

# Mohyla e-bulletin

*St. Petro Mohyla Institute*

## СПЕЦІАЛЬНА МОЛИТВА В ДНІ НАПРУЖЕНОЇ СИТУАЦІЇ В КРАЇНІ

Любий наш Боже, Найсолідніший Ісус Христе, не дай злим силам, котрі нас так мучать опанувати нашою країною. Благаємо Тебе, не допусти, щоб розпалилась громадянська війна, щоб убивали брат брата, батько сина. Не допусти, щоб у нашій країні панували цинізм і жорстокість. Господи наш Людій не допускай вторгнення з боку будь-якої іншої держави. Благає Тебе, Наймиліший Боже, народ щирій і побожний, щоб Ти відігнав злі сили і зняв напруження у громадян нашої країни, щоб вони керувались розумом, а не емоціями, щоб кожен зміг зробити правильний вибір, бо від цього залежить майбутнє нашої України та відношення світу до неї. Любий наш Боже, хай у нашій країні вічно панує любов, доброта, щирість, побожність. Не допусти, Боже, щоб тут панували фальш і лицемірство. У всьому хай виконується Твоя Свята воля, а не наша. Амінь.



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## Chairman's Message

*Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!*

### Special points of interest:

- Mohyla Institute will now be sending out e-bulletins as a supplement to our printed newsletters.
- Feature Article by *Our Man in Kyiv*, Dr. Evan Ostryzniuk.
- Mohyla Institute Golf Tourney takes place June 21st. Be sure to get your registration in!

I am pleased to bring Easter greetings on behalf of the board of directors, staff and residents of the Institute to members, alumni, supporters and friends of St. Petro Mohyla Institute.

During the last meeting of the board a decision was made to introduce a Mohyla E-Bulletin to connect more frequently with members, alumni, supporters and friends of the Institute. While the Institute will continue to produce two major newsletters during each year, we hope that you will enjoy this first edition of the Mohyla E-Bulletin. We decided to dedicate this first edition to the current critical situation in Ukraine. Toward this end, we

have a feature article prepared by *Our Man in Kyiv*, namely Dr. Evan Ostryzniuk, a distinguished alumnus of the Institute. Dr. Ostryzniuk currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief at Kyiv Weekly newspaper and business journalist at Kyiv Post.

Let us offer our prayers, and our moral and financial support to the men, women and children of Ukraine as they struggle to assert and maintain their independence as a free democratic nation. Humanitarian aid is needed for the thousands of Ukrainians. For more details on aid programs, visit the Canadian Ukrainian Foundation website [www.cufoundation.ca](http://www.cufoundation.ca), or

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services website <http://www.ucss.info/>.

З відчуттям глибокої радості і від щирого серця вітаемо вас з Воскресінням Христовим, з Пасхою Христовою, і нехай царють у ваших серцях радість і душевний спокій! Нехай до Вашої оселі приде здоров'я, любов, щастя, добробут, душа нехай світлішою стає, серце пламеніє любов'ю, а помисли стануть щирими та добрими.

With kind regards,  
Steve Senyk

## Will Ukraine survive Putin?

by Evan Ostryzniuk in Kyiv



Dr. Evan Ostryzniuk

The very fluid political situation during these heady days in Ukraine has obliged me to constantly update this review. As I write, the Ukrainian government has sent armed detachments to conduct an anti-terrorist operation against pro-Russian separatists in the lawless eastern part of the country. The outcome will not be known for days, but at best the bad guys will be run out of town and security restored or at worst the Russian Army will formally invade.

In short, Ukrainian national sovereignty is at its greatest risk since independence, and beyond any shadow of doubt the author of this threat is Russian President Vladimir

### Internal control

The government must enforce administrative control over all state structures and not turn a blind eye to the criminal behavior of local elites in exchange for passive acceptance, which has been the hallmark of Ukrainian politics since the days of President Leonid Kravchuk. Putin only understands strength, and the collapse of Ukrainian state authority in the east stems from the fundamental weakness of the new post-revolutionary Ukrainian government. Criminal elements and traitorous politicians, none of whom identify with a national Ukrainian state, have sold themselves to the Kremlin and allowed Russian troops and paramilitaries to occupy Ukrainian cities. The chain of authority has broken down and needs to be remade with loyal people. I see this as possible, since a declarative unity has been established by coordinating local business, political and community

### Economic liberation

The legitimacy of the new government and even Ukraine as a nation depends to a great deal on ensuring the economic well-being of its citizens. As long as Putin has the power to impoverish Ukraine, more people will sell out to Russia or leave altogether. Sadly, instead of treating Ukraine as an equal partner and creating conditions for mutually beneficial integration, Putin has given Ukraine the binary choice of 'us or them', them being the European Union.

