

*JOURNAL ON UKRAINE*

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BRIDGE TO LITERACY

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## INTRODUCTION

*By Nickolas Vaccaro*

*Journal on Ukraine* is a regular, student publication on the Russo-Ukrainian War's cultural impact.

The *Journal* seeks to preserve the Ukrainian people's heritage, identity and cultural memory, and to protect these from revision and repression, through historical and political analysis, cultural commentary and personal reflection.

The Ukrainian people, their land and liberty, are now being devastated, their borders and history are now being erased, following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. *Journal on Ukraine* is Bridge to Literacy's response to the Russian invasion and its contribution to Ukraine in its struggle for independence.

War is as much a strife for land as for historical, national and cultural identity. *Journal on Ukraine* covers the Russo-Ukrainian War's cultural front, where anyone, through strength of thought, can fight, and where words are the only means to victory.

Ukraine's culture is threatened by Russia's invasion, and in publishing *Journal on Ukraine* we are preserving Ukrainian memory, identity and heritage within our school community. In publishing *Journal on Ukraine*, we are countering attempts to erase Ukraine's borders, people, language and art.

We are engaging with Ukraine's history and culture, analyzing its politics, society and war and offering our personal, honest take on a people, culture and conflict of a scale and barbarity not seen since World War II, a conflict premised on the same nationalism and historical perversion as the wars of Nazi Germany. And if we succeed, we would have remembered, protected and given to others, in our school community and beyond, Ukraine's heritage — and the aggressor and censor would have been defeated.

*Journal on Ukraine's* first issue is premised on the foundational quality of language to a nation's and people's identity, heritage, cultural memory and politics. The first issue studies the post-Soviet history of the Ukrainian language and with it the linguistic, cultural and historical emergence of the Ukrainian people — from centuries of conflict, repression and strife for a distinct and independent identity, rooted in both the Slavic and European worlds, but distinct from both — and free.

ARTICLES

## THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT BEFORE AND AFTER THE 2022 RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

*By Jasmine Cherng*

Following the Russian seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in October 2014, tensions between Russian and Ukraine have become increasingly concerning. Various alliance discussions and threats of invasion are worrying the world with the question of whether these conflicts would spark another major world war. In the early months of 2022, Russia had begun stationing troops just outside of the Ukrainian border, amassing over 130,000 troops to the border. This increasing Russian presence forced national leaders, including the Biden Administration, to consult each other about possible economic sanctions against Russia should it invade Ukraine because it would clearly affect economic, political, and social welfare of countries worldwide.

Unfortunately, on February 24, 2022, Russian president, Vladimir Putin authorized a “special military operation” against the country, announcing the beginning of a full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine. The reasoning behind this, Putin claims, was to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine and end the alleged genocide of Russians in Ukrainian territory. However, Putin’s underlying goal of maintaining a sphere of influence across the entire former Soviet Union and the removal of NATO presence in Eastern Europe seems to be a large contributor. In the year following the initial invasion, Ukraine suffered significant damage to its military, urban areas, communication, and transportation due to Russian cruise missiles, bombs, cluster munitions, and thermobaric weapons.

Ukrainian civilians in areas around the capital of Kyiv reported the horrors of the crimes committed by Russian troops, including accounts of execution, torture, and rape. The brutality of Russia didn’t just stop there. On April 18, Russian launched a new offensive, targeting the port cities, like Mariupol, reducing the cities to rubble and cutting off access to overseas resources. The attacks and invasions on various port cities continued into the summer and proved to be devastating to not only Ukraine, but also to countries in need; Ukraine was previously the largest contributor of commodities to the World Food Program (WFP), which provides food assistance to vulnerable populations, but with the Russian occupation of Ukrainian ports, countries in need were not able to receive resources.

Furthermore, fears of a nuclear disaster were provoked as Russian forces seized the largest nuclear plant in Europe, the Zaporizhzhia facility. Officials feared that fighting near the facility could’ve caused the facility to be caught in the crossfire and incited a nuclear catastrophe. Fortunately, the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called for the immediate ceasing of all military activity near the facility to preserve the nuclear safety of the area.

