



## Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation

By Serhy Yekelchyk

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In 2004 and 2005, striking images from the Ukraine made their way around the world, among them boisterous, orange-clad crowds protesting electoral fraud and the hideously scarred face of a poisoned opposition candidate. Europe's second-largest country but still an immature state only recently independent, Ukraine has become a test case of post-communist democracy, as millions of people in other countries celebrated the protesters' eventual victory.

Any attempt to truly understand current events in this vibrant and unsettled land, however, must begin with the Ukraines dramatic history. Ukraine's strategic location between Russia and the West, the country's pronounced cultural regionalism, and the ugly face of post-communist politics are all anchored in Ukraine's complex past.

The first Western survey of Ukrainian history to include coverage of the Orange Revolution and its aftermath, this book narrates the deliberate construction of a modern Ukrainian nation, incorporating new Ukrainian scholarship and archival revelations of the post-communist period.

Here then is a history of the land where the strategic interests of Russia and the West have long clashed, with reverberations that resonate to this day.

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#### Review

"This is a wonderful book, ideal for students and non-specialists alike. It takes the story up to the Orange Revolution in 2004, and provides an excellent primer for further study in either Ukrainian history of contemporary politics and society."--Andrew Wilson, *American Historical Review*

"Yekelchyk has done the profession a service by providing this succinct, yet comprehensive, account of the Ukrainian historical experience of the twentieth century. This book is exceptionally well suited to classroom use and will be of interest to historians and social scientists studying the former Soviet Union, and specifically issues of nationality."--Catherine Wanner, *Slavic Review*

"Serhy Yekelchyk has written a modern history of modern Ukraine, one that questions nationalist mythologies and patriotic claims to an uncontested past and shows how making a nation requires the hard work of scholars and poets, soldiers and statesmen, and even Soviet bureaucrats. This is simply the best history of this new nation that we have!"--Ronald Grigor Suny, author of *The Soviet Experiment*

"Professor Yekelchyk has written a history of modern Ukraine that is learned, engaging, provocative, balanced, and courageous. Both newcomers and seasoned experts will learn much from it. *Ukraine* sets a very high standard for the field."--Mark von Hagen, Columbia University

"Readable and accessible, Yekelchyk's *Ukraine* introduces the struggle of the emerging democratic state of Ukraine over two centuries, beginning with the nineteenth-century national movement and culminating with the critical Orange Revolution of 2004-5. The result is an ideal introduction to an increasingly important part of Europe, and of the world."--Hiroaki Kuromiya, Indiana University

"...a timely contribution to a growing, though still relatively small, body of knowledge about the country...a valuable tool for understanding that country."--Askold Krushelnycky, *The Moscow Times*

"Yekelchyk has done the profession a service by providing this succinct, yet comprehensive, account of the Ukrainian historical experience of the twentieth century. This book is exceptionally well suited to classroom use and will be of interest to historians and social scientists studying the former Soviet Union, and specifically issues of nationality."--Catherine Wanner, *Slavic Review*

"The best introductory survey of Ukrainian history."--Taras Kuzio, *The Historian*

"A solid and convincing study of the history of Ukraine...This volume deserves a broad readership." --*Slavic and East European Journal*

#### About the Author

Serhy Yekelchuk is an Associate Professor of History and Russian Studies, University of Victoria.

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