Putin. The question is whether Ukraine has the strength to withstand him, since it has become clear that any external assistance will be only passive.

Putin has never hidden his antipathy towards the Ukrainian state, and since coming to power in 2000 he has gone out of his way to undermine its democracy, economy and culture in order to reduce Ukraine to Moscow's vassal. Should the Ukrainian authorities fail to defend key fronts in the war Putin has inflicted on Ukraine – and it is war – the nation will fall and become a toothless buffer state between Europe and Asiatic Russia.

leaders, but without the application of physical force, none of that will matter. The ease with which Putin was able to invade territory and organize fifth columnists suggests that the region had been left defenseless.

The rule of law means nothing to Putin, but it must mean everything to Ukraine. This is the only weapon it has to garner Western support and is key to building the civilized country that the new government has promised. The seizure of Crimea by a small band of Russophile thugs aided by 'little green men' of the Russian army and subsequent referendum on annexation to Russia done by Putin violates international law, but he doesn't care. Putin has put himself outside the law, and so he cannot be trusted unless he is confronted with substantial force.

This might sound strange, but Putin's trade wars against Ukraine have done more good than harm to Ukrainian business and the nation in the long run. The selective inspections and shrinking import quotas have obliged Ukrainian companies to grow up and seek other markets – with great success. Profit margins are higher and local distribution is more reliable anywhere outside of Russia. Far from bringing Ukraine back into

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the Russian imperial fold, the Kremlin has been steadily pushing its 'little brother' away to the point that economic independence will be the only outcome, if the nation does not break first.

What will come as a surprise to many is that despite centuries of economic slavery to Moscow, the Kremlin has just one big lever of influence left – natural gas. Eighty percent of Russian imports into Ukraine consist of energy products, mostly gas. The remainder consists of a motley array of goods that Ukraine, quite frankly, can do without.

But getting back to the eternal issue of energy independence...which is actually more interesting than it sounds, the

new government has been going gangbusters on ridding Ukraine of its Russian gas addiction. After decades of Kremlin policies designed to bankrupt Ukraine, from inflated prices to forced consumption – like a particularly nasty pimp – Ukraine has finally had enough and will be buying from Europe, increasing domestic extraction and reducing consumption.

Having spoken with energy experts in recent weeks, they are all confident that Ukraine can return to the old days, that is before the 1970s, when the nation was fully self-sufficient in energy. Rivers provide hydroelectricity; nuclear power plants will soon get non-Russian fuel rods; oil and gas wells are producing more.

## The truth

The press is doing its bit too for national unity. Daily press conferences are held that unleash information to the public on all topics. The phrase 'cleaning house' comes to mind, and journalists are not afraid to call anyone out for deceit or incompetence. A free press is an effective weapon against the machinations of the Kremlin to confuse and undermine Ukrainian confidence with disinformation. Sadly, the ignorant in eastern Ukraine have swallowed the poison, despite some legitimate concerns about their future, though even there exists an increasingly vocal stratum of informed population that is unwilling to be cowed by the ascendant criminal element.

Social media networks playing a key role in uniting Ukrainians against Putin via sponsoring 'Don't Buy Russian' boycott campaigns, promoting exchanges between regions and organizing pro-Ukraine demonstrations across the country. What I find truly remarkable is that patriotism is alive and well in central

and southern Ukraine, and even in the eastern bits. Language and ethnicity are not major issues. Neither is ideology. This enthusiasm is driven by the desire not to lose this opportunity to create a civilized country, as happened in 1991 and 2004.

Ultimately, I do not believe that Putin will risk spilling the blood of fellow Slavs and formally invade mainland Ukraine, even if the Ukrainian armed forces are not strong enough to withstand the larger and more experienced enemy. Still, Putin has lost the information war internationally and in all but far eastern Ukraine. He is hated more than ever by politically and socially conscious Ukrainians, which are growing in number day by day. Far from revolution fatigue setting in amongst the masses, the movement to transform Ukraine into a genuinely sovereign nation free of interference from former imperial masters continues to evolve. Unless the Kremlin attempts to physically destroy the country, Ukraine will survive Putin.

