Krakow and Ottawa, 1940: *"A Tale of Two Cities" … and two UCCs:*

(1) Germany's *Ukrainian Central Committee* (UCC)

Ottawa and Krakow were the capitals of two colonies: British Canada and Nazi-occupied Poland. In 1940, both governments created anticommunist Ukrainian groups to support their efforts. In Krakow, under Nazi Governor Hans Frank, Germany spawned the Ukrainian Central Cttee (UCC). Meanwhile, in Canada, Mackenzie King's Liberal government set up the Ukrainian Canadian Cttee. (UCC), now the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Describing it, Royal Military College historian Lubomyr Luciuk said: "few outside government circles realized the degree to which the Committee could be labelled Made in Ottawa."[1]
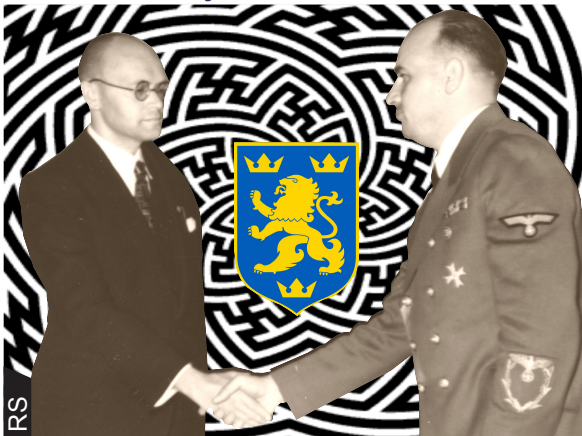
Frank and King

While the governments of King and Frank were clearly very different, they did share some very extreme social phobias that were common among the white, power elites of European political, corporate, media and Christian institutions. They were, for example, all infected with virulent strains of antisemitism, Russophobia and anticommunism.

The Nazis banned the Communist Party in 1933 and within a few months had arrested "100,000 Communists, Social Democrats, union officials, and other 'radicals.'"[2] Canada's government outlawed the Communist Party in 1940, as it had previously done in 1917. When the RCMP arrested hundreds of Red activists and leaders in 1940, leftwing émigré groups like the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians were also outlawed. It had long been the dominant force in Canada's Ukrainian diaspora. The government outlawed all of its publications, literally burned many tons of its books, and confiscated 108 of its Labour Temples. These centres, which were hubs of activity for other progressive activists as well, were practically given away to the far-right Ukrainian groups and churches that were loyal to Canada's government.[3]

References

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2. Margot Stern Strom, *Holocaust and Human Behavior*, 1994.   bit.ly/MS_Strom
3. Richard Sanders, "Left-Right Camps: A Century of Ukrainian Canadian Internment," *Press for Conversion*, Spring 2016, pp.43-7.   bit.ly/CdnUkr-LeftRight

UCC president Volodymyr Kubijovych (left) and Nazi Governor Hans Frank (right), 'the Butcher of Poland,' who was executed at Nuremberg.

ProNazi UCC newspapers, edited by Michael Chomiak, recruited for the Waffen SS Galicia. After WWII, Kubijovych began *The Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, which Chomiak and his granddaughter Chrystia Freeland worked on.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...."
So began Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities.*
Some might say the same of Nazi Poland in 1940.

While millions of Jews, Poles and communists faced genocide, the Nazis created a huge renaissance for Ukrainian nationalists. Thousands of émigrés, who had fled Soviet Ukraine, happily received homes, schools, businesses and other properties and possessions stolen by the Nazis from Polish Jews. The Ukrainians who profited from this Aryanisation or dejewification of Poland included Michael Chomiak, the maternal grandfather of Canada's current deputy prime minister, Chrystia Freeland. His publishing office, printing presses, two apartments and their furnishings were all stolen from Polish Jews.[1]

Uniting these émigrés was the Ukrainian Central Committee (UCC). It represented the Melnyk faction of the fascist, antisemitic, anti-Soviet Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) which aided Nazi Germany throughout the war. When UCC president, Volodymyr Kubijovych, "the most senior Ukrainian collaborator with Nazi Germany,"[2] urged Germany to create a Ukrainian army to fight the Soviets, the Waffen SS Galicia was born. It recruited through the Nazis, Ukrainian churches (Orthodox and Catholic) and UCC papers edited by Chomiak.

Thanks to Nazi largesse, the UCC printed millions of papers, magazines and books. Working under Kubijovych, Chomiak was the UCC's chief news editor and oversaw Nazi propaganda. After WWII, Kubijovych began *The Encyclopedia of Ukraine* to rewrite nationalist history. In 1976, Kubijovych went to Edmonton to sign a deal with the University of Alberta to co-publish his encyclopedia. Both Chomiak and Freeland worked on Kubijovych's propaganda effort.

During WWII, the Nazis controlled the UCC. It was housed in "a shared building" in Krakow, says Polish historian Pawel Markiewicz: "The Ukrainians were headquartered there as well as the German military intelligence or Abwehr."[3]

When Nazi Col. Alfred Bisanz was arrested at war's end, he described the UCC's utter subservience to its Abwehr masters: "Kubijovych's UCC was created by the Abwehr in Krakow in 1940. From the first day of its existence, it was directly supervised by … the *Second Department of the Abwehrstelle-Krakow* .... As an assistant to the head of the Department, I was charged with directing UCC activity. Without the Abwehrstelle's permission and my personal clearance, Kubijovych had no right to include any person in the Committee or take any action.... [F]inancing the UCC was also carried out through me. Each month throughout 1940, I personally handed Kubijovych and UCC Sec.-General Hlibovitsky … 50-60 thousand zlotys."[4] (Emphasis added.)

The Abwehrstelle-Krakow was Abