russian battleship Potemkin (later immortalised in the Eisenstein film). Afterwards there were severe reprisals and 80,000 out of a population of 600,000 fled. Between 1917-20 Odesa was variously occupied by Bolsheviks, Germans and Austrians, French and Allied forces, White Russians and Bolsheviks again. This was followed by famine in 1921-22. Odesa was occupied from 1941 to 1944 by German and Romanian forces; it suffered heavy damage and many civilians were killed by the occupying armies. Before the Second World War, half of Odesa's population was Jewish. Today, the Jewish population has almost entirely disappeared.

The city of Odesa has always had a cosmopolitan air. It was built by French and Italian architects and was open to foreign influence through its maritime trading links. Greek traders held high status in Odesa under Catherine the Great and even today most of Greece's trade with Ukraine is handled through Odesa. In the 1990s smart new Greek, Jewish and Italian restaurants began to reappear in the old mansions that line Odesa's main boulevards.

Past associations make Odesa dear to both Russians and Ukrainians. The poet Pushkin lived in exile here in the 1820s and it has also been home to many other famous writers such as Babel and Mickiewicz as well as artists and musicians.

The Western part of Odesa region, previously known as southern Bessarabia, was under Moldovan and Turkish rule from the 15th century until 1812; it was part of Russia from 1812 until 1918 and was ruled by Romania from 1918-1940 and 1941-1944. In 1944 it was annexed from Romania by the USSR. After the collapse of the Soviet Union there were prolonged negotiations between Romania and Ukraine over southern Bessarabia. In 1997 the two countries signed a treaty confirming their existing border.

Political Background

There are 11 deputies (MPs) representing Odesa region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). major parties represented in the region include the Agrarians and Communists, as well as independent deputies such as the former Mayor of Odesa, Eduard Hurvitz.

During his time as mayor in the 1990s, Hurvitz helped the Odesa city administration acquire a reputation for dynamism. However, there was rivalry between the city administration and the regional administration (at that time led by the present mayor, Bodelan). Rumours of corruption were rife and in 1998 Kuchma sent the then Deputy Prime Minister, Biloblotsky, to serve as temporary mayor until the dispute was resolved. Kuchma then appointed Serhiy Hrynevetsky as Governor (head of the regional administration). Hurvitz left to become a Rada Deputy, and Bodelan was elected Mayor with government support.

Geography and Environment

Odesa region is situated in the extreme south-west of Ukraine on the Black Sea Coast. It borders three other regions of Ukraine (Vinnitsya, Kirovohrad and Mikolaiv) as well as Romania and Moldova. Odesa region has river access to Central and Eastern Europe. The Dnipr and Dnistr rivers flow through the region. The region has a dry mild climate with relatively short winters.

Military

In 1998 Odesa Military District was renamed the Southern Operational Command.

Domestic Economy

Odesa is Ukraine's biggest commercial port. It also is a major manufacturing and transport centre with railway links to all the main cities in Ukraine. It has a dynamic, progressive feel to it and has outpaced all other Ukrainian regions in implementing privatisation. As a result Odesa region has fared better than many others since Ukraine became independent. Living standards are relatively high although the average wage is only around $85 per month.

The main industries in the region are machine-building, metallurgy, oil-refining, food-processing and the manufacture of plastics, pharmaceuticals and clothing.

Odesa's oil terminal is currently being modernised. Near Odesa a new oil terminal is being built at Yuzhnoe despite fierce controversy during which environmental arguments have been used both for and against the project.

Despite being a busy industrial city with polluted seas, Odesa is a flourishing holiday resort centre in the summer. Thousands flock to its sanatoria where the curative mud from the *limani* (estuaries cut off from the sea) near Odesa is greatly valued for its healing properties.

Odesa is a major academic and cultural centre. It has many institutions of higher education and a famous music conservatoire to which students are still sent from all over the former Soviet Union. The city also has many theatres and film studios (including the famous Odesa Film Studios which produced many classics of Soviet cinema).

Almost 80% of land in Odesa region is used for agriculture. The region has high quality *chernozem* (black earth) but low rainfall means that extensive irrigation is required. The main crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, maize, soya, sugar beet, sunflowers (for seed, oil, and cattle fodder), tomatoes, soft fruits, grapes (Odesa region is famous for its champagne), vegetables, livestock and dairy produce.

