The OUN, the UPA and the Holocaust: A Study in the Manufacturing of Historical Myths

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Abstract

During the past decade, particularly under the presidency of the third Ukrai-
nian president Viktor Yushchenko (2005–2010) there have been repeated attempts
to turn the leading figures of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)
and its armed wing, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) into national heroes. As
these fascist organizations collaborated with the Nazi Germany, carried out ethnic
cleansing and mass murder on a massive scale, they are problematic symbols for
an aspiring democracy with the stated ambition to join the European Union. Under
Yushchenko, several institutes of memory management and myth making were
organized, a key function of which was to deny or downplay OUN-UPA atrocities.
Unlike many other former Soviet republics, the Ukrainian government did not need
to develop new national myths from scratch, but imported ready concepts developed
in the Ukrainian diaspora. Yushchenko’s legitimizing historians presented the OUN
and UPA as pluralistic and inclusive organizations, which not only rescued Jews
during the Holocaust, but invited them into their ranks to fight shoulder to shoul-
der against Hitler and Stalin. This mythical narrative relied partly on the OUN’s
own post-war forgeries, aimed at cover up the organization’s problematic past. As
employees of the Ukrainian security services, working out of the offices of the old
KGB, the legitimizing historians ironically dismissed scholarly criticism as Soviet
myths. The present study deals with the myth-making around the OUN, the UPA,
and the Holocaust, tracing their diaspora roots and following their migration back
and forth across the Atlantic.
Brought to power by the so-called Orange Revolution, the administration of Ukrainian president Viktor Yushchenko (2005–2010) expressed a clear ambition to orient Ukraine away from Russia and toward the EU, NATO, and the Western world. One step in this direction was the reassessment of modern Ukrainian history. Old Soviet heroes were reexamined, and the anti-Soviet nationalist resistance to Soviet rule reinterpreted in heroic terms. This is all part of a long and painful process of nation building and national consolidation, as Ukraine moves away from Soviet historiography into nation-based history writing. Following independence, and particularly after the Orange Revolution, nationalist and diaspora historical interpretations were adopted as the basis for new national myths. This essay addresses one particularly sensitive and delicate part of this mythology, the relation of Ukrainian nationalists—the Bandera wing of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the OUN(b), and its armed forces, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the UPA—to the Jews, a polarizing topic which has come to have important political connotations. The purpose here is not to restore one single historical “truth.” Rather, it is to study the political use of history, the manipulations of the historical record, by tracing the genealogy of a set of historical myths, circling key mythmakers, their choice of material, and its potential for political mobilization, impact and political consequences.

The first part of this essay considers the legacy of the OUN and the UPA, their political ideology, goals, and political orientation. The second part is the story of the manufacturing of the legends of these organizations and the genealogy of these myths as they have migrated from Ukraine, developed within the diaspora community, and, after the fall of communism, been reimported to Ukraine. The third part examines the apologetic narrative of the myth-makers, the impact of the myths on Ukrainian society and on its neighbors after they were elevated to state ideology and promoted by the state security organs and government propaganda agencies. The essay concludes with an assessment of, and reflection upon, the consequence of the legitimizing narrative and its role in the rise of the far right in Western Ukraine following Yushchenko’s defeat in 2010.

The OUN, the UPA, and the Holocaust

Founded in 1929, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists became the dominant political movement of the Ukrainian far right. It was formed out of a number of radical nationalist and fascist groups and was, initially, led by war veterans, frustrated by their failure to establish a Ukrainian state in 1917–1920. In the increasingly authoritarian political environment of interwar Poland, radicalized the Ukrainian nationalists.

Fascism

The term integral nationalism was applied to the OUN by the American historian John Armstrong. The term has stuck, and many pronationalist historians find it preferable to the term fascism, which today carries strong negative connotations and is used colloquially as a term of abuse. There is no contradiction between fascism and integralism, which is a variety within the fascist tradition. As for the OUN, integral nationalism is a problematic term. The Ukrainian nationalists themselves did not use it, whereas references to fascism and national socialism abound in nationalist texts from the 1930s and 1940s.2 Belonging to a tradition of European generic fascism, the OUN emerged out of an amalgamation between the Ukrainian Military Organization and a number of other extreme right-wing organizations, such as the Ukrainian National Association, the Union of Ukrainian Fascists, and the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine. From the moment of its founding, fascists were integral to, and played a central role in, the organization. The OUN avoided designating itself as fascist in order to emphasize the “originality” of Ukrainian nationalism. In 1941 the organization split between a more radical wing, the OUN(b), named after its leader, Stepan Bandera, and a more conservative wing, the OUN(m), led by Andrii Mel’nyk. Both were totalitarian, anti-Semitic, and fascist. In terms of tactics, the OUN(m) was more cautious and stayed loyal to Nazi Germany throughout the war, whereas the OUN(b) took a more independent line vis-à-vis Nazi Germany. The OUN(m) was a smaller and weaker organization and plays a minor role in the nationalist myth-making today. The main focus of this essay is therefore the OUN(b) and its offshoots.

Roger Griffin offers a broad conceptual model to suggest an eclectic interpretation of fascism, seeing it as the main consequence of European society’s yearning for a new beginning. Fascism was hardly a historic anomaly but a well-integrated part of the European history in the twentieth century. Following academic tradition, I refer to the generic fascist tradition to which the OUN belonged as fascism in lower case, while using upper case to refer specifically to Italian Fascism. The OUN shared the fascist attributes of antiliberalism, anticonservatism, and anticommunism, an armed party, totalitarianism, anti-Semitism, Führerprinzip, and an adoption of fascist greetings. Its leaders eagerly emphasized to Hitler and Ribbentrop that they shared the Nazi Weltanschauung and a commitment to a fascist New Europe. Franziska Bruder, the author of the most detailed study of the organization describes “The OUN as a classic representative of a nationalist movement with fascist characteristics that appeared in East-Central Europe,” an analysis shared by other non-nationalist scholars of the OUN.

The ideology of the organization was heavily influenced by the philosophy of Dmytro Dontsov, Italian Fascism, Nietzsche, and German National Socialism, combining extreme nationalism with terrorism, corporatism, and the Führerprinzip. Dontsov translated the works of Mussolini, Hitler, Goebbels, Rosenberg, and Franco and published Ukrainian translations of their works in Visnyk and other OUN-affiliated intellectual journals. Ukrainian nationalism uses the term nationalism in the same way Germans use the terms ‘National Socialism’ and ‘Fascism’. ‘National Socialism: Fascism, National Socialism, Ukrainian nationalism, etc. are different national expressions of the same spirit,’ wrote Iaroslav Orshan, an influential OUN ideologue. The OUN slogan “The Nation Above Everything” was taken quite literally, as was the slogan “Ukraine for the Ukrainians.” The Decalogue of the OUN explicitly called upon its members not to hesitate to enslave foreigners and “treat enemies of Your Nation with hatred and ruthlessness.” In 1936 Stepan Bandera
indicated the magnitude of the crimes the OUN was prepared to consider in order to achieve this goal. “The OUN values the life of its members, values it highly; but—our idea in our understanding is so grand, that when we talk about its realization, not single individuals, nor hundreds, but millions of victims have to be sacrificed in order to realize it.”

Racism

The maintenance of racial purity was an important call to the nationalist faithful. OUN members were guided by a list of behavioral rules the called “the 44 rules of life of a Ukrainian nationalist.” Number 40 read: “Cherish motherhood as the source of re-generation of life. Make your family the ciborium for the racial purity of your Nation.”

The OUN embraced a highly racialized discourse, borrowing heavily from the Nazi racial theoreticians Alfred Rosenberg and Hans Günter. The OUN perceived the nation as a biological organism: “Racial biology [Natsiia-Nauka] also underwrites these conditions. Professor Dr. St. Rudnyts’kyi, in his book On the Basis of Ukrainian Nationalism, writes that “mixed marriages with our neighboring peoples are disadvantageous,” as they lead to the denationalization of many, and the degeneration of others. . . . The reflex against mixed marriages is natural, as it rises out of the instinct of self-preservation and growth of the Nation. It is typical for all nationally conscious societies. Nations in the process of expansion strictly adhere to this law. For instance, in Germany racial laws determine the destiny of the people and of the individual throughout his entire life (The same is true for Italians, and others.) Peoples in decline (spiritually as well as physically) ignore this law, which appeals to the instinct of self-protection. They are deaf to the health and the growth of life.”

The maintenance of racial purity was an important call to the nationalist faithful. OUN (m) activists, reminisced about how they enforced ethnic separation among students in Chernivtsi, which in the interwar era was part of Romania:

In the “Zaporozhe” [student fraternity] we had decided that no member was allowed to marry an alien girl—a non-Ukrainian. That decision was made on the basis of Mykola Mikhinov’s’kyi’s Decalogue, which was printed in the Samostiina Ukraina and which stated: “Don’t marry a foreigner, since your children will become your enemies.” It needs to be recognized that Ukrainians who married Romanian girls of course ceased to be good Ukrainians, and their children directly came to belong to Romanian culture. . . . I came up with two suggestions: 1) if we want to preserve our order, then no aliens are supposed to be invited to our parties or dance courses and 2) we should invite Ukrainian girls only from peasant homes, from the surrounding areas.

The OUN(b) perceived the nation as a biological organism:

The nation emerged organically. In the world there is a constant struggle for existence, development, and power. There is a struggle between the species: . . . dogs, cats, lions, eagles are animal species; peoples, nations, and tribes are human species (Ukrainians, Germans, Muscovites, Gypsies, and Jews); there are differences between humans, animals and plants, just as there are between human species.

Family life must be of Ukrainian character. Its content: the parents (father-mother) and children have to be Ukrainians. Mixed marriages (Ukrainian-Polish, Ukrainian-Muscovite, Ukrainian-Magyar, Ukrainian-Jewish) will be banned, forming such unions will be made impossible. We regard their very existence and the making of such unions a crime of national treason.

Central to the OUN’s racism was the concern that miscegenation would lead to degeneration of the racial stock.

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predominantly hostile body within our national organism” and urged Ukrainians to develop guidelines for a Ukrainian policy toward the Jews.

How to deal with the Jews? We have over two million of them in Ukraine. . . Should we allow them to further abuse the Ukrainian national organism? Assimilate them? Take them in? Amalgamate them? Get rid of them from Ukraine? How? Expel them? Where? It is neither that easy to expel 2 million people, nor get rid of them altogether. Nobody wants them; everybody is only happy to get rid of them. In practice, other than the Spaniards, no single European Christian nation has been able to solve the Jewish problem in a fully satisfactory way. Various methods have been tried, and not a single one of them has solved this issue.31

In 1938, Volodymyr Martynets, the editor of Rozbudova Natsii, described Jews as a “parasitical,” “morally damaging,” “corrupting” and “hostile element,” “racially unsuited for miscegenation and assimilation.” Rather than violent pogroms and mass murder, Martynets’ argued that “a total and absolute isolation of the Jews from the Ukrainian people”32 would be a more effective solution to the “Jewish problem.” It is easier to liquidate 44,000 Jews using these methods, than to liquidate 3½ million with more radical methods. . . . All of the possibilities, especially if combined, will decrease the current strength of Jewry and will not only bring an end to their expansion in our country, but assure a continuous decline in the number of Jews, not only through emigration, but also through the decline of their natural growth rate. As the Jews will not be able to make a living, the Jews will take care of this themselves.33

Visnyk subscribed to a conspiratorial worldview. It perceived Bolshevism as a tool of Jewish dominance. The United States, as well as the Soviet Union, were controlled by Jewry, and Jewish interests were setting Britain, France, and the United States against Nazi Germany. Referring to the United States, Visnyk spoke of “120 million Aryans over the ocean, under the yoke of Israel.”34 When Mussolini introduced anti-Semitic legislation in 1938, Visnyk approvingly cited the “practical realization” of the “Jewish question” in Fascist Italy.35 Nationalist intellectuals like Dontsov and Martynets presented the OUN with a racial theory. Their repeated rejection of assimilation suggests that the OUN had internalized and approvedly cited the “practical realization” of the “Jewish question” in Fascist Italy.35 Nationalist intellectuals like Dontsov and Martynets presented the OUN with a racial theory. 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the leader of the OUN(m), proposed to Hitler the creation of a Greater Ukraine, stretching from the Danube to the Caspian Sea. Dreams of a Ukrainian empire had been nourished by both wings of the OUN, and the aspiration for territorial expansion was shared by all East-Central European fascist movements. Like their Slovak and Croatian counterparts, the OUN combined territorial expansion with a quest for ethnic “purity.” The OUN ideologue Mykola Stsibors’kyi envisioned the state as a “natsiokratiia” or a “nationocracy,” an ethnically defined totalitarianism. The OUN perceived a “Ukraine for the Ukrainians” as an ethnically cleansed totalitarian state, where all other political parties were to be banned. And, like Tiso’s Slovakia, Pavelić’s Croatia, and Antonescu’s Romania, the OUN embarked on an eliminationist project to “purify” their nation of “alien” racial elements.

Barbarossa and Pogroms in Western Ukraine, 1941

Following the German and Soviet invasion of Poland, many leading OUN members gathered in the German-occupied part of Poland, the General Government. They were further influenced by the brutal Soviet occupation of Western Ukraine in 1939–1941 and by the ideological and military training of many of their leaders by Nazi Germany from 1938–1939 onwards. Referring to itself as a “natural ally” of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers, the OUN(b) declared its readiness to go to war against the USSR.

In Berlin on June 17, 1941, Reinhard Heydrich, the head of the Reich Security Main Office, gathered dozens of SS and police personnel to share with them his instructions regarding the encouragement of so-called self-cleansing actions. A week later, on June 25, 1941, in a letter to Bandera, Jaroslav Stets’ko wrote, “We are setting up a militia that will help remove the Jews and protect the population.” Instructions issued to the OUN(b) militias urged them to cleanse the terrain of hostile elements. In the time of chaos and confusion it is possible to permit the liquidation of undesirable elements, Muscovites and Poles even more so. If there is an absolute need to retain, for example, a Jew in the economic administration, one of our militiamen must be placed over him, and should liquidate him for the slightest transgression. Only Ukrainians, not foreign enemies, can be leaders in the various branches of life. The assimilation of Jews is excluded.

OUN activists participated in the July 1941 pogroms, in which many of them displayed an above-average brutality. Upon their arrival in L’viv the commandos of the Ukrainian Nachtigall Battalion could rely on a fanatically anti-Semitic auxiliary contingent with good knowledge of local conditions. OUN fliers, distributed in the first days of the German invasion, urged the population: “Don’t throw away your weapons yet. Take them up. Destroy the enemy . . . People!—Know this!—Moscow, the Hungarians, the Jews—these are your enemies. Destroy them.”

On June 30, 1941, the OUN(b) issued the “Act of Renewal Ukrainian Statehood” (Akt vidnovlenia Ukraini’ kot Derzhavy, or Akt), hoping that Ukraine would obtain a status similar to that of Tiso’s Slovakia or Pavelić’s Croatia. The twenty-nine-year-old firebrand Jaroslav Stets’ko presented himself as its prime minister on behalf of Stepan Bandera. His proclamation appears modeled on the Ustaša declaration, which it follows closely, but in its explicit references to Hitler it went further than the Slovaks and Croats. Stets’ko specified that the new state would “cooperate closely with National Socialist Greater Germany . . . under the Führer Adolf Hitler.” On July 3, 1941, he sent letters to the other European fascist leaders: Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, and Pavelić, emphasizing that his state was a loyal member of the new, fascist Europe, the support of which he now sought. He explained to the Croatian Poglavnik Pavelić that “both revolutionary nations, hardened in battle, will guarantee the establishment of healthy circumstances in the Europe of the new order.”

The declaration of Ukrainian statehood was accompanied by violent pogroms. Stets’ko’s “government” expressed its willingness to annihilate the Jews of Ukraine, and Stepan Lenkav’s kyi, its main propagandist, advocated the physical destruction of Ukrainian Jewry. Stets’ko endorsed “the destruction of the Jews and the expedience of bringing German methods of exterminating Jewry to Ukraine, barring their assimilation and the like.” Grzegorz Rossolinski-Liebe refers to the OUN(b) plans to evacuate or annihilate the ethnic minorities and replace them with “ethnic” Ukrainians to be resettled on “ethnic” Ukrainian lands as a Ukrainian Generalplan Ost. Between June 30 and July 3, 1941, massive pogroms claimed the lives of four thousand Jews in Lviv alone. The participation of OUN militias in the murder of Jews is well documented, from OUN correspondence with the Nazis, their own fliers and directives, down to movies and photos of Ukrainian militiamen in action. Some can be identified from the photos. OUN(b) documents establish the collaboration of the Ukrainian militia and the Wehrmacht in joint Aktionen against Jews. Similar pogroms took place across Western Ukraine. At least 58 pogroms are documented in Western Ukrainian cities, the estimated number of victims of which range between 13,000 and 35,000. The Nachtigall Battallion, consisting almost exclusively of OUN(b) activists serving in German uniforms under Shukheyvych’s command, carried out mass shootings of Jews near Vinnytsia in July 1941. Stets’ko described the pogroms in June 1941 as Ukrainian self-defense.

The OUN(b) leadership hoped that, faced with a fait accompli, the Nazis would accept a fascist Ukraine as a vassal state. They were encouraged by signals from the circle around Alfred Rosenberg and within Abwehr, the German military intelligence service, who promoted a geopolitical vision in which the dismantled Soviet Union would be replaced by a reduced Muscovite Russia and a number of buffer states, including a Greater Finland, Baltic, Ukraine, and the Caucasus. Hitler and his closest men opposed Ukrainian statehood, pursuing instead colonial plans of exploitation which greatly complicated OUN(b)-Nazi relations. Bandera was arrested on July 5 and brought to Berlin, where he was put
under house arrest. Bandera and Stets'ko appear to have continued clandestine political activities for some time. Not only the Nazis, but also the OUN(m) rejected the legitimacy of the June 30 declaration. On August 30, 1941, their senior activists Stisbors'kyi and Senyk were assassinated, in all likelihood by the OUN(b). On September 15 Bandera was again arrested and kept in a Berlin prison as an honorary prisoner until October 1943. He was then transferred to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, north of Berlin, where he and Stets'ko were placed in comparatively comfortable confinement in the Zellenbaur, a special barracks for high profile political prisoners. In October 1944 he was released and resumed his collaboration. Other OUN(b) leaders, among them Roman Shukhevych and many future UPA commanders, continued to serve in German uniform until 1943. Thus, the OUN(b) “break” with Nazi Germany was half-hearted, and contacts were retained on several levels until the end, and even after the war.

1943: Political Reorientation After the Battle of Stalingrad

The battles of Stalingrad and Kursk were major turning points in the war, foreshadowing the collapse of the Axis powers and forcing the OUN to reassess its strategy and search for new strategic allies. In the spring of 1943, armed OUN(b) units under Dmytro Kliachikiv's'kyi and Roman Shukhevych took control of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrains'ka Povstans'ka Armiia, UPA) from the group of Taras Bul'ba-Borovets', its original founder. While these forces were anti-Semitic and carried out pogroms and murders of the local Jewish population, they rejected the fanaticism of the OUN(b). The original UPA, which had been created under the name Polts'ka Sich (the Polessie Riflemen), was loyal to the Ukrainian People’s Republic in exile and refused to recognize Stets'ko’s June 30 “renewal” of statehood as legitimate. When the UPA forces refused to subordinate themselves to the OUN(b), the Bandertites took control by force and unleashed a campaign of terror in which many of the leaders of the original UPA were killed.

The new leadership consisted of ruthless OUN(b) activists, most of whom were trained in Nazi Germany, and many were deeply involved in the Holocaust. The Ukrainian gendarmerie, Hilfsfreiwillige (volunteers), and, in particular, the so-called Schutzmannschaften, had been central to the implementation of the Holocaust in Ukraine and Belarus. Often they were tasked with the dirty work, the Schmutzarbeit, of the Nazis, sealing off areas for the murder of Jews, communists, and pro-Soviet partisans. Among the UPA officers who had been trained by Nazi Germany or had served in the police, gendarmerie, and military organs, we find the supreme commander and the chief of the general staff of the UPA, the commanders or chiefs of staffs of all three areas of UPA activities (the UPA-North, UPA-West, and UPA-South), the commanders or chiefs of staff in at least nine out of eleven military districts. Since biographical data on the occupations of a large proportion of the UPA commanders are lacking for the years 1941–1943, the percentage of former policemen is likely to be higher. Former policemen constituted at least half of all UPA members from spring 1943 until the end of that year, and a very significant proportion thereafter.

The OUN(b) expanded the UPA by means of a forced draft and the political terror created by its dreaded security service Shluzhba Bezpeki OUN (SB OUN). Thus, the UPA leadership came to consist of ruthless OUN(b) men, whereas many foot soldiers were forcibly drafted from the local population. Soviet and German reports both certify how discipline was maintained by terror. The Soviets wrote that forty percent of the regular soldiers of the UPA are volunteers, the rest are forcibly mobilized. In the Rivne oblast' the men were mobilized by the threat of physical extermination. ... Desertions among the men forcibly mobilized into the UPA has increased in December 1943 in connection with the Red Army’s successful advance into the territories of Western Ukraine.

A German report from December 1943 gives the following description of the SB OUN:

The nationalist Ukrainian Insurgent Army has set up a ‘security service.’ We were able to arrest the representative of the ‘national-Ukrainian security service’ in the Rivne district. He said that this security service is a subordinate group of UPA and has the following tasks: extermination of Communist Party members, Poles and Germans, extermination of deserters, supervising of nonlocals, drafting young people into the Ukrainian nationalist movement and the Insurgent Army.

Murder

The training provided by these collaborating forces was essential to the 1943–1944 UPA campaign of ethnic cleansing of Poles, Jews, and other minorities, the organization and execution of which closely resembles the anti-Jewish and anti-Partisan operations in 1941 and 1942. Philip Friedman, a pioneer on the history of Jews and the UPA, placed the UPA’s anti-Jewish murders within the context of the Holocaust’s ethnic cleansing of Western Ukraine of ethnic minorities: “Sometime in the winter of 1942–1943 the various Ukrainian partisan groups began an intense fight against all non-Ukrainians. Jews who escaped from the ghettos were seized on the highways, in villages, or in the forests, and were put to death.” The timing of the UPA’s assault on the Jews largely coincides with the violent takeover of the organization by the OUN(b), with former auxiliary police men, known as Schutzmannäder, particularly from the 201 Battalion, assuming command. Bul’ba-Borovets was horrified by the mass murders carried out by the new Banderte UPA leaders. Writes Karel Berkhoff: “According to Borovets’, the Bandertites (he mentions Lebed) imposed a collective death sentence on the Poles of “western Ukraine” in March 1943, sent him a list of demands in April that included their ‘cleansing,’ and instructed the UPA in June to complete the ‘cleansing’ operation as soon as possible.” In April 1943 Mykola Lebed’, the acting leader of the OUN(b), advocated a policy “to cleanse the entire revolutionary territory of the Polish population.” The “mass extermination” was organized by Dmytro Kliachikiv’s'kyi, known under the nom-de-guerre Klym Savur. The UPA’s ethnic cleansing of the Poles in Volhynia and Galicia continued through 1943 and much of 1944, until the arrival of the Soviets. Whereas the UPA also killed
Jews, Czechs, Magyars, Armenians, and other ethnic minorities, Poles were their main target. “Long live the great, independent Ukraine without Jews, Poles, or Germans. Poles behind the San, the Germans to Berlin, and Jews to the gallows,” went one OUN(b) slogan in the late fall of 1941. UPAs solders testify that orders to murder Poles often overlapped with those to murder surviving Jews, something that was reflected in the military songs of the UPA. An OUN song had the following lyrics: “We will butcher the Jews, strangle the Poles, and establish a Ukrainian state!” Another Polish survivor recalled that UPA soldiers passing through the Polish colony of Głęboczyca in Volodymyr-Volyński county singing: “Vyrižali my zhydvydy, vyrižhemo i łakhiw, i staroho, i maloho do jednoho; Poluiuk v vyrezech, Ukrainiu zbuduiem” (We slaughtered the Jews, we’ll slaughter the Poles, old and young, every one; we’ll slaughter the Poles, we’ll build Ukraine.)

The murderers used primarily farm tools—scythes, knives and pitchforks. Orthodox priests blessed such weapons in their churches. The bodies were often badly mutilated, partly as a byproduct of intimate murder, but were further tampered with in order to dehumanize the victim and strike terror. Some had their stomachs cut open, noses cut off, or faces smashed in. The display of dismembered, crucified, or disemboweled bodies was meant to instill fear and panic and encourage the Volhynian Poles to flee. Polish and Jewish survivors’ accounts emphasize the brutality of the murders. Moshe Maltz, a survivor, wrote in his diary: When the Bandera gangs seize a Jew, they consider it a prize catch. . . . They literally slash Jews to pieces with their machetes.

Bandera men . . . are not discriminating about who they kill; they are going down the populations of entire villages. . . . Since there are hardly any Jews left to kill, the Bandera gangs have turned on the Poles. They are literally hacking Poles to pieces. Every day . . . you can see the bodies of Poles, with wires around their necks, floating down the river Bug.

The OUN(b)s reorientation toward the West in 1943 was accompanied by a change in ideology, following its third, extraordinary congress in August that year. The overt racism was toned down and official OUN-UPA statements were increasingly wrapped in a democratic and inclusive rhetoric, but their mass murder of national minorities continued unabated. The UPAs anti-Jewish violence culminated in late 1943 and early 1944. In what appears a deliberate strategy, surviving Jews were lured out of their hiding places and murdered. In 1943, the security service of the OUN(b) in Volhynia issued orders to “physically exterminate Jews who were hiding in the villages.” The murders of Poles and Jews continued through the winter and spring of 1944. The estimates vary; Grzegorz Motyka estimates that the UPA killed one or two thousand Jews, mainly in Volhynia; John-Paul Himka estimates the number as “several thousand, but perhaps the number was much higher.” This should be put in relation to the documented 88,700 Polish victims of the UPA. The murders were carried out along ethnic lines in an area with many mixed Polish-Ukrainian families. Polish survivor testimonies contain gruesome accounts of how the UPA forced family members to take part in murders of their relatives.

On the initiative of the OUN(b), negotiations with the SS and its Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) were resumed on March 5, 1944. Father Ivan Hryn’okh, who had served as army chaplain in the Nachttal Battalion and Battalion 201 and represented the OUN(b) in the negotiations, emphasized that

those who believe that the Bandera group considers the German Reich as their opponent are mistaken. The political situation in the Great Russian lands could have played out quite differently if the German Reich in 1941 had recognized the Ukrainian right to establish its own state administration. Without any doubt, Ukraine would have been satisfied with a state administration, such as a protectorate. But as this hope was not fulfilled, the Bandera group was forced to continue its illegal activities, yet strictly maintaining the rules not to attack German interests and aim all its forces toward the preparation for a decisive struggle against the Muscovites.

By March 1944, the UPA was sharing information with the German authorities on their murder of “Poles, bandits, and Jews.” Formal cooperation with the German Security Police, Sicherheitspolizei (SiPo) and the SD was resumed in May 1944. The German authorities released Bandera in October 1944.

The murders of Poles and Jews continued through the fall of 1941. On the initiative of the OUN(b), negotiations with the SS and its Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) were resumed on March 5, 1944. Father Ivan Hryn’okh, who had served as army chaplain in the Nachttal Battalion and Battalion 201 and represented the OUN(b) in the negotiations, emphasized that those who believe that the Bandera group considers the German Reich as their opponent are mistaken. The political situation in the Great Russian lands could have played out quite differently if the German Reich in 1941 had recognized the Ukrainian right to establish its own state administration. Without any doubt, Ukraine would have been satisfied with a state administration, such as a protectorate. But as this hope was not fulfilled, the Bandera group was forced to continue its illegal activities, yet strictly maintaining the rules not to attack German interests and aim all its forces toward the preparation for a decisive struggle against the Muscovites.

While the OUN and the UPA took part in the mass murder of Jews, there are examples of individual Jews surviving the Holocaust within the ranks of the UPA. The Holocaust changed not only the ethnic and cultural landscape of Western Ukraine. The murder of the Jews removed cobbler, tanners, smiths, and other professions in which the Jews had been prominent. Accounts of the war years show that people had problems with fur coats and boots falling apart, after the Jews were removed. The UPA suffered an acute shortage of nurses and doctors. John-Paul Himka describes the relationship between the UPA and individual Jews who survived the war within its ranks as “a marriage of convenience between a partisan unit desperately in need of doctors and nurses and Jews desperately in need of a place that would keep them out of the hands of the Germans.”

Ukrainian sources speak of a considerable number of Jewish physicians, dentists, and hospital attendants who served in the ranks of the UPA. The question is: Why did only a small number of them remain alive? The Bandera groups also utilized other Jewish skilled workers. According to Lew Shankowsky, practically every UPA group had a Jewish physician or pharmacist, as well as Jewish tailors, shoemakers, barbers, and the like. Again, the question arises: What happened to these hundreds of thousands of Jewish professionals and skilled workers? Betty Eisenstein states that in the spring of 1943 the Bandera groups began to imitate the German tactics of “selection.” Only the skilled workers were left alive, and they were concentrated in special camps, where they worked at their trades or on the farms. One such camp, established in April 1943 near Poryck, Volhynia, contained more than 100 Jews. A second camp, which had some 400 Jews, was located in Kudryni,

The German authorities released Bandera in October 1944.
Roman Shukhevych strongly opposed the decided anti-German actions, wanting to aim all did not result in any major, or lasting changes in the OUN’s relations to Nazi Germany. Extraordinary Congress of the OUN(b), held in August 1943, its anti-German declarations were intended to mobilize support against the Soviets, and stayed mostly on the paper. They did not result in any major, or lasting changes in the OUN’s relations to Nazi Germany. The OUN(b) leader Mykola Lebed’ opposed military attacks on German interests, and Roman Shukhevych strongly opposed the decided anti-German actions, wanting to aim all attacks exclusively against the Soviets. OUN(b) group North repeatedly requested permission to take up arms against the Germans, but the leadership always turned them down. There were, however, clashes. six percent of the UPA and OUN(b) leaders, and 0.3 percent of the SB OUN leaders in Volhynia were killed by German forces.

Inventing a Comfortable Past

The outcome of the battle of Stalingrad had changed the geopolitical situation and necessitated a reorientation. The OUN(b) now started to do away with its overtly fascist attributes. In February 1943 the Third Congress of the OUN(b) decided that raising the right arm was no longer to be considered an obligatory party salute and began to remove any references to it in their own documents. The leadership of the original UPA protested the OUN(b)’s violent takeover of their organization and found their hijacking of the UPA brand name cynical. Whereas the original UPA had indeed taken up arms against the Germans, senior OUN(b) leaders, among them Roman Shukhevych, had repeatedly volunteered their services to Nazi Germany and served in German uniforms until 1943. In an open letter to the OUN(b) leaders, Bul’ba-Borovets’ reminded them that “when, in July of 1941 the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the ‘Polska Sich,’ started its armed resistance, you took a negative position, which you maintained until the last minute.” His observation was prophetic: the appropriation of the name UPA would indeed be used in post-1943 OUN(b) propaganda to whitewash its activities in 1941–1942 by predating its 1943 “break” with Nazi Germany. The manipulation of the OUN legacy forms an unbroken chain from 1943 until today. In October 1943, the OUN(b) embarked upon a project to revise its history, manufacturing a version more presentable to its new intended allies. In October 1943 the Homeland Leadership (Kraiovyi Provid) of the OUN in Western Ukraine ordered the preparation of a special collection of documents which would affirm that the anti-Jewish pogroms and liquidations were carried out by the Germans themselves without the help of the Ukrainian police, and that, on the contrary, before the shootings, the Germans made the Judenrat . . . confirm the cooperation of Ukrainian police in the actions.

