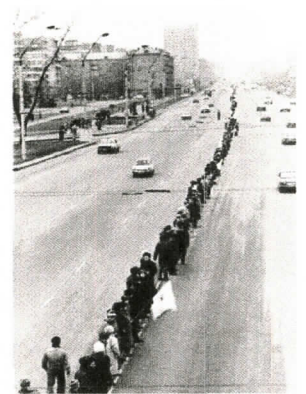# Ukraine, a History of Struggle

Carol Costa

Throughout the 600 years up to the nineteenth century, the territory of modern Ukraine was contested, divided, and ruled by external powers. In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, a Ukrainian national movement emerged, and in 1917, the Ukrainian People's Republic was formed.

This short-lived state was forcibly reconstituted into the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which became part of the Soviet Union in 1922.

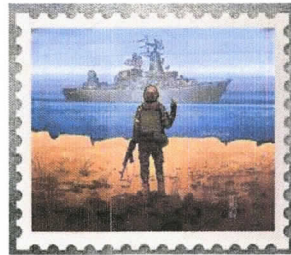Ukrainians, "Peoples of the Soviet Union" series, 1933

On January 21,1990, over 300,000 Ukrainians formed a human chain between Kyiv and Lviv, holding hands in support of unity.

On July 16, 1990, as the Soviet Union began to dissolve, a newly formed parliament adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine. The first presidential election took place on the first of March, 1991.

The next twenty years were marked by political turmoil, demonstrations, and civil unrest as the young republic struggled to establish itself. In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea in southern Ukraine, and Russian separatists took control of the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

While the world watches with horror as Russia attempts to destroy Ukraine, true to their history, the Ukrainian people have not given up. Their message to their aggressor is clearly depicted on this new Ukrainian stamp.

Protestors at Independence Square, Orange Revolution

Pre-EU demonstrators, 2013 Revolution of Dignity