External Trade

Odesa region has been criticised by the central Ukrainian government for 'riding ahead of the hounds' when it comes to external economic relations. It was the first region in Ukraine to propose setting up a free economic zone. Odesa trades mainly with the Baltic States, Israel, Greece and Germany. Trade links have also been developed with the Georgian port of Poti for a transport corridor to bring Caspian oil to Ukraine. A British-Ukrainian joint venture, Odesa Sugar, has been set up with Tate and Lyle.

Odesa region is a member of the Assembly of European Regions. It is also a member of the Commonwealth of Countries on the Danube and has links to regions in Italy, Greece, Turkey and Japan as well as to the UK (Odesa is twinned with Liverpool).

Miscellaneous

The British Council has an office in Odesa.

POLTAVA REGION

Population	1,771,000 (1998)
Ethnic Background	Ukrainians 86.7%
	Russians 10.1%
	Belarusians 0.5%
Area	28,800 square kilometres
Governor	Yevhen TOMIN
First Deputy Governor	Volodymyr ANDRIENKO
Capital	Poltava (population 325,000)
Mayor of Poltava City	Anatoliy KUKOBA

Historical Background

The city of Poltava is one of the oldest settlements in Ukraine - it existed as early as the 7th century AD. In 12th century manuscripts it is called Ltava or Oltava and was at that time a border town of the Pereyaslavsky principality. At the beginning of the 13th century it was destroyed by the Mongols. Poltava was given its current name by the Lithuanians who extended their control over the region in 1430. In the 17th century Poltava became a Cossack town. Its citizens took part in the Khmelnitsky-led uprising of 1648-54 against the Poles. At the end of the 17th century the city was laid waste by the Crimean Tatars.

In 1709 Peter the Great's forces in Poltava decisively defeated the combined forces of Sweden's Charles XII and the Ukrainian Cossack leader Ivan Mazepa. This ended Sweden's expansionist ambitions in the region; it also ended hopes for an independent Cossack state and paved the way for Russian domination in Ukraine. The region became a province of Russia in 1802. After the revolution a high proportion of the population died during the forced collectivisation of the 1930s and Stalin's purges. The region also suffered massive damage and loss of life during the Second World War.

Political Background

There are 8 deputies (MPs) representing Poltava region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). The majority of these are Communist Party members. Independents elected in Poltava region include the former Minister for Emergency Situations Hryhory Omelchenko. The Deputy Defence Minister, Oleksandr Stetsenko, is also from Poltava.

Geography and Environment

Poltava region is located in central Ukraine on the eastern bank of the river Dnipr. It is partly covered in wooded steppe. The city of Poltava is set on three hills on the river Vorskla. The region's other main rivers are the Psyel and Sula. Poltava region has a mild continental climate.

Domestic Economy

Poltava is one of the biggest industrial centres in north-east Ukraine and is an important transport centre. Its main industries include machine-building (especially locomotives) oil and gas, metalworking and the manufacture of building materials, fabric and clothes.

The main crops grown in the region are wheat, sunflowers, vegetables and tobacco. The area is also famous for cattle and pig-breeding. Poltava has been one of the most successful regions in Ukraine in carrying out farm privatisation.

External Trade

Avtokraz, a manufacturer of heavy goods vehicles based in the city of Kremenchug in Poltava region, exports to India and Egypt. Kremenchug has also benefited from Japanese investment in its oil-processing plant.

A British company, JKX Oil and Gas, has set up a joint venture in Poltava to extract oil and gas from the Novomykolaivsk-Rudenkovsk deposit.

