Ukraine

Ukraine is the largest country entirely located within Europe. The Kievan Rus in the ninth century was the beginning of the formation of a state and helped to form the identity of Ukrainian people. For much of Ukraine's history, the country has been a part of a bigger empire, such as the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and the Soviet Union among others. The current state gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and has been a sovereign state since. In 2014, a short revolution took place in Ukraine, where then President Viktor Yanukovych was removed from power and fled to Russia, after a series of political decisions with the aim of bringing Ukraine closer politically to Russia, and away from western Europe. Ukraine has been involved in a territorial dispute with Russia over the Crimean peninsula since 2014, when Russia annexed the territory. Nearly all of the international community continues to recognize the territory as Ukrainian. Since the annexation, conflict in the east of Ukraine has flared up and continued to present day. Ukraine has continued to pursue and make steps toward becoming more of a part of western Europe, with Ukrainian citizens no longer needing visas to visit the Schengen Area, an area comprised of twenty six countries in continental Europe, as of June 2017.

Geography

Official Name: Ukraine
Conventional Short Form: N/A
Region: Eastern Europe
Area: 603,628 square kilometers

Bordering Countries: Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia

Climate: Most of Ukraine has a temperate climate, with exceptions of Crimea having a Mediterranean climate, and the Zakarpatye region having a mild climate

Physical Features/Terrain: Parts of western Ukraine have the Carpathian mountains, while the rest of the country is rather flat

Natural Hazards: The biggest natural hazards are the threats of flooding and harsh winters

People and Society

Population: 44,209,733 (32nd in the world)

Ethnic Groups: Ukrainian (77.8%), Russian (17.3%), Other (1.8%), Belarusian (0.6%), Crimean Tatar (0.5%), Moldovan (0.5%)

Official Language: Ukrainian

Other Languages Spoken: Belarusian, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, and others

Religions: Eastern Orthodoxy (65.4%), Unspecified Christian (7.1%), Greek Catholic (6.5%), Protestant (1.9%), Islam (1.1%), Roman Catholic (1.0%), Jewish (0.2%), Hindu (0.2%), Other (16.5%)

Capital City: Kyiv

Other Major Cities: Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odessa, Lviv

Median Age (*half the people are younger than this age and half are older*)

Male: 37.2

Female: 43.5

Total Population: 40.4

Literacy Rate (*percentage of the population 15 and older who can read and write*)

Male: 99.8%

Female: 99.7%

Total Population: 99.8%

Life Expectancy at Birth (*average number of years to be lived by those born in the same year*)

Male: 67.1

Female: 76.9

Total Population: 71.8

Government

Country Founded: First formed in 882, current government established on August 24th, 1991 after independence from the Soviet Union

Type of Government: Unitary semi-presidential constitutional republic

Country Leaders

President: Petro Poroshenko

Prime Minister: Volodymyr Groysman

Allies: EU countries
Enemies: Russia

Economy

Currency: Ukrainian Hyrvnia
GDP: $87 billion
Natural Resources: Iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, titanium, nickel, mercury
Unemployment Rate: 8.8%
Population Below Poverty Line: 60%

Major export and imports

Exports: Fuels and petroleum products, chemicals, food products, machinery and transport equipment, ferrous and non-ferrous metals

Imports: Natural gas, machinery and equipment, chemicals

Biggest trading partners

Exports: European Union countries
Imports: European Union countries

More information can be found at:

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html