On the bright side, Ukrainian forces claimed to have made advances on previously Russian occupied land, primarily in the Kharkiv region in early September 2022. This prompted calls for Russian reinforcements to the eastern front as well as a partial mobilization of Russian civilians to move to four occupied territories: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya. By July 2022, the UN reported 4,889 killed (including at least 335 children) and 6,263 injured (including at least 521 children) with over 15.7 million people in need.

President Biden has made it clear that he does not plan on sending US troops to Ukraine as it is not a member of NATO and does not come under the defense obligations of the organization. However, the United States and Ukraine's European allies have committed to sending financial aid and an array of weapons to hopefully urge a turning point for the war.

Today, there is not a lot of coverage on the war fronts due to increased media censorship, but according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), there are an estimated 7,200 people killed and 11,800 injured as of February 12, 2023.

To send support to those in Ukraine, many organizations have been formed to provide food, water, medical care, emergency supplies, cash assistance, hygiene kits, and ongoing support to those who remain in Ukraine and those displaced by the conflict. These organizations are asking for all the help they can get and are extremely grateful for all of the donations they receive.

## STATE OF UKRAINE

*By Viviana Rescalvo Orea*

After the February 2022 invasion of Russia on Ukraine, more than 5 million children have been displaced, with over 350,000 losing access to their education within the 1 year time span. Prior to the invasion, many students had already struggled with their schoolwork as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. With Russia damaging or destroying numerous schools, there were no places in which students could attend to learn like normal children. Parents worried about their child's safety in a place where they should be allowed to feel safe in order to learn and grow with their environment.

Now that some resources were available to children online, some also attended virtual classes. However, with the frequent loss of electricity and the blackouts that these families faced, it was almost impossible for children to receive their education in this manner. A child's education builds on the events they experience outside of the classroom, which is the backbone of their future. If students lose connections to themselves and what they are learning, there are consequences that can be irreversible.

As Russian bombs attacked libraries and civilian infrastructure, there was little possibility for Ukrainians, especially students, to find their sense of identity. Russia's mission to repress accessible Soviet-era information from Ukrainian citizens has already been successful. Thousands of school libraries have been destroyed already, as well as libraries in numerous cities (Mariupol, Chernihiv, Sievierodonetsk, etc.). Libraries in Ukraine hold more meaning than just a building processing books. These libraries are where refugees often seek shelter when they have nowhere else to go. With one another, they build a community where they help with the physiological damage and mental scars, especially in children.

Nonetheless, some schools are continuously trying to persevere against the odds. One small school in Dnipro, celebrated the day of knowledge, which is traditionally the first day of school. This day typically consists of dances, balloons, and colorful flowers for teachers. Only a handful of schools are able to offer this to their students. As students and their parents walk to the school, they normally see many other kids on the streets also on their way to school. This time around, it's only them who get this opportunity. Schools are allowed to continue these in person classes as long as they have up to date bomb shelters. Even with protocols in place, it is not guaranteed that schools will even make it to the first day of class. As teachers try to prepare the classrooms for the students arriving, there could be a missile attack that will ruin all their plans. Teachers are putting themselves in harm's way, pushing past the challenges and



obstacles, trying to provide these children with an education and a childhood. Many have turned to virtual teaching, which still may not be accessible to all children.

Following the invasion with many children displaced, the number of Ukrainian students enrolled in a school in Poland have skyrocketed. In March of 2022, there were an estimated 35,000 kids that had crossed the border to Poland and enrolled in a school there. Over the months approaching December 2022, there were now around 191,000. The number since then has lowered as students have continued to either return to Ukraine or seek shelter in other countries. One question that remains is how these students feel going back to school knowing that the Russian government has targeted them for their culture and identity.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine dates back many years ago, with a prime of Russia annexing Crimea back in 2014. The war in Donbas beginning in 2014, has been the deadliest conflict in Europe since the 1990 Balkan wars. The battle of Donbas is still an ongoing battle in which both Russia and Ukraine try to take control of the Donbas provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. Yet, Russia's interest in Ukraine is deeper than just the land they try to conquer. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia felt threatened and susceptible to western power. For this reason, they looked at Ukraine as a target to gain back their national image.

