

Religion in Ukraine

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Content

- Historical and societal background
- Moscow vs. Kyivan patriarchate
- Religion in present Ukraine
- Importance of autonomy



Religion in Ukraine: Modern History

- Religious communities outlasted the USSR
- Conflicts arose among Orthodox Christians
- 1990 Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church is established - not very successful
- 1992 Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate is established
- Strong competition
- 3 Orthodox Churches: UAOC, UOC-MP, UOC-KP

Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate

- No autocephaly (under ROC), but autonomy
- Canonical status recognized by the whole Eastern Orthodox communion
- More members in the East of Ukraine



Metropolitan Onuphrius

Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyivan Patriarchate

- Unrecognized by other canonical Eastern Orthodox Churches
- Charismatic leader Patriarch Filaret - emphasis on nationalism, active in politics
- more members in the western part of the country



Patriarch Filaret

Moscow vs. Kyivan Patriarchate

- Hardly any difference in account of religious practices
- It's about national identity
- According to some surveys the number of UOC-KP members increases



Church-State Relationship

- No changes of the law since adoption in 1990
- Liberal approach
- Right of religious organizations to exist by virtue of the mere fact of its creation
- Equal status for all Churches
- Separation of the Church from the state and of the schools from the Church
- All politicians declare their respect for the Church X money strives to control even dioceses

Religion in Ukrainian Society

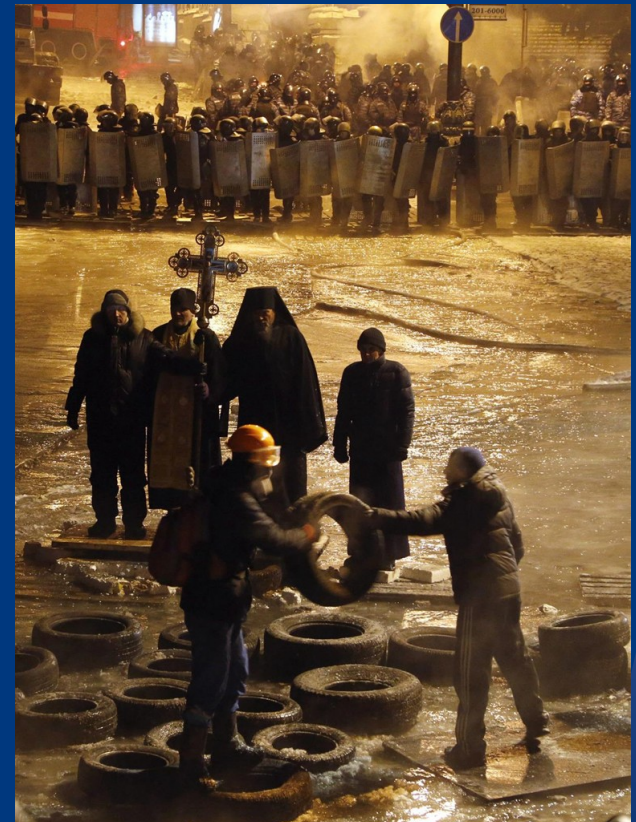
- End of 1990s: equilibrium established among Churches
- Strong positions traditionally held by religious communities of indigenous people and by ethnic minorities
- Very high trust in “the Church in general”
- All public figures declare their respect for the Church
- Religion connected to nationalism



Religion in Contemporary Ukraine

Euromaidan

- Ukrainian revolution 11/2013 - 02/2014
- Occupied buildings, barricades
- Role of priests
- Everyday group prayers
- Important religious event
- Violent finale



Annexation of Crimea

- 02/2014 - 03/2014
- Russian framing as a religious struggle
- Crimean Tatars forming Sunni Islam minority
- Religious groups oppressed



Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

- Eastern Ukraine 03/2014 - present
- Clergy helping the rebels
- Ban of church services
- Chaplain priests



Ukraine Seeking Religious Autonomy

- Patriarch Filaret: “*Putin is like Cain ...*”.
- Separation from the Moscow Patriarchate
- Relationship of the government and the church



Summary

- Moscow-Kyivan religious struggle
- Role of religion in the present Ukraine
- Ukraine building up own autonomy



Thank you for the
attention

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