

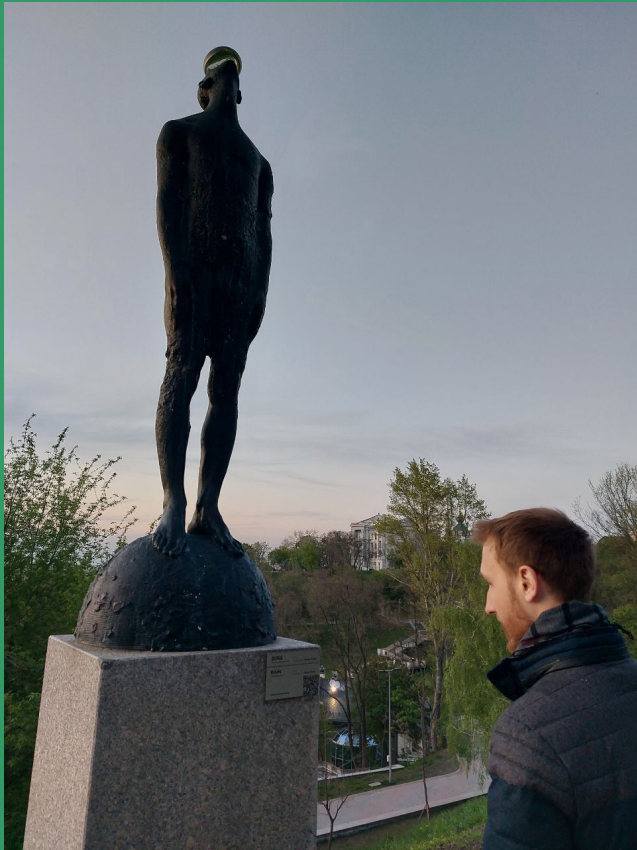
# Decolonizing knowledge

A perspective from the Ukrainian  
community

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**

Anton Protsiuk  
antanana





## WIKIMANIA SINGAPORE

Anton Protsiuk, Ukrainian Wikipedia editor and admin;  
Wikimedia Ukraine's programs coordinator



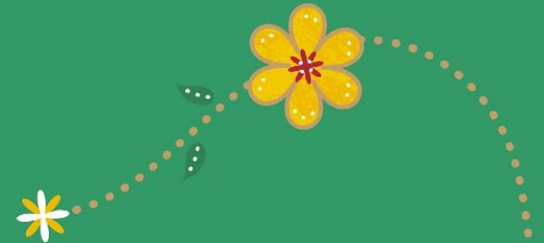
antanana, Ukrainian Wikipedia editor and admin,  
Wiki Loves Monuments Ukraine

# Colonization

as a term

[Also] Colonization may be used as a method of absorbing and assimilating foreign people into the culture of the imperial country. One instrument to this end is linguistic imperialism, or the use of non-indigenous colonial languages to the exclusion of any indigenous languages from administrative (and often, any public) use

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonization>



# Chronology of Ukrainian language suppression



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[Language situation in Ukrainian lands before the 19th century](#)

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## 19th century [\[edit source\]](#)

- 1863 – [Circular](#) issued by Russia's minister of internal affair [Pyotr Valuyev](#) prohibiting censors from giving permission to the publication of Ukrainian spiritual and popular educational literature.<sup>[18]</sup>
- 1861 – a July 26 resolution by the Austrian State Ministry allows reading instruction in the native language<sup>[19]</sup>
- 1864 – Adoption of the Charter of the primary school at which education was to be conducted only in Russian.<sup>[20]</sup>
- 1866 – the December 31 [Diet of Galicia and Lodomeria](#) resolution gives the right to decide on the language of instruction in elementary schools to the people and institutions that maintain the school. In the case of public schools, this decision was made by the local authority, when the composition of the school was mixed the school had to be bilingual (the resolution was introduced on June 22, 1867)<sup>[21]</sup>
- 1867 – Austrian [December Constitution](#) guarantees all residents of Cisleithania the right to education in their native language<sup>[22]</sup>
- 1869 – [Polish language](#) replaces [German](#) as the official language of education and of the administration in [Austrian Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria](#).<sup>[20]</sup>
- 1876 - [Alexander II's Ems decree](#) banning the printing and importing from abroad of any text in Ukrainian, with exceptions of [belles lettres](#) and historical records, it also banned stage [performances](#), public recitations and schooling in Ukraine, as well as it ordered removal of all Ukrainian book from school libraries, teachers that were suspected of Ukrainophilism were to be transferred outside of Ukraine<sup>[23]</sup>

• [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology\\_of\\_Ukrainian\\_language\\_suppression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology_of_Ukrainian_language_suppression)

• Russia's many attempts to erase Ukrainian language, culture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDXC5Nnvi-4>

# Ukrainian dancers

Article Talk

Read View (0) Edit View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Ukrainian dancers** (previously known as **Russian dancers**) is a theme series of [pastels](#) by [Edgar Degas](#) depicting Ukrainian women performing folk dances. Degas created these drawings during the 1890s and early 1900s, and was probably motivated by [Ukrainian dancers](#) performing in Paris at the time.