RIVNE REGION (Russian – Rovno)

Population	1,187,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 91.4% Russians 4.5% Belarusians 1.3%
Area	20,100 square kilometres
Governor	Mikhail SOROKA
First Deputy Governor	Elbrus ABDULAEV
Capital	Rivne (population 250,000)
Mayor of Rivne City	Viktor CHAYKA

Historical Background

Rivne once formed the central part of the historic Volyn region of Ukraine. Many of its towns, including Korets, Dubno and Ostrih, are mentioned in the oldest Ukrainian literature and the city of Rivne dates back to at least the 13th century. The region became a part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1457 and subsequently came under Polish rule. In the 18th and 19th centuries, though officially part of the Russian empire, Rivne was the 'capital' of what was virtually the private kingdom of the Polish Lubomirsky family (the Lubomirskys even maintained their own army). In 1917 the Bolsheviks seized the region, only to cede it to Austria-Hungary in 1918. In 1921 the region again came under Polish control. In 1939, as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Rivne became part of Soviet Ukraine. During the Second World War, it was occupied by the Nazis. They used Rivne as their administrative capital in Ukraine: the old city was thoroughly destroyed as a result of fierce fighting.

Political Background

There are 5 deputies (MPs) representing Rivne region in the Supreme Rada (parliament), the majority of whom are members of the nationalist *Rukh* party.

Geography and Environment

Rivne region is located in north-west Ukraine on the boarder with Belarus. Its highest point is 341 metres above sea level. It has many rivers, the largest of which are the Pripyat, Goryn and Styr. Much of the region is covered in forest. Seven northern districts of Rivne region have been contaminated by radioactivity from the Chornobyl disaster.

Domestic Economy

The city of Rivne is a major industrial centre. Its main industries are machine-building and food-processing. Electrical equipment, tractors, chemicals, concrete and linen are also manufactured in

the region. The region has extensive mineral resources, including one of the largest basalt deposits in Europe as well as construction and facing stones, amber and phosphates.

The EBRD has been involved in discussions over funding the construction of a new nuclear reactor in Rivne to replace Chornobyl. The existing nuclear power station in Rivne has been plagued with safety problems.

Agriculture in the region is based on the growing of sugar beet, hops, flax, wheat and potatoes. The region is part of the fertile *chernozem* (black earth) area but agricultural production has been badly affected by the Chornobyl disaster.

External Trade

Rivne region trades with 62 countries. Its main exports are construction materials, fertilisers, sugar and wood. Its main imports are oil and petroleum products and cotton. There are around 200 joint ventures. Two of the largest, *AD Zoria* and *Rise-Invest,* are with British partners.

SUMY REGION

Population	1,431,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 85.2%
	Russians 13.2%
Area	23,800 square kilometres
Governor	Volodymyr SHCHERBAN
First Deputy Governor	Mykola KOVALENKO
Capital	Sumy (population 200,000)
Mayor of Sumy City	Oleksandr ANDRONOV

Historical Background

Sumy region was inhabited by the Scythians as early as the 7th century BC and became their stronghold. It was later occupied by Slavic tribes and became part of Kyivan Rus in the 9th century. It was the subject of many wars between feuding principalities. The famous epic poem *The Tale of Ihor's Campaign* describes Prince Ihor Svyatoslavovych's battle with Novgorod principality to gain control of Sumy region. In 1239 Mongol Hordes invaded the region, destroying its cities. Part of modern-day Sumy region was taken over by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 14th century. Following the truce with Lithuania in 1503, the region came under Russian control. At the beginning of the 17th century Poland colonised the area.

The city of Sumy was founded in 1653 as a fortress by rebel serfs and Cossacks fleeing Polish rule. The city was subject to many attacks by the Tatars. The area later came under Russian control, and in 1708 Peter the Great set up a military council and kept the whole Russian army here before doing battle with the Swedes. The region subsequently became part of Kharkiv province. Sumy region was created in 1939. The modern city of Sumy still has a number of buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries, despite the destruction caused by the Second World War, when it was occupied by the Nazis.

Political Background

Sumy region has 6 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament), mainly from the Communist and Peasant Parties. Also elected in the region was Natalya Vitrenko, leader of the Progressive

Socialist Party. The Prime Minister, Viktor Yushchenko, and the Education Minister, Vasyl Kremin, are also from Sumy region.

Geography and Environment

Sumy region is located in north-east Ukraine on the border with Russia. It is part of the forest steppe zone in the basin of the river Dnipr. There are 132 rivers in the region. The city of Sumy is located on the shores of the rivers Psyel and Sumka.

