

REMAKING UKRAINE AFTER WORLD WAR II

Ukraine was liberated from German wartime occupation by 1944 but remained prisoner to the consequences for much longer. This study examines Soviet Ukraine's transition from war to 'peace' in the long aftermath of World War II. Filip Slaveski explores the challenges faced by local Soviet authorities in reconstructing central Ukraine, including feeding rapidly growing populations in the post-war famine. Drawing on recently declassified Soviet sources, Slaveski traces the previously unknown bitter struggle for land, food and power among collective farmers at the bottom of the Soviet social ladder and local and central authorities. He reveals how local authorities challenged central ones for these resources in pursuit of their own vision of rebuilding central Ukraine, undermining the Stalinist policies they were supposed to implement and forsaking the farmers in the process. In so doing, Slaveski demonstrates how the consequences of this battle shaped post-war reconstruction, and continue to resonate in contemporary Ukraine, especially with the ordinary people caught in the middle.

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FILIP SLAVESKI

Deakin University, Victoria



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Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

In memory of my mother

Contents

<i>List of Figures and Table</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>Note on Translation and Transliteration</i>	xii
<i>List of Abbreviations and Translated Terms</i> <i>from Russian and Ukrainian</i>	xiii
Introduction	I
PART I THE BATTLE FOR LAND BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND LOCAL AND CENTRAL SOVIET AUTHORITIES	35
1 A Brief Survey of Illegal Appropriations of Collective Farmland by Local State and Party Officials	37
2 Taking Land: Officials’ Illegal Appropriations and Starving People in Raska, Bila Tserkva and Elsewhere	53
3 Taking Land Back: The People and Central Authorities’ Recovery of Land and Prosecution of Local Party and State Officials	84
PART II THE COST OF THE BATTLE FOR LAND TO PEOPLE AND THE STATE	119
4 The Cost of Taking Land: The Damage Caused by Illegal Appropriations of Collective Farmland to <i>Kolkhozniki</i> , Communities and the State	121
5 Then and Now: The Shaping of Contemporary Ukraine in the Post-War Crises	147

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The Clash of Local and Central Soviet Power
Filip Slaveski
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
Conclusion		182
<i>Appendix: Archival Source Locations and Guide for Further Research</i>		191
<i>Bibliography</i>		194
<i>Index</i>		204

Figures and Table

Figures

1	Grave of honour in Raska (2016)	<i>page 3</i>
2	Former sowing fields of the Pershe Travnia collective farm in Raska	148
3	Rubbish pits at the Pershe Travnia collective farm	148
4	Dual-language memorial plaque at the grave of honour in Raska	170
5	UPA grave in Myhalky	172
6	UPA monument in Myhalky	172
7a, 7b	October 2016 ‘Day of the Defender’ commemoration at Mykhalky	177

Table

1	Lands Returned to Ukrainian Collective Farms, 1946–1947	79
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xi

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Any errors made in this book are mine alone.

Note on Translation and Transliteration

I have attempted to translate/transliterate all Polish, Ukrainian and Russian names and placenames to reflect their origin. This can be challenging when the same names are recorded differently in various language sources at different times, sometimes by competing hegemonies mobilising language to establish their authority. Where confusion remains, I have defaulted to the largely Russian or Ukrainian versions of names predominant therein for the sake of clarity. For this same reason, I have used a modified version of Library of Congress transliteration systems for all languages, with some common exceptions.

Abbreviations and Translated Terms from Russian and Ukrainian

antiobshchestvennyi obraz zhizni
 AV BRDA

besperspektivnyi
bezdušnost'
blank
 Cheka

chekist
 Chervonyi Khliborob

Chervonyi Pluhatar
 CP(b)U

DAKO
edinolichniki
 GARF

GKO

gorkom
gorsovet
 HDA SBU

Imeni Lenina

anti-social lifestyle
 Archive Department of the Bila
 Tserkva Raion Administration
 unpromising
 callousness
 standard template (form)
 acronym for the Extraordinary
 Commission to Combat
 Counterrevolution and Sabotage,
 1917–22
 Cheka member/secret police officer
 ‘Red Farmer/Tiller’ collective
 farm
 ‘Red Ploughman’ collective farm
 Communist Party (Bolshevik) of
 Ukraine
 State Archive of Kyiv Oblast
 individual/‘private’ farmers
 State Archive of the Russian
 Federation
 State Defence Committee, the chief
 wartime decision-making body
 city party committee
 city council
 Archive Department of the
 Security Service of Ukraine
 ‘In the Name of Lenin’ collective
 farm