The dancing women came from the Russian Empire, so throughout the 20th century these drawings were attributed as "Russian dancers" <sup>[*clarification needed*]</sup><sup>[1]</sup> in English and French sources, despite vast ethnographic and art historical evidence for the Ukrainian origin of the women.<sup>[2]</sup><sup>[3]</sup><sup>[4]</sup>


There were a number of voices calling for changing the misleading "Russian" name, criticizing it as "deliberate or just lazy misinterpretation" of Ukraine for many years.<sup>[2]</sup> These calls intensified with the beginning of [Russian invasion in Ukraine in February 2022](#). The increased focus prompted London's [National Gallery](#) to rename a drawing from its collection *Ukrainian dancers* in April 2022.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[2]</sup><sup>[3]</sup>

In February 2023 Metropolitan Museum changed the name of one of the pastels to *Dancers in the Ukrainian dress* after calls from Ukrainian representatives including an art historian and journalist.<sup>[6]</sup><sup>[7]</sup>

## Pastels [ edit ]

There are at least 18 pastels and sketches of Ukrainian dancers created by Degas, mostly in the second half of the 1890s.

Lisa Bixenstine classifies them as 6 finished pastels, 4 unfinished ones, and 8 sketches.<sup>[8]</sup>

Artwork	Year	Technique	Canvas(cm)	Catalogue	Collection	Reference
	1894	pastel	54 x 34	MS 390	private collection	<sup>[9]</sup>

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Empires have resources to create reliable sources – not just pure propaganda that can be easily refuted, but respectable scholarly works. These sources outlive empires themselves, shaping how the rest of the world sees former colonies

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# Kazimir Malevich

69 languages

Article Talk Read View (30) Edit View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*In this name that follows Eastern Slavic naming conventions, the patronymic is Severinovich and the family name is Malevich.*

**Kazimir Severinovich Malevich**<sup>[nb 1]</sup> (23 February [O.S. 11 February] 1879<sup>[1]</sup> – 15 May 1935) was a Russian avant-garde artist and art theorist, whose pioneering work and writing influenced the development of abstract art in the 20th century.<sup>[2][3][4][5]</sup> He was born in Kiev, to an ethnic Polish family.



His concept of Suprematism sought to develop a form of art that was independent of the world of natural forms (objectivity) and subjective feelings<sup>[6]</sup> and spirituality.<sup>[7][8]</sup> Malevich is also sometimes referred to as a "father of abstract art" (together with Alexander Archipenko, Sonia Ter-Minasyan and others) who was shaped by Ukrainian-born artists who worked between Europe and America.<sup>[9]</sup>

Early on, Malevich worked in a variety of styles, such as Symbolism and Fauvism and, after visiting Paris in 1907, he developed an approach with key works consisting of simple geometric forms, one another, set against minimal grounds. His *Black Square* (1915) represented the most radically abstract painting known to date. He described it as an "uncrossable line (...) between old art and new art"; (1918), a barely differentiated off-white square superimposed on a black square, an ideal of pure abstraction to its logical conclusion.<sup>[12]</sup> He also developed theories in writing, such as "From Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism: A New Reality in Art" (1915) and *Objective World: The Manifesto of Suprematism* (1915).

## Early life [ edit ]

Kazimir Malevich<sup>[20]</sup> was born Kazimierz Malewicz to a Polish family,<sup>[21][22][23]</sup> who settled near Kiev in Kiev Governorate of the Russian Empire during the partitions of Poland.<sup>[18]</sup> His parents, Ludwika and Seweryn Malewicz, were Roman Catholic like most ethnic Poles,<sup>[2]</sup> though his father attended Orthodox services as well.<sup>[24]</sup> His native language was Polish, but he also spoke Russian,<sup>[25]</sup> as well as Ukrainian due to his childhood surroundings.<sup>[26]</sup> His mother Ludwika wrote poetry in Polish and sang Polish songs, and kept a record of the Polish families living in the area.<sup>[24]</sup> Malevich would later write a series of articles in Ukrainian about art, and identified as Ukrainian.<sup>[27]</sup>

Kazimir's father managed a sugar factory. Kazimir was the first of fourteen children,<sup>[18]</sup> only nine of whom survived into adulthood. His family moved often and he spent most of his childhood in the villages of modern-day Ukraine, amidst sugar-beet plantations, far from centers of culture. Until age twelve, he knew nothing of professional artists, although art had surrounded him in childhood. He delighted in peasant embroidery, and in decorated walls and stoves. He was able to paint in the peasant style. He studied drawing in Kiev from 1895 to 1896.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 prompted a wide reevaluation of Ukrainian cultural legacy that had previously been viewed through colonial lenses

# Decolonizing?

what we\* tried to do

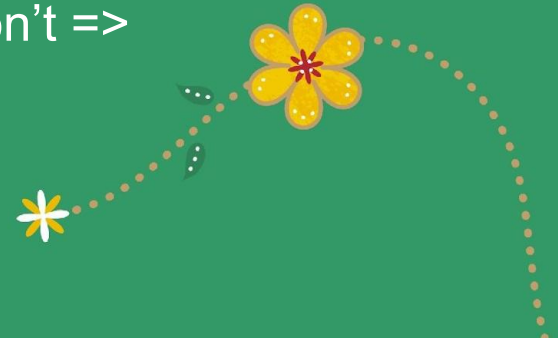
\* Ukrainian Wikimedia community + in some cases  
Wikimedia Ukraine as an organization

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# Example 1 – Renaming toponyms: building awareness among stakeholders

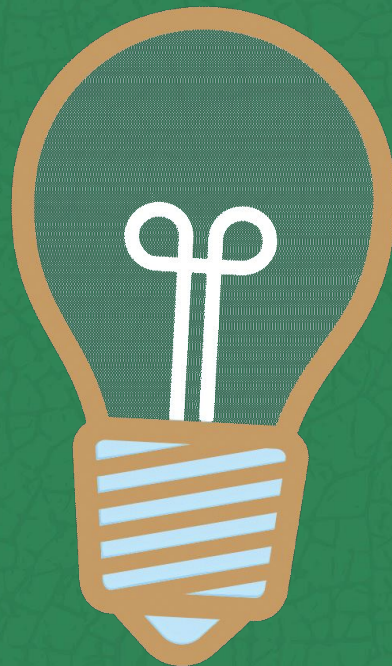
- Wikipedia doesn't set linguistic rules & norms; we depend on reliable sources like media & research works
  - To rename a toponym ( #KyivNotKiev), start with media & other sources; Wikipedia will follow, creating a virtuous circle
- We know that, but external stakeholders likely don't => there's a lot of explaining to do





**There's one  
biggest success  
story & many  
smaller ones**

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# KyivNotKiev

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**KyivNotKiev** is an online campaign to persuade [English-language media and organizations](#) to exclusively use *Kyiv* (derived from the [Ukrainian-language](#) 'Київ') instead of *Kiev* (derived from the [Russian-language](#) 'Киев') as the name of the [Ukrainian capital](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> It was started on 2 October 2018 by the [Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (MFA) and StratCom Ukraine, and it is run by the MFA's Department of Public Diplomacy.

It is part of the wider **CorrectUA** campaign, which intends to internationally assert a [Ukrainian identity](#) and remove linguistic relics of the [Russian Empire](#) and [Soviet Union](#) by promoting the exclusive use of Ukrainian-language transliterations for Ukrainian place names.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>



This article has previously been nominated to be moved.

**Move logs:** [Kyiv](#) · [Kiev](#)

### Discussions:

- RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Not moved**, 9 July 2019, [discussion](#)
- RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Not moved**, 26 October 2019, [discussion](#)
- RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Moved**, 16 September 2020, [discussion](#)

### Older discussions:

[hide]

- 
- 
- RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **No consensus**, 30 July 2007, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **No consensus**, 5 September 2007, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **No consensus**, 11 September 2007, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **No consensus**, 10 February 2008, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Not moved**, 23 September 2008, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Not moved**, 29 October 2009, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **No consensus**, 18 November 2012, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Snow close, not moved**, 7 November 2013, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Snow close, not moved**, 3 October 2017, [discussion](#)
  - RM, Kiev → Kyiv, **Snow close, not moved**, 12 October 2018, [discussion](#)



