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## **TO THE QUESTION OF WORLD REACTION TO CRIMEA ANNEXATION**

The article is about annexation of Crimea through present opinions on it. Some historical, economic and personal features of Crimea annexation are considered. A historical retrospective of Crimea ownership processes is described. Reaction of representatives of world community to Crimea annexation is considered. And the present situation in Crimea is described. Influence of Russia on change of demographic situation in Crimea from the end of 19th century to our times is considered.

One of the conclusions is that all is in the Ukrainian government hands. If life level of Ukrainian citizens will be on an average level of a corresponding indicator of the European Union then people which have to live on Crimean territory will have a strong desire to return into 2014 and to become a part of Ukraine de facto again.

**Keywords:** Crimea, annexation, demographic situation, historical, economic and personal features.

More than three years ago probably all democracy-oriented people from all over the world have felt a shock. The reason was that annexation of Crimea, a part of independent Ukraine, was processed for few days and against International Law.

During three years time there were many publications on this theme in world press, science literature, and blogs on different Internet-sites etc. And the author tried to find out the main reasons and consequences of Crimea annexation through present opinions on it.

The goal of this article is to consider historical and personal features of Crimea annexation. The main tasks are: to describe a historical retrospective show of Crimea ownership processes; to consider reaction of representatives of world community to Crimea annexation; to describe the present situation in Crimea.

So, on the 18th of March 2014, Russia and Crimea signed a decree about affiliation into the Russian Federation. This ended the independence of Crimea: it had lasted only one day, making Crimea the shortest lived state.

Crimea became the 84th region of Russia, the country that wants to swallow Eurasia. The same day, Putin made a discourse to the Duma and other worthies of his regime. Here is an extract: "The USSR fell apart. Things developed so swiftly that few people realised how truly dramatic those events and their consequences would be. Many people in Russia and in Ukraine, as well as in other republics hoped that the Commonwealth of Independent States that was created at the time would become the new common form of statehood. They were told that there would be a single currency, a single economic space, and joint armed forces; however, all this remained empty promises, while the big country was gone. It was only when Crimea ended up as part of a different country that Russia realised that it was not simply robbed, it was plundered. At the same time, we have to admit that by launching the sovereignty parade Russia itself aided in the collapse of the Soviet Union. And as this collapse was legalised, everyone forgot about Crimea and Sevastopol – the main base of the Black Sea Fleet. Millions of people went to bed in one country and awoke in different ones, overnight becoming ethnic minorities in former Union republics, while the Russian nation became one of the biggest, if not the biggest ethnic group in the world to be divided by borders. Now, many years later, I heard residents of Crimea say that back in 1991 they were handed over like a sack of potatoes. This is hard to disagree with. And what about the Russian state? What about Russia? It humbly accepted the situation. This country was going through such hard times then that realistically it was incapable of protecting its interests. However, the people could not reconcile themselves to this outrageous historical injustice. All these years, citizens and many public figures came back to this issue, saying that Crimea is historically Russian land and Sevastopol is a Russian city"<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Crimea Crisis: Russian President Putin's Speech Annotated. *The BBC*. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26652058>> (2017, September, 19).

It's not the first (and not the last) time when the President of Russia describes situation in unreal light. He likes to see only that part of the true he wants to.

As for Crimea and its historical ownership to Russia – the question is not clear.

The recorded history of the Crimean Peninsula, historically known as the Tauric Chersonese, begins around the 5th century BC when several Greek colonies were established along its coast. The southern coast remained Greek in culture for almost two thousand years as part of the Roman Empire (47 BC – 330 AD), and its successor states, the Byzantine Empire (330 AD – 1204 AD), the Empire of Trebizond (1204 AD – 1461 AD), and the independent Principality of Theodoro (ended 1475 AD). In the 13th century, some port cities were controlled by the Venetians and by the Genoese. The Crimean interior was much less stable, enduring a long series of conquests and invasions; by the early medieval period it had been settled by Scythians (Scytho-Cimmerians), Tauri, Greeks, Romans, Goths, Huns, Bulgars, Kipchaks and Khazars. In the medieval period, it was acquired partly by Kievan Rus', but fell to the Mongol invasions as part of the Golden Horde. They were followed by the Crimean Khanate and the Ottoman Empire, which conquered the coastal areas as well, in the 15th to 18th centuries<sup>1</sup>.

The map of Crimea in the Middle of the 15th Century you can see on the fig. 1.



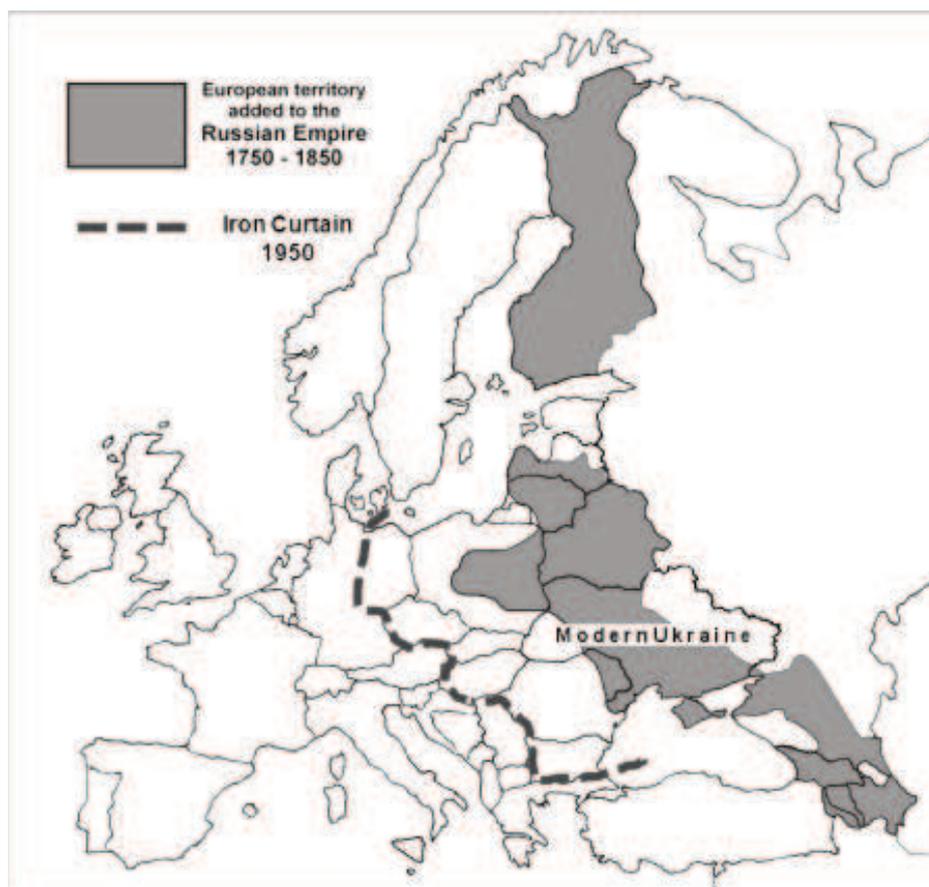
Fig. 1. Crimea in the Middle of the 15th Century (1450)<sup>2</sup>.

The modern history of the Crimea begins with the defeat of the Ottoman Empire by Catherine the Great in 1783 and the handing over of the Crimea by the Ottoman Empire to Russia as part of the Treaty provision. After two centuries of conflict, the Russian fleet had destroyed the Ottoman navy and the Russian army had inflicted heavy defeats on the Ottoman land forces. These were the times when Russia became, by far, the world's largest empire, conquering much of Eurasia and even America (down to California) (fig. 2).

The Crimean war of 1853-54 was an attempt to block the Russian push south. It started with a conflict with the French in Jerusalem (where the Russians expected the French to obey them). Although the Franco-British won, the Czarists used the occasion to persecute and expropriate the Crimean Tatars some more. In 1945, perhaps to reward Stalin to have been allied to Hitler, and thus crushed the Poles and the French, president Roosevelt gave Europe to Stalin up to the line. On 18 May 1944, the entire population

<sup>1</sup> History of Crimea. *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Crimea/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Crimea/)> (2017, September, 24).

<sup>2</sup> Ayme, P. Putin: Kill Tatars, Own Crimea. *Patrice Ayme's Thoughts*. <<https://patriceayme.wordpress.com/tag/crimea/>> (2017, August, 25).