Ukraine had been intertwined with Russia in various ways, whether it be by being large trade partners, or Russia having a heavy influence on Ukrainian politics. However, as Ukraine started to build links and ties with NATO, which Russia viewed as a "hostile act toward Russia," Russia demanded that NATO stop expanding their alliance with Ukraine. With this, Russia decided to move forward with their invasion on Ukraine.

These military, economic, and political fronts would impact the foundational cultural front, which is often overlooked. When a cultural front is destroyed, everything from education to the media shifts. Although big powers may not realize and experience it, those who consume this education and media are the ones who stay suffering. Education is a need to help the coming generations grow within society. If students see that an ongoing war's purpose is to alter their country's identity, how are they to preserve what they have always known without an education?

Russia realized that a Ukrainian national identity truly does exist, and that to obliterate it would prove to be a challenge. Ukrainian culture will soon dig deeper into their own roots, independent from Russian

culture. Even with the mass destruction of historical monuments, statues and libraries, there are people that are fighting to keep their culture alive through the darkness. With an uproar of Ukrainian morale, citizens are able to find more about their identity, uniting them in a cause bigger than what politics wants to limit it to.

Previously, many had seen Russians and Ukrainians “as one.” However, over the past months since the invasion, this mindset has shifted. There is a rise in nationalism in Ukraine, which can be noticed worldwide. As Ukraine becomes more westernized and finds its identity, the embattled country receive great amounts of support from its citizens. 29 percent of Ukrainians speak Russian as their first language, with 80 percent being on board with their new form of perspective.

These new changes will have a dramatic effect on Ukrainian education. Since there was such a heavy Russian influence on what schools in Ukraine taught, many learned in their history lessons that Ukraine has always been a part of Russia. Children as old as 6 are also enrolled in army cadet courses. Now, since the war, there will be a bigger push away from the Soviet-era curriculum. Students will learn about Russia as a country like any other, separate from their own. They will learn about events that left Ukrainians devastated by Russians. However, to their disadvantage, school authorities are under constant pressure by Russian forces to teach under the Russian system. With these constant influences from the opposing side, students with a need for education are the ones suffering.

## THE UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES AFTER THE 2022 RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

*By Nicholas Picouzo*

The Russian language has played a significant role in Ukrainian culture ever since the first few groups of Russians settled on Ukrainian soil in the 16th century. As time moved on, due to the influx of Russian immigration to regions of modern Ukraine, the population of Russian speakers has increased dramatically; with Russians being the biggest ethnic group in almost all large cities in Ukraine. It can also be seen that throughout history, the Russian Empire, and later the Soviet Union, has always tried to assimilate and “Russify” Ukraine and its people. But after the invasion by the Russian forces in February of 2022, their success quickly faded, with a dramatic decline in Russian-speaking households, an overall increase in Patriotism, and federal restrictions on the distribution of Russian media.

As conflict arose, and the war was in full effect, Ukrainian nationalism skyrocketed, sending ripples throughout the world. One could see people all over the globe showing their support for Ukraine: hanging up flags, posting on social media, and starting fundraisers for those affected by the fighting. Pro-Ukrainian positions were at an all-time high, and this was even more evident inside the nation itself. One way that the Ukrainians showed support and love for their country was to reject the Russian language. This is especially surprising in cities or towns that were close to the border, as the use of Russian was especially widespread there. These representations of patriotism are talked about all over the world, with even the British Newspaper *The Guardian* writing about it.