## About Me

Evan Ostryzniuk was born on the same day as Rome, just 2720 years later, and raised on the prairies of western Canada. After leaving high school without distinction, Ostryzniuk worked in a series of eye-opening jobs before being given a place by the University of Saskatchewan. Four years of study in History and Modern Languages led to a B.A. in 1991 and two years later, having realized a proficiency in understanding past times, he completed an M.A. in Modern History.

Ostryzniuk crossed the ocean to do post-graduate work at the University of Cambridge, matriculating at Trinity Hall College in 1994, and concluded five years of

research under the illustrious Dr. Orlando Figes with a doctoral thesis on rural insurgency during the Russian Revolution of 1917. All 400 pages of it rest neatly bound in the University Library.

Instead of pursuing a career in academia, however, Ostryzniuk chose to remain in Eastern Europe, specifically Kyiv, Ukraine, where he took up positions as a magazine editor, university lecturer and analyst in the financial services sector before finally lucking into the position of Editor-in-Chief at Kyiv Weekly newspaper. He currently fills the position of business journalist at Kyiv Post.

While preparing lectures for a Western Civilization course he was teaching, Ostryzniuk fashioned an idea about a poor English squire living during the Middle Ages. Thus, Geoffrey Hotspur was born and the series was picked up by Knox Robinson Publishing in early 2011. He has published two novels to date: *Of Faith and Fidelity: Geoffrey Hotspur and the War for St. Peter's Throne* and *Of Fathers and Sons: Geoffrey Hotspur and the Este Inheritance*. The third Hotspur adventure comes out in 2015.

# Presidential Election Monitoring in Ukraine

## A Call for International Support to Transparent and Democratic Government in Ukraine

St. Petro Mohyla Institute has for decades promoted the concept of self reliance and initiative to ensure the social, economic and cultural well being of Ukrainians in Canada in a pluralistic Canadian society. Canada has become an internal model for a democratic and tolerant multi-cultural society.

Such values are needed as never before in Ukraine today as it moves beyond the criminal kleptocracy of the former Yanukovych Administration to elect a new president on May 25, 2014. The results of the initial round are expected to require a further run-off election in mid-June. A key element of successful elections

will be their legitimacy in the eyes of the international community. To that end the Canadian government and the Ukrainian Diaspora are emphasizing the need for a Canadian contribution to international monitoring of the Presidential elections.

St. Petro Mohyla Institute fully supports these efforts and for the information of our membership is linking to a media release from the Ukrainian World Congress.

[Ukrainian World Congress calls for volunteers to join UWC International Election Observation Mission to](#)



Ukrainian World Congress

## Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of the residents and staff, I hope you all had a very happy Easter! Our residents are finishing up finals and packing up to move home again for the summer. Those of us still here are gearing up for a fun, busy summer with group bookings and the 1st Annual St. Petro Mohyla Institute Golf Tournament, taking place at Holiday Park in Saskatoon on June 21st.

We are still looking for sponsors, (and players!) so if you would like to support Mohyla in that manner please fill out the attached registration/sponsorship form. We are hoping to sell out this year and kick off our first annual golf tourney with a bang!

We will also be busy working on some building improvements. We painted the resident hallways earlier in the year and are hoping to fulfill some of our other building needs this summer. Such as painting and replacing stair treads in the stairwells, fixing up the parking lot, and replacing some of the older pipes in our bathrooms.

Donations are always instrumental in our success, so we thank everyone who has supported Mohyla already this year, and in the past.

Wishing everyone a spring filled with love, peace and all of the joys this season brings.

Sara Detenshen

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*We hope you enjoyed reading our new e-bulletin. Mohyla Institute is starting to send out e-bulletins as a supplement to our printed newsletter. This allows us to reach a few more people and distribute information in a more timely manner.*

*Please be sure to contact us if you have any suggestions for content, would like to submit an article, or have your upcoming event mentioned.*

## [St. Petro Mohyla Institute](#)

1240 Temperance Street  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0P1

Phone: 306.653.1944  
Fax: 306.653.1902  
E-mail: [info@mohylainstitute.ca](mailto:info@mohylainstitute.ca)