Domestic Economy

Sumy region has a well-developed agricultural sector. Its main crops are orchard fruit, wheat and sugar beet. The region is also famous for its cattle-breeding.

Sumy region has suffered an economic and commercial recession since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Its main industries are machine-building and the manufacture of chemicals, pumps, electrical equipment and electronic microscopes and the region has potentially lucrative oil and gas deposits. A number of tourist resorts and sanatoria are also located in the region.

External Trade

Sumy region has traditionally had a strong trading profile due to its geographical location. Since the breakup of the USSR, trade has concentrated on Russia, Belarus and Poland. There are a number of joint ventures in the oil and gas sector, particularly with Canada. There is also a joint venture with the Czech Republic for processing titanium.

TERNOPIL REGION (Russian - Ternopol)

Population	1,178,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 95.5% Russians 2.2%
Area	13,800 square kilometres
Governor	Vasyl KOLOMIYCHUK
First Deputy Governor	Oleh KARAVANSKIY
Capital	Ternopil (population 170,000)
Mayor of Ternopil City	Anatoliy KUCHERENKO

Historical Background

The exact date of the founding of the city of Ternopil is not known, but there is a reference to its destruction in 1524 by the Mongols. In 1540 a fortress was built here and a town grew up around it. The town was variously captured by the Lithuanians, Poles and Hungarians before being virtually destroyed by the Turks in 1675. Ten years later it fell under Polish rule again, but in 1772 most of Ternopil region became part of Austria. In 1918 it briefly became part of the People's Republic of Western Ukraine before falling to Poland again. In 1939 it became part of Soviet Ukraine under the terms of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Although the Second World War took a heavy toll, the city of Ternopil still has architectural echoes of its historic past. One of the most famous monuments is the 450-year-old Zavyzhenska Church where the Cossack leader Bogdan Khmelnitsky gathered his troops before fighting the Poles in Zboriv in 1649. Ternopil is also famous as being the first place to publish the book *Dnistr*

Mermaid (written in 1837 by the authors Shashkevich, Vagilevich and Holovatsky) which marked the revival of the Ukrainian language.

Ternopil region is thronged with Christian pilgrims during religious festivals - the Pochaiv monastery in Ternopil region is the second largest monastery in Ukraine and its site is sacred to devout Orthodox Ukrainians.

Political Background

There are 5 deputies (MPs) representing Ternopil region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). The majority of these are from the nationalist *Rukh* party. Bohdan Boiko, the former Head of Ternopil Regional Administration, was also elected in the region.

Geography and Environment

Ternopil is located in western Ukraine on the treeless Podilsky plateau; its highest point is 432 metres above sea level. The main rivers in the region are the Dnistr, Zbruch, Nichlava, Seret and Zolota Lypa.

Domestic Economy

Ternopil is part of the fertile *chernozem* (black earth) region and its main crops are sugar beet, wheat and tobacco.

The main industry in the region is food-processing, followed by machine-building and the manufacture of electrical fittings, car parts, china, artificial leather and textiles. Ternopil is the largest producer of consumer goods in Ukraine.

External Trade

Most external trade is with CIS countries. Major investors in the area include the USA and Canada (Ternopil has close contacts with the Ukrainian diaspora in those countries).

VINNYTSYA REGION

Population	1,908,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 92.1%
	Russians 9.8%
	Jews 1.3%
	Poles 0.4%
Area	26,500 square kilometres
Governor	Yury IVANOV
First Deputy Governor	Petro CHEREVKO
Capital	Vinnytsya (population 387,000)
Mayor of Vinnytsya City	Volodymyr VAKHOVSKI

Historical Background

The city of Vinnitsya was founded in 1363 and was controlled by Lithuania and Poland with frequent Cossack uprisings until 1793, when Russia took over the area. Vinnytsya region itself was created in 1932. During the Second World War a mass grave was discovered there containing about 10,000 victims of Stalin's purges of 1937-39.

Political Background

There are 8 deputies (MPs) representing Vinnytsya region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). These include members of the Communist and People's Democratic Parties. Anatoly Matvienko, former Chairman of the People's Democratic Party, was Head of Vinnytsya Regional Administration until 1998 when he was elected to the Rada. Petro Poroshenko, leader of the Ukrainian Solidarity Party, and Oleksandr Stoyan, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, were also elected to the Rada from Vinnytsya Region.