Shawn Walker, a *Guardian* correspondent, writes about individual struggles and reasons that Ukrainian citizens had for speaking only Ukrainian. When interviewing those affected, Mr. Walker spoke to Gamlet Zinkivskyi, a 35-year-old street artist for Kharkiv, who said, “Unfortunately, I grew up speaking Russian, But it’s not pleasant to speak the same language as the army that is destroying whole areas of our country,” (Walker, 2022, para. 2). This kind of mentality is being shared by more and more citizens of Ukraine, and that really has a big impact on the numbers. Based on a poll by the sociology group Rating, the use of Russian in Ukrainian households has lowered by half since the 2022 invasion, and 41 percent of all Russian speakers, and bilingual speakers have reported having started speaking more Ukrainian (Rating, 2022, para. 13-16). With almost 44 million people living in Ukraine, these numbers represent a huge increase in Ukrainian speakers, all over a relatively short time period. (Reports were made ~1/2 year after the invasion.)

The people of Ukraine have been fighting back Russian aggression on every front, standing up for their homeland however deemed necessary. Russian media paints themselves as liberators, and the Ukrainians as those waiting to be saved, while in reality, the opposite is true. These Ukrainians are rejecting Russian influence, and are pushing out whatever traces of it are still left. They refuse to acknowledge these so-called liberators and would give up speaking their language even if it is all they have ever known.

This internal fight against Russian influence is also bigger than just citizens refusing to speak a language, as there are even certain implementations by the government itself. Since the 2022 invasion, there have been numerous laws and provisions enacted to limit the use of the Russian language and media, which used to play a big role in Ukrainian lives. In June 2022, the Ukrainian parliament voted on two new laws, greatly restricting the production and sharing of Russian books and music in an attempt to speed up the de-Russification of Ukrainian society (Hunder Reuters, 2022, para.1-4).

These laws might seem to be Ukraine's radical push to limit Russian influence, but I think it's more than that. It appears to be a boycott and a reminder to the population of what they have to stand for. Ukrainian theaters now don't perform Russian acts, and bookstores don't sell Russian books. But no one is canceling Tchaikovsky or turning their head on Dostoevsky. Instead, they are just putting them on pause, as a way to raise nationalism and to give people chances to appreciate the culture and ideas of the country that they are dying for.

These laws are met with backlash from many who claim that restrictions on language limit press freedom and restrict what people can and cannot read, write, or perform. Such a drastic approach would be deemed unconstitutional in the United States, so the response of the Ukrainian people can be understood, but troubling times as these are cause for radical methods of governing, and this kind of censorship might be justified as a way to raise morale. The people of Ukraine need something to turn to, and an increase in Ukrainian literature and media could be exactly that.

As in all wars, a sense of nationalism and unity amongst the people remains to be one of the most vital elements needed to win. The people have to be unified and understand for what they are sending their children to war, why they are trusting the government with their lives and their families' lives, and exactly why they must give up things that they hold dear. A nationwide agreement to stop using the language of their enemy does nothing but further strengthen that patriotism, that love, that they have for Ukraine. And though the government's response could be seen as extreme or unconstitutional to some, it is necessary to further strengthen the trust and co-existence that the people have with those in power. In

just a year, the people of Ukraine were able to reverse what took decades for the Russians to accomplish, and that says everything about the priorities of the people.

OPINION

## THE NATION, NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE TRANSCENDENCE OF LANGUAGE

*By Nickolas Vaccaro*

The question of national identity, and the questions of national sovereignty and territorial integrity which arise from the question of national identity, all of which are central to the Russo-Ukrainian War, must be defined categorically, addressed and resolved universally, if this war, and the historical conflict of which it is born, is to end at last — if at last life, the human right to live, is placed above everything else, above all ideas and philosophies and politics, if at last the guiltless masses cease to bleed for the ideas of the fanatical few.