The OUN(b) leaders issued explicit instructions on how to blame pogroms and anti-Jewish violence on the Germans and Poles, ordering the preparation of

e. Lists that would confirm that the Germans carried out anti-Jewish pogroms and liquidations by themselves, without the participation or help of the Ukrainian police, and instead, before carrying out the executions, urged the Jewish committee or the rogues themselves to confirm with their signatures the presence of the Ukrainian police and its involvement in the actions.

d. Material that would clearly confirm that Poles had infiltrated and taken part in anti-Jewish pogroms and at the same time that they had served as the hirelings and agents of the Germans in their struggle with Ukrainians.

One of these collections, “The Book of Facts” (Do pochatku knyha faktiv), was aimed at deflecting attention from OUN(b) and UPA participation in the Holocaust. Written in the form of a chronicle, and made to appear to date from 1941, this was an attempt to create a “convenient” set of documents, after it was clear that Germany was losing the war. It claimed that the Germans asked the OUN(b) to take part in a three-day pogrom in early July 1941, but that the OUN(b) regarded it as a German provocation, and refused. “The OUN leading activists informed themselves and informed the leading cadres that this was a German provocation to compromise Ukrainians through pogroms in order to give the German police a pretext to get involved and ‘enforce order,’ and, what is more serious, to divert the energy of the Ukrainian community from the political problems of the struggle for independent statehood, to the slippery road of anarchism, crimes, and violence.”

On November 1, 1943, the central command of the UPA issued a directive “to emphasize that we tolerate all nationalities—also Jews, who work toward Ukrainian statehood. They will remain Ukrainian citizens with full civic rights. Regarding this we need to talk to Jewish doctors and other professionals, who are part of our effort.” Around the same time, the UPA published propaganda leaflets aimed at other ethnic minorities: Georgians, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmans, Poles, Belarusians, Russians, Czechs, and others. Pronationalist scholars often emphasize the UPA’s multinational, internationalist nature when its murders of Poles, Jews, and other minorities are brought up. Whereas in 1942, OUN(b) flyers and posters commemorating the first anniversary of the declaration of Ukrainian “statehood” contained explicit anti-Semitic references, after 1943 the rhetoric changed. In 1947 and 1948, the OUN-UPA annual commemoration was presented as an oppositional, anti-German step. At this time, the OUN’s denial of its own anti-Semitism was already categorical. In 1947, the OUN issued an English-language propaganda leaflet in post-war Poland, which maintained,

We have never edited nor spread nowhere . . . any anti-Jewish leaflets. In all our political literature, underground revolutionary papers and proclamations,
neither now, nor at the time of the German occupation you would seek in vain if only one word [was] directed against the Jews. Like objections are nothing other as a sterling invective and lie. As well as we have never taken part in any anti-Jewish actions.143

Even though the OUN from 1943 denied its anti-Semitic legacy, its propaganda material still contained anti-Semitic undertones.144 The foreign section of the OUN(b), Zakordonne Chastyna OUN, or ZCh OUN, which could operate freely in the West, did not seek cooperation with Jewish (and Russian) émigré groups, and its leadership continued to embrace anti-Semitic stereotypes of Jews as the avant-garde of Bolshevism.145 Jews were not a “truly” national people, since they lacked a definite ethnographic territory. Jews rarely figured in the post-war OUN material, as the organization regarded the Holocaust as having “resolved” the “Jewish question.”146 In May 1950, the OUN-UPA published a pamphlet, Jews—Citizens of Ukraine, declaring, in democratic, inclusive language that it regarded Jews as citizens in the state for which it was fighting.147 The anonymous authors of this one declaration aimed exclusively at the Ukrainian Jews, even refer to them by the Soviet term evrei, not their customary zhyd. The declaration, issued immediately after the killing of Shukhevych, at a time when the UPA was essentially defeated, is best understood as an attempt to woo the Western world and to seek its support as their insurgency was defeated. Yet, even this leaflet ends with a thinly veiled threat, based upon the same old stereotypes of Jewish disloyalty and communist leanings.

We, the Ukrainian revolutionaries turn to you: Remember, that You are an Ukrainian land and that it is in Your own interests to live in agreement with its legitimate rulers—the Ukrainians. Stop being a fifth column in the hands of the Muscovite-Bolshevik imperialists. The moment when the times of Khmel’nitskyi will be repeated is not too far away. Yet this time we would like it to take place without anti-Jewish pogroms. We do not want a repetition of what Your poets described in the following words: Bitter tears were pouring Over the souls of good and honest men, Whose bloody was flowing Like the water of mountain creeks. Today, during the times of harsh struggle the Ukrainian people for its freedom, for national independence, we turn to You, Jews—citizens of Ukraine: Remind those brothers of your nationality, whose hands are helping the Kremlin robbers crucify our people. Tell them to stop their criminal activities.148

Stepan Lenkavskyi was responsible for the propaganda activities of the Zakordonna chastyna OUN, a key task of which was clearing the past of the movement itself.149 The Bandera narrative represented their own legacy as a “heroic Ukrainian resistance against the Nazis and the Communists” which had been “misrepresented and maligned” by “Moscow propaganda”; the OUN(b) and the UPA were fighting “not only for Ukraine, but also for all of Europe.”150

The OUN(b) regularly censored any documents that contradicted the image they wanted to produce—such as Stets’ko’s 1941 declaration of loyalty to Hitler and Nazi Germany. The whereabouts of the many UPA leaders, who like Shukhevych served in German uniform in 1942, were omitted from their biographies, their break with the Nazis predated. By 1946 Shukhevych, who himself had actually opposed attacks on German interest, presented the OUN’s activities in 1943 as “an armed insurgency, including the wide popular masses, in other words the entire Ukrainian people, in that struggle against the German occupant.”151 In 1948 the OUN activist Petro Poltava (a pseudonym), claimed that “the OUN under the leadership of Stepan Bandera conducted a massive struggle of the entire people [masovu vsenarodnu borot’bu] against the Hitlerite occupants in 1941–1944.”152 Other nationalist stories of OUN-UPA resistance against the Nazis, such as Kosyky and Stets’ko’s postwar claims that the commander of the Nazi Stormtroopers, (the Sturmabteilung; SA) Viktor Lutze was killed by UPA unit in Volhynia in 1943, are entirely fictional.153 Nevertheless, these claims, uncritically repeated by pro-UPA historians came to enter the nationalist canon.154

Dispora Nationalist Myth-making: The Fanatics

The Bandera group dominated heavily among Ukrainian emigres—U.S. intelligence reports estimated that 80 percent of the Ukrainian Displaced Persons (DPs) from Galicia remained loyal to Bandera, who tried to establish a dictatorship in exile that would be transferred to a liberated Ukraine. They benefited from their pre-existing clandestine political network. In the immediate postwar period, Bandera was protected by a group of former SS men.155 The US Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) described him as “extremely dangerous,” surrounded by bodyguards ready to “do away with anyone who may be dangerous to him or his party.”156

The OUN(b) maintained discipline by the use of systematic terror and kept kidnapping, murdering, and abusing political opponents well into the 1970s. The main center of its activity was in Bavaria, in the U.S. zone of occupation, where Evhen Lozynskyi was the local provydnyk, or leader, for the OUN(b).157 West German police reports contain estimates that the Bandera movement carried out about one hundred assassinations in Germany after the war.158

In the immediate postwar years the OUN(b) split over its fascist legacy. Bandera denounced its democratic façade, which he called a tactical maneuver, and dismissed as “Sucking up to the West.”159 This led to a clash between the committed totalitarians Bandera, Stets’ko, Lenkavskyi, and their associates and the group around Mykola Lebed’, Lev and Daria Rebet, and Ivan Hryn’okh, who wanted to retain the program of the Third Extraordinary Congress of the OUN(b).160 Bandera, who refused to give up the Führerprinzip, terrorism, and the conspiratorial methods161 expelled members of the growing opposition, resulting in June 1948 in a full break between the Bandera-Stets’ko (ZCh OUN) and Lebed’-Hryn’okh groups (Foreign Representation of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council Ukrain’ka Holovna Vyso’ka Rada, UHVR, Zakordonne Predstavnytstvo ZP UHVR).162 The hatred between Bandera and Lebed’ became so personal and intense163 that Lebed’ personally
fired a gun at Bandera and ordered his followers to kill him. In 1948, the Bandera group planned to assassinate the Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Vyshinsky during his upcoming visit to the UN General Assembly in Paris. Bandera’s group financed its terrorist activities by producing counterfeit U.S. dollar bills. By 1951 they turned vocally anti-American, as the United States did not support the OUN aim of an independent Ukraine. The OUN(b) papers spewed anti-American rhetoric, their thugs terrorized political opponents among the émigrés, intimidating Ukrainians who worked for the United States. The CIA later lost interest in Bandera as an agent, as did the British MI6. By 1954, the CIA described Bandera as a “ruthless” “terrorist” and “bandit type,” “politically unacceptable to the US Government” as “very radical, possibly more so than Bandera,” neutralized of Bandera as an individual.

The OUN(b) organized an umbrella organization for fascist and authoritarian east European movements, called the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN), linking former members of Tiso’s government, former Nazis, Romanian Legionnaires, the successors of the Ustaše. It came to cooperate closely with Franco’s Spain, and became an active participant of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). The OUN(b) was negotiating with the Spanish authorities about providing training in Spanish military academies for former members of the UPA and the Waffen-SS division Galizien, a Ukrainian collaborationist formation established in April 1943. While Bandera’s July 1954 audience with Franco was cancelled in the last minute, Stets’ko met with Franco and Chiang Kai-shek in 1955 and 1956. The OUN(b) sought to provoke a revolutionary uprising in the Soviet Union in order to split the Soviet army, get rebel control over Soviet nuclear weapons, seeking a social death. Following Bandera’s assassination by the KGB in 1959, the OUN(b) cult of personality around its martyred leaders was further intensified. By 1968, when the OUN(b) held its Fourth Congress they were elevated to the status of religious icons, included in prayers to “the nationalist Trinity—Konovalets, Shukhevych, Bandera.”

Nationalist Myth-Making: the Intellectuals—OUN(z) and Proloh

The Western allies generally preferred cooperation with the group around Mykola Lebed. The OUN(z) group, which included Volodymyr Martynyts and Volodymyr Kubijovyć, now presented themselves as democrats. Vasylyk, Kubijovyć’s successor, described Lebed as a nondogmatic, but suspicious politician. From his exile in Rome, Lebed established contact with U.S. intelligence in 1945. While describing him as “very radical, possibly more so than Bandera,” “a well-known sadist and collaborator of the Germans,” the CIA nevertheless realized the value of his knowledge and contact network and cultivated close relations with his group. During the early Cold War, extreme nationalism and fascism were retooled and employed by Western intelligence services in the struggle against the USSR. One CIA analyst argued that “some form of nationalist feeling continues to exist [in Ukraine] and . . . there is an obligation to support it as a cold war weapon.” The CIA and the state department sponsored Lebed’s 1949 immigration into the United States, and shielded him from the immigration authorities and from prosecution for war crimes until the 1990s. In 1956, the CIA incorporated a set of networks under Lebed’s leadership as the nonprofit Proloh (Prologue) Research and Publishing Association, funded by the CIA. Through Father Ivan Hryn’okh, Proloh maintained an office in Munich, called the “Ukrainische Gesellschaft für Auslandsstudien.” Proloh came to preside over a significant anticommunist propaganda network: radio broadcasts, newspapers, book publishing, and the intellectual journal Suchasnist’. Its orientation was nationalist. Lebed and his group remained very useful for the CIA for the entire Cold War. Hryn’okh, who after 1945 presented himself as a supporter of parliamentary democracy, was the group’s associate in Western Europe.

The collaboration between U.S. and other Western intelligence services and Lebed’s group became mutually beneficial. The CIA received valuable information and insights about its Cold War adversaries in return for helping nationalist veterans into positions of influence and authority, assisting their creation of semiacademic institutions and/or academic positions at established universities. From these formal and informal networks the pronationalist scholars promoted, with some success, self-serving, apologetic accounts of the past of the OUN-UPA, and, in some cases, of their own wartime activities. The line between scholarship and diaspora politics was often blurred, as nationalist scholars combined propaganda and activism with scholarly work. Lebed’s circle never condemned the crimes or the mass murders of the OUN, but, occasionally admitted that they had taken place. On the contrary, it made denial, obfuscation, and white-washing of the wartime activities of the OUN and the UPA a central aspect of its intellectual activities.

Nationalist Predominance in Ukrainian Studies

The émigré elites maintained close bonds across the Atlantic. They developed a collective historical memory, in which the diaspora historians and chroniclers came to play a central role. The CIA employed intellectual nationalist émigrés, mainly followers of the Ukrainian National Rada and the OUN(m), at Radio Liberty or its affiliated Munich Institute for the Study of the USSR. Since many of its employees were elderly and had limited knowledge of western languages, the Munich Institute never became a serious center for Soviet studies and was closed down in the seventies.

Other nationalist activists went into academia and produced sympathetic accounts of their organizations. Among these academics were UPA veteran Petro Potchynj; OUN veterans Evhen Shtendera, Wolodymyr Kosyk, and Taras Hunczak; SS-Galizien veterans Vasylyk Veryha, Oleksa Horbatsch, and Petro Savaryn. Some nationalist leaders—Mykola Lebed and Yaroslav Steš’ko, but also Volodymyr Kubijovyć, Roman Hnytyś’k, Ivan Hryn’okh, and Petro MIRCUK—produced their own accounts of the
past. The latter three were linked to the Ukrainian Free University (Ukrains’kyi vil’nyi universyset, UUV) in Munich.

Ethnic Studies and Identity Politics

Ukrainian studies was long an isolated discipline, thoroughly politicized and seen as lacking in objectivity. The change came with the ascent of identity politics, multiculturalism, and “ethnic” studies in the 1970s. Following the establishment of academic institutions on an “ethnic” basis, the nationalists’ selective accounts of the past began appearing with established academic publishers and made inroads into the academic mainstream. From the 1970s, a new generation of nationalist academics, sympathetic to the OUN legacy, and mastering the language of political correctness, came to dominate the field of Ukrainian studies. Following the collapse of the USSR, apologiquestes for the OUN and UPA were increasingly articulated in terms of anti-colonialism, as the voice of the subaltern, and, in Canada, under the aegis of official multiculturalism. The pronationalist historians have generally failed to treat their nationalist heroes as objects of inquiry and instead used them as platforms to defend the nationalist mythologies into which they were socialized. Until recently, there were almost no critical studies of the Ukrainian research institutes themselves.

Like the Soviets, the émigré nationalists guarded their archives jealously, and their historians mirrored the Soviet toeing of the party line. Lebed’s group controlled their archives tightly, released documents selectively, retyping, editing, or otherwise manipulating the documents to produce a selective version of the past, particularly for 1941–1942, when the OUN involvement with Nazi Germany was the most intense. Only with the opening of the Soviet archives could the original documents be compared with the “sanitized” versions of the diaspora publications. Nevertheless, many of the post-Soviet successor states have continued to release documents selectively, or have established propagandistic or ideological watchdogs to police access to documents and create a nationalist, edifying, patriotic past.

Denial of Anti-Semitism

Given the particular stigma anti-Semitism carried following the Holocaust, pronationalist historians have gone to great lengths to deny its very existence. Denial of the fascist and anti-Semitic nature of the OUN, its war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and participation in the Holocaust have become central components of the intellectual history of the Ukrainian diaspora. The UPA veteran and military historian Lev Shankovsky, claimed that anti-Semitism “never existed in Ukraine. But there exists a myth about Ukrainian anti-Semitism propagated by Moscow.” Bohdan Osadczuk asserted that “the Ukrainian ‘integral’ nationalists from the OUN, unlike almost all other groupings of this type in all of Europe, did not have an anti-Semitic program.” “Neither the Ukrainian underground movement nor any other organizations . . . cultivated anti-Semitic programs or policies,” Taras Hunczak alleges.

They readily accepted Jews into their ranks and sheltered them from Nazi persecution, despite the popular perception of Jews as promoters of communism.

. . . In Ukraine there were no collaborationists seduced by Nazi ideology or by the seemingly irresistible Griff nach der Weltmacht (grasp for world power). Unlike the French, Belgians, Dutch, and Russians, Ukrainians did not establish fascist organizations and youth movements that promoted collaboration with Germany.

Bohdan Wytwycky’s entry on ‘anti-Semitism’ in the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, edited by Volodyymy Kubijovyč and published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, CIUS, informs us that “there has never . . . been a Ukrainian anti-Semitic organization or political party.”

Pronationalist historians did not undertake any significant steps to interview surviving Jewish or Polish victims of the 1943–1944 ethnic cleansing. At the same time, even anti-Semitically inclined Ukrainian nationalists, such as senior OUN(b) member Petro Mirchuk, sought vindication from Ukrainian Jews to aid their cause and to absolve them of allegations of anti-Semitism. Mirchuk appealed to the Jewish community: You should . . . [be] informing Israel of the Ukrainian truth, i.e., the Ukrainian fight for liberation from the Russian tyrants. Write articles to Jewish magazines, give lectures to Israeli students about this. Dispel the malicious accusations that Ukrainians are “anti-Semites” and that they cooperated with the German Nazis—propaganda conjured up by the Russians and supported by the KGB’s fabricated “documents.” . . . Praise the heroic fight of the Ukrainian nation, of the OUN and UPA, against the German and Soviet Russian Nazis, revealing at the same time the crimes of the occupiers of Ukraine.

Mirchuk wrote an entire book in an attempt to dispel the perception of Ukrainians as anti-Semites. A former inmate of Auschwitz, he maintained that the Ukrainians really had suffered worse than the Jews during the war, since Ukrainians, unlike the Jews would defend themselves. The effectiveness of the book was limited, as it is saturated with anti-Semitic, anti-Polish, and anti-Russian stereotypes and crude ethnic slurs in the OUN(b) tradition.

Even when a Jew was choking a Ukrainian villager, sucking his blood as a nobleman’s tax collector, or innkeeper, or torturing him in the basements of the Cheka, GPU, NKVD, KGB, or as a Bolshevik commissar—this was alright, honorable and just, in accordance with the command of your Jehovah. And yet when that Ukrainian defended himself, then this was already criminal “anti-Semitic” and a “pogrom of the innocent, defenseless Jews.” . . . You see, the name of the Russian empire became “USSR” [SSSR in Russian] after the revolution. Are you aware of how the “goyem” within the empire read that?: “Three Sruls and one Russian.”

Senior diaspora historians have categorically denied that the UPA murdered Jews. When contemporary research established, beyond any reasonable doubt, the mass killing of Jews by the OUN and the UPA, pronationalist historians deny any anti-Semitic motives behind the murders. Asked to comment on recent research findings that the UPA indeed did kill significant numbers of Jews, Professor Emeritus Petro Potichnyj’s explanation was
that Jews were killed because they were communists.222 The same argument is repeated in
cruder form by anti-Semitic, nationalist diaspora politicians.223 A similar line of reasoning
has been invoked to rationalize or legitimize the OUN and UPA’s ethnic cleansing of Poles.
Nationalist historians have defended the murder of Poles on the grounds that they supported
communism and aided the Soviets,224 or they deny that the Polish victims were civilians.225
Ukrainian neo-fascists justify the mass murder of Poles and Jews by referring to these ethnic
minorities as “occupants” of Ukrainian lands and thus legitimate targets for mass murder.226

A crude anti-Semitic interpretation charges Mykola Lebed’ with the UPA’s mass murders
of Poles in the summer of 1943, identifying him as a Jewish agent provocateur and citing
his allegedly Ashkenazi-sounding name as evidence of his Jewishness.227

Soviet propaganda complicated matters further by producing a one-sided picture of
the OUN and the UPA as Nazi collaborators.228 While the Holocaust was a taboo topic in
the Soviet Union, from 1979 on, Soviet propaganda used such allegations of Holocaust col-
aboration as a tool to discredit diaspora nationalists and to cast a shadow over the Western
countries that housed them.229 The topic of collaboration and war criminality polarized
Ukrainian and Jewish communities. Hypersensitive to such allegations, the Ukrainian
diaspora reacted hysterically and aggressively to investigations of war criminality in their
community, denying it categorically.230 Two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union,
significant sections of the Ukrainian diaspora continue to rally around alleged death camp
guards, whom they regard as martyrs and victims.231 Jewish-Ukrainian relations came to
constitute, in the words of Petro Potichnyj, two solitudes.232

Denial of Collaboration and Fascism

Pro-OUN historians have developed a number of strategies and narratives of denial
regarding the OUN’s fascism. The explicit fascist nature and orientation of the Stets’ko’s state
project has been categorically denied, and Stets’ko’s public declaration—the Akt of June 30,
1941—was edited to omit his pledge of loyalty to Hitler and Nazi Germany. Pronational-
ist historians, relying on selective accounts, described this as a clean break with the Nazis.
Lebed’ himself claimed that the proclamation was “completely independent of all foreign
influences and political and ideological orientations.”233 Wolodymyr Kosyck insisted that
“when the Germans refused to recognize the independence of Ukraine, any cooperation
with them became out of the question.”234 Petro Potichnyj describes the Akt as an overtly
anti-German declaration.235 Taras Hunczak argues that the OUN(b) “crossed its Rubicon in
the very first days of the German-Soviet war, placing it in an adversarial position vis-à-vis
the Germans.”236

The perhaps most intelligent denial of the OUN’s fascism and collaborationism is made
by a political scientist, Alexander Motyl. Motyl’s argument differs from the crude denial
of the OUN-affiliated historians. It is instead based upon the OUN’s failure to establish a
state. While Motyl admits the OUN’s enthusiasm for a fascist Europe, its fascist intentions,
he presents fascism as a model of organizing an existent state. This interpretation shifts the
focus away from ideology to measurable achievement. Fascism, according to Motyl’s inter-
pretation, becomes primarily an issue of whether a movement is successful in achieving its
potential, capable of controlling a state. Subsequently, the argument goes, the Slovak and Croat regimes
were fascist because they controlled states, whereas Stets’ko’s state project did not.237 The Nazis’ refusal to recognize the OUN state, Motyl argues, “inadvertently sav[ed] the
nationalists from a collaborationist and possibly fascist fate.”238 Motyl elegantly, and
implicitly, divorces the OUN from its ideological kin—the Ustaše, the Hlinka Guard, Mus-
solin’s Fascists, and Hitler’s National Socialists. Referring to Ukrainian Nazi collaborators
would be impossible twice over, according to this line of reasoning. Ukrainians, serving in
German uniform, taking oaths to Adolf Hitler, and fighting for the New Order in Europe
could not be called “Nazi collaborators,” according to the pronationalist argument. The rac-
ist ideology of the Nazis precluded the possibility of Ukrainians joining their movement;239
“collaboration” would have required a Ukrainian state, something that did not exist in 1941.240
Motyl’s argument is unconvincing for for several reasons, not least, as Daniel Ursprung has
shown, because only a few fascist groups in Eastern Europe succeeded in gaining control
over a state machinery.241 Motyl argues that “the correct term matters . . . it’s important
to call things by their real names and not engage in unnecessary obfuscation.” Yet his
definitions and terminology have proved controversial among nonnationalist scholars, who
have taken Motyl to task for doing exactly that. While Motyl’s stringent criteria for fascism
disqualifies the OUN, he defines contemporary Russia as an “unconsolidated fascist state.” He
presents himself as “a long-time critic of the Bandera movement”242 yet his denial of
the OUN’s fascism and collaboration has become an important component of the narrative
diaspora nationalists and pro-OUN intellectuals. It is difficult to escape the notion that
a definition of fascism which includes Medvedev’s Russia, but not Bandera and Stets’ko, is
tailored to fit the self-image and ideological needs of a community which to various degrees
identifies with the pro-OUN tradition.

Some pro-UPA chroniclers have tried to separate the UPA from the OUN(b), arguing
that the UPA had been rendered the former but not the latter.243 Petro Potichnyj, in particular, eagerly emphasizes that the OUN(b) and the UPA were separate organizations and objects to the
commonly used term OUN-UPA to describe the organization.244 Another strategy has been
to divorce Shukhevych, Stets’ko, and Bandera from their ideology, reduce them to symbols
of Ukrainian glory and heroism, and to regard the cult of personality as merely an edifying
patriotic celebration.245 This line of reasoning reduces to a mere detail the significance of the
OUN leaders’ explicit endorsement of the Holocaust, their declarations of loyalty to Hitler
and the New Europe, and the mass murder of civilians to minor stains on their records, not
significantly different from similar mistakes committed by Winston Churchill and Neville
Chamberlain.246

As we have seen, in the predominant diaspora discourse several key characteristics of
the OUN were denied: its anti-Semitism, its ideological affinity with Nazi Germany, and
its leadership’s enthusiastic support for a new, fascist Europe. Yet negative definitions are
an insufficient basis for myth-making and the mobilization of nationalist passions. In order
to be accepted as idols, heroes the ideologues needed to supply with positive characteरistics,
acceptable to democrats. Creating such heroes required more imagination from the myth-makers. Pronationalist intellectuals present the OUN(b)-controlled UPA as the source and basis for today’s Ukrainian democracy. In order to produce such a picture, the nationalists generally curtail their scope of attention to the limited period between 1943 and 1951, relying heavily on OUN propaganda from the period when it was seeking new allies in the west.239 “By studying these primary documents of the UPA one can secure the sources of the genuinely pluralistic, democratic Ukrainian society,” writes Howard Aster in a 1996 Festschrift to Petro Potichnyj. According to Aster, the documents published in Litopys UPA, of which Potichnyj is the main editor, represent the “culmination of the development of the Ukrainian nationalist ideology towards a greater emphasis on economic and social welfare, and upon securing individual rights.”240

Re-export of the Nationalist Myths to Ukraine

The collapse of the Soviet Union created a demand for new history writing. Soviet textbooks were discarded and, in many cases, replaced with diaspora accounts of the past. The re-export of the nationalist narrative to Ukraine went relatively smoothly, relying heavily on OUN propaganda from the period when it was seeking new allies in the west. The historian Volodymyr Serhiichuk calls the OUN-UPA a democratic force that welcomed Jews, Poles, and other minorities, and fought for a multiethnic and inalienable pluralistic, democratic Ukrainian society.”

Philosemitic Nationalist Narratives of the OUN(b) and the UPA

By the turn of the millennium, a new narrative about the OUN and the Jews was crystallizing, one that increasingly presented the OUN-UPA as a tolerant, ethnically inclusive force that welcomed Jews, Poles, and other minorities, and fought for a multiethnic and democratic Ukraine.241 The historian Volodymyr Serhiichuk calls the OUN-UPA a democratic force leading an antitotalitarian struggle against Stalinism and Nazism. Among the people who “sacrificed” themselves for the cause, Serhiichuk asserts, were not only Ukrainians, but also Polish and Jewish volunteers.242 Pronationalist historians often present the OUN-UPA as rescuers and benefactors who exercised an admirable restraint vis-à-vis the Jews, despite the Jewish physicians were treated as citizens of the Ukraine and officers of the Ukrainian army. It should be duly stressed at this point that all of them discharged their existing duties faithfully. They rendered service not only to the soldiers but also to the entire population. They traveled throughout the area, and organized field hospitals and local medical stations. They did not desert the fighting ranks in trying situations, even when they had an opportunity to go over to the Reds. Many of them died a hero’s death.

In the 1950s and 1960s, a narrative of the OUN was portrayed as an organization of righteous rescuers of Jews began to crystallize, eagerly supported by the émigré OUN.243 The OUN(b) took an active role in the myth-making, including the manufacturing of forgeries. One of the more significant forgeries is the biography of Stella Kreutzbach, a fictitious Jewess, who praises “God and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army” for having survived the Holocaust. The forged biography appeared in a volume edited by Petro Mirchuk.244 The Kreutzbach/Kreutzbach story received significant attention in the émigré press. Yet journalists who tried to find her soon learned that such a person did not exist. Philip Friedman, himself a survivor of the Holocaust from Western Ukraine, took an immediate interest in the story, but could soon conclude that “the entire story is a hoax.”245 When the nonexistent Kreutzbach/Kreutzbach could not be found, stories and rumors circulated in émigré circles that she would have been murdered, execution-style, in Israel, with a bullet to the back of her neck, for telling the truth about the UPA’s attitude to the Jews.246 We will return to the fictitious Stella Kreutzbach/Kreutzbach memoirs later, as they would come to play an important role in pro-OUN propaganda half a century later.

Ukrainian nationalists remember the Holocaust quite differently from Jewish survivors: “Had the OUN-UPA pursued an anti-Semitic ideology . . . perhaps thousands of Jews would not have survived,” wrote Taras Hunczak in response to the publication of Stets’ko’s anti-Semitic biography, Oryhny menyules.247 In Jewish collective memory, on the contrary, Ukrainians are often remembered among the worst perpetrators of the Holocaust.248 Jewish survivors in Western Ukraine typically emphasize that with 98.5 percent of the Volhynian Jews murdered, there were few places in Europe where the Holocaust was so brutally thorough, and had it not been for the Bandertes, more Jews would have survived.249

Omission and Falsification

There is a distinction between the denial and obfuscating of the OUN’s fascism and ethnic cleansing and the outright falsification of history upon the basis of forgeries. While the former constitutes the context in which this peculiar narrative developed, the representation of the OUN as philo-Semitic rescuers of Jews contains several examples of the latter. The genealogy of the narrative of the UPA as rescuers of Jews dates several decades back. One early source comes from Mykola Lbed’ himself, and was published in 1946.250 The majority of physicians in the UPA were Jews, whom the UPA had rescued. The Jewish physicians were treated as citizens of the Ukraine and officers of the Ukrainian army.251 It should be duly stressed at this point that all of them discharged their existing duties faithfully. They rendered service not only to the soldiers but also to the entire population. They traveled throughout the area, and organized field hospitals and local medical stations. They did not desert the fighting ranks in trying situations, even when they had an opportunity to go over to the Reds. Many of them died a hero’s death.

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Policing the National Memory: Institutionalized Victimization

Swept to power by the so-called Orange Revolution in 2004, Viktor Yushchenko’s presidency represented the pinnacle of diaspora influence on history writing in Ukraine. It elevated the diaspora’s historical myths to state policy and provided state funding to institutions tasked with the development of legitimizing narratives which the cult of the OUN leaders required. Yushchenko developed a memory politics based heavily upon a victimization narrative, “a meta-narrative that categorized Ukraine as a nation-victim by integrating all central historical events of the twentieth century, from the civil war and Sovietization to the Chernobyl disaster.” The culmination was the 1932–1933 famine, presented as the central and defining event of the Soviet period. Yushchenko has a complex relation to the OUN. On the one hand, he rejected its fascism, totalitarianism, terror, Führerprinzip, and ethnic cleansing. On the other hand, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the direct descendent of the OUN(b), were members of his Nasha Ukraine (Our Ukraine) Bloc. A somewhat paradoxical situation appeared as a new, aspiring democracy with a stated commitment to democratic values, pluralism, and human rights used state institutions to rehabilitate fascists and elevated them to national heroes, symbols of the young democracy.

The Holocaust has come to occupy a central role in contemporary European political culture, to the point that the ability to address this issue has come to be regarded as something of a litmus test of the democratic maturity of the new EU members and candidates. Increasingly, Europe imagines itself as a community of shared values, in which the Holocaust plays a central role, are mutually exclusive. As Wilfried Jilge has aptly observed, the absence of the Holocaust from the Ukrainian culture of memory is directly connected to the closeness of the OUN to National Socialism, particularly in its relation to anti-Bolshevism and anti-Semitism. . . . Nationalist intellectuals can legitimize the heroic role of the OUN and UPA only by ignoring the Jewish Holocaust and its connection to Ukrainian national history.

Institutionalized Production of Official Memory

A part of Yushchenko’s “Europeanization” of Ukrainian society included bringing collective memory more in line with the culture of memory of the European mainstream. In order to bridge the conflicting memories, the Yushchenko government needed to manufacture an edifying Ukrainian national past, a patriotic narrative that could partially reconcile the cult of the OUN(b) and the UPA with recognition of the Holocaust. The narratives developed by authoritarian groups in the diaspora required a significant make-over in order to make them marketable in the twenty-first century. The task rested heavily on three official institutions. The Institute of National Memory, established in 2006, was modeled after the Polish example. Its purpose was to consolidate the “nation” through a patriotic use of history. As director, Yushchenko appointed a former deputy Prime Minister, Ihor Yukhnovs’kyi, a sympathizer of the extreme right Social Nationalist Party of Ukraine. Another important propaganda institution is the Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement (Tsentr Doslidzhen’ Vyzvol’noho Rukhu, TsDVR), an OUN(b)”façade structure” which has come to serve as an important institutional link between the young Ukrainian pro-OUN legitimizers and diaspora nationalists of the post-war wave of zmięrs, such as沃洛迪米尔 Kosyk and Petro Sodol. The Center is a partner of the CIUS, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), as well as diaspora nationalist organizations, such as the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the OUN(b)-dominated Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The mission statement of the Center reads:

The history of the struggle of liberation is the basis of the national idea of every state, the basis for its values and orientation. The past of the Ukrainian people, in particular its liberation struggle, was for many years silenced and twisted by the totalitarian regimes. Therefore a new non-prejudiced view of the Ukrainian liberation movement is extraordinarily urgently needed. The 20th century was the high point of the development of the Ukrainian resistance—the best example is the struggle of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army from the 1920s to the 1950s. Unfortunately, today the activities of those structures remain one of the least studied parts of the Ukrainian historiography. The study of the various aspects of the struggle of the Ukrainians for their national and social freedom is the main purpose of the Center for the Study of the Ukrainian Liberation Movement.

In turn, the Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement is linked to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, most importantly, the Ukrainian Security Forces (Sluzhba Bezpeki Ukrainy, SBU), the direct successor of the KGB. This organization was tasked with the most important aspects of Yushchenko’s apparatus of memory management: to guard the memory, the institutions, resources, and archives of the Ukrainian security forces. Sofia Hrachova emphasizes that “the SBU enjoys a monopoly on information and uses this monopoly to political ends, publishing selections of documents that represent historical events according to the current official perspective, and authorizing the official position on controversial issues.” Unlike analogue archives in other countries in East-Central Europe, most of their collections remain inaccessible to scholars.

Yushchenko’s propaganda institutes disseminated an official interpretation of history to the public, based on two main themes: a victimization narrative centered on the 1932–1933 famine, which was described as a genocide against the Ukrainian nation that claimed ten million victims, combined with a glorification of the OUN(b) and UPA. The institutes were interlinked: its directors cross-referenced and legitimized each others’ existence. The propagandistic and naively heroic representations were presented as reliable and full accounts of the past. Yushchenko’s kyiv’s endorsement of one of V’iatrovych’s propaganda book, The Ukrainian Insurgent Army: the Army of the Undefeated is typical of this rhetoric:
When I wrote a booklet on the [OUN’s] relation to the Jews, a girl who worked on its graphic design asked me: I do not understand—did the nationalists love the Jews or did they not? For me, this was revealing. As a matter of fact, relations between nations cannot be that simple. A boy can love a girl. International relations are much more complicated. We need to explain to people the multivalence of the historical process, so that they do not go along with any sort of primitive political speculations.

V’ятрович highly selective accounts followed the diaspora tradition in their denial and downplaying of the OUN’s anti-Semitism, and have rightly been harshly criticized as very one-sided, legitimizing and revisionist, failing to meet even the basic scholarly requirements. In the words of John-Paul Himka, V’ятрович manages to exonerate the OUN of charges of antisemitism and complicity in the Holocaust only by employing a series of highly dubious procedures: rejecting sources that compromise the OUN, accepting uncritically censored sources from emigrated OUN circles, failing to recognize antisemitism in OUN texts, limiting the source base to official OUN proclamations and decisions, excluding Jewish memoirs, refusing to consider contextual and comparative factors, failing to consult German document collections, and ignoring the mass of historical monographs on his subject written in the English and German languages.

Relying primarily on the Litopys UPa, V’ятрович attempts to deflect the OUN’s anti-Semitic legacy by dwelling on five named Jews who served in the UPA, including the fictitious Stella Krentsbaik/Kreutzbach. He indicates that the number could have been greater had the Jews shown more cooperation and cites the commander of UPA North, Ivan Lytvynychuk, who “sought a person, literate in the Yiddish language, to write an anti-German letter, addressed to the Jews,” but “unfortunately, he was not able to realize this project.” In March 2008, V’ятрович’s SBU circulated Do pochatku knyha faktiv in an effort to defend the reputation of the OUN, Shukhevych, and the Nachtigall Battalion. Distributing it through government channels, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ukrainian diplomatic missions abroad, the Ukrainian government presented it as an authentic chronicle from 1941 and willfully deceived the public with it. According to the Ukrainian government, this OUN forgery demonstrates the OUN’s categorical disagreement with the Gestapo proposition to organize Jewish pogroms. . . . Thus, the documents at the [Central State Archives of the Ukrainian Intelligence Service, Holovnyi Dershchanyi Arkhiv Sлuzhby Bezpeky Ukrainy] HDA SBU confirm that the OUN took precautions to avoid getting involved in the actions against the Jewish population in Lviv and that there were no official orders to take part in their destruction or the execution of the pogroms.

V’ятрович dismisses criticism of Shukhevych as a baseless political campaign against the UPA commander’s memory.
Soviet propagandists deliberately omitted the parts of the OUN ideology and program which mentioned the equal rights of all national minorities; avoided giving attention to the Jews who, as members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, fought for an independent Ukraine. Unfortunately, that is the way many contemporary publicists and historians behave, looking in this old manner at Ukrainian history through the glasses of “Agitprop.” One of the most widespread accusations against the Ukrainian nationalists is the allegation of their participation in the anti-Jewish pogroms in L’viv in the beginning of July 1941.293

He categorically denies Shukheyvch’s participation in anti-Semitic violence and condones the murder of civilians. Asked if Shukheyvch’s units took part in war crimes against the civilian population, Vyatrovych retorted: “Is it possible to consider Poles or Belarusians a peaceful population, if they during the day work as ordinary villagers, only to arm themselves in the evening and attack the village?”294

In April 2008, the SBU dedicated a “public hearing” to the topic of Jews in the UPA in order to establish a new national ideology, a narrative of Ukrainians and Jews fighting together against a common Bolshevist-Muscovite enemy. The director of the SBU, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, who presided over much of the myth-making, presented the enterprise as an attempt to dispell myths.

Today, we are making public documents about Ukrainians and Jews who fought together after the great Famine against the totalitarian and communist regimes. That historical truth has been brutally suppressed and mythologized. In a cynical and evil fashion, the KGB tried to stir up unnatural hostility between the Ukrainian and Jewish peoples. Such a myth, created and sustained over several decades, has no right to exist.295

Nalyvaichenko stated his desire to replace the Soviet lie with a Ukrainian “historical truth about the past of the Ukrainian people” and to “liberate Ukrainian history from lies and falsifications.”296 The press center of the SBU asserted that “the documentary material objectively certifies that the history of the Ukrainian liberation movement provides many examples of collaboration between Ukrainians and Jews in their struggle against the totalitarian regimes.”297 V’iatrovych again returned to the 1950 pamphlet Jews—Citizens of Ukraine, which he claimed represented a correct picture of the OUN’s disposition toward Jews. He ignored and offered no commentary on its veiled threats.298 The legitimizing historians at the SBU had an ambivalent attitude to the Jews. Whereas they put significant efforts into presenting the Bandites as friends of Israel and Jewish nationalism, they did not shy away from traditional nationalist stereotypes. In line with its ambition to blame the 1932–1933 famine on easily definable outsiders, the SBU in July 2008 published a highly selective list of nineteen perpetrators of the “famine-genocide.” Of these, eight people, or 40 percent, were of Jewish “nationality,” presented in the Soviet fashion of listing the “real” Ashkenazi names next to their Slavic names.299 High-profile anti-Semites and Holocaust revisionists, among them Levko Luk’ianenko and Iurii Shukheyvch, were regular guests at the events at V’iatrovych’s propaganda institutes.300

Moisei Fishbein

One of the most successful popularizers of the nationalists’ narrative, denying the UPA’s anti-Jewish violence, is the poet Moisei Fishbein. Fishbein dismisses research showing that the UPA killed Jews as a “special operation” orchestrated by the Kremlin and aimed at keeping Ukraine out of NATO.

It is very important to the disinformers also to discredit General Shukheyvch, the UPA, and the entire Ukrainian national liberation movement, as well as President YuSHCHenko of Ukraine. Therefore they used the old Chekist provocation and played “the Jewish card”: one was the accusation [that the UPA] murdered Jews, the other the “heroization” of the alleged murderers. That historical truth has been brutally suppressed and mythologized. In playing the ‘Jewish card’ in their propaganda institutes, Russian special services are exploiting the ‘Putin-Juden,’ particularly Moscow-based rabbis,” Fishbein wrote.301 He repeated this argument at a public hearing in the SBU in 2008.302

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a conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009. His words were enthusiastically reported in the nationalist press. The English-language Kyiv Post, a popular forum for the diaspora, published his statement as an op-ed. Fishbein received remarkable media attention, not only in nationalist diaspora publications such as The Ukrainian Weekly, Ukrainian News, Kyiv Post, and others, but also in mainstream news venues, such as the BBC news. Respectable analysts, like Paul Goble uncritically repeated Fishbein’s assertions:

Few people have been as dogged as Fishbein in tracking down this and other Russian falsifications and slanders against Ukraine, but his work in this area deserves to be better known not only because it . . . explains why so many Ukrainians want to gain the protection of Western institutions like NATO. With state support, Fishbein recirculated Mirchuk’s fictitious Krentsbakh/Kreutzbach “autobiography,” accompanied by an English translation, I Am Alive Thanks to the UPA presenting it as an authentic document which would once and for all disprove the OUN-UPA’s anti-Semitism. Soon thereafter, V’iatrovych’s Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement again returned to the Krentsbakh/Kreutzbach story, issuing a press release with the title “The Jewess Stella Krentsbakh explained that she survived thanks to the UP A ’s anti-Semitism.”

Similarly, Victor Rud, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights’ Committee of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, in an open letter to the Washington Post in response to an article critical of Yushchenko’s UPA cult, relies on Fishbein’s lecture at Urbana-Champaign, referring to it as “a recent study” and citing Fishbein’s statement to the effect that Russia’s special services are seeking to destabilize the situation in Ukraine, undermine its sovereignty and independence, create a negative image of this country, block its integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, and turn Ukraine into a dependent and manipulated satellite. In their special operations against Ukraine they attribute exceptional importance to the ‘Jewish card.’

In December 2009, Fishbein again circulated the 1950 UPA pamphlet Jews—Citizens of Ukraine in another attempt at disproving UPA anti-Semitism. Fishbein offered no comment on its ethnonationalist statements that Jews are but guests in the land of Ukrainians, and therefore, of Ukraine. With state support, Fishbein recirculated Mirchuk’s fictitious Krentsbakh/Kreutzbach “autobiography,” accompanied by an English translation, I Am Alive Thanks to the UPA presenting it as an authentic document which would once and for all disprove the OUN-UPA’s anti-Semitism. Soon thereafter, V’iatrovych’s Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement again returned to the Krentsbakh/Kreutzbach story, issuing a press release with the title “The Jewess Stella Krentsbakh explained that she survived thanks to the UP A ’s anti-Semitism.”

Marco Levytsky, editor of the pro-OUN Ukrainian News in Edmonton, Alberta, again and again returned to the Stella Krentsbakh/Kreutzbach story, citing the poet as a reputable source and authority in the field, using the story to deny OUN complicity in the Holocaust. Similarly, Victor Rud, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights’ Committee of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, in an open letter to the Washington Post in response to an article critical of Yushchenko’s UPA cult, relies on Fishbein’s lecture at Urbana-Champaign, referring to it as “a recent study” and citing Fishbein’s statement to the effect that Russia’s special services are seeking to destabilize the situation in Ukraine, undermine its sovereignty and independence, create a negative image of this country, block its integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, and turn Ukraine into a dependent and manipulated satellite. In their special operations against Ukraine they attribute exceptional importance to the ‘Jewish card.’

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The cult of the OUN and UPA has, however, tainted the image of Ukraine abroad, particularly in Poland, a key EU partner. Polish collective memory of Ukrainians during World War II remains highly critical, according to an August 2009 survey, even more so than the wartime roles of Germans and Russians. By turning Bandera, Shukhevych, the OUN(b), and the UPA into official heroes and denying their murders, Yushchenko’s legitimizing historians helped cement a stereotypical identification of Ukrainians with banderivty. Many Poles hold “Ukrainians” collectively responsible for the crimes of the UPA. Ironically, some of the historical interpretations of his successor Viktor Yanukovych and his electorate in the east and south of the country are more in line with the rest of Europe than those Yushchenko, who describes his political orientation as oriented toward the West.
Conclusion: Politics, Memory and Raison d’être

Nationalizing states are often involved in the manufacturing of national myths, and the Ukrainian case is by no means unique. Here, in a new, weak state, divided by language, religion, and historical experience, the leadership has put significant effort into producing historical myths of political utility, a significant part of which stand in direct opposition to what the sources and current scholarship say. Ernst Renan wrote, “Forgetting, I would even go so far as to say historical error, is a crucial factor in the creation of states.” [320] Bruno Bettelheim famously argued that “children need fairytales.” “We want our children to believe that, inherently, all men are good... The dominant culture wishes to pretend, particularly where children are concerned, that the dark side of man does not exist, and professes a belief in an optimistic meiliorism.” [321] He argues that fairy tales contribute to the child’s psychological development.

Ambiguities must wait until a relatively firm personality has been established on the basis of positive identifications. ... Futhermore, a child’s choices are based, not so much on right versus wrong, as on who arouses his sympathy and who his antipathy. The more simple and straightforward a good character, the easier it is for a child to identify with it and to reject the bad other. [322]

In their famous study, Opa war kein Nazi (Grandpa was no Nazi), Harald Welzer, Sabine Moller, and Karoline Tschuggnall highlight the difficulties many Germans have in relating to their family members’ role in the Third Reich. Generations raised and socialized in the Federal Republic, well aware of the crimes of Nazi Germany, tend to see the Nazis as “the others” and to disavow their own grandparents’ association with National Socialism. The authors demonstrate that there “is no systematic place for the Holocaust in German family memories” [323] and that “the following generations construct a past in which their relatives appear in a role having nothing to do with the crimes.” [324] The parallels to the Ukrainian diaspora memory of the OUN and the Holocaust are striking. The diaspora culture of memory, developed primarily in North America and re-exported to Ukraine after 1991, denies not only the OUN’s fascist and anti-Semitism, it denies the involvement in the Holocaust and the Holocaust “revisionism”—it denies the OUN-UPA’s involvement in the Holocaust and divorces it from its fascist and anti-Semitic legacy by means of producing an unrepresentative double line.

Is the manufacturing of contrafactual nationalist legends and edifying patriotic myths necessarily a bad thing? Bettelheim points to some of their benefits of legends and fairy tales. Some diaspora nationalists reason along similar lines. Commenting on the Krentsbaeh/Kreutzbach forgery, historian and UCC activist Roman Serbyn argues that “there is nothing wrong with the idea of a Jewish woman serving in the UPA; as part of Ukrainian mythology it promotes positive Ukrainian-Jewish relations.” Serbyn’s problem is rather that the rehabilitation of Ukrainian forces in service of the Nazis was not far-reaching enough: “What Yushchenko can be reproached with is not having brought into the project the Ukrainian veterans of the Waffen SS Division Halychyna [Galizien, PR] and other units of the armed forces of the Axis forces.”[325]

Yet, simplistic heroic tales based upon myths, half-truths, and deliberate falsifications have not only resulted in a failure to examine the past. What is worse, distorted, evenfctional, narratives are presented as “truth” and scholarly inquiry is derided as enemy propaganda, critical voices are labeled as communists, “Ukrainophobes,” Putin supporters, or “useful idiots” in the service of Yanukovych and the Kremlin.[326] This logic implies that Ukraine would benefit more from silence, state propaganda, and mythmaking than from critical inquiry. Furthermore, the philo-Semitic narrative of the OUN and UPA constitutes a form of Holocaust “revisionism”—it denies the OUN-UPA’s involvement in the Holocaust and divorces it from its fascist and anti-Semitic legacy by means of producing an unrepresentative...
tive and factually incorrect version of the organization’s past. It shares with other forms of Holocaust denial the gross exaggeration of relatively insignificant details while it ignores, overlooks, or presents well-documented facts as falsifications. By legitimizing the myths of the extreme right, this narrative has aided the mobilization of the Ukrainian extreme right.

These myths failed to constitute a basis for national mobilization outside the diaspora and the Ukrainian west. On the contrary, the cult of the OUN-UPA has polarized Ukraine and antagonized its neighbors. The deliberate distortions have complicated the process of historical and political reconciliation among Ukrainians, Jews, and Poles. It has frustrated Poland and the EU and unnecessarily complicated Ukrainian integration into European institutions. Last, but not least, it made it easier for the Kremlin to portray the Ukrainian leadership as irresponsible and politically immature, and to exploit this for political purposes.

Whereas children—and nationalist politicians—may need fairy tales, the task of the historian is to deconstruct and understand the past. Awareness of the Holocaust, attempts at understanding the mechanisms behind the OUN and UPA’s racist violence, and respect for their victims does not have to be an obstacle to nation-building. On the contrary, an open inquiry of the past is an important component of the building of a liberal democratic society with rule of law, pluralism, and respect for human rights.

Postscript, October 2010–May 2011

Since this article was written in the fall of 2009, Ukraine has seen a change of government. As one of his final acts in office, Yushchenko officially designated Stepan Bandera as a Hero of Ukraine and his polarizing and much-criticized move, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, of which both OUN wings and veteran organizations of the UPA and the Waffen-SS Galizien are members, enthusiastically endorsed Yushchenko’s decree and called “upon the Government of Canada to make changes to Canada’s War Veterans Allowance Act by expanding eligibility to include designated resistance groups such as OUN-UPA.” Under Yanukovych, a sharp reversal in the field of memory management followed. Yushchenko’s posthumous designation of Bandera and Shukhevych as national heroes was declared illegal by the courts, and the order was recalled. V’atrovykh and Yukhnovsky’s kyi were fired, and the SBU Archives and the Institute of National Memory got new directors. Valerii Soldatenko, who succeeded Yukhnovsky’s kyi as director of the Institute of National Memory, is a member of the Communist Party. In March 2011, the liquidation of the institute was announced.

The end of state support for the OUN and UPA cult outraged nationalist believers in the diaspora. Representatives of the OUN(b)-controlled Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) refused to meet with President Yanukovych and staged noisy protests during his visit to the United Nations in New York in September 2010. Askold Lozynskyj, one of the organizers of the protest, told the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States that the only thing that could prevent the protests would be to “fire Soldatenko, Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk and recognize the Holodomor [Famine] as genocide.” Dressed in a folkloristic outfit and with a bulls’ horn in his hand, Lozynskyj led noisy demonstrations outside the UN General Assembly, chanting “Russian butchers, go to hell!”

“Slava Ukrainy! Heroiam Slava!” The diaspora OUN(b) regard the popularly elected Yanukovych government as an “occupation regime” with which they have broken off all contact. Anti-Semitism is a central component in Lozynskyj’s apologetics. He claims that “an . . . overwhelming amount of Soviet accomplices during the Soviet’s two years in Western Ukraine from 1939–1941 were Jews,” alleges Jewish control over Canadian media, and charges that scholars who study the anti-Jewish violence of the OUN and UPA are paid to “invent demons” by Jewish interests. He dismisses scholarly studies of the OUN’s racism with references to the alleged Jewish ethnicity of the researchers.

Paul Grod, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has favored quiet diplomacy, but remains as committed as ever to the cult of the OUN and the UPA, vehemently and categorically denying Ukrainian nationalist involvement in the Holocaust. In March, 2010 the UCC organized a “task force” of nationalist activists to prevent “attacks on the national liberation movement” by silencing, discrediting, or undermining the credentials of critical scholars, and accusing them of “treason” against their imagined communities. After he lost his job as director of the SBU archives, in 2010, V’atrovykh has been engaged by his nationalist “partners” in the diaspora. He received a fellowship at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and was invited as keynote speaker at the twenty-third conference of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress as in Edmonton on November 5–7, 2010. The CIUS invited V’atrovykh to speak at the University of Alberta. In Edmonton, he again denied the OUN’s anti-Semitism and obfuscated its involvement in the Holocaust. The Lviv pogrom, he argued, was the subject of “much academic controversy.”

Individual members of the population did take (part) in the German-initiated repressions. . . . The participation in the repressions from the general population included criminal elements who wanted to benefit materially by participating in the repressions. Some took part relying on German propaganda, which was put forward at the time that Jews were responsible for, as the Germans called it, Jewish Bolshevism.” But “no Ukrainian political movement advocated the participation in these repressions or anti-Jewish pogroms,” he said. “The fact that some members of the police force organized by the Germans ultimately ended up in various military formations, such as the . . . Ukrainian Insurgent Army (the military wing of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) does not establish proof that these particular formations were involved in perpetrating the Holocaust.”

Introduced as “the Ukrainian historian Volodymyr V’atrovykh at Harvard University,” in Ukrainian media, he again dismissed OUN’s anti-Semitism involvement in the Holocaust as “a historical myth.”

On Remembrance Day, a day which in Canada traditionally emphasizes the role of military men in the fight against fascism, the CIUS saluted the OUN, the UPA, and the Ukrainian veterans of Waffen-SS Galizien. Less than a week later it pledged genocide awareness for the 1932–1933 famine, inflating the number of victims by 300 percent, to over ten million people.
Abandoned as state policy following Yushchenko’s disastrous defeat, the narrative of denial and myth making around the OUN-UPA is now again mostly the preserve of the extreme right in the diaspora and Ukraine proper.354 Yanukovych has continued Yushchenko’s legacy of playing the eastern and western parts of Ukraine against each other, further polarizing the pro-nationalist and “anti-Orange” camps.

The right-wing extremist Svoboda party has become the largest party in the local elections in Western Ukraine and the fifth largest party nationwide. While its political breakthrough came under Yanukovych, the responsibility must be shared also by Yushchenko and his legitimizing historians, whose official veneration, state-sponsored myth making and denial of the OUN-UPA atrocities provided political legitimacy and paved the way for this second turn to the right.

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Our heroes were shaped in bloody battle with the occupants when the so-called ‘civilized Europe’ ran away. Therefore, to judge Bandera is to spit in the face of the Ukrainian national-liberation movement. Anti-colonial to its nature, it means spitting on the Ukrainians’ right to their own state.

We have thus come full circle. Over the years, crossing the Atlantic back and forth, the self-serving nationalist mythology has taken increasingly fantastic forms. Stets’ko’s openly pro-fascist, pro-Hitler, pro-German declaration has metamorphosed not only into an anti-Nazi act, but into the first and bravest challenge to Hitler in Europe. The OUN leaders’ anti-Semitism and open endorsement of the Holocaust are dismissed with reference to a handful of Jewish survivors within the ranks of UPA. As an ultimate irony, this narrative, which is appropriated by extreme nationalists who do not shy away from anti-Semitic historical interpretations and open admiration for the Waffen-SS.

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17. On the OUN’s anti-Semitism, see Marco Carynnyk, “Foes of Our Rebirth: Ukrainian Nationalist Decalogue and the Nature of Fascism,” *Studying the Jew: Scholarly Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany during World War II and later settled in Canada. He was the honorary president of the Ukrainian Veterans association* in Edinburgh, and a leading figure in the OUN(N). He worked as a librarian at the University of Alberta where the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies set up the OUN collection. In 2011, he retired and moved to New York.


19. Mykola Mikhnovskyi’s *Decalogue* was a set of rules to police the political, social, and sexual activities of nationalists. Rule 1 stated that a Ukrainian state should reach from the Carpathians to the Caucasus, number 2 that “all people are your brothers, but Muscovites, Poles, Hungarians, Romans and Jews are the enemies of your people [moskvi, lidzy, ubry, rumny za tvoly—ie vosvyatys narod], Rule 3 states “for the Ukrainians!” Rule 10, which so appealed to Sukhovenko’s work on the OUN and other nationalist activists, reads: “Do not take a wife of alien stock, since your children will become your enemies; do not find acquaintances among enemies of our people, as that would give them strength and courage; do not buy from our oppressors as that will make you a traitor.” This nationalist decalogue is still on the Ukrainian Students’ Association—University of Winnipeg (UWUSA) Facebook site: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=171502843414 (accessed March 3, 2011).

20. Mykola Sukhovenko, *Moi spohady* (Kyiv: Vydavnytstvo “Smoloskyk” 1997), 50. Sukhovenko’s work on the OUN (1913–2008), a native of Bukovyna, worked in Berlin as a liaison between the OUN(m) and Nazi Germany during World War II and later settled in Canada. He was the honorary president of the Ukrainian Veterans association in Edmonton and a leading figure in the OUN(N). He worked as a librarian at the University of Alberta where the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies set up the OUN collection. In 2011, he retired and moved to New York.


23. Ibid., f. 13, no. 376, tom 6, l. 1.


people, our self-sacrificing Leader [Poglavnik] Ante Pavelić and the Ustaša movement within and outside the country has decided that we today, on the eve of the resurrection of the son of God also will witness the resurrection of our Croatian state. Kvatrenik referred to “the will of all our allies,” but without explicitly mentioning Hitler. Later that day, Kvatrenik sent a telegram to Hitler, to thank him “in the name of the Croatian people for the protection the German army has given the Croat national renovation and [to] request your recognition of the Independent State of Croatia by the Greater German Reich. Long live the Führer of the German people!” Zločinci Nezavisne Države Hrvatske, 1941–1945 (Belgrade: Vojnoistorijski institut, 1993), document 3 (the declaration) and 4 (the telegram). Thanks to Tomislav Dulčić for this reference.


56. Kul’chyt’s’kyi, OUN v 1941 roti (2006), 10. Similar attitudes were found in the OUN(b). In 1942, an OUN activist elaborated further on the size and scope of the Ukrainian state: “It will cover the lands from the Volga to the Carpathians, from the mountains of the Caucasus and the Black Sea to the sources of the Dniester, a territory of one million square kilometers. This will be a deciding factor for the solution of the eastern problems in regards to the Russia and the Baltic States, Poland, the Caucasus, the Black Sea states, and also the path to Africa and India through the Bosporus and the Dardanelles . . . Ukraine for the Ukrainians! This will be a Great United National State.” Derzhavnyi Arkhiv Rivenskoi oblasti, inv. nomer 326, cited in Vorontsov, “OUN-UPA,” 10.

57. In 1938–1939, senior OUN functionary Colonel Roman Sushko toured Canada. According to the RCMP, Sushko “had adopted many of Hitler’s mannerisms when delivering speeches.” Sushko boasted in the name of the Croatian people for the protection the German army has given the Croat national movement is so powerful that we will soon see the emergence of a Great Ukrainian Reich. Long live the Führer of the German people!” “Instruktsii Revoloiutsiinoho Provodu OUN(B) dlia orhanizatsiinoho aktyvu v Ukraini na period voiny. “Borot’ba i diial’nist’ OUN pid chas viiny” V . Viis’kovi instruktsii,” TsDA VO Ukrainy, f. 3833, op. 2, spr. 12, l. 10, Telegram Iaroslav Stest’ko no. 13, 25.6.1941.


61. For Romania, see Vladimir Solonari, Purifying the Nation: Population Exchange and Ethnic Cleansing in Nazi-Allied Romania (Washington D.C.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010). On Slovak minority policies, see, Heimann, Czechoslovakia, 112; on Croatia, see Dulčić, Utopias of Nation.

62. Roman Shakhvych, leader of both of the OUN(b) and the UPA, served in various Nazi German units from 1938 until 1943. He received training at the German Military Academy in Munich in 1938, in 1939–1940 he was joined by 120 other Ukrainian nationalists at a Gestapo training camp in Zakopane. Berkhoff, Harvest of Despair, 289, 298; Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 74, 91; Jeffrey Burds, The Early Cold War in Soviet West Ukraine, 1944–1949, Carl Beck Papers in Russian and Eastern European Studies 1505 (Pittsburgh: University Center for Russian and East European Studies, 2001), 68.


65. TSDA Ukrainy, f. 3833, op. 3, spr. 12, 1.10, Telegram Iaroslav Stest’ko no. 13, 25.6.1941.


71. “Ukrains’kyi narode!” OUN(b) viis’kovi plany, op. 2, spr. 1, ark. 25–33.


77. Rossolinski-Liebe, “The ‘Ukrainian National Revolution’ of 1941,” 100. Similar attitudes were found within the OUN(m). Its organ Selians’ka dolia described the Jews as enemies, who “had to leave the land or die on it. The Muscovite, the Pole, and the Jew were, arc, and will always be your enemies.” Amir Weiner, Making Sense of War: The Second World War and the Fate of the Bolshevik Revolution (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2001), 242–243, citing TsDAHO Ukraine, f. 57, op. 4, d. 369, l. 63.


83. Viktor Khar’kiv “Khmara,” a member of both Nachtigall and then the German-run Kyiv Gestapo, “A Letter to ‘Mott,’” BArch-MA, RH 20-17/277, Bl. 91, 126 and 137.


85. John-Paul Himka, The Livv Pogrom of 1941,” paper presented at the Association for the Study of the Nationalities, the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, April 16, 2011.

86. The leader of the original UPA, Taras Bul’b-Borovets’, wrote that “the supporter of pathological Führerprinzip (wahldemokratie), the banderite Kuzii, killed the two senior officers of the Ukrainian army, Colonel Nikola Shukhevych and Captain Senyuk’s-Hryhviy’s-kyi, who were members of the OUN(m) and which carried all the hallmarks of Banderite assassinations. TsDAVO Ukraine, f. 3833, op. 1, spr. 42, l. 33, “Podae do vidoma!” claims the two OUN(m) leaders “fell by the hand of fratricidal murder”; TsDAVO Ukraine, f. 3833, op. 1, spr. 42, l. 42, “Ogi klespsydry,” accused the OUN(b) of the murder, claiming that Shukhevych’s-kyi and Senyuk were killed by “fratricidal bullets.” German documents show that there was no German involvement in these murders.


93. “[An] analysis of 118 biographies of OUN(b) and UPA leaders in Ukraine during World War II shows that at least 46% of them served in the regional and local police and administration, the Nachtigall and Roland Battalions, the SS Galicia Division, or studied in German-sponsored military schools, primarily, in the beginning of World War II. At least 23% of the OUN(b) and UPA leaders in Ukraine were in the auxiliary police, Schutzmannschaft Battalion 201, and other police formations, 18% in military and intelligence schools in Germany and Nazi-occupied Poland, 11% in the Nachtigall and Roland Battalions, 8% in the regional and local administration in Ukraine during the Nazi occupation, and 1% in the SS Galicia Division,” Katchanovski, “Terrorists or National Heroes,” calculated from Petro Sotol, *Ukrains’ka povstancha armiia, 1943–1949: Dovidnyk* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2003), 162.

94. Report No. 4-8-2034, by Pavel Sudoplatov, the leader of the third department of the fourth UPR of the NKGB of the USSR, to Kobulov, Deputy People’s Commissioner of the NKGB of the USSR, March 16, 1944 HDA SBU, f. 13, sbornik no. 372, tom. 5, l. 209.


100. Mykhail Dmytryevich Stepeniak file, HDA SBU, f. 6, d. 1510, tom. 1, l. 29, 39.


Zdobowyj, zdobowyj sławę! Let us achieve our glory!
Wykosimy wszystkich Lachów po Warszaw.. . . We’ll cut down all Poles [Liakhy] all the way to Warsaw . . .
Ukrainski narodzie, . . . Ukrainian nation. . . .
Zdobowyj, zdobowyj siłę! Gather strength!
Zarz'imieni wszystkich Lachów do mogi.. . . We’ll butcher the Poles into their graves . . .
Ukrainski narodzie, . . . Ukrainian nation. . . .
Gdzie San, gdzie Karpaty, From the river San, to the Carpathians,
gdzie Krym, gdzie Karpaty, From the Crimea to the Caucasus—
Ukraina—Ukrainicom, Ukraine for the Ukrainians,
a wszystkim przylędom—precz! All aliens must go!

After (the Polish translation) in ibid., 2: 1294.


