

**Government**

**National government.** Ukraine has a democratic political system. The country's government has an executive branch, which includes a president and a prime minister; and a legislative branch, which consists of a national parliament.

The president is commander in chief of the military and can issue orders called *edicts* in some matters without the approval of the parliament. The people of Ukraine elect the president to a five-year term. Ukrainians 18 years old or older may vote.

The prime minister heads a Cabinet. The parliament names the prime minister, who then selects Cabinet members. Cabinet ministers have responsibility for such areas as foreign affairs and the economy.

Ukraine's parliament is called the Supreme Council. It is the nation's lawmaking body. It has 450 members, who serve five-year terms. Half are directly elected, and half are chosen under a system called *proportional representation*. This system gives a political party a share of seats in the parliament according to the party's share of the total votes cast in an election. To qualify, a party needs to receive at least 5 percent of the votes.

**Local government.** Ukraine is divided into 24 political units known as *oblasts*. In addition, Kyiv has its own municipal government, with a status similar to that of the oblasts.

Under the Ukrainian constitution, Crimea has special status as an *autonomous* (self-governing) republic, with greater control over its internal affairs than the oblasts, and Sevastopol has municipal status similar to that of Kyiv. In 2014, Russian forces seized control of Crimea. The region's parliament voted to withdraw from Ukraine, after which Russia *annexed* (claimed control of) the peninsula. International observers challenged the legality and fairness of these moves.

**Politics.** Ukraine's political parties generally have fallen into two groups. One group has favored close ties between Ukraine and Russia. The other group has included parties that favor greater association with Western nations and such organizations as the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Parties often form to support specific politicians. Independent politicians, usually wealthy businesspeople known as *oligarchs*, hold great influence in Ukraine's politics. The Communist Party, which favored government control of the economy and union with Russia, was banned in 2015 for promoting separatism.

**Courts.** Ukraine's highest court is the Supreme Court. A Constitutional Court decides questions about the constitutionality of laws. Ukraine also has regional and district courts.

**Armed forces.** Ukraine has an army, an air force, and a small navy. Ukraine also has paramilitary forces, including a border guard and a coast guard.

**People**

**Ancestry.** The majority of the people of Ukraine belong to the Ukrainian ethnic group. Russians also make up a large ethnic group. A majority of the people in the Crimean Peninsula are of Russian ethnicity. Other groups in Ukraine include Belarusians, Bulgarians, Crimean Tatars, and Moldovans. Government leaders

Outline	
<b>I. Government</b>	
A. National government	D. Courts
B. Local government	E. Armed forces
C. Politics	
<b>II. People</b>	
A. Ancestry	B. Language
<b>III. Way of life</b>	
A. City life	E. Recreation
B. Rural life	F. Religion
C. Clothing	G. Education
D. Food and drink	H. The arts
<b>IV. The land</b>	
A. The Dnieper-Prypiat Lowland	
B. The Northern Ukrainian Upland	
C. The Central Plateau	
D. The Eastern Carpathian Mountains	
E. The Coastal Plain	
F. The Crimean Mountains	
G. Rivers and lakes	
<b>V. Climate</b>	
<b>VI. Economy</b>	
A. Manufacturing	F. Energy sources
B. Agriculture	G. Trade
C. Service industries	H. Transportation and communication
D. Mining	
E. Fishing	
<b>VII. History</b>	



**Symbols of Ukraine.** The Ukrainian flag was adopted in 1992. The flag's blue stripe symbolizes the sky, and its yellow stripe represents the wheat fields of Ukraine. The coat of arms, dating from the late 900's, features a *trident* (three-pointed spear).



**Ukraine** is a large country in eastern Europe, second only to Russia in area. It borders seven countries and the Black Sea.