**Fig. 2. European territory added to the Russian Empire (1750-1950)<sup>1</sup>.**

of the Crimean Tatars was forcibly deported to Central Asia by Joseph Stalin's Soviet government as a form of collective punishment on the grounds that they allegedly had collaborated with the Nazi occupation forces and formed pro-German Tatar Legions<sup>2</sup>.

About 50 % of the deportees died during transportation. In June 1944 Armenian, Bulgarian and Greek populations were also deported to Central Asia.

By the end of summer 1944, the ethnic cleansing of Crimea was complete, and only Putin's beloved Russians were welcome. In 1967 a law was passed to ban Crimean Tatars from legally returning to their homeland. Thus, the historical justification of Putin for annexing Crimea is the mix of ethnic cleansing and holocaust that Russia exerted in the area over a period of a century. Approving annexation is therefore approving a holocaust<sup>3</sup>.

So, historically Kievan Rus' (presently Ukraine) occupied Crimea before Russia (in 10th – 11th centuries it didn't exist at all as a country). Only in 1783 Russia at last occupied Crimea and did all to change demographic situation on it (fig. 3).

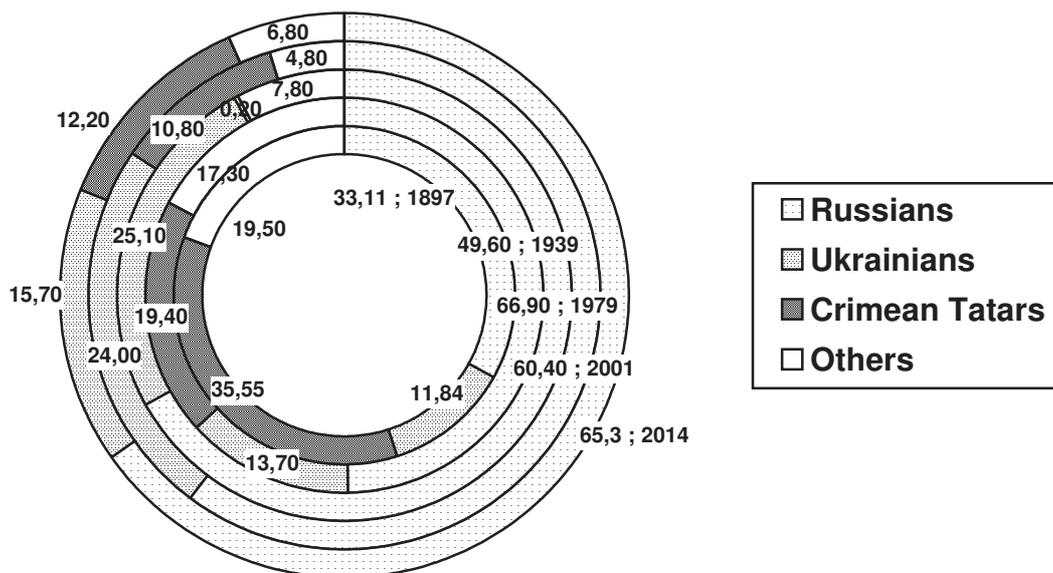
As we see from the figure, quantity of Tatars, historically Crimean population (194,294 or 35.55 % in 1897), changed to 5,422 or 0.2 % in 1979 (after deportation in 1944). Then after 1989 Crimean Tatars had a chance to return and in 2001 there were 258,700 of them or 10.8 %.

In 2014 the percent of Crimean Tatars was about 12.2 (246,073). So, Crimean referendum's results (97% of population formally were for independence/annexation) seems unreal, because most of Tatars couldn't give their voices for such decision.

<sup>1</sup> Ayme, P. Putin: Kill Tatars, Own Crimea. *Patrice Ayme's Thoughts*. <<https://patriceayme.wordpress.com/tag/crimea/>> (2017, August, 25).

<sup>2</sup> Subtelny, O. (2009). *Ukraine: A History*. University of Toronto Press.

<sup>3</sup> Ayme, P. Putin: Kill Tatars, Own Crimea. *Patrice Ayme's Thoughts*. <<https://patriceayme.wordpress.com/tag/crimea/>> (2017, August, 25).



**Fig. 3. The demographic situation on the Crimean peninsula, %.**

*Source: Made by author on the base<sup>1, 2</sup>.*

By the way, a referendum in occupied Crimea has been announced on the beginning of March, 2014, to be held within ten days. As Obama said, this is in another violation of International Law<sup>3</sup>.