Geography and Environment

Vinnytsya region is in central Ukraine. The Southern Bug river runs through the region. Vinnytsya is relatively rich in natural resources, including more than 30 types of minerals. There are particularly large deposits of kaolin, pellicanite, fluorite and bentonite. The region has a mild continental climate.

Domestic Economy

Vinnytsya's economy is 37% agricultural and 40% industrial (although the region is not highly developed - its industrial output comprises only 2% of Ukraine's total industrial output). The main industries are food-processing (Vinnytsya is the Ukraine's leading sugar-producing region), energy-production, machine-building, metallurgy and the manufacture of chemicals and petrochemicals. Two of the biggest factories in the region are the State Cartographic Factory (Ukraine's only map producer) and the Kristall Factory (which cuts and polishes diamonds).

2,027,200 hectares are used for agriculture and there are 709 collective farms and 846 private farms in Vinnytsya reqion.

External Trade

Vinnytsya region trades with 73 countries. 47.4% of its trade is with EU countries, mainly Belgium, Germany and Ireland. Major exports are spirits and other alcoholic drinks (28.4%), sugar (10.9%), clothes (10.2%), precious stones and metals (9.3%) and soap and glycerine (4.6%). The region's main imports are minerals, fuel, fish, cement, plastics, paper and chemicals.

The USA, Canada, Israel, Poland, Germany and Hungary have been major investors. 16% of foreign investment has been directed into the food industry. There are 240 joint ventures registered in the region.

VOLYN REGION

Population	1,075,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 93.1% Russians 4.3%
Area	20,000 square kilometres
Governor	Borys KLIMCHUK
First Deputy Governor	Vitaliy ZAREMBA
Capital	Lutsk (population 216,000)
Mayor of Lutsk City	Anton KRIVITSKY

Historical Background

The city of Lutsk is said to have been founded by Volodymyr of Kiev in about 1000 AD. It became part of the Galician-Volynian Principality when Kyivan Rus broke up. Taken over by Lithuanians in the 14th century, it grew in trade importance despite occasional Mongol attacks. It came under Polish influence in 1569. Russia took over the area in 1795. Between the First and Second World Wars Lutsk was back under Polish rule. The centrepiece of the town is Lubart's castle, named after the Lithuanian prince who built it in the 14th century.

Political Background

Volyn region has 5 deputies (MPs) representing it in the Supreme Rada (parliament). The centre-left Agrarian party and the centrist People's Democratic Party are strong in the region. Politicians from Volyn include Mykola Zhulynsky, the Deputy Prime Minister; Oleksandr Skipalsky, the former Head of Military Counter-Intelligence in the Ukrainian Security Service and now Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations; and Anton Buteiko, Deputy Foreign Minister.

The regional administration is more Western-orientated than in many other regions of Ukraine and their close relationship with Poland has had a liberalising influence on their views on economic and political development.

Geography and Environment

Volyn is in western Ukraine, bordering on Belarus to the north and Poland to the west. It has a mild continental climate. It has many forests and more than 220 lakes. The main river is the Pripyat.

Domestic Economy

Nearly 40% of the population work in industry, 33% in agriculture and the remainder mostly in transport and construction. Unemployment is very high. The Volyn coalfields have been exhausted. There are enough gas deposits (particularly at Lokachi, which has reserves of nearly 8 billion cubic metres) to supply the region for 10 years, but the infrastructure for gas extraction is not yet in place. Other natural resources include peat, copper, lead, phosphates, sapropel (for use in fertiliser) and basalt for the construction industry. Industries include food-processing, chemical-production, the manufacture of ball-bearings, plastic, construction materials, footwear, furniture and fabrics.

Most enterprises have suffered from the dislocation which affected much of Ukraine's industry following independence. Some, however, have successfully attracted foreign capital, for example the Soviet-built factory *Kovelsilmash* (in Kovel, a small town in central Volyn) which now produces agricultural machinery under the name 'Bizon Ukraine' in association with a Polish company. The *LuAZ* factory in Lutsk produces the Volyn vehicle, Ukraine's answer to the small jeep. The regional authorities also believe that there is considerable potential for developing wood-processing and timber production.