**Ukraine map index**

Regions*	Cities and towns
Cherkasy.....1,259,957 .B 4	Kalush.....67,559 .B 1
Chernihiv.....1,066,826 .A 4	Kamianets-Podilskyi.....102,254 .C 3
Chernivtsi.....908,508 .C 2	Askaniya-Nova.....2,918 .D 5
Crimea (special status).....1,967,259 .E 5	Kamianske.....241,475 .C 5
Dnipropetrovsk.....3,292,431 .C 5	Kaniv.....25,487 .C 1
Donetsk.....4,343,882 .C 7	Kerch.....15,071 .B 5
Ivano-Frankivsk.....1,382,096 .C 2	Bila Tserkva.....211,205 .B 4
Kharkiv.....2,737,242 .B 6	Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi.....50,015 .D 4
Kherson.....1,072,567 .D 5	Dnipro.....993,094 .C 5
Khmelnitskyi.....1,306,992 .B 2	Donetsk.....949,825 .C 7
Kirovohrad.....987,565 .C 4	Chernivtsi.....262,129 .C 2
Kyiv.....1,725,478 .B 4	Chernovohrad.....67,993 .B 1
Luhansk.....2,239,473 .C 7	Chomohyl (Chernobyl).....+ .A 4
Lviv.....2,538,436 .B 4	Kovel.....69,032 .A 2
Mykolaiv.....1,168,372 .D 4	Chornomorsk.....59,840 .D 4
Odesa.....2,396,493 .D 4	Chuhuiv.....32,379 .B 6
Poltava.....1,458,205 .B 5	Dnipro.....993,094 .C 5
Rivne.....1,158,851 .B 2	Donetsk.....949,825 .C 7
Sumy.....1,132,957 .A 5	Drohobych.....76,866 .B 1
Ternopil.....1,073,327 .B 2	Dubno.....38,087 .B 2
Vynnytsia.....1,618,262 .B 3	Fastiv.....48,098 .B 4
Zakarpattia.....1,041,303 .A 2	Feodosia.....69,040 .E 6
Zaporizhzhia.....1,256,850 .C 1	Horlivka.....254,416 .C 7
Zhytomyr.....1,262,512 .B 3	Ivano-Frankivsk.....227,030 .C 2
	Izmail.....72,501 .E 3
	Luts'k.....51,175 .B 6
	Kadiivka.....77,168 .C 7
	Lviv.....729,038 .B 1
	Lysychansk.....103,459 .B 7
	Makiivka.....351,820 .C 7
	Mariupol.....458,333 .D 6
	Melitopol.....156,889 .D 6
	Mukacheve.....85,487 .C 1
	Mykolaiv.....494,922 .D 4
	Myrhorod.....40,876 .B 5
	Nikopol.....117,857 .C 5
	Niryn.....72,869 .A 4
	Nova Kakhovka.....47,638 .D 5
	Novomoskivsk.....71,299 .C 5
	Novovolynsk.....53,298 .A 1
	Ochakiv.....14,566 .D 4
	Odesa.....1,017,022 .D 4
	Okhtyrka.....48,881 .B 5
	Oleksandriia.....82,636 .C 5
	Pavlohrad.....109,739 .C 6
	Pervomaisk.....66,672 .C 4
	Podilsk.....14,566 .D 4
	Pokrovsk.....64,533 .C 2
	Poltava.....295,950 .B 5
	Pryluky.....58,202 .B 4
	Prypiat (Prypyat).....+ .A 4
	Rivne.....249,912 .B 2
	Romny.....41,951 .A 5
	Sevastopol.....344,853 .E 5
	Shepetivka.....43,255 .B 3
	Shostka.....78,505 .A 5
	Sievierodoneck.....108,899 .B 7
	Simferopol.....338,319 .E 5
	Slavuta.....351,820 .B 2
	Sloviansk.....116,694 .C 6
	Starokostiantynivsk.....35,104 .B 3
	Striy.....59,835 .B 1
	Sumy.....268,874 .A 5
	Synelnykove.....31,576 .C 6
	Ternopil.....217,110 .B 2
	Tokmak.....32,772 .D 6
	Uman.....86,621 .C 4
	Uzhhorod.....115,947 .C 1
	Vasylivka.....36,888 .B 4
	Vinnitsia.....372,116 .B 3
	Volynskiy.....38,964 .A 1
	Voznesensk.....36,192 .C 4
	Yalta (Yalty).....78,200 .E 5
	Yany Kapu.....29,672 .E 5
	Yenakiieve.....81,054 .C 7
	Yevpatoria.....107,040 .E 5
	Zaporizhzhia.....766,268 .C 5
	Zhmernyia.....35,354 .C 5
	Zhovti Vody.....47,284 .C 3
	Zhytomyr.....270,922 .B 3
	Zolochiv.....24,119 .B 2
	Zviahel.....56,049 .B 3

\*Except for Crimea, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Volyn, and Zakarpattia, region names are the same as capital names. Crimea's capital is Simferopol, Dnipropetrovsk's is Dnipro, Kirovohrad's is Kropyvnytskyi, Volyn's is Luts'k, and Zakarpattia's is Uzhhorod.

†No official population; evacuated after Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. Map shows current spelling with 1986 spelling in parentheses. Source: 2014 official government estimates.