UKRAINE’S STAND IN THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR

HOW DOES UKRAINE USE ITS UNIQUE NATIONAL IDENTITY TO JUSTIFY ITS STAND AGAINST THE WAR?


Zelensky and the Media

- Zelensky's official Instagram account @zelenskiy_official has 16.8M followers, giving him a huge audience: he uses it to update the world on the course of the war and to show Ukraine’s strength; representing national pride, cohesion, a strong military
- Main pattern in his feed: military sign, camouflage, Ukrainian Flag and national colors, Zelensky in his office, with ordinary people, officials, and allies; implying Ukraine’s strength; determination, and dominance; emphasizing the importance of Ukraine’s national identity within this war
- Self-recorded videos of Zelensky: he is down-to-earth and stands on one level with ordinary Ukrainians; creating a feeling of shared experiences and values
- Zelensky is always wearing an olive-green crewneck with a Ukraine patch: emphasizing him as the head of all military actions; he is fighting for his country; creating a sense of reliability and strong leadership
- Zelensky’s media strategy is to build trust: representing a modern leader opposed to Putin; he is with the people, not above them

Russia attempted to justify the invasion by propagandizing that the war is intended for heroic denazification. What is the true situation of the far-right problem in Ukraine?

Ukraine, anti-fascist

- In the 30 years since Ukraine’s declaration of independence, its radical right’s rarely won over 3 percent of vote in parliamentary elections
- Zelensky’s efforts: passed law against antifascism, funded memorial at Babi Yar, suppressed illegal Azov activities
- “Statement on the War in Ukraine by Scholars of Genocide, Nazism and World War II”
- Patriotic stance, not fascist

He came into office promising to make Ukraine a democratic society, and compared Putin’s actions to Nazi atrocities.

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Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has caused the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. To showcase the impacts Putin’s War has had on Ukrainian refugees we have decided to highlight some of their stories below from Tamar Jacoby’s book, Displaced: The Ukrainian Refugee Experience.

- Oksana, an engineer at a national research institute in the provincial city of Pavlohrad, enjoyed all the perks of Ukraine’s privileged professional elite, raising her two children—a girl, nine, and a boy, 15—in comfort and security. She lost everything within a matter of days. As Oksana stated in an interview with Jacoby, “The weight of it finally hit me, I’d been a successful professional with an important job. I had wonderful friends. My children were facing a bright future. Now I was homeless, with nothing, on a freezing train, heading to a place where I knew no one.”
- Valery, a technician, and his handicapped wife fled the border by squeezing into a car with six others and driving to Poland for 8 hours. At the Polish border, he abandoned his car and walked, pushing his wife’s wheelchair, and once they passed the checkpoints, they were surrounded by volunteers who put them on a bus to Krakow. Nothing is easy for Valery. As a foreigner, Valery doesn’t know what he doesn’t know, and he struggles with little things, like topping up the data plan on his cell phone. His biggest need: if he had a caregiver for even a few hours daily, he could find a job as a technician and start paying his own way.