Agriculture is very important in Volyn region - the growing, harvesting and processing of flax is one of Volyn's major industries. However, equipment is outdated and the infrastructure poor and further processing is done outside the region. The other main crops include potatoes, sugar beet and grain. The region is also famous for its beef cattle and has received international recognition for developing a new beef breed, the Volyn.

External Trade

Volyn is part of the 'Bug Euroregion' formed in 1992 with Lviv Region and five eastern Polish provinces to promote economic regeneration.

Most foreign investment in Volyn comes from Poland. 150 joint ventures have been set up.

ZAKARPATTYA (Transcarpathia)

Population	1,279,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 76.3% Hungarians 12.1% Russians 3.8% Romanians 2.3%
Area	12,800 square kilometres
Governor	Victor BALOHA
First Deputy Governor	Anatoliy KOLIBABA
Capital	Uzhgorod (population 125,000)
Mayor of Uzhgorod City	Stepan SEMBER

Historical Background

The capital Uzhgorod is 4km from the Slovak border and 25km from the Hungarian border. Uzhgorod is the southern gateway to the Ukrainian section of the Carpathian mountains. It has large Hungarian and Romanian minorities. Transcarpathia was first settled by Slavs in the 8th century AD and Uzhgorod has existed since at least 903 AD (when it was known as Ungvar). In the 10th century the region became part of Kyivan Rus and was given the name Prykarpatska Rus. Transcarpathia was a part of Hungary or the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the 10th century until the end of the First World War, apart from periods in the 16th and 17th centuries when Transylvanian or Cossack revolts took place.

During the 18th century the Ukrainian Catholic Church (Uniate Church) persuaded the peasants, traditionally Orthodox believers, to adopt Catholicism. This helped foster a form of Ruthenian identity in what became a corner of the Habsburg empire. At the end of the First World War Transcarpathia was incorporated into the new state of Czechoslovakia. Pro-German Hungary annexed its southern districts, including Uzhgorod, in November 1938 and the rest in March 1939 (after an independent state, Carpatho-Ukraine, had existed for one day).

Hungary occupied the region until 1944, when German troops moved in. The Red Army conquered the region six months later. At the end of the Second World War Transcarpathia was incorporated into the USSR as the Zakarpattya region of Ukraine.

Political Background

Zakarpattya has 5 deputies (MPs) in the Supreme Rada (parliament), including the Head of the Society for Hungarian Culture, Mykola Kovach. The centrist United Social Democratic Party of Ukraine is one of the strongest parties in the region. The Minister for Emergencies, Vasyl Durdynets, and the Ambassador to Hungary and Slovenia, Orest Klympush, are also from Zakarpattya region.

Zakarpattya has large ethnic minority groups who have a strong political voice. The Hungarian minority in particular have complained about language legislation which they feel does not give sufficient priority to the Hungarian language.

Geography and Environment

Zakarpattya region is in the far western corner of Ukraine and has borders with Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland. It claims to be located in the geographical centre of Europe and has a monument marking the site, near the town of Rakhov. The region incorporates the Carpathian mountain range - the highest peak is Mount Hoverla at 2061 metres. There are more than 27 nature reserves in the region as well as the Karpatsky National Park. The main rivers are the Tisa, Borzhava and Tereblya.

Domestic Economy

There is a high level of unemployment in the region and many locals cross into Hungary, Romania or Slovakia to search for work. Zakarpattya has the lowest industrial output of all Ukraine's regions.

The main industries in Zakarpattya are food-processing, machine-building, metal-working and the manufacture of chemicals and paper. The largest enterprises are the Mukacheve Construction Factory, Mukacheve Ski factory, Vinohradiv Plastics and Plumbing and Irshava Abrasives Factory.

The region has favourable conditions for agriculture; the main crops are grapes, vegetables, winter grain and corn. Cattle and sheep are reared in the mountain areas.

