Ukraine
Contested Nationhood in a European Context

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Ukraine

Ukraine: Contested Nationhood in a European Context challenges the common view that Ukraine is a country split between a pro-European West and a pro-Russian East. The volume navigates the complicated cultural history of Ukraine and highlights the importance of regional traditions for an understanding of the current political situation. A key feature is the different politics of memory that prevail in each region, such as the Soviet past being presented as either a foreign occupation or a benign socialist project.

The pluralistic culture of Ukraine (in terms of languages, national legacies and religions) forms a nation that faces both internal and external challenges. In order to address this fully, rather than following a merely chronological order, this book examines different interpretations of Ukrainian nationhood that have been especially influential, such as the Russian tradition, the Habsburg past and the Polish connections.

Finally, the book analyses Ukraine's political and economic options for the future. Can the desired integration into EU structures overcome the concentration of investment of power in the hands of a few oligarchs and a continuing widespread culture of corruption? Will proposals to join NATO, which garnered robust support among the populace in the aftermath of the Russian aggression, materialise under the current circumstances? Is the political culture in Ukraine sufficiently functional to guarantee democratic procedures and the rule of law?

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Contents

List of figures vi

1 Where is Ukraine? 1
2 How many Ukraines are there? Seeing the East-West opposition in context 8
3 The Russian perspective: ‘Little Russia’ in the ‘Russian World’ 18
4 The cultivation of the Habsburg myth in Galicia and Bukovina 32
5 Poland as friend and foe: From the Volhynia Massacre to the Polish initiatives for Ukraine in the EU 41
6 National independence and regional differences 49
7 History wars over the tragedies of the Soviet era 57
8 The Ukraine crisis: Civil war or Russian hybrid war? 68
9 The Ukrainian economy 77
10 The European Union as unwilling protector of Ukraine 85
11 The complicated relationship with the USA and NATO 93
12 Quo vadis, Ukraine? 99

Appendix 104
Bibliography 112
Index 113
Figures

1.1 Ukraine in the inter-war years 3
2.1 Do you agree that all inhabitants of Ukraine should master the Ukrainian language? 10
2.2 Do you agree that all inhabitants of Ukraine should master the Russian language? 11
4.1 Ukraine in the nineteenth century 33
6.1 The regions of Ukraine 49
10.1 Support for EU integration 89
10.2 Do you feel European? 90
11.1 Support for Ukraine joining NATO 97