

On Putin's Stance : There is No Ukraine in History

compiled by - Wolfgang Wiesner - for

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The following article is based on a Chinese evaluation of Vladimir Putin's above quoted stance, published by 搜狐 on 6 May 2023.



In ancient times, the transportation capacity was low, and long-distance trade required the use of river transportation. Being blessed with many rivers, the Eastern European grasslands became an important trade route for the Vikings in Northern Europe to do business with the Byzantine Empire in Southern Europe.

In 862 A.D., a "remarkable man" appeared, — **Rurik**. Rurik was known as, both, an intelligent man and a fierce fighter, and he had become the head of a Viking warrior group, responsible for maintaining the safety of the trade route. Rurik who passed through the Slavic territory all the year round, became acquainted with the Slavic people.

The Slavic tribes always liked to invite him as an advisor to settle litigations. Rurik not only brought advanced technology and culture , but also integrated the scattered Slavic tribes, and thus established the **first dynasty in Russia** - the Rurik Dynasty. The Rurik dynasty was first established in Novgorod in the north, close to the cold Nordic regions where the Vikings lived. With Rurik himself being a Viking, it is no wonder that Russia's cultural traditions are more biased towards Northern Europe.



After Rurik died, a man named Oleg (said to be Rurik's brother-in-law) inherited his legacy. Oleg led his troops to the south, occupied Kiev (now the capital of Ukraine), and moved his new capital there. The new state became known as „Kievan Rus“.

That is why the Chinese evaluation comes to the conclusion that „*Ukraine became the germ cell of Russia*“. Russia's history should therefore be rather simple: „*There are only two dynasties in total, one is called the Rurik dynasty and the other is called the Romanov dynasty. The Rurik dynasty lasted about 700 years and the Romanov dynasty about 304 years.*“

But what about the *Rurik dynasty's fate* during those 700 years (900-1600 AD) ?

In 1240, when Mongolian warriors of the „Golden Horde“ reached the Eastern European grasslands, they quickly conquered the state of „Kievan Rus“ and which had been originally founded by the Vikings Rurik and Oleg. Ukraine therefore became *Mongolian territory* for the next 300 years.



After Mongolian rule finally declined, the **Grand Duke of Lithuania** was able to fight the remaining intruders back. In 1569, he integrated the liberated regions of today's **Ukraine and Belarus** into a newly founded state that was comprising **Poland and Lithuania**.

Apart from that, in 1547, the new **Grand Duke of Moscow, Ivan the Terrible** (Ivan IV), was officially crowned, titled "**Tsar**", and established what we learned to become the **Russian Empire**.

From that time on, **Ukraine was often torn and split between Russia and the West**.

During the years of the Sovietunion, a remarkable **Ukrainian resistance** against **Russian hegemony** was reported by Western media, and even fiction writer Frederick Forsyth grapped it as a subject („The Devil's Alternative“).

I remember a TV report on the elimination of two Ukrainian activists who lived in Western Germany. Both had been killed by poison, applied with a specially designed weapon. The Russian assassin later defected from KGB and was given a second chance in the West. He lived there with a new identy and an unusual cover story, protected by West German security authorities. The Russians surely knew his whereabouts, but were unable to get their hands on him without triggering off too much public turmoil.

As to the ***sovereignty of Ukraine***, now contested by Putin, there is another interesting story: When the United Nations were founded after World War II, Soviet leadership tried to promote the illusion of the Soviet Union's “independent“ member states, only to get some more seats in the UN General Assembly. In fact, the Socialist Soviet Republics of Ukraine and Belarus were granted access to the General Assembly as independent members. This was supported by Britain, demanding the same for its dominions, and, finally, even by the USA as Britain's closest ally.

Now Putin denies the historical existence of Ukraine while ignoring the Ukrainian people's overwhelming patriotism and their firm will to fight for their country. It seems that ***territorial claims*** cannot be based on some interpretable ***historical context*** alone. Broad ***acceptance*** provided by a majority of the people affected is needed as well, unless much effort has to be made to subdue new enemies who will strike back at the first opportunity. Arbitrary bombing of the enemy's civil installations and dwellings, together with the terror of a mercenary army committing war crimes in captured regions, have already led to international condemnation of Putin's war policies under the false pretext of ***fighting a „Nazi regime“***.

The ***Stalinist system*** of the former Soviet Union might have successfully overcome the invasion of Adolf Hitler's militant horde, however only with the generous help of its US ally and which was based on a sound US economy at that time. Not to speak of lots and lots of Russian soldiers and other Soviet nationalities who had to give their lives because of Stalin's misjudgement and unpreparedness and indiscriminate purge of Russia's elites. - Putin should therefore watch out to avoid a similar fate like that of his predecessor.

- Wolfgang Wiesner –

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