110. Carynnyk, “Foes of our Rebirth”; Per A. Rudling, “Theory and Practice: Historical Representation and then they exterminated them. . . . These murders took place at the same time OUN was trying to make overtures to the Western Allies (as were the East European collaborationist regimes.) . . . What


112. “With the Poles gone and the Soviets approaching, UPA made a decision to find the remaining Jewish survivors and liquidate them. As the Germans had taught them, they made assurances to Jews that they would not harm them anymore, they put them to useful work in camp-like settings, and then they exterminated them. . . . These murders took place at the same time OUN was trying to make overtures to the Western Allies (as were the East European collaborationist regimes.) . . . What

113. Carynnyk, “Foes of our Rebirth.”
is absolutely clear, however, is that a major attempt was launched at this time to eliminate Jewish survivors completely.” Ibid., 27.


114. Threatened Poles sought help from the Germans, and in some cases, replaced local Ukrainians as police units. The UPA’s own records from spring 1944 show how the murder of Poles continued, now on the charges that the Poles collaborated with the Gestapo. One UPA document, for the period March 13–April 15, 1944, reports 298 Poles in 19 villages were killed, many farmsteads burnt down, but a fraction of the OUN-UPA murders at the time. “Zvit s protypol’skykh aktiv,” Postii, I, V. 44, TsDAVO, f. 4620, op. 3, sp. 378, ll. 43–44. On the OUN(b)-led UPA murder of Jews during this period, see Himka, “The Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Holocaust,” 12–17.


117. According to the most extensive study of the OUN-UPA’s anti-Polish campaign, the number of Polish victims reach 130,000 when including the victims whose names could not be established. Ewa Siemaszko, “Biliams Zbrodni,” Biuletyn instytutu pamiątki narodowej, to. 7–8 (116–117) (July–August 2010): 93.

118. Motyka, Ukrainy partyzantka, 346–347. Mixed families were quite common in the Polish-Ukrainian borderlands, where the custom was that boys inherited nationality after their father, girls after their mothers. Kresy literature contains many testimonies of murders within mixed families. Ewa and Włodzisław Siemaszko have registered forty-five victims of intrafamily killings in Volhynia alone. Most of the victims are known by surname. Siemaszko and Siemaszko, Ludobójstwo, 2: 1059, table 13.


127. Interrogation of activist Mykhail Dmitrievich Stepaniak, HDA SBU, f. 6, d. 1510, tom 1, l. 54. When working with Soviet interrogations, it is critical to keep in mind that the Soviets had special interests in demonstrating the OUN-UPA’s German connections. Yet, they confirm a picture, borne out of other evidence, that Nazi Germany was but a secondary enemy of the OUN and UPA.


129. Ibid., l. 61.


131. Ivan Katchanovski, “Terrorists or National Heroes?” See also Stepeniak file, HDA SBU, f. 6, d. 1510, tom 1, l. 52.

132. Special resolution passed by the Third Congress of the OUN(b) in February 1943, TsDAVO, f. 3833, op. 1, spr. 102, ark. 1–4. Thanks to Marco Carynnyk for this reference. See also Motyka, Ukrainy partyzantka, 117, n. 47.

133. The Second Congress of the OUN(b) issued detailed instructions that the fascist salute should be executed by raising the right arm “slightly to the right, slightly above the point of the head,” while exclaiming “Glory to Ukraine!” (Slava Ukraini!), to which fellow members responded “Glory to the Heroes!” (Heroyam Slavy!). This section was omitted from the republified resolutions of the Second Congress. Compare, for instance, OUN v svity postanov Velykikh Zborov (n.p.: Zakordonni Chastnyh Ohranizatsii Ukrainy)kyh Nationalistiv, 1955, 44–45, with the original 1941 publication, TsDAHO, f. 1, op. 23, spr. 926, l. 199 (Postanovy II. Velykoho Zhoru Ohranizatsii Ukrainy kyh Nationalistiv, 37), cited in Rossoliński-Liebe, “The ‘Ukrainian National Revolution’ of 1941,” 90.


137. Carynnyk, “Foes of Our Rebirth,” citing “Nakaz Ch. 2/43, Oblasnym, okruzhnym i povitovym upravleniyam kontrrazvedvki SMERSH GUKR-NKO, Smersh,” to which fellow members responded “Glory to the Heroes!” (Heroyam Slavy!). This section was omitted from the republified resolutions of the Second Congress. Compare, for instance, OUN v svity postanov Velykikh Zborov (n.p.: Zakordonni Chastnyh Ohranizatsii Ukrainy)kyh Nationalistiv, 1955, 44–45, with the original 1941 publication, TsDAHO, f. 1, op. 23, spr. 926, l. 199 (Postanovy II. Velykoho Zhoru Ohranizatsii Ukrainy kyh Nationalistiv, 37), cited in Rossoliński-Liebe, “The ‘Ukrainian National Revolution’ of 1941,” 90.

138. Himka, Ukrainy partyzantka, 51.


141. Kosyj adds Armenians, Lithuanians, Italians, Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, and Belgians. Kosyj, The Third Reich, 373–374. Some of these non-Ukrainian UPA participants appear to have been former Soviet POWs who had served as Schutzmänner but defected after Stalingrad, and other collaborators. U.S. intelligence also mentioned former members of the Slovak Hlinka Guard, former soldiers of the Ukrainian Waffen-SS division Galizien, but also “escaped German SS men.” Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 79, citing Preliminary Reports I and Informant Report 35520 [undated], National Archives and Records Administration, (henceforth NARA), RG 319, IRR TS “Bandister Activity Czecoslovakia,” v. 1, D. 190425.

142. “Through resurrection and sabotage we finally broke the strengths of the Muscovite-Jewish [moskovs’ko-zhydovskyi] occupant. When the war finally broke out our partisan activities included his extermination and on our rise under the leadership of our leader Stepan BANDERA.” Leaflet distributed in June 1942 on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Act of June 30, 1941. HDA SBU, f. 13, spr. 372, ch. 35, l. 200. On 1947, see f. 13, op. 376, tom 4, l. 363. On 1948, see f. 13, op. 376, tom 65, l. 243.


144. For instance, an underground OUN(b) journal from 1946 describes the History of the VKP(b) as the “Bolshevik Talmud.” Ukrain’si kyi robіn: Vydanie kraiinoi oseredok propaahnپ OUN, No. 1 (January 1946): 2.


146. Ibid., 147–148.


148. Ibid., l. 293.


152. Petro Poltava, “Elementy revolutsiinosti ukraїns’ko natsionalizmu,” Ideia i iych, ch. 10 (1948), HDA SBU, f. 13, no. 376, l. 1, l. 223.

153. In fact, Luze was not even in Volhynia at the time, but was killed in a car accident in Potsdam. Motyka, Ukrainska partyzantka, 202–203. This falsification appeared with UPA veterans in the early 1950s, and is often repeated by the nationalists. Volodymyr Kosyj, Ukraina i Nimechchyna u Druhui svitovui vіii (Lviv: Naukove t-vo imeni T. Shevchenka u L’vovi, 1993), 325. “We Ukrainians are proud of the fact that . . . the chief of Staff of the German S.A. Lutze, [was] killed in course of military operations by the UPA, under the command of General Taras Chuprynka, the former Ukrainian commander of the ‘Nightigale Battalion.’ Jaroslav Stetzko, “The Truth About Events in Lviv, West Ukraine, in June and July, 1941: An Open Letter to the ‘Rheinische Merkur,’” The Ukrainian Review 10, no. 3 (Autumn 1963): 70.


160. Ibid., ark. 241.
162. Ibid., ark. 44, 48.

163. Ibid., ark. 69.


169. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 80–81.


171. Goda and Breitman, 82, Hitler’s Shadow, citing CIA/State Department—SIS/Foreign Office Talks on Operations Against the USSR, April 23, 1951, NARA, RG 263, E ZZ-19, B 9, Aerodynamics: Operations, v. 9, Œ 2.

172. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 80; 82.


174. Pavlic’s exiled Ustashe movement, reorganized in 1956 as the Croatian National Liberation Movement (Hrvatski Oslobodilački Pokret, HOP), joined Stets’ko’s Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, and had its European headquarters in Franco’s Spain.


181. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 42, 41.


185. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 80–81.


188. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 88–89.

189. The Immigration and Naturalization Services saw in Lebed’ a “clear-cut deportation case” due to his wartime record with its “wholesale murders of Ukrainians, Poles and Jewish (sic),” but he was protected by CIA Assistant Director Allen Dulles’s personal intervention. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 86, citing NARA, RG 263, E ZZ-18, B 10, Mykola Lebed’ IRR Personal File, Box 757.

190. Breitman and Goda, Hitler’s Shadow, 80; 82.

Horbatsch was proud of his service as a soldier in the Waffen-SS and a regular contributor to the veterans’ journal Visti kombatanta. He received a J.D. in 1941 and a Ph.D. in 1969 from the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and wrote several widely cited chronicles on the history of the OUN. Horbatsch was also used as an “expert” for the defense during the OSI hearings on deportation.

199. Oleksa Horbatsch (1915–1997) was assistant professor at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich in 2000, and the order For Merit (Zaslugy) of the third degree from President Yushchenko himself in 2005. He is honorary director of the Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement in Lviv.

200. Petro Savaryn (b. 1926) never held an academic position, but was one of the founders of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and chancellor of the University of Alberta 1984–87. He also served as president of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians 1983–1997, and the Alberta Progressive Conservative party. He is also active in the society of the veterans of the Waffen-SS Galizien. Petro Savaryn, Z sobou vzaly Ukrain: Vid Tarnopillya do Al'berty (Kyiv: KyIVTs, 2007), 275.


202. Petro Mirchuk (1913–1999) was arrested by the Germans in 1941 and spent the war in internment camps, including Auschwitz. Immediately after the war he was responsible for OUN(b) propaganda in occupied Germany. He was one of Stepan Bandera’s close allies and a stern adherent of totalitarianism. Mirchuk’s writings are representative of the sort of pseudo–scholarship the OUN(b) promoted in war. He received a J.D. in 1941 and a Ph.D. in 1969 from the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and wrote several widely cited chronicles on the history of the OUN. He combined academic activities with high-ranking positions in the OUN(b). Posivnych, Zhyttia i diial’nist’ Stepana Bandery, 140. Mirchuk was also used as an “expert” for the defense during the OSI hearings on deportation.


204. Some of the more prominent examples are found in the writings of Mykola Riabchuk, according to whom “Ukraine is not just a ‘normal’ nation,” but rather, “a postcolonial country shared near equally by the ‘aboriginal’ and ‘settler’ communities.” Riabchuk juxtaposes the “aboriginal” Ukrainians to the Sioux population with (non-Ukrainian) “settlers” and invokes Hollywood images of “wolves.” Under these conditions, Riabchuk argues that a part of Bandera’s legacy remains relevant—that of patriotism, national solidarity, self-sacrifice, idealistic commitment to common goals and values.


209. Thus, only in 1996 did a complete version of Stets’ko’s Akt of June 30, 1941, retaining the statement of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Philadelphia, November 23, 2008.


211. Himka, “‘War Criminality,’’ 9–24; idem, “Central European Diaspora,” “17–31; Rudling, “‘Iushchenkiv fashyst’,” 237–309; Rossoli


215. One of the initiators of the Waffen-SS division Galizien, Kubijovy


219. Kubijovy habitually refers to Poles as “degenerateS,” Jews as blood-suckers, Russians as Mongols and tyrants. Mirchuk, My Meetings and Discussions in Israel, 116, 118, 121, 122. He accused Jews of controlling the U.S. courts. “What is ‘Jewish justice’ doing in American courts? And why ‘Jewish’ and not American justice? Are we a colony of theirs? It’s not enough that our government gives Israel billions of our tax money each year for nothing, and now American courts must yield to Jewish demands?” Sheebels himself wouldn’t have been able to turn the Americans against the Jews the way they did themselves. . . . I repeat again and again, not as an ‘anti-Semite’ but as your friend: the abuse of your influence in America for the purpose of persecuting innocent Ukrainians by accusing them of cooperation with the Germans—is merely sowing the wind. And when I am sowing wind, the proverb: ‘Who sows in the wind, reaps the storm!’ Think over this carefully! . . . I’m not threatening you with pogroms, I’m only warning you. All of those who have come to America from Eastern European countries, occupied by the Bolsheviks, know a great deal about the role of the Jews in the recent history of Poland—a role which, for your own good, it would be better to remember before you go home. But with these trials of ‘war criminals”—the so-called murderers of innocent Jews—you’re provoking them to reveal everything incriminating against the Jews. Is this what you want? These East-European émigrés have children and grandchildren, born and raised as American citizens. When you maliciously and groundlessly accuse their forbears of imaginary crimes—and even generalize the accusation by claiming for example that all Ukrainians are ‘anti-Semites’—then they, in turn, seeking to know the truth, learn from their parents about the role of the Jews in the apparatus of the bloody Cheka, GPU, NKVD, KGB; and they pass on this information to all their American acquaintances, co-workers, professors, journalists, et al. Tell me, do you really want that?” Ibid., 124–127.

220. Mirchuk, My Meetings and Discussions in Israel, 66. (Soul is a derogatory term for Jews.)

221. Orest Subtelny, Ukraine: A History (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000), 489. This view came to have an impact also on Ukraine, as Subtelny’s textbook, in Ukrainian translation, was widely used in Ukraine during the first years of independence. Taras Hunczak, “Ukrainian-Jewish Relations during the Soviet and Nazi Occupations,” in Yuri Lugovskoy, ed., Ukraine during World War II: History and Its Aftermath (Edmonton: CIUS, 1986), 42, 45.

222. In a discussion at the Fifth Annual Danyliw Research Seminar in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies, the Chair of Ukrainian Studies, the University of Ottawa, October 30, 2009, Potichnyj argued that Jews, killed by the UPA, were killed because they were communists. “When the newspaper Post, he elaborated on this idea, “As for the killings of Jews and Poles, Potichnyj argues that no matter where guerillas fight for liberation, it’s a messy affair. The Poles provoked the Ukrainians, he said. ‘The Ukrainians came to Jews, he said, ‘obviously, in the situation there were no Jews to kill, but they were working with the Jews, although in 1943, when the UPA was quite strong, there were hardly no Jews left because the Germans had, unfortunately, killed them all off. But there were some remnants, and the remnant wars were battles between the Ukrainian underground and the Ukrainians who were essentially allied with the Red partisans were obviously enemies of the underground, he said.” John Pancake, “In Ukraine, movement to honor members of WWII underground sets off debate,” Washington Post, January 6, 2010: A7; John Paul Himka [Ivan-Pavel Khynlyk], “‘Che Ukraini ki studiy povnyi zaklyshchyno spadshchynu OUN-UPA’,” in Amur, Balyns kyi, Hrytsak, Strasti za Banderou, 163.

223. “What is also indisputable is that many Jews served in the Soviet secret police during that period. Of these lands—a role which, for your own good, it would be better to remember before you go home. But with these trials of ‘war criminals”—the so-called murderers of innocent Jews—you’re provoking them to reveal everything incriminating against the Jews. Is this what you want? These East-European émigrés have children and grandchildren, born and raised as American citizens. When you maliciously and groundlessly accuse their forbears of imaginary crimes—and even generalize the accusation by claiming for example that all Ukrainians are ‘anti-Semites’—then they, in turn, seeking to know the truth, learn from their parents about the role of the Jews in the apparatus of the bloody Cheka, GPU, NKVD, KGB; and they pass on this information to all their American acquaintances, co-workers, professors, journalists, et al. Tell me, do you really want that?” Ibid., 124–127.


226. For instance, on November 10, 2010 during the trial in Kyiv regarding the legality of Yushchenko’s collective designation of the OUN and the UPA as Heroes of Ukraine, Petro Mykytovych Peresyp, representing the Sunny chapter of the far-right Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self Defense (UNSPO), justified the “murder, disseminating, and slaughter” — that is done all across the world when one people fight for their independence, they kill other people.” Legal argument, case 2a-6732/10, “Za Pozvornik Vitenko Natalii Mykhailivni do Prezidenta Ukrainy shchodo vyznannya nezakonnym Ukazu Prezidenta Ukrainy vid 28 s’chenia 2010 roku No. 75/2010 ‘Pro vshanuvannia uzhastnykiv borot’by za iznaleznyst’ Ukrainy u XX stolitti,’’ Okruzhnyi Administrativnyi sud mista Kyeva, November 10, 2010. Press release, November 12, 2010. The proceedings are also available online: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znQjFCNCAXg (accessed November 10, 2010). Thanks to Krzysztof Janiga for this material.