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**But there's still a  
lot of work to do**

# Kiev

Kyïv

 215 languages 

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 50° 27′ 13″ nord, 30° 30′ 59″ est

**Kiev** (/kjɛf/ ou /kjɪ/

**Kyïv** (en ukrainien

capitale et la ville

(2 962 180 habitant

du pays sur les riv

Kiev est un import

universitaire et cul

de nombreuses er

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# Chernobyl

 85 languages 

Article [Talk](#)

Read [View source](#) [View history](#) 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates:  51° 16′ 20″ N, 30° 13′ 27″ E

*This article is about the city. For the nuclear accident, see [Chernobyl disaster](#). For the nuclear power plant, see [Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant](#). For other uses, see [Chernobyl \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**Chernobyl** (/tʃɜːrˈnoʊbəl/ *chur-NOH-bəl*,

UK also /tʃɜːrˈnɒbəl/ *chur-NOB-əl*; Russian: Чернобыль,

IPA: [t͡ɕɪrˈnɒbɨlʲ]) or **Chornobyl** (Ukrainian: Чорнобиль,

IPA: [t͡ʃɔrˈnɔbɨlʲ] ( listen)) is a partially abandoned city in

**Chernobyl**

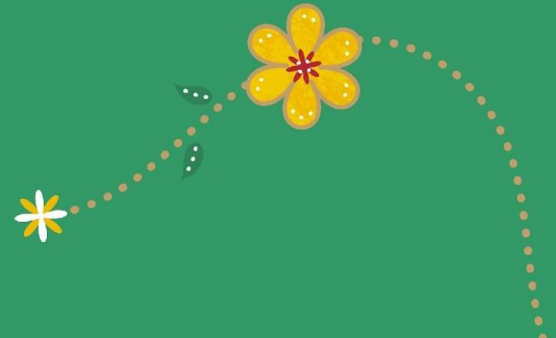
Чорнобиль

City of district significance

# Example 2 – Work with institutions to develop Crimean Tatar Wikipedia

- It's not only the Ukrainian language that has been suppressed by Russian empire. Crimean Tatars – indigenous people of Crimea – also suffered (among with many other ethnicities)
- A few years ago Ukrainian government started wide work to invest in development of Crimean Tatar language.

We've worked to make Wikipedia part of that.





June 9, 2023 •



## КАБІНЕТ МІНІСТРІВ УКРАЇНИ РОЗПОРЯДЖЕННЯ

від 23 лютого 2022 р. № 224-р  
Київ

### Про схвалення Стратегії розвитку кримськотатарської мови на 2022-2032 роки

In 1992, a Latin alphabet based on [Common Turkic Alphabet](#) was adopted by the decision of the [Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar People](#), which was formally supported by the [Supreme Council of Crimea](#) in 1997 but never implemented officially on practical level. However, in 2021, the [Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) of Ukraine has announced it begins the implementation of the decision, with vice premier [Oleksii Reznikov](#) supporting the transition by stating that Latin corresponds better to Turkic phonetics. The ministry revealed it plans to finish the transition to Latin by 2025, which was supported by the [Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People](#). The alphabet is co-developed by [A. Yu. Krymskyi Institute of Oriental Studies](#), [Potebnia Institute of Linguistics](#), Institute of Philology of [Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv](#) and [Tavrida National V.I. Vernadsky University](#).<sup>[69][70]</sup>

# Wikipediya:Serbest Entsiklopediya (2021)/Qırımtatar versiyası

 Add languages ▼

[Project page](#) [Discussion](#) [Lat./Кып.](#) ▼

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*FROM THE CRIMEAN TATAR WIKIPEDIA*

[< Wikipediya:Serbest Entsiklopediya \(2021\)](#)

«**Serbest Entsiklopediya: qırımtatar Wikipediyasını yazayıq**» - qırımtatar Wikipediyasındaki maqalelerniñ yazılıvı ve yahşılaştırılıvı mevzusında bir marafondır. 2021 s. iyün 15 - iyül 15 arasında keçirilecek ve Wikipediyanıñ qırımtatarca bölüğine yetmegen, ve aynı zamanda eñ müim mevzularnı akis etken maqalelerge diqqatını çekecek.

Marafon, Ukrainanıñ vaqtınca işğal etilgen topraqlarınıñ reintegratsiya meseleleri nazirligi ve «Wikimediya Ukraina» tarafından keçirilir (teşkilâtçılar, marafonniñ ceryanını sayırlar ve eñ faal olğanlarını mukâfatlarlar, lâkin maqalelerniñ mündericesini kontrol etmezler; marafon, Wikipediyanıñ bütün qaidelerine uyar).

Eñ faal iştirakçiler teşkilâtçılardan suvenirlerni alacaqlar.

- Common project by a Ukrainian government agency & Wikimedia Ukraine — a month-long contest / marathon
- Short-term goal – create articles on key topics (like “internet”, “forest”, “Crimean Tatar music”)
- Long-term goal – build awareness & give a push to the project’s development



Wiki

Wikipedia - Crimean tatar

Aug 2018 - Aug 2023

Monthly

Metrics

Absolute bytes diff

Edited pages

Net bytes difference

**Pages to date**

Total media requests

Top files by mediarequests

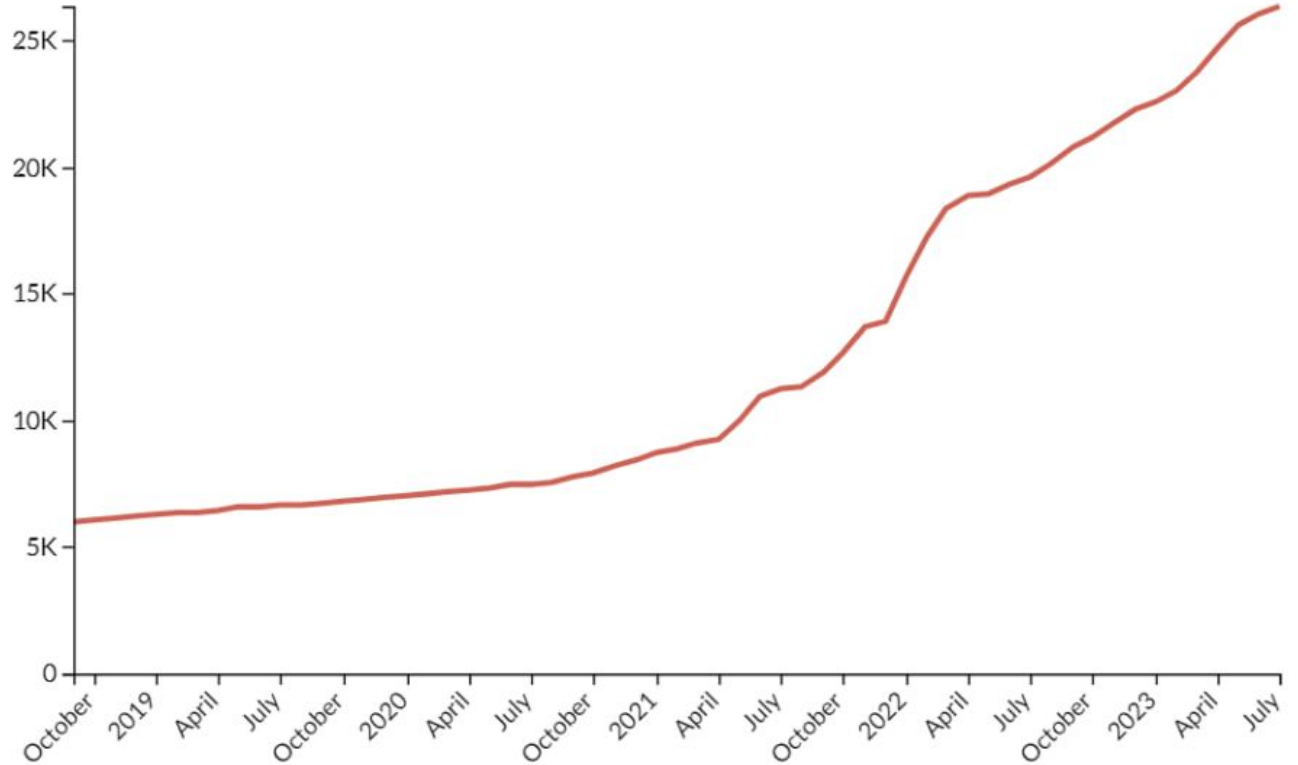
Filter/split

Dimensions

Editor type

Pages to date *Filtered*

Content



# Questions?

**This is a short presentation,  
just to get a feeling. We  
would like to hear if you  
have any thoughts!**

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# Thank you! Дякуємо!

If you want to know more – find us to talk about it!

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**SINGAPORE**

Anton Protsiuk  
antanana