Language — as it is the expression of a people, their distinct political and cultural voice that emerges out of historical conflict, settlement and political struggle — prescribes the individual to a people sharing the language and, consequently, to the history, artistic and literary expression and political struggle of that people. These facets of society — historical and political consciousness, artistic and intellectual expression — as much as they exist within language and are born from language, create for the people of that language a collective understanding of self, of shared history and present-day politics — a collective world-gaze which, as distinct from those of other societies, drives a distinct expression through art and politics. This drive for expression (and thus for existence), as it is directed by collective history, creates a collective people's culture and concept of nationhood or national identity.

Being born of a people collected together through shared historical and political experience, with a shared world-gaze, national identity has its original root in language. After language, a people, then a collective consciousness, then a world-gaze, then a culture and politics, then a society and national identity come to be. A nation, then, comes into being after all the aforementioned as a political, practical, differentiation of that people and history and culture, of that society and language, from all others. A political state emerges out of that people, a society forms, geographical borders are defined — and so a nation, as a practical institution for the preservation and protection of a people and history and culture and the language that binds and births all these, comes to be.

Thus, a people's national identity, and the language in which it exists, precede and transcend the nation which is a political and purely practical institution that holds within it a people and their identity and language but can in no sense be equated to these or conceived to inform these.

Russia — as Nazi Germany in the last century and all fascistic and fanatical societies that place the realization of a political or historical-religious mystical vision before life and the individual's right to live — has premised its aggression in Ukraine and violation of the practical structure of nation (and national borders) on the suggested Russian national identity of inhabitants of eastern Ukraine, a claim deriving from the Russian language usage of those inhabitants. Russia would annex Ukrainian national territory and establish a Russian nation, in the practical structure of a nation, after violating Ukraine's nation structure; denying a people's and the individual's foremost right to live which precedes any notion of national identity, history or language; and thus rejecting the necessity of a nation as a practical structure functioning, in the first place, to preserve a people, to protect human life.

Russia's hypocrisy in first violating the (Ukrainian) nation structure, dismissing the foremost value of human life, only to erect a Russian nation structure over mass graves and razed cities — neither to preserve a people nor to protect human life, but first and foremost to *establish* a new and false national identity — must be denounced, socially and politically, and prosecuted, legally, in the strongest terms and with greatest urgency. For, as any fascistic war, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, reverses the purpose of the political and practical nation structure from firstly preserving a people and thus human life to firstly preserving a national identity, culture, history and language. This reversed nation structure is false — for neither can national identity exist without human life nor should it, as any political ideology or philosophy, be valued before human life or be built on its oppression and sacrifice.

We, living not a hundred years since the Holocaust, since the second World War, since the Bosnian and Rwandan genocides — we, inheritors of the last century's evil, our forefathers' evil, began our century's first war in Europe and have turned deaf to the historical cry of all those millions oppressed and persecuted and slaughtered. And we commit the same sin, carry into our century the same evil: to value ideas and ideology before life, history and politics before life, national identity before life, land before life; to oppress, conquer and triumph; to deny, again and again, that others have the right to live, the right to life, that they are human.

The war must end, but only with the victory of the nation over national identity, life over ideology, Ukraine over Russia. And as language, as a people and their collective identity and distinct world-gaze, as national identity, transcend the practical nation structure, they must not remain passive to their nation's bleeding, to its strife for survival — for the nation protects a people, preserves language and history and identity. And without the nation, without just politics and incorruptible law, without principle and



courage, we, the people of the world, against evil, in our struggle to life, for all our visions and histories and philosophies, are nothing.

*Angelica Zinytche*

Vlad, only six years old, visits his mother's grave and brings food, after his mother passed away from starvation. Masha is 15 years old. Yet, part of her right leg was amputated due to a shell hitting ten feet from Polohy, her hometown, while she was casually walking with her mother. Nadia Trubchaninova, 70 years old, was found dead in Bucha after he was slaughtered by a Russian army.

These are only three war stories out of the thousands and thousands out there. How is this fair? Why does there have to be such violence?

