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“The main thing is that Ukrainians will never become a full-fledged people and an equal member of European civilization until power flows from the state to a self-organized people able to force those in power to do what the people want.


[...]

No state will ever make Ukraine Ukrainian. Only self-organized Ukrainians can do this, and I am deeply convinced that they will.”

James Mace, an American historian and researcher of the Holodomor in Ukraine.
The Day paper, 18 February 2003.

Ukrainian revolution of 2013–2014

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These words may be regarded as a prophecy of the Ukrainian revolution of 2013–2014. National upheaval, triggered by the official denial of former President Viktor Yanukovich to continue the European integration path, turned into the Revolution of Dignity. The aim of the Revolution was to de-sovietize Ukraine, combat corruption, and ensure the rule of law.

In bloody February 2014 dozens of Ukrainians sacrificed their lives to protect the freedom of their people. However, it was only the first in the long series of challenges the country had to face in 2014.



“Ukraine, a new and important space on the Eurasian chessboard, is a geopolitical pivot because its very existence as an independent country helps to transform Russia. Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire. However, if Moscow regains control over Ukraine, with its 52 million people and major resources as well as access to the Black Sea, Russia automatically again regains the wherewithal to become a powerful imperial state, spanning Europe and Asia.”

Zbigniew Brzezinski,
The Grand Chessboard, 1997



“Ukraine moving to the West takes away legitimacy of the Russian state, and we [Russians] turn into Muscovy populated by God knows whom. Then a starting point for Russian history is not a thousand-year-old history of Christianity and Christianization of the Kyivan Rus, but Andrey Bogolyubsky of the 12th Century, and it is a totally different story.

Therefore, Ukraine is of immense importance to Russia. First of all, Ukraine signifies the protection of Russian history and, subsequently, statehood. Secondly, through Ukraine, the Kremlin protects its legitimacy. Thirdly, Moscow wants to prevent the Maidan from happening in Russia. Finally, it is a challenge to Europe and the West.”

Lilia Shevtsova in

“Putin is looking for ways to suffocate Ukraine”

(Liga.net, 17 September 2014).