



Dear Readers!

This issue of our journal is dedicated to the centennial of the Ukrainian liberation struggle (1917–2017), a century of struggle for Ukraine’s independence. These hundred years have been marked by a number of historical achievements and losses little known in the world: the proclamation of the UNR, the Hetmanate, the Directory, the capture of the country by the Bolsheviks, the Holodomor, the Great Terror, the UPA, forced resettlement, the total extermination of national consciousness and memory through Russian brutality... What does the world know of this? Next to nothing...

It would seem that the year 1991 represented a happy culmination of the liberation efforts of the Ukrainian people, in the form of a self-governing and independent Ukrainian state — at last! But why then the theft of Crimea (for which in 1954 Russia received significantly more historical Ukrainian territory in Voronezh, Kursk and Kuban, in exchange), and the smoke and ashes of the Donbas today? According to which script and why did Moscow launch direct aggression against Ukraine in 2014?

Is it not because the story had not ended, that the exit from empire, which we did not succeed at in 1917–1921, in reality lasted throughout the 20th century, through the continuous uprisings of the 1920s, battles in the Kholodnyi Yar, the proclamation of the ZUNR, the UPA’s stand till the end (its last hiding place was blown up in 1960), and the dissident movement of the 1960s–1980s?

We look back only to understand the present: almost with no change in its imperial strategy and tactic of “strangling Ukraine in a fraternal embrace,” Russia, like a hundred years ago, creates puppet “governments” and “republics” in our East, radically labeling everything Ukrainian “fascist” (replacing the previous “hostile bourgeois”); artillery fire destroys the infrastructure of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, spreading in the world lies about and hate toward Ukraine as such.

Perhaps, at least this time the world will be more cautious and in a timely manner comprehend the treachery of Moscow’s politics? Perhaps, this time, the world won’t look away from Moscow’s grimaced by lies and hatred, true imperial face? Evil, after all, when identified, recedes and dies, because our truth represents a way out for the Russian people themselves, poisoned by the imperial legacy and stupefied by Kremlin propaganda into a state of spiritual and intellectual irresponsibility.

The Editorial Board is very grateful to everyone who has submitted their qualified research into various spheres of the implicit historical resistance of Ukraine to imperial practices and politics of the 20th–21st centuries — perhaps even by a small increment, the true picture of this resistance has become more complete. We will be glad if the studies presented here will contribute to the formation of a balanced and authoritative view on events in this part of the world. We are also prepared for the far from academic snarling of the enemies of Ukrainian independence this will incur, because that is why they are enemies, to snarl and growl, because the struggle — continues.

Professor Volodymyr Morenets
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