It has been a year since Russia has invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Everything, since that day, has changed. Day after day, loved ones in families are being lost and raped, land and homes are being destroyed — the list goes on. Every second, I worry about what is going on in my home country. I tell myself that everyone is safe, that no place was bombed today, that no soldier or family member was scared of losing one another. But I know that is not true. At this very second, soldiers are fighting for their lives, worrying that they won't ever see their children or families ever again. Any moment, a rocket might hit a random location in Ukraine, ruining lands, homes, and cultural and historical sights such as churches and museums.

I wonder how I would feel if I were in Ukraine at this time- how terrified I would be, how traumatized I would be. Families are now losing their close ones — their sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers just gone. How would you feel if your loved ones were fighting on the front lines, being in the most danger possible?

Ukraine's Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin states that over 65,000 Russian war crimes have been committed since the 2022 invasion, including "indiscriminate shelling of civilians, willful killing, torture, conflict-related sexual violence, looting and forced displacement on a massive scale."

Russia has invaded our homes — and is taking everything we ever loved and crushing it. However, that doesn't mean that we are falling behind. Instead, we are fighting back. As President Zelensky states: "We became one big army. We have become a team where someone finds, someone packs, someone brings, but everyone contributes. We withstand all threats, shelling, cluster bombs, cruise missiles, kamikaze drones, blackouts and cold. We are stronger than that. We were not defeated. And we will do everything to gain victory this year!"

*Nicholas Picouzo*

The Russo-Ukrainian war has left a lasting effect on many facets of Ukrainian life and culture. New policies, fear of attack, censorship, and other hurdles have plagued Ukrainians since the invasion of 2022. The media landscape has changed dramatically and had to adapt to the ever-changing political situation in the country. Due to the dangers of the war, and those that come with journalism, many media houses have had to suspend work indefinitely.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 12 Ukrainian journalists have been killed in the Russian-occupied territories inside the country. This actively discourages news outlets to pursue and report on live events near areas of fighting and denies the people of Ukraine and the world a good look at and understanding of what is really happening. It is also known that currently, almost 75 percent of Ukrainian media outlets are underfunded, and the number seems to continue rising (Alex Bodine Akademie, Para. 1-5).

Journalists are underpaid, and quitting has been the best option for many working for small-scale media outlets. These numbers paint a terrible picture — one that shows a decline in accurate reporting of the war and its nightmarish circumstances. The world is relying on accurate regional information, and we cannot get that in these conditions. In turn, a lack of accurate news sources leads to an increase in disinformation on social media, which creates great political discourse and discord worldwide.

The people are not getting the truth of what is really going on, and instead, go off of what others are saying. This shines a terrible light on both sides and takes away attention from the pursuit of truth and the amount of Russian disinformation and propaganda media being shared over social and news media. While the Ukrainians are more used to Russian media tactics since the start of 2014, those that are not as familiar might take things for face value, and create opinions based on a biased misrepresentation of the tragic war.

With the issues that Ukrainian media currently face, the one thing that we could all do is to help out the journalists and advocate for greater funding of media outlets. Without accurate reporting on regional activities, the country and world would be in the dark, and that would do nothing to bring hope and peace to those affected.

*Jasmine Cherng*

The effects of the Russo-Ukrainian War will significantly impact the identity of Ukrainian culture because so much of their lives have been destroyed. In the year following the initial invasion of Russian forces, over 7,000 reported deaths have been recorded, catastrophic damage to Ukrainian infrastructure has been sustained, and thousands of families have been displaced. Not to mention, millions of civilians are unable to return home and many still in the country are forced to live without access to food, water or electricity.

One can imagine the effect on the Ukrainian people's understanding of their culture, identity, and history following this event. I believe that this military war will affect Ukrainians' view of their culture by forcing them to accept that things are no longer what they used to be and that some things have to change.