Zakarpattya region has a well-developed tourism and recreation sector with a number of health resorts, ski-centres and mineral spas (particularly in Svaliava). There is a unique holiday-centre for asthmatics at Solotvyna, where sufferers stay in underground cabins in salt-mines. The region is rich in mineral deposits, including black coal, iron and copper ores, barites and rock salt.

External Trade

Hungary is the main foreign investor, followed by the USA, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Russia.

ZAPORIZHYA REGION (Russian - Zaporozhe)

Population	2,116,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 61.8% Russians 31.3% Bulgarians 1.6% Belarusians 0.8% Jews 0.6%
Area	27,200 square kilometres
Governor	Oleksiy KUCHERENKO
First Deputy Governor	Yevhen KABANOV
Capital	Zaporizhya (population 900,000)
Mayor of Zaporizhya City	Oleksandr POLYAK

Historical Background

Zaporizhya, formerly the domain of Scythians, Huns and Pechenegs, was captured by Prince Svyatoslav of Kyiv in the 9th century. From the middle of the 11th century the area was taken over by Polovtsians, then Mongol Hordes, then Crimean Tatars. Lithuania and then Poland took over the area in the 14th century. In the 15th century, a new society, the Cossacks, began to form in Zaporizhya. The Cossacks were originally groups of hunters, peasants fleeing serfdom and criminals and took their name from the Turkic word *kazak,* meaning outlaw, adventurer or free person. By the 16th century the Cossacks had developed a democratic military organisation headed by a *hetman* (chieftain). Khortytsya Island, situated below the rapids on the river Dnipr, became the *Sich* (fortified base) of the Zaporizhya Cossacks. Relations between the Cossacks and the Polish authorities were tense. In 1648, after the *hetman* Bohdan Khmelnitsky led a huge insurrection against the Poles, there were bloody reprisals against the Ukrainian population. Khmelnitsky subsequently formed a Cossack state (based in Kyiv). But, because he could not maintain independence from Poland without help, in 1554 he signed a treaty at Peryaslav which led to Russian rule of Ukraine. Zaporizhya became an important trading route and Russia found it necessary to try to suppress the turbulent Cossacks. In 1775 Russian troops returning from the Turkish front destroyed the Cossack *Sich* at Zaporizhya.

The modern city of Zaporizhya was founded in 1927. The name Zaporizhya means 'beyond the rapids'. The rapids on the river Dnipr used to be 40km long and made navigation of the Dnipr virtually impossible. Now the rapids are submerged by the lake behind Zaporizhya's hydroelectric dam, completed in 1932. Workers were brought from all over the Soviet Union to build Zaporizhya's factories and its dam (and to rebuild it after it was destroyed by the Nazis in the Second World War). As a result, Zaporizhya is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Ukraine, with citizens of Central Asian and Caucasian origin as well as Slavs.

Zaporizhya is a major industrial city - the main street is called Metallurgist Avenue - and has long suffered from air pollution. To combat this the local council declared in the 1950s that a tree should be planted for every child born in the city. This policy, and the recent recession which has closed down many polluting factories, has made modern Zaporizhya a much greener city than in its industrial heyday.

Zaporizhya is the site of a 700-year-old oak tree which is said to be the place where the Cossacks wrote their famous letter insulting the Turkish Sultan, immortalised in Repin's picture.

Political Background

Zaporizhya region has 9 deputies (MPs) representing it in the Supreme Rada (parliament), the majority of them from the Communist and Socialist Parties. Other politicians from the region include the former First Deputy Prime Ministers Holubchenko and Kuratchenko. Oleksandra Kuzhel, the Head of the State Committee for Enterprise, is also from the region.

Its multicultural population has ensured that Russian rather than Ukrainian is still the *lingua franca* in Zaporizhya and the region still has strong ties with Russia. The region has been criticised by the nationalist *Rukh* party for its adherence to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (subordinated to the Moscow Patriarchate) rather than the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate). *Rukh* complained that one of its members had been arrested in Zaporizhya for singing the Ukrainian national anthem.

Geography and Environment

Zaporizhya region is located in southern Ukraine on the shores of the Sea of Azov. It is mostly covered by steppe and its highest point is 240 metres above sea level. It has a relatively mild

continental climate with little rainfall but there are dry east winds and the area is known for its 'black storms'. The main river in the region is the Dnipr.