Putin told about his decision about Crimea: “I would like to share with you some details of the negotiations that took place in the early 2000s...Russia seemed to have recognised Crimea as part of Ukraine... by agreeing to delimit the border we admitted de facto and de jure that Crimea was Ukrainian territory... However, this is not how the situation developed. Time and time again attempts were made to deprive Russians of their historical memory, even of their language and to subject them to forced assimilation. Moreover, Russians, just as other citizens of Ukraine are suffering from the constant political and state crisis that has been rocking the country for over 20 years. I understand why Ukrainian people wanted change. They have had enough of the authorities in power during the years of Ukraine’s independence. Presidents, prime ministers and parliamentarians changed, but their attitude to the country and its people remained the same. They milked the country, fought among themselves for power, assets and cash flows and did not care much about the ordinary people...”<sup>4</sup>.

Author’s opinion is that every president must care of his own country the best he can to. And only when all citizens of his country are satisfied, the President can think about his neighbors as well. Russia is not only Moscow or rest big and middle cities, but villages too. People from small towns and villages want some changes too, but the President doesn’t want to hear them.

The annexation of Crimea is unique in history because it was unnormally fast. We can fix something like record – Crimea was independent just a few hours.

One of the reasons of such quickly annexation is that Ukraine (like most countries in Eastern Europe) did not have a serious military strategy since becoming independent from the Soviet Union. There was no perceived threat, there were no resources to modernize the military. After the Yanukovich regime collapsed and Russia invaded Crimea, Ukraine suddenly found itself trying to make up for 20 years of neglect in two months<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> State Statistics Service of Ukraine. <<http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>> (2017, October, 5).

<sup>2</sup> Demographics of Crimea. *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics\\_of\\_Crimea#Ethnicities\\_and\\_languages/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Crimea#Ethnicities_and_languages/)> (2017, October, 6).

<sup>3</sup> Internal Logic. *Patrice Ayme’s Thoughts*. <<https://patriceayme.wordpress.com/tag/crimea/>> (2017, September, 21).

<sup>4</sup> The Russian Federation President Speech on Joining of Crimea and Sevastopol into the Territory of Russian Federation. *Facebook*. <<https://www.facebook.com/notes/владимир-путин/the-russian-federation-president-speech-on-joining-of-crimea-and-sevastopol-into/652434531459080/>> (2017, October, 5).

<sup>5</sup> Karber, P. (2015). Draft “*Lessons Learned*” from the Russo-Ukrainian War. Personal Observations. Historical Lessons Learned Workshop, 44.

As for Russian strategy, no one except Putin really understands what he wants and what he is willing to risk to get it – in fact, if he is the ad hoc “player” many believe, even he may not be able to answer those strategic questions. So a strategy of offering him an “off ramp” is a hope not a plan.

The Russian military have a concept they call “New Generation Warfare” and they seem to be using Ukraine to both test and perfect it. Russian “New Generation Warfare” differs from Western views of “hybrid conflict” in that it combines both low – end “hidden” state involvement with high – end direct, even braggadocio, superpower involvement. Contrary to Western politicians, the Russian leadership understands “military options” and plays them like a Stradivarius. From the Arctic Circle to the Caucasus, front-line NATO member are expressing anxiety. Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania all feel threatened. Neutrals and NATO “partners” like Sweden, Finland, Moldavia and Georgia look for help<sup>1</sup>.

Of course, Crimea’s history doesn’t automatically mean conflict. While the Russian nationalists in Crimea have been given a lot of attention, some say they aren’t a coherent force. Ellie Knott, a doctoral candidate at the London School of Economics who conducts research in Crimea, has argued convincingly that the Russian nationalist and Crimean separatists are in practice hindered by their own internal divisions, and that many ethnic Russians in Crimea have a more complicated sense of national identity than might first appear<sup>2</sup>.

If there’s one thing you can say about Crimea’s history, it’s that it’s been full of surprises. Its future might be, too<sup>3</sup>.

