

## **FRONTIER. NOT BURNING THE BRIDGES OF ETERNITY**

The history of Ukraine is a millennial history of continuous struggle for its independence and freedom. Unlike European countries, this nation had gone the thorny path from Kievan Rus to Ukraine. For the last 500 years we not only had to prove our statehood and defend independence of our territory, freedom of our religion and culture at large, but also defend the right of our language, which had been subjected to non-recognition and eradication on hundreds of occasions. In the twentieth century these perturbations reached its peak and people got subjected to hardest trials in world wars and repressions in their own homes. Permanent aspiration for determination has been caused by purposeful repressive acts of Stalin's regime directed against Ukraine and Ukrainian people. Social structure of Ukrainian society with its educated working and powerful peasant class, where prosperous peasants had been prevalent, with progressive intelligentsia, which, to a large extent, had been educated in accordance with European traditions, in the best way possible befitted the purpose of looking for public enemies at all times of "Red Terror" from Bolsheviks' ascension to power to Stalin's death. All repressive acts, including dispossession of kulaks, struggle with sabotage, collectivization, struggle with internal opposition, political repressions of 1934-1938 and 1931-1941, and deportations in the 40's and 50's had gathered their numerous blood harvest in Ukraine, which is estimated at millions of losses, and with account of victims of Holodomor, those millions of fates should be multiplied. According to research data, in the lists of convicts and evicted to settlements, Ukrainians were in the second place after Russians, and in some camps, for example in Kengir, their numerical composition reached up to 40% of all convicts. Those evil fortunes befell Kazakhs almost simultaneously with Ukrainians; in accordance with plan of famine, repressions, wars and other trials' organizers, Ukrainians, Kazakhs, Crimean Tatars, Chechens and Ingushes were to be subjected to almost total annihilation or deportation. At least in the last 350 years fates of Ukrainians and Kazakhs have been painfully similar. In the twentieth century Ukraine and Kazakhstan had to bear the brunt of Holodomor and repressions almost simultaneously. Kazakhstan cherishes tenderly the memory of almost 500 thousand Ukrainians who had been deported here; people of Ukraine are really grateful to Kazakhstanis, while keeping in memory that thousands of Kazakhs, mostly prosperous bays, had been deported to Ukrainian steppes; many of them have preserved their ethnic identity to this day. Thousands of kilometers separate Ukraine from Kazakhstan, but our nations are connected by millions of fates; threads of these two states' history have been bound from the times of the Scythians and Saka, Kievan Rus and Golden Horde. Common pages of our history were supplemented in the Modern Age, when in 1768 participants of Haidamakas national liberation movement were evicted to the territory of modern Kazakhstan. After destruction of the Zaporizhian Sich, Kazakh land became a second motherland to many thousands of Ukrainian Cossacks. Taras Shevchenko, who made Ukraine famous all over the world, is properly honoured in Kazakhstan as popular akyn Tarazi. These days, friendly, harmonious and partnership bilateral

interstate relations have been successfully developing despite global challenges, defined in the Message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Republic of Kazakhstan is a key partner of Ukraine in Central Asia Region. Undoubtedly, during these years substantial potential, required for moving bilateral cooperation to the level of strategic partnership, first of all in economic domain, has been formed. Over the period from 2002 until 2013 bilateral trade volume increased almost 5 times and reached almost 5 billion US dollars. Due to current political situation in our country, sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU countries and USA, as well as new obstacles in our relations development, sharp turnover recession between our countries was registered in 2014. Nevertheless, Ukraine and Kazakhstan hold same views in regard to impossibility of suppressing crimes of Stalin's regime and necessity of preserving the memory of its victims, conduction of joint academic researches of this tragic period and its consequences. Our scholars and researchers share same opinion on these issues; they have become trusty allies, worked out their own methods and achieved substantial results in the last five years. Longstanding and warm relations of our nations set down the fundamental basis for effective interstate cooperation; in regard to actual global and regional problems Ukraine feels consistent support in these days of hard, exhausting military and economic blockade. Ukraine and Kazakhstan, whose history remembers Chernobyl disaster and drastic consequences of tests at Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, at present stand for increasing security in nuclear power industry and enhancement of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons regime, We are grateful to the Leader of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstanis for making contribution to construction of the object "Ukrytiye" in the year of the 25 anniversary of Chernobyl disaster and for social support of disaster fighters from Kazakhstan. Our countries have assumed similar attitude towards creation of new global security architecture in the Eurasian space with compulsory administration of security guarantees to non-nuclear countries. At first thought such interlacement of "Ukrainian" and "Kazakh" may seem peculiar, but it is an eloquent evidence of solidity of ties of friendship and complementarity of our national cultures, which has been formed over a period of few centuries. Up until recently there was not any necessity to prove this seemingly unshakeable fact to anyone. Inviolability of a state sovereignty and territorial integrity had been assured by bilateral framework agreements between our states and also by international obligations, first of all by Alma-Ata declaration and the Budapest memorandum (1994).

However, it was not the only document violated by Russian Federation, as it ruined the entire system of international security: the Charter of the United Nations, key principles of OSCE, the principle of territorial integrity; a wide range of international agreements and documents have been infringed as well; thus threat hangs not only over Ukraine, but also hangs over all its neighbours, both close and distant. Eventually, in the 21st century when all empires had ceased to exist, this whole situation resulted in necessity to defend stability of our state system, integrity of our borders, and freedom of our peoples from aggression of the remaining Empire not only with pen, but also with weapons. After break-up of the Soviet Union, Russia became its heir. Kremlin inherited all principles and values

of the USSR, including the idea of world expansion through annexation of lands. Today Russia is following the way of the USSR at a rapid pace. Precisely the same finale awaits it. There are no rational explanations of its activities. All soberminded people have been scandalized by events in the Crimea and eastern regions of Ukraine; but the Crimean scenario failed. Having initiated a conflict and having intruded into the east of Ukraine, Russia organized undeclared, so called hybrid war, which led to its isolation from the world and to humanitarian disaster in two regions of Ukraine, i.e. 2 million people are on the edge of starvation and elimination. Nevertheless, Kremlin strategists were wrong when they expected that the West would turn a blind eye to all their activities. On the contrary, the whole world is set against Russia, which found itself on the verge of its own catastrophe, while notorious conflict between the West and the East of Ukraine has never taken place: peoples of Ukraine stood in defense of their land. The revolution of dignity and honour which started in Ukraine one year ago has not been completed yet; it will go on until corruption have been overcome and true freedom and rights of people have been established. Now Ukraine is responsible not only for itself, but for its neighbours as well. Defending my state and independence, my country is defending territorial integrity and independence of Kazakhstan, our fraternal people, which in the name of its Head of State supported Ukraine with a definite stand in international organizations and during direct negotiations in Minsk; thereby it supported a struggle of the Ukrainian nation for its sovereignty and universal peace. Today new perspectives are opened up before our countries in the sphere of development of bilateral relations, they promise a new stage of development, transition from partnership to strategic bilateral relations. Next year we expect to pass on to activation of political relations at top level, which will give a powerful impetus to multilateral contacts at all levels. All given concomitant factors will serve as a reliability frontier used for supporting bridges. Just like before we are to cross them together.

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