Domestic Economy

Zaporizhya region is one of the most important in Ukraine in terms of industrial output, producing 9.2% of the gross national product. The local authorities are reform-minded and the region is second only to Odesa in terms of successful privatisation.

Important local industries include *AvtoZaz* (which is Ukraine's only car manufacturer and employs 20,000 people), Zaporizhya dam hydroelectric power station, the metallurgy complex (including *ZaporizhStal,* one of Ukraine's top-earning companies) and chemical industries. The main crops grown in the region are grain and pulses.

Zaporizhya is the site of the largest nuclear power station in Europe. It has been plagued by safety problems.

External Trade

There are a number of joint ventures in the region, particularly with CIS countries, but also with South Korea and Italy (motor cars) and Germany (air and rail transport), Slovakia, Estonia and Vietnam.

ZaporizhStal steel plant has been granted credits by Japan under an official aid scheme. The *Motor Sich* factory provides engines for a combat aircraft developed jointly by Pakistan and China.

HYTOMYR REGION (Russian - Zhitomir)

Population	1,507,000 (1998)
Ethnic Breakdown	Ukrainians 86.6% Russians 8% Poles 4.6% Jews 1.4%
Area	29,900 square kilometres
Governor	Volodymyr LUSHKIN
First Deputy Governor	Mykola RUDCHENKO
Capital	Zhytomyr (population 160,000)
Mayor of Zhytomyr City	Anatoliy FESENKO

Historical Background

The city of Zhytomyr was founded in the 7th century and is said to be named after a soldier of Kyivan Rus, Zhytomyr, who fell asleep on the river bank where the town was later built. The town was almost destroyed by the Mongol Hordes in 1240. Zhytomyr region is famous for the support its Cossacks gave to Bohdan Khmelnitsky in his struggle against the Poles from 1648-54. In the 19th century Zhytomyr was the capital of Volyn Province. Zhytomyr region was created in 1937. During the Second World War it was occupied by the Nazis and the wooded parts of the region became the hiding place of the Ukrainian resistance movement.

The writer Joseph Conrad was born in the village of Terekhov in Zhytomyr region in 1857. Zhytomyr is also famous as the birthplace of the writer Larysa Kosach (1871-1913), better known

as Lesya Ukrainka, one of the most distinguished poets in the Ukrainian language. Her most famous works are *Hope against Hope* and *On the Wings of Song.*

Political Background

Although the region's population is 86% Ukrainian, Zhytomyr voters have proved more centrist than nationalist. There are six deputies (MPs) representing Zhytomyr region in the Supreme Rada (parliament). Both the Communist Party and the centrist People's Democratic Party have many supporters in the region. Former Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk is from Zhytomyr.

Geography and Environment

Zhytomyr region is situated in northern Ukraine on the border with Belarus. It is covered in wooded steppe and has more than 200 rivers, the largest being the Teteriv on which the city of Zhytomyr is located.

Zhytomyr was one of the areas of Ukraine most contaminated by the Chornobyl accident. As a result of deaths caused by the disaster and the subsequent large numbers of people moving away from the region, its population has dropped by nearly 30,000 in the last ten years.

Domestic Economy

The city of Zhytomyr is a major transport hub. The region's main industries are machine-building, forestry and the manufacture of chemicals, optical equipment, fabrics and porcelain. The area is rich in mineral deposits including iron ore, zircon and diamonds and has one of the world's richest deposits of titanium.

The area is predominantly agricultural; the main crops are wheat, potatoes, flax, hops (Zhytomyr region is Ukraine's leading hop-producer) and sugar beet. There are a number of spas, holiday resorts and game reserves (especially for the shooting of wild boar) in the region. However, Zhytomyr's agricultural and tourism sectors have been devastated after nuclear fallout from Chornobyl covered the region in 1986.

Foreign Trade

The Irshansk iron ore processing-plant in Zhytomyr region has set up a joint venture with a US company and has received $6 million in investment. The famous Zhytomyr brewery has set up a joint venture with the Czech Republic. There are several joint ventures with Poland, reflecting Zhytomyr's large Polish minority.