There are economic and personal features of annexation as well. So, one of economic features is that there is an opportunity to get underwater resources near Crimea. As The New York Times said: “Putin acquired not just the Crimean landmass but also a maritime zone more than three times its size with the rights to underwater resources potentially worth trillions of dollars. Russia portrayed the takeover as reclamation of its rightful territory, drawing no attention to the oil and gas rush that had recently been heating up in the Black Sea. But the move also extended Russia’s maritime boundaries, quietly giving Russia dominion over vast oil and gas reserves while dealing a crippling blow to Ukraine’s hopes for energy independence”<sup>4</sup>.

“It’s a big deal”, said Carol R. Saivetz, a Eurasian expert in the Security Studies Program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “It deprives Ukraine of the possibility of developing these resources and gives them to Russia. It makes Ukraine more vulnerable to Russian pressure”<sup>5</sup>.

One of reactions from the side of West countries for situation with Crimea annexation was to provide sanctions against Russia. But there were different opinions too.

For example, in 2014 a UK mainstream media narrative dominated by commentators telling us the West has miscalculated in doing anything other than patting Russia on the back, as it is claimed that Russia will simply reorient itself towards China in the event of any sanctions<sup>6</sup>.

One of personal features of Crimea annexation we can see in The Daily Mail. It wrote that during a royal tour of Canada Prince Charles expressed a commonplace opinion in private conversation with Marianne Ferguson, 78, Jewish daughter of Poles who fled the Nazis and lost her relatives during the Holocaust of the Jews by the Nazis. The woman had spoken to the prince about her family and he responded: “It is not unlike what is now happening in Russia, what Putin is doing”. Later, as Marianne remembers, Prince Charles told: “And now Putin is doing just about the same as Hitler”<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Karber, P. (2015). Draft “*Lessons Learned*” from the Russo-Ukrainian War. Personal Observations. Historical Lessons Learned Workshop, 45-46.

<sup>2</sup> Are Crimeans Really Russian Nationalists and Separatists? *Vostokcable*. <<http://vostokcable.wordpress.com/2014/02/24/are-crimeans-really-russian-nationalists-and-separatists/>> (2017, September, 17).

<sup>3</sup> Taylor, A. To Understand Crimea, Take a Look Back at its Complicated History. *The Washington Post*. <[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/02/27/to-understand-crimea-take-a-look-back-at-its-complicated-history/?utm\\_term=.be832bd66396/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/02/27/to-understand-crimea-take-a-look-back-at-its-complicated-history/?utm_term=.be832bd66396/)> (2017, October, 6).

<sup>4</sup> Broad, J. In Taking Crimea, Putin Gains a Sea of Fuel Reserves. *The New York Times*. <<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/18/world/europe/in-taking-crimea-putin-gains-a-sea-of-fuel-reserves.html>> (2017, October, 9).

<sup>5</sup> Broad, J. In Taking Crimea, Putin Gains a Sea of Fuel Reserves. *The New York Times*. <<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/18/world/europe/in-taking-crimea-putin-gains-a-sea-of-fuel-reserves.html>> (2017, October, 9).

<sup>6</sup> Lynch, G. Russia, China, Crimea, Xinjiang and Putin’s Risky Gambit. *Gerry Lynch’s Thoughts...* <<https://sammymorse.wordpress.com/2014/03/27/russia-china-crimea-xinjiang-and-putins-risky-gambit/>> (2017, September, 22).

<sup>7</sup> “Putin is Behaving Just Like Hitler”, Says Charles. Prince’s Controversial Verdict on Russian Leader’s Invasion of Ukraine. *The Daily Mail*. <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2634400/Putin-behaving-just-like-Hitler-says-Charles-Princes-controversial-verdict-Russian-leaders-invasion-Ukraine.html>> (2017, October, 9).

Against this and others similar opinions Vladimir V. Putin said that it's "unacceptable" and "not royal behavior" to compare him with Hitler. Putin positions himself more likely as the monarch. He said: "If the main bonus Russia gets is to sit in the room and listen to what other people are saying, then that is not a role Russia can agree to". Putin's next words were: "We always take into account the interests of our partners... but there are some lines that cannot be crossed, and Ukraine and Crimea were that line..." Also Putin told to senior representatives of major international news agencies, including The Associated Press: "Where is the guarantee that, after the forceful change of power, Ukraine will not tomorrow end up in NATO?"<sup>1</sup>

So, on the one side, Putin claims he would respect the Ukrainian election, but on the other side, he wants to establish some borders of its possibilities.