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 Filip Slaveski
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

xiv

List of Abbreviations

<i>individual'nye khoziaistva</i>	individual/'private' farms
<i>kolkhoz</i> (sing.), <i>kolkhozy</i> (pl.)	collective farm(s)
<i>kolkhoznik</i> (sing.), <i>kolkhozniki</i> (pl.)	collective farmer(s)
Komissiiia Partiinogo Kontrolia	Party Control Commission (KPK)
<i>krai</i>	administrative territory, larger than an oblast
<i>kraikom</i>	Communist Party <i>krai</i> committee
<i>krest'ianstvo</i>	peasantry
<i>kulak</i>	'rich' peasant
<i>militsiia</i>	civil police
<i>mnimye kolkhozniki</i>	'sham' collective farmers
MPVO	Local Anti-Aircraft Defence Organisation
MTS	machine tractor station
NKVD	People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (All-Union) 1934–46
<i>NKVDisty</i>	mostly Ukrainian colloquial term for NKVD agents
Nove Zhyttia	'New Life' collective farm
<i>ob.</i>	oborot: reverse (back side of a page, especially in an archive document)
<i>obkom</i>	provincial party committee
oblast	province/region, larger than <i>raion</i>
<i>obliispolkom</i>	provincial state executive committee
<i>ogorodnichestvo</i>	private horticulture
<i>okolokolkhozniy element</i>	loosely collectivised elements
<i>okrug</i>	often a military administrative district
<i>otstaiushchie kolkhozy i raiony</i>	collective farms and districts lagging behind
OUN	Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists
Peremoha	'Victory' collective farm
Pershe Travnia	'First of May' collective farm
<i>pervichnaia partiinaia organizatsiia</i>	lowest-level party cell
<i>pisok</i>	sand
<i>podsobnoe khoziaistvo</i>	subsidiary farming
<i>prispeshnik</i>	collaborator

List of Abbreviations

xv

<i>raiispolkom</i>	district state executive committee
<i>raikom</i>	district party committee
<i>raion</i> (sing.), <i>raiony</i> (pl.)	district(s)
RGAE	Russian State Archive of the Economy
RGASPI	Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History
<i>samokritika</i>	self-criticism
<i>sel'skoe khoziaistvo</i>	agriculture
<i>sel' sovet</i>	village council
<i>sobranie</i> (sing.), <i>sobraniia</i> (pl.)	farm meeting(s)
Sovet po delam kolkhozov pri Sovmin SSSR	Council on Collective Farm Affairs in the USSR Council of Ministers (the Soviet government)
<i>sovkhoz</i> (sing.), <i>sovkhozy</i> (pl.)	state farm(s)
Sovmin	Council of Ministers, replaced Sovnarkom from March 1946
Sovnarkom	Council of People's Commissars (highest body in the Soviet government at republican and all-Union level)
SSSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
<i>strogoe vzyiskanie</i>	strong party punishment
Tretii Vyrishal'nyi	'Third Decisive' collective farm
TsDAHOU	Central State Archive of Public Organisations of Ukraine
TsDAVOU	Central State Archives of Supreme Bodies of Power and Government of Ukraine
TsK VKP(b)	Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)
UkSSR	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
UPA	Ukrainian Insurgent Army
<i>vygovor</i> (sing.), <i>vygovory</i> (pl.)	party reprimand(s)
<i>vzyiskanie</i> (sing.), <i>vzyiskaniia</i> (pl.)	party punishment(s)
<i>zemleustroitel'</i>	land surveyor
<i>zemlianka</i> (sing.), <i>zemlianki</i> (pl.)	dirt hovel(s)