227. In an interview, the 87-year-old V olhynian UPA veteran Ivan Hnatevych Kisliuk (b. 1923) presses his fingers down on the cover of the book Armiia bez Derzhavy, and told me to open to page 253. It reads: “In the end of July 1943 the General Staff of the UNRA issued an appeal for the peoples of all Eastern Europe and the Ukrainian Past, Ukrainian Present: Selected Papers from the Fourth World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies, Harrogate, 1990 (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993), 99.


232. Petro J. Potichnyj was one of the few exceptions among the pronationalist scholars. He reached out to the Jewish community, aiming at a dialogue. Howard Astor and Peter Potichnyj, Jewish-Ukrainian Relations: Two Solitudes (Oakville, ON: Mosaic Press, 1983); idem, eds., Ukrainian-Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective (Edmonton: CIUS and University of Alberta, 1990).


239. “It makes no sense to refer to Eastern Europeans, who were regarded by the Germans as subhumans, as ‘Nazi’ war criminals; they were not allowed to join the Nazi Party.” Myroslav Yurkevych, in “Discussion,” in Bodzhyk, Ukraine in World War II, 158. Yet, National Socialism attracted many Eastern Europeans. In fact, Nazi Germany categorically banned any use of swastikas and other Nazi symbols in the emigre press, as well as prohibited the use of the term “National Socialist” in the names of any Slavic emigre organizations in Germany. Iury Hrybouski, “Belsarhs rukh i Niaenechyna napireadni i u pachatku Druhoi sus’vet’nai vainy,” ARCHE 5, 8 (2009): 152.

240. Hunczak, “Ukrainian-Jewish Relations,” 44–45. Similarly Mykola Riabchuk describes the OUN’s collaboration and anti-Semitism as “rather disputable” and relies on Motyl’s definition, in which collaborators are “individuals or groups who abandon their sovereign aspirations and serve another power’s goals.” Mykola Riabchuk, “Bandera’s Controversy and Ukraine’s Future,” citing Motyl, “Ukraine, Europe, and Bandera,” 6.


244. Alexander Umland has taken Motyl to task over his use of this terminology. “If we would apply Motyl’s definition of any Slavic émigré organizations in Germany,” idem, “Faschismus in Ostmittel- und Südosteuropa,” 6.


246. For instance, public intellectual Mykola Riabchuk sees no difficulty with the UPA cult, as long as the focus remains on their "ethical rather than ideological values" and as long as their ideology, patriotism and commitment to the national-liberation cause, for their idealism and dedication, are praised... (which the Ukrainian publication credited for first releasing the memoirs) she was mysteriously unknown. Moreover, a careful analysis of the text of the ‘memoirs’ has led me to the conclusion that the ministry had never had an employee by that name and that such a case of homicide was entirely fiction; Ukraine-Analysen also features an article by Dmitry Andreysyev (pp. 88–91), in which he states that Stella Kreutzbach went to Palestine after the war, where she was later employed as a secretary in the foreign ministry, and that several weeks after the publication of her memoirs in the Washington Post (which the Ukrainian publication credited for first releasing the memoirs) she was mysteriously shot and killed. I checked the Washington Post of that period and did not find the memoirs. At my request, Dr. N. M. Gelber of Jerusalem made inquiry in the foreign ministry there; the reply was that Stella Kreutzbach went to Palestine after the war, where she was later employed as a secretary in the foreign ministry, and that several weeks after the publication of her memoirs in the Washington Post (which the Ukrainian publication credited for first releasing the memoirs) she was mysteriously shot and killed. I checked the Washington Post of that period and did not find the memoirs. At my request, Dr. N. M. Gelber of Jerusalem made inquiry in the foreign ministry there; the reply was that Stella Kreutzbach went to Palestine after the war, where she was later employed as a secretary in the foreign ministry, and that several weeks after the publication of her memoirs in the Washington Post (which the Ukrainian publication credited for first releasing the memoirs) she was mysteriously shot and killed. I checked the Washington Post of that period and did not find the memoirs. At my request, Dr. N. M. Gelber of Jerusalem made inquiry in the foreign ministry there; the reply was that Stella Kreutzbach went to Palestine after the war, where she was later employed as a secretary in the foreign ministry, and that several weeks after the publication of her memoirs in the Washington Post (which the Ukrainian publication credited for first releasing the memoirs) she was mysteriously shot and killed. I checked the Washington Post of that period and... 

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264. The Krentsbah/Kreutzbach forgery was also discussed in the Ukrainian émigré press, where
the writer Bohdan Kordiuk concorded with Friedman’s conclusions: “The careful historian Friedman
got the story of Dr. Stella Krentsbah, who ‘Thanks UPA for her Life,’ which has been re-printed so
many times, his attention, but finds nothing about her. And rightly so, since none of the UPA veterans,
known by the author of these lines, either heard or knew of this legendary Stella Krentsbah. Neither
have any Jews heard of her. Hardly any one of the tens of thousands of Ukrainians refugees claim to
have met this Stella Krentsbah. The biography, attributed to her in certain places, does not hold up
to critical scrutiny; claims that she would have been working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do
not correspond to the truth. And some were nonsensical—what she would have been killed on the
streets of Jerusalem from a shot to the nape of her neck, supposedly due to her favorable memories
of the UPA. That nonsense constitutes a jungle of the prejudices which so burden Ukrainian-Jewish
relations. It seems to us, that as long as there is still no independent evidence, the stories of Dr.
Stella Krentsbah need to be regarded as a mystification.” Bohdan Kordiuk, “Retsenzii: Pro ludi, 
spovnennykh samoposviaty: Their Brother’s Keepers by Philip Friedman. With a Foreword by Father


266. Dietsch, Making Sense of Suffering, 223–226.

267. Andreas Umland and Anton Shekhovtsov, “Pravoradikal’naia partiiinaia politika v postsovetskoi
Ukraine: zagadka elektoral’noi marginal’nosti ukrainskikh ul’tranatsionalistov v 1994–2009 gg.,” Ab

268. Johan Dietsch, “Imagining the Missing Neighbor: Jews and the Holocaust in Ukrainian History
Textbooks,” in Heorhii Kas’ianov, ed., “The Krentsbah/Kreutzbach forgery was also discussed in the Ukrainian émigré press, where
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270. Ihor Yukhnov’s’kyi (b. 1925) is a physicist, not a trained historian. An enthusiastic admirer
of Bandera and Shukhevych, the OUN and UPA, Yukhnov’s’kyi has occasionally voiced antisemetic

271. Endorsement by “Ihor Yukhnovs’kyi, Academician, head of the Ukrainian Institute of National
(Kyiv: ‘Tsentr doslidzhen’ vyzvol’noho rukhu, 2007), back cover.

272. UNC(b) veteran Volodymyr Kosykh serves as its honorary director, and Petro Sodol (b. 1935),
a former president of the OUN(b)-affiliated publishing house Prolog in New York and a senior member of the
Ukrainian nationalist youth organization ZSG, also served as its member and editor. “Na Oboloni z’iavyt’sia
Avenue of Memory,” in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, October 23–25, 2008, 9.

273. For a list of the TsDVR’s intellectual collaborators and partners, see http://zedtv.org.ua/content/
rozrusheni (accessed October 1, 2011)

274. News release of the Center for the Research of the Liberation Movement, TsDVR, Informatissina


276. For a list of the TsDVR’s intellectual collaborators and partners, see http://zedtv.org.ua/content/
rozrusheni (accessed October 1, 2011)


278. For a list of the TsDVR’s intellectual collaborators and partners, see http://zedtv.org.ua/content/
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279. Swedish historian Göran B. Nilsson describes the Soviet practice of writing history from the
perspective of a constantly changing present as “chronological imperialism.” Göran B. Nilsson,

280. To commemorate the centennial of the birth of the OUN poet Olena Telhia, President Yushchenko
in 2006 issued a presidencial decree to erect a memorial “to her and her associates” in Bahin Yar, where
her body had been buried in 1942. Aleksandr Burakov’s “Istoriia memorializatsii evreiskoi
com/index.php?g=Pages&i=view&id=2725 (accessed October 3, 2010), citing Yushchenko decree
No. 416. 2006. In Drobohvy, a monument to Bandera has been erected at the site of the former ghetto.


284. A Wehrmacht intelligence report from April 1944 reports that “the UPA has successfully taken up pursuit of the Jewish gangs and up to now shot almost 100.” Staatsanwaltschaft Dortmund 45 Jb 24/62, Bd “Reste von Gutachten und Dokumenten aus dem Bestand des Pz. AOK 4,” BA-MA, RH-21, Pz. AOK 4, Abt. k/40, Tötungsbericht, April 1944, as cited in Golczewski, “Shades of Grey,” 143. On this topic, see Weiner, Making Sense of War, 263–264.


294. Mishchenko, “Pratsivnyk SBU.”


300. SBU, “U Služhbi bezpeki Ukrainy vidbyłys’ fotovystavka ‘Ukrains’ka Povstans’ka Armia.,” “Iurii Shukhevych (b. 1933) is the son of UPA commander Roman Shukhevych and leader of the far-right UNA-UNSO, the Ukrainian sister party of the German neo-Nazi NPD. It is openly antidemocratic—in the 1990s its propaganda posters carried the slogan “Vote for us and you will never have to vote again.” Along with Levko Luk’ianenko (b. 1928), Shukhevych was one of the more prominent nationalist dissidents and a cause célèbre for the émigré OUN. Luk’ianenko became Ukraine’s leading anti-Semite. Yushchenko designated both Iuryi Shukhevych and Luk’ianenko Heroes of Ukraine. Per A. Rudling, “Anti-Semitism and the Extreme Right in Contemporary Ukraine,” in Andrea Mammone, Emmanuel Godin, and Brian Jenkins, eds., Mapping the Extreme Right in Contemporary Europe: From Local to Transnational (forthcoming), John-Paul Himka, “The Importance of the Situational Element in East Central European Fascism,” East Central Europe 37 (2010): 357.


302. For Fishbein’s complete speech, see Moses Fishbein, “The Jewish Card in Russian Operations against Ukraine: Paper delivered at the 26th Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 24–27 June 2009: http://www.vaadua.org/VaadENG/News%202009/Fishbein2.htm (accessed November 8, 2009).


as “a longtime specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia,” and worked, among other things, for the U.S. State Department, the CIA, and RFE/RL until 2004, when he made a career as vice dean and director of research at several universities in the former Soviet Union.


311. Kurylo and Himka, “Iak OUN stavylasia do ievreiv?” "How would you define your country’s relation to the following groups during World War II?” 64 percent of the respondents answered that relations with Ukrainians were bad, a higher number even than Germans (63 percent) and Russians (57 percent). Wojciech Szacki and Marien Wojciechowsk. “ZlI Niemcy. złI Ukraińcy: To Niemcy byli głównymi wroga Polaków w II wojnie i to oni zadali nam najwcześniejszą cierpielię. Ale najgorzej wspominamy kontakty z Ukraińcami,” Gazeta Wyborcza, August 24, 2009, 4.

312. The attitudes to the UPA was similar, with 5 percent very positive, 8 percent generally positive, while 29 percent very negative, and 16 percent generally negative. Significantly, the attitudes within the younger generation did not differ significantly from the older; neither did the attitude within the group of highly educated differ much from the population in general. The exception was Galicia, where 62 percent of those surveyed had a positive attitude toward the OUN(b), and 59 to UPA. Even in Volynia only 5 percent of respondents were very positive, and 11 percent generally positive to UPA. Asked about war criminality, 35 percent of respondents thought OUN(b) and UPA were guilty of murder of Ukrainians, Jews, and Poles; 6 percent of murdering people from one of these groups. Only 14 percent of respondents thought them innocent of murder. Ivan Kachanovski, “’Ukraine ne verail si my ob OUN i UPA,” Frazu: http://www.frazu.ua/print/14.10.09/76064.html (accessed January 23, 2010).

313. See, for instance the story of Ludwik Wrodarczyk, a Roman Catholic village priest in Okopy in Volynia, a rescuer who in 2000 was designated as Righteous of Nations. The UPA kidnapped and killed him in December 1943. Maria Debowska and Leon Popen, Duchowni kresieci jueckiej: Obywatelstwo religijne w czasach kombatanckich 1939–1945 (Warsaw: Politychna Muzyczna, 2010).


316. Only 6 percent of Ukrainians had a “very positive” attitude toward the OUN(b), and 8 percent “basically positive,” whereas 25 percent were “very negative,” and 15 percent “generally negative.” The attitudes to the UPA was similar, with 5 percent very positive, 8 percent generally positive, while 29 percent very negative, and 16 percent generally negative. Significantly, the attitudes within the younger generation did not differ significantly from the older; neither did the attitude within the group of highly educated differ much from the population in general. The exception was Galicia, where 62 percent of those surveyed had a positive attitude toward the OUN(b), and 59 to UPA. Even in Volynia only 5 percent of respondents were very positive, and 11 percent generally positive to UPA. Asked about war criminality, 35 percent of respondents thought OUN(b) and UPA were guilty of murder of Ukrainians, Jews, and Poles; 6 percent of murdering people from one of these groups. Only 14 percent of respondents thought them innocent of murder. Ivan Kachanovski, “’Ukraine ne verail si my ob OUN i UPA,” Frazu: http://www.frazu.ua/print/14.10.09/76064.html (accessed January 23, 2010).

317. Asked, “How would you define your country’s relation to the following groups during World War II?” 64 percent of the respondents answered that relations with Ukrainians were bad, a higher number even than Germans (63 percent) and Russians (57 percent). Wojciech Szacki and Marien Wojciechowsk. “ZlI Niemcy. złI Ukraińcy: To Niemcy byli głównymi wroga Polaków w II wojnie i to oni zadali nam najwcześniejszą cierpielię. Ale najgorzej wspominamy kontakty z Ukraińcami,” Gazeta Wyborcza, August 24, 2009, 4.

318. The question, “Who was responsible for the crimes committed in Volynia in 1943?” 14 percent answered “Ukrainians,” whereas only 5 percent answered “UPA, Ukrainian nationalists, Ukrainian military formations.” A full 19 percent blamed “Russians, the USSR, NKVD. Among them, 1 percent blamed “Ukrainians and Russians” and “Ukrainians executing Russian orders”; 1 percent blamed “Germans” and “Ukrainians, on German orders”; 2 percent blamed “Poles and Ukrainians,” “Mutual slaughter,” and “both sides”; 1 percent maintained that “Others were responsible,” or that it was “unclear” who was to blame. By far the largest group, 57 percent, answered “Don’t know, have not heard about it, difficult to answer.” Katarzyna Makaruk, “Wo iny wyborczej emisji,” Wyborcza, August 24, 2009.


Holodomor denial, which, had the law passed, would criminalize denial of the genocidal character of the famine as genocide, see Marples, Heroes and Villains, 72, 313, n. 1.


322. Ibid., 9–10.


324. Ibid., 207.

325. Ibid., 209.


329. In April 2007, President Y ushchenko submitted to the Verkhovna Rada a draft law against Holodomor denial, which, had the law passed, would criminalize denial of the genocidal character of the famine of 1932–1933. The Day Weekly Digest (Kyiv), no. 11, April 3, 2007; Ilya Khineiko, “Russian Drama’s Discussion of Second World War Revisions in the Near Abroad States,” Current Politics in Ukraine, June 23, 2009: http://ukraineanalysis.wordpress.com/ (CIUS Stasiuk Program Blog) (accessed October 2, 2009). As there is no consensus whether the famine was an act of genocide, the laws, technically, have made a number of senior scholars and academics, including Mark B. Tauger, R. W. Davis, Stephen G. Wheatcroft, Michael Ellman, Lynne Viola, Moshe Lewin, even Robert Conquest—who remains ambivalent on the—liable for jail time in Ukraine. On the assessment of the famine as genocide, see Marples, Heroes and Villains, 72, 313, n. 1.

324. Ibid., 207.

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