The Russian leader complains: "We hear only one answer, as if on a record: Every nation has a right to determine on its own the security system in which it wants to live, and that doesn't concern you"<sup>2</sup>.

And that's how the United Nations and International Law work on practice. As we can see Putin has his own view on International Law.

Also Putin said: "Those who opposed the coup were immediately threatened with repression. Naturally, the first in line here was Crimea, the Russian-speaking Crimea. In view of this, the residents of Crimea and Sevastopol turned to Russia for help in defending their rights and lives, in preventing the events that were unfolding and are still underway in Kiev, Donetsk, Kharkov and other Ukrainian cities. Naturally, we could not leave this plea unheeded; we could not abandon Crimea and its residents in distress. This would have been betrayal on our part. First, we had to help create conditions so that the residents of Crimea for the first time in history were able to peacefully express their free will regarding their own future. However, what do we hear from our colleagues in Western Europe and North America? They say we are violating norms of international law. Firstly, it's a good thing that they at least remember that there exists such a thing as international law – better late than never"<sup>3</sup>.

But, as we know, Ukraine had a seat at the United Nations for 65 years, and has been fully independent since 1991, and has existed as a nation for well above 11 centuries. So, it's more than twice older than Russia. Putin just invaded it, in complete violation of International Law, and is flippant about it.

By the way, using soldiers without national identification and identifying marks, the way Putin does, is against International Law too.

The cautious Angela Merkel, usually measured in her language about other world leaders, warned Obama privately that Putin was in danger of losing touch with reality<sup>4</sup>.

At last, all the representative democracies, even Switzerland, have been united in telling Putin that he was a mad man. In the United Nations, more than hundred countries condemned Putin's invasion cum annexation<sup>5</sup>.

To generalise aforementioned statements of representatives of world community, it is necessary to mention, that meeting with foreign leaders passing in parties, organized by third parties, back channels, and off the record meetings are all part of diplomacy. In fact they are part of any high level discussions in business or in politics<sup>6</sup>.

That is why we can't receive all true information in real time. Instead of this we can guess only about most of present thoughts of representatives of world community. Or alternatively we can wait while the necessary information does not become accessible.

Let's return to the Crimean peninsula. What is about the present situation there? What it looks like now?

There is only limited current information about Crimea which can be trusted as quite reliable source. Basically such information is in articles of independent journalists-eyewitnesses of modern events on peninsula.

<sup>1</sup> Putin: West Ignores Russia's Interests in Ukraine. *World News*. <<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2014-05-25/world-news/Putin:-West-ignores-Russia%27s-interests-in-Ukraine-5155225600/>> (2017, September, 29).

<sup>2</sup> Putin: West Ignores Russia's Interests in Ukraine. *World News*. <<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2014-05-25/world-news/Putin:-West-ignores-Russia%27s-interests-in-Ukraine-5155225600/>> (2017, September, 29).

<sup>3</sup> Address by President of the Russian Federation. *The Presidential Press and Information Office's Department of Accreditation and Briefings*. <<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/20603/>> (2017, October, 3).

<sup>4</sup> "In Another World": Merkel Tells Obama She Thinks Putin's Losing Touch With Reality. *Hotair*. <<https://hotair.com/archives/2014/03/03/in-another-world-merkel-tells-obama-she-thinks-putins-losing-touch-with-reality/>> (2017, September, 15).

<sup>5</sup> Ayme, P. Putin: Kill Tatars, Own Crimea. *Patrice Ayme's Thoughts*. <<https://patriceayme.wordpress.com/tag/crimea/>> (2017, August, 25).

<sup>6</sup> Debunking Russiagate. *Tsukes Thoughts*. <<https://tsukesthoughts.wordpress.com/2017/07/>> (2017, August, 5).

So, as we know, in March 2014 the peninsula enjoys an uneasy peace rather than war.

In acknowledgement to it a statue honoring The Little Green Men has been erected near the Crimean parliament building. It depicts a young girl handing flowers to a man with a gun. The inscription reads: "To The Polite People from the grateful people of Crimea"<sup>1</sup>.

