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With horror, hope, Ukrainians watch crisis from afar He can see the warm glow of the sun below the ancient city's skyline, a jumble of historic buildings that survived World War II, Soviet-era apartment blocks, and gilded church domes rising out of endless plains along the Dnieper River. In a moment, the golden tips of the cathedral towers will spark, then explode with light, beacons ablaze in the serene morning sky. **The Boston Globe.** [Read More.](#)

To Save Ukraine, Pressure its Oligarchs Eleven weeks after President Viktor Yanukovich sparked peaceful street protests by halting Ukraine's effort to build closer ties to Europe, his standoff with the opposition has slid into ugly violence that has polarized politics and pushed the country to the brink of a civil conflagration. Ten of Ukraine's twenty-five regions are beyond the control of the central authorities and the center of the capital is under opposition occupation. State power is disintegrating, the economy is just one slip from collapse, and little time remains to prevent a catastrophe. While international media buzzed late this week about the tapped phone call that captured profane talk about Ukraine by US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, the US and European governments must stay focused on Ukraine's best hope: its oligarchs. **Atlantic Council.** [Read More](#)

How Europe nearly lost Ukraine—but may yet regain it "WE ARE not in a bidding war with Russia" is the refrain of senior Europeans whenever they talk about the turmoil in Ukraine. In fact, they sometimes are. Now events in Kiev, particularly cack-handed attempts to suppress its protests by force, have given the European Union an unexpected chance to try again with the offer that went spectacularly wrong two months ago. Indeed, the EU could yet help to pull Ukraine back from civil strife and salvage its battered European ideals. **The Economist.** [Read More](#)

Nuland phone leak: When Ukraine divides old allies The stand-off in Ukraine is creating new tensions. The country of 46 million people finds itself in the middle, with Russia pulling from one side and the EU from the other. Some of the language being tossed between Moscow and Washington echoes the Cold War and a leaked tape reveals discord between the European Union and the US. Firstly European officials and leaders are furious that America's new top diplomat for Europe, Victoria Nuland, was captured on tape using the f-word about the EU. In Brussels officials were coy. "If we defend ourselves," said one, "we will do it somewhere other than here." But German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the use of the word was "absolutely unacceptable". **BBC News.** [Read More](#)

OSCE Chair discusses crisis in Ukraine with President Yanukovich Didier Burkhalter, Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, discussed with Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine, the situation in the country and confirmed the readiness of the OSCE to assist Ukraine in the settlement of the crisis. **OSCE.** [Read More](#)

[**A Russian Threat to Ukraine?**](#) Let's start with the alarming question many people are now asking and then consider other forms of possible Russian intervention in the ongoing Ukrainian Revolution. It was on January 31st that Vladimir Putin's former adviser, the economist Andrei Illarionov, shocked Ukrainians with his claim that the Kremlin has already developed several scenarios ranging from "control over all of Ukraine" to "control" over several provinces. His views might have been dismissed as alarmist were it not for the fact that Ukrainians have been expecting a more forceful Russian response to the ongoing revolution for weeks. Imagine two possible scenarios: (1) a full-scale invasion of all, most, or much of Ukraine and (2) a limited invasion of one or two provinces of Ukraine. In both instances, the point would presumably be annexation, occupation, or longer-term control. **World Affairs.** [Read More.](#)

[**Ukraine: UN chief highlights need for dialogue, peaceful resolution of political crisis**](#) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today reiterated the urgency of ending the political crisis in Ukraine through dialogue and the need to prevent further violence, as he met with the country's President ahead of the opening ceremony for the Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Victor Yanukovich briefed the Secretary-General at length on the genesis of the crisis and recent developments, according to a read-out of the meeting issued by Mr. Ban's spokesperson. The Ukrainian capital, Kiev, has been witnessing mass protests since late November, following a Government decision not to sign an agreement on broader integration with the European Union. **UN News Centre.** [Read More](#)

[**Kremlin Quashes Last Pockets of Media Freedom**](#) Since the Kremlin shut down Russia's last nationwide independent television channel in 2003, news coverage for the vast majority of Russian citizens has been replaced with pro-regime propaganda. No alternative viewpoints are presented; no opposition leaders are allowed on the air; no serious instances of abuse of power or government corruption are reported. Two notable exceptions have been the cable TV channel Dozhd (Rain) and the radio station Ekho Moskvy, which maintained critical news reporting and gave airtime to the opposition. With a monthly reach of, respectively, 11 million and 4 million people in a country of 140 million, these two media outlets could not possibly challenge the monopoly of the state propaganda machine, but they nevertheless provided important space for debate and gave at least a part of Russian society a chance to receive objective information. **World Affairs.** [Read More.](#)

[**Ukrainian Opposition Warns Yanukovich as Currency Rattled \(3\)**](#) Ukraine's opposition warned President Viktor Yanukovich that the country is running out of time to solve its political crisis after the hryvnia plunged to a five-year low against the dollar this week. Vitali Klitschko, head of the opposition UDAR party, repeated demands yesterday for presidential elections or constitutional change. Acting Prime Minister Serhiy Arbutov said a failure to compromise was weakening Ukraine. Parliament may meet for a special session Feb. 11 to discuss the issue, Speaker Volodymyr Rybak said today. **Bloomberg.** [Read More](#)

[**European Official Takes Measured Tone on Ukraine Aid**](#) On a visit to Ukraine to try to prod the country's embattled president and his opponents into resolving a volatile standoff, Europe's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said Wednesday that a package of economic assistance was in the works but dampened hopes of a sudden infusion of cash. Russia decided last week to suspend a \$15 billion loan package, and the European Union has repeatedly said it does not want to get into a bidding war with Russia for Ukraine's allegiance. But it has come under growing pressure to complement a high-minded emphasis on the appeal of European values with more concrete measures to influence events in Ukraine. **The New York Times.** [Read More](#)

[**M. Smorodsky: PROMISES MADE – PROMISES BROKEN and the Consequences of Silence**](#) On February 6, 2014, Reuters reported that a senior Kremlin aide has accused the United States of interference in Ukrainian affairs which "*breached the 1994 treaty under which Washington and Moscow jointly guaranteed Ukraine's security and sovereignty after Kiev gave up its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal.*" The Kremlin's accusations are the height of unabashed hypocrisy andchutzpah. By going on the offensive, Russia is attempting to camouflage its own flagrant transgressions of the security assurances it gave to Ukraine in 1994. After the fall of the Soviet Union and its declaration of independence on August 24, 1991, Ukraine became the third largest nuclear power in the world having more nuclear warheads than France and Great Britain combined! Twenty years ago, at the behest of the United States and Russia, Ukraine agreed to remove and to have destroyed all nuclear weapons on its territory. All that Ukraine asked in return was to be given security assurances by the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom upon its accession to the NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY as a non-nuclear weapon state. These security assurances were given on December 5, 1994 and are commonly known as the BUDAPEST MEMORANDUM. On the basis of these assurances, Ukraine surrendered approximately 1900 nuclear warheads. Sadly, the security assurances of the Budapest Memorandum that were so loudly touted by the United States as a model for nuclear disarmament were recently blatantly violated by Russia when it exerted its economic power to blackmail and coerce Ukraine to digress from its freely chosen path of economic integration with the European Union. Regrettably, in face of the obvious breach of the security assurances promised by Russia in the Budapest Memorandum, all that has been heard from the United States on the subject is deafening silence. The United States needs to take a long, hard look and reevaluate its foreign-policy strategy towards Russia. If Russia is to be a necessary co-participant in international negotiations, then the United States government should nevertheless have the political and moral courage - at the highest political level - to criticize and take positive and definitive steps to thwart such behavior when the Kremlin audaciously transgresses its security commitments. If America continues to remain conspicuously silent in response to the Kremlin's trampling of its security assurances given to Ukraine in the Budapest Memorandum, then the United States

role as a world leader will be greatly diminished and the future security of America will be threatened. Promises should not be made only to be broken without consequence - especially when the promises involve weapons of mass destruction. [Детальніше-Read More](#)

ED NOTE: an earlier Ukrainian language version of this Article was published on February 6, 2014 in the [Ukrainian Law Journal](#), [\[Юридичний Вісник України\]](#) Kyiv, Ukraine.

Victor Rud: THE REVOLUTION IN UKRAINE "What is Ukraine . . . and Why Don't I Know It?" On the periphery of most persons' awareness, Ukraine is the largest country in Europe by territory, located in the geographic center of the European subcontinent. It is the land, wrote English historian Norman Davies, through which most peoples passed on their way to settle the rest of Europe, and to become the nations and countries that we know today. In the Middle Ages, the Kyivan Rus' (not "Kyivan Russia"- more below) Imperial Dynasty was the largest political entity in Europe. Following Kyiv's adoption of Christianity from Byzantium, the precursor of modern Ukraine became a powerhouse of intellectual discourse, religion, and cultural life. In its size, grandeur and advancement of education (mandatory for women), the arts and the sciences, Kyiv eclipsed other European cities such as Paris and London. European kings and the English monarchy married into the Kyivan Dynasty. King Henry I of France married Princess Anna of Kyiv. She signed her name to the marriage document; he used an "X". The Gospel she brought from Kyiv was used in the coronation of French kings for centuries. The French historian Levesques wrote about the marriage, quoting Bishop Gautier Saveriaux who was King Henry's envoy to Kyiv: "This land is more unified, happier, stronger and more civilized than France itself." "Russia" at that time did not exist, and had as its antecedents Finno-Ugric tribes that separately evolved into scattered principalities that rejected Kyiv's dominion, including the sacking of Kyiv in the 12th century. The Kyivan Rus' Empire later collapsed with the onslaught of the Mongol Horde, but in the process buffered the rest of Europe from the same fate. For almost half a millennium thereafter, the center of the former Empire, being of course Kyiv and the lands of present day Ukraine, and that part of its northern peripheral territories that were to become later "Russia", existed in two separate religious, cultural and political worlds. [Детальніше-Read More](#)

["Опозиція має терміново взяти в руки країну, інакше Україні загрожує банкрутство" - Яценюк](#) На ювілейному віче на Євромайдані лідер фракції "Батьківщина" Арсеній Яценюк розповів, які обмеження президентських повноважень передбачає опозиційний варіант змін до Конституції. "10 тиждень поспіль ми демонструємо нашу звитягу. 10 віче тому ми зібралися проти Віктора Януковича і за європейську Україну. Це є наші тези. За ці 10 тижнів пройшло дуже багато подій, трагічних, коли ми втратили життя наших побратимів, тих нових Героїв України, які піднялися на священну боротьбу за свободу українського народу. Gazeta.ua. [Читайте Більше](#)

[Самооборона Майдану створює «єдину революційну армію» по всій Україні](#) Рада самооборони Майдану ухвалила рішення про створення і розширення Всеукраїнської структури самооборони по всій Україні. Новоутворена структура – це понадпартійний рух, що координуватиметься Штабом національного спротиву в Києві. Про це повідомив комендант Майдану, депутат від «Батьківщини» Андрій Парубій. За його словами, головними завданнями Всеукраїнської структури самооборони є координація, мобілізація на Київ в разі потреби, а також захист активістів на місцях. **Радіо Свобода.** [Читайте Більше.](#)

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