Ukrainian culture has already been devastated by the loss of history and artifacts due to the explosions. Because of this, many future generations will experience a weak understanding of themselves and will no longer be able to learn about the traditions, events, and records of the generations before them. However, as we have seen during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, culture tends to adapt to difficulties to better suit the circumstance that they are facing. As with the pandemic, whether it be finding new outlets of comfort or sharing traditions with new people, culture will persist in tough times. In more ways than not, the Ukrainian people will find ways to preserve their history and "ensure that culture helps maintain [their] dignity and is not used as a means to pursue and fuel the war."

I think, given the circumstances, the war could even create stronger bonds between Ukrainians affected because there is a kind of emotional comfort and support one gets from having shared experiences with another. As for their country, it will undoubtedly take a lot of time and effort to bring Ukraine back to its former glory, but I believe that it will not lose any of its dignity. Although the country is currently experiencing a humanitarian crisis and is in dire need of support, it will still be something that many will feel connected to. Ultimately, this is significant because it shows that nothing can destroy the spirits of Ukraine and its people.

## CULTURE AND WAR:

### THE CULTURAL IMPACT OF WAR THROUGHOUT HISTORY

*By Viviana Rescalvo Orea*

As a high school junior taking US history, I am currently learning about the lasting impact WWI had on American culture. In this course, we go more in depth of events that shaped the United States, although many US children start learning about America's history as early as 5th grade. It's crucial for children to understand from a young age the advancements and set-backs of a country, and why it took action in the first place.

Now, I won't get too much into WWI itself, but more how this nation transformed some of its previous views. Before the war, during the late 19th century, African Americans were subjected to a very low social status. White supremacists excused their acts of racism with an "equal but separate" motto that they used to pass the Jim Crow laws. These laws legalized racial segregation in many states, which caused detrimental effects for African Americans. When the war called for soldiers, many black people joined in desperation to get away from the injustices they faced on the daily. After they returned to society, they realized that those who promised them (government propaganda) that they would be praised like white people upon their return, were lying.

Not only were these Jim Crow acts still in place, the uniforms they wore placed a larger target on their backs. Although they were furious this was the truth, they also realized that they did not want this idea to prevail. Instead, they focused on fixing what the majority of white Americans thought of them. This influenced the era of the "New Negro" in which they would shift the image of just 'crop workers' to something more sophisticated. It would take until WWII for more affirmative action to take place, but WWI began this trend.

Something similar occurred with women's rights and it was a turning point for those who advocated for a change in women's roles in society. They advocated for women to be able to have their own assets, while still taking care of the household. As more men were drafted for war, women had to take their place in factories, but they were paid significantly lower. This started a women's suffrage movement where they demanded equal rights.

These are only a few examples of America's cultural change after WWI. On the other hand, different countries have different experiences. Some may have their history erased, a change in their national

language, or more frequent violence. War will sometimes dig into a person's true human nature and reveal how easily they can be influenced. In short, there can be positive and negative effects on culture after war.

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Nadia Dryzyska on Instagram: "лише маленькі фрагменти з десятків тисяч історій. хтось проходить повз них. хтось пропускає крізь себе кожен. історій, які могли статись з кожним з нас. комусь "мені так легше", комусь "не можу інакше". . пам'ять - це теж зброя і це теж захист. лише пам'ять про злочини проти нації, лише пам'ять про усіх розстріляних, закатованих, репресованих, невинно вбитих кулями, голодом, лише пам'ять, яка крізь роки змогла зберегтися і донести нам, вільним, молодим, народженим в Незалежній, правду, якої ціною було вибороте наше життя й можливість жити у вільній країні, повела й веде нас сьогодні на цю боротьбу. на усіх фронтах. пам'ятати історію кожного. кого війна забрала. в кого війна забрала. говорити про них, кричати по світу. хай цей sensitive content щодня нагадує нашим європейським друзям, що відбувається лише в кількох годинах 🗨 від їх затишних домівок, де вони щовечора під ковдрою дивляться чергове шоу на нетфлікс, плануючи літню відпустку в..., та просто щось собі плануючи. розповідайте історії,

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