A recent visit revealed that, for many locals, it's been hard doing business under international sanctions. Most tourists (other than Russians) stopped arriving when foreign airlines and ships stopped coming, they say. Banks stopped lending. Global retail names left. The lack of traffic from the rest of Ukraine is hurting. Industries that relied on it as a primary market, such as fishing, have hit tough times: Ukraine is no longer buying Crimean fish and Russia isn't all that interested, either. The reason is price: The only way for goods to move back and forth is by ferries, which charged close to \$1,000 per truck back in 2014, says a wholesale distributor in Kerch who calls herself Lubov. Now subsidized by the Russian government, the ferry charge is down to about \$200<sup>2</sup>.

Some Crimean products, such as wine, saw a temporary renaissance in 2014 thanks to Russians who went out of their way to buy it. Now the euphoria is gone. Russian consumers have a wide range of wines to choose from, and Crimean wine is simply too expensive. Some winemakers are even trying to shed the region's reputation for sweet wines by investing in more desirable, sophisticated varieties.

And the problem isn't just exports. Crucial imports, including gasoline and food, must come from Russia via the same expensive ferry, pushing prices higher.

The Russian government meanwhile says the economic news for Crimea is positive. Tourist visits for most of the peninsula rose 21 percent last year, to 5.6 million people, and the GDP equivalent rose 8.5 percent in real terms in 2015, the government says. It also reported that average incomes and wages have risen dramatically under Russian rule, though officials concede that retail sales were down 7.6 percent last year. Many Crimeans say they miss the freedom of being a largely autonomous, self-governing region of Ukraine, with what they characterized as unwritten local rules for doing business. But others interviewed on the street praised Russia's investment in local infrastructure (especially everyday conveniences like reliable wireless access and also repairing roads, modernizing hospitals, building the bridge etc.)<sup>3</sup>.

Severing ties to Ukraine has brought problems. With economic links to Ukraine cut, the only way of keeping the peninsula supplied is by sea or air. That means higher prices.

Construction of an 11-mile bridge that will connect Russia's Krasnodar region with the Crimean city of Kerch is in full swing. Scheduled to open next year, the road-rail link will span the Kerch Strait, which flows between the Sea of Azov to the north and the Black Sea to the south. Moscow insists that will change once it has completed a road and rail bridge linking Crimea to the Russian mainland. The bridge is a multibillion-dollar statement that Moscow is here to stay<sup>4</sup>.

And the bridge symbolizes the final step in annexation. Though a major priority for Russian President, this tangible connection to the peninsula won't necessarily cure its illnesses. Now Crimea continue to live with the powerful sting of western sanctions, the economic fallout of being cut off from much of the world, and the high cost of living.

The Russian government is also modernizing Crimea's main airport, Simferopol. The plan is to have flights to 54 Russian cities up and running by summer. Yet, because of the invasion and the resulting sanctions, if one wants to travel from Crimea to Ukraine's capital of Kiev, you have to fly to Moscow first, then transfer to a flight to Minsk, in Belarus, and then finally on to Kiev<sup>5</sup>.

This year Crimea feels calmer than three years ago. While Russia and the West argue over sanctions, sovereignty and borders, it seems that most people here are just trying to get on with their lives, trying to adapt<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Rosenberg, S. Crimea: The Place that's Rather Difficult to Get Into. *The BBC*. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39329284/>> (2017, October, 7).

<sup>2</sup> Friedman, M. The High Price of Putin's Takeover of Crimea. *Bloomberg*. <<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-03-31/crimea-pays-a-high-price-three-years-after-russian-takeover/>> (2017, October, 12).

<sup>3</sup> Friedman, M. The High Price of Putin's Takeover of Crimea. *Bloomberg*. <<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-03-31/crimea-pays-a-high-price-three-years-after-russian-takeover/>> (2017, October, 12).

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It is not so important what exactly they are talking about Crimea in the world – most of words have no influence on situation inside of this territory. Firstly, it seems the main thing is that nothing will change in Crimea while all power in Russia will be concentrated in hands of the existing President (the further returning of Crimea back to Ukraine contradicts his principle position).

Secondly, life level of Ukrainian citizens must be, as minimum, on an average level of a corresponding indicator of the European Union. Then people which have to live on Crimean territory will have a strong desire to return into 2014 and to become a part of Ukraine de facto again.

At last, it's expedient to note that Crimea had very long and hard history (that is why it's so popular topic for talking about in the world). And the authors suppose that its future will be long and full of interesting events too (both for the world press, and for the further researches of the author) but not so hard.

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