



# UKRAINE

## Country Study

# FACTFILE

Capital:	Kyiv
Population:	44.13 million (2020)
Official Language:	Ukrainian
Area:	603, 548 KM <sup>2</sup>
Currency:	Ukrainian Hryvnia
Religion:	87% Christian
Parliament:	Verkhovna Rada
Time Zone:	GMT + 2hrs



UKRAINE

# LOCATION

Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe by land area, after Russia. It is located in eastern Europe and it borders Russia to the East and North East. It also shares borders with Belarus to the North; Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the West; Romania and Moldova to the South. It also has a coastline along the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the South.



# FLAG



The Ukraine flag is a banner of two equally sized horizontal bands of blue and yellow. It stems from the 12th century flag of the kingdom of Galicia-Volhynia. The present flag is in use since 1848.

# COAT OF ARMS



The Ukraine coat of arms consists of a blue shield with a gold trident. It is officially referred to as the Princely State Symbol of Volodymyr the Great but is usually called the Tryzub. This coat of arms was adopted in 1992.

# CITIES

Ukraine is made up of more than 400 cities. Kyiv is the largest city and is its capital city. It is located in north central Ukraine along the Dnieper river. It is Ukraine's most populous city with a population of almost three million people.

Other main cities are Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odessa and Donetsk.

# HISTORY

The land which now occupies Ukraine has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Over the centuries, the land was ruled by, among others, Slavs, Varangians, Poles, Cossacks. Eventually in the 1700s, Russia gained control over almost all of Ukraine. By 1922 Ukraine had become part of the Soviet Union.

In 1991, Ukraine broke from Russia and became an independent country. The Ukrainian people confirmed their independence in a referendum in 1999.

# GOVERNMENT



The Ukraine parliament, located in Kyiv, is a 450 seat assembly known as Verkhovna Rada. It appoints a cabinet of ministers, led by the prime minister.

# PRESIDENT



The president is appointed after a popular vote and holds a five year term. The president is the formal head of state of the country. The current president is Volodymyr Zelensky. He is a former actor and comedian and has been president since 2019.

# PEOPLE

Most of the Ukraine population is ethnic Ukrainian. Russians are the next largest group but there are also groups of Moldovans, Tatars and Belarusians living in the country. A large portion of the people do not follow any religion, but of the rest, Christianity forms the largest group.

# CLIMATE

Most of Ukraine has warm summers and cold winters. It rains mainly in June and July.



# LAND



Spring in the Carpathians

Almost all of Ukraine is flat. The grassland that covers most of the central and southern parts of the country is known as the steppe. Ukraine has only two mountainous regions – the Carpathians in the west and the Crimean Mountains in the south.



# RIVERS

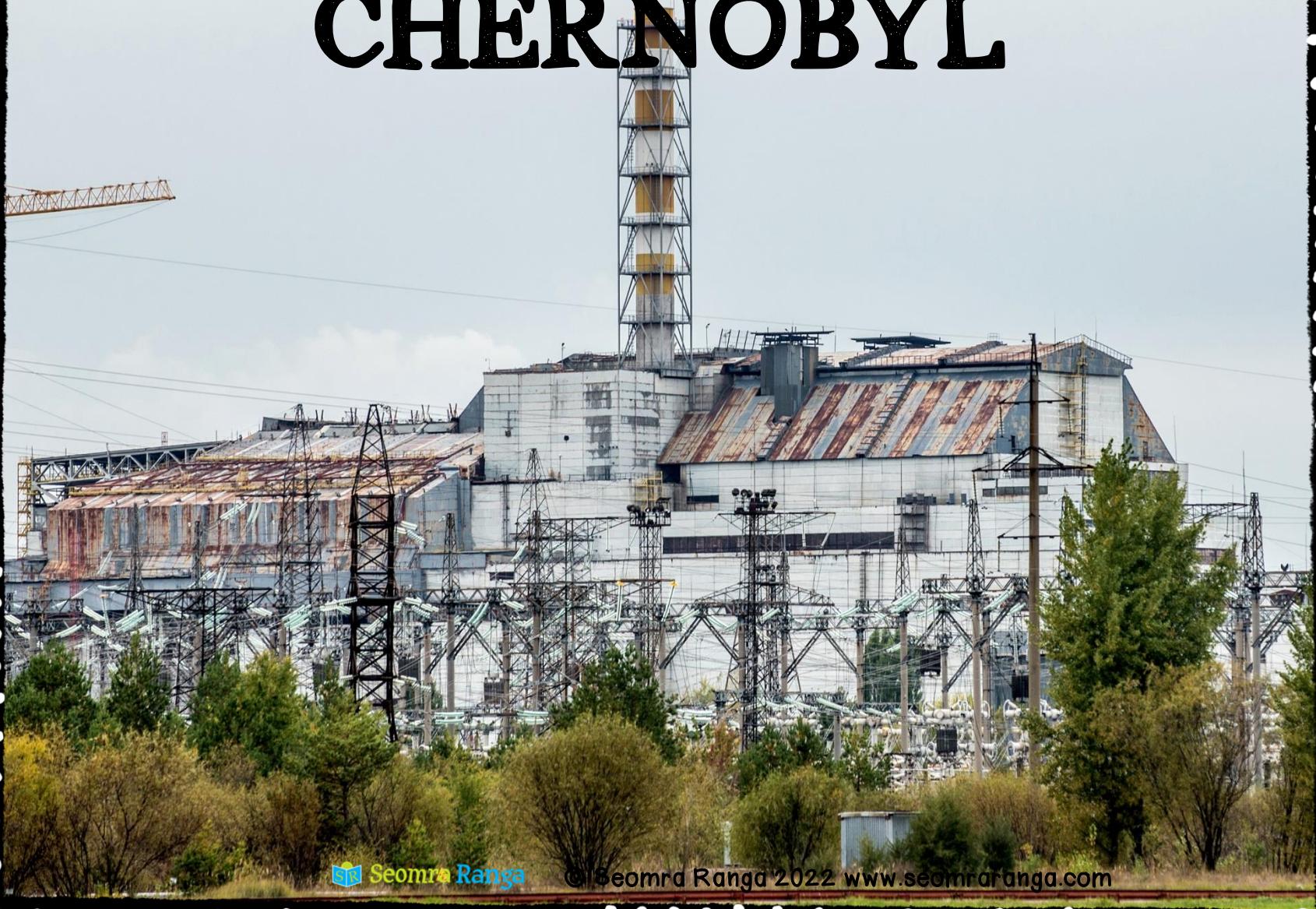


There are nearly 23,000 rivers in Ukraine. The Dnieper is the longest river which runs for 966 Km. Other main rivers include the Dniester, Donets, Southern Buh and the Danube.

# ECONOMY

Factories in Ukraine produce a variety of goods eg. iron, steel, tractors, chemicals. Mining produces coal, iron ore, manganese and other minerals. Services like tourism, finance, transportation are also important to Ukraine's economy. There is also activity in agriculture, fishing and forestry. Ukraine has reserves of natural gas and oil.

# CHERNOBYL



# CHERNOBYL

On April 26th, 1986 the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near the city of Pripyat in northern Ukraine, malfunctioned causing the worst nuclear disaster in history. The accident caused large amounts of radioactive material to be released. 49,000 people were immediately evacuated from the area. The deaths of 28 people were attributed to the accident in the immediate aftermath of the accident. However, the radiation leaks caused much illness, mostly cancers.

# CHERNOBYL

The accident at Chernobyl also had an environmental effect. Millions of acres of forest and farmland in the area around the power plant became contaminated. An Exclusion Zone in the area was established, now covering an area of approximately 2,600 Km<sup>2</sup>. The effects of the disaster will be felt for many years to come.

# ANIMALS



Animals found in Ukraine include deer, wolves, bears, foxes, wildcats, beavers, weasels and badgers.

# INVASION

In late 2021, Russia began to build up troops and military equipment along its border with Ukraine. On February 21st 2022, Russian president Vladimir Putin recognised two disputed regions of eastern Ukraine as independent states and sent in Russian troops as "peacekeepers". Three days later, Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine.

# INVASION

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been roundly condemned by countries all around the world. There have even been protests in some Russian cities against the military activity in Ukraine. The EU, UK, USA and many countries have implemented economic sanctions against Russia as a punishment for the invasion as well as attempting to force Russia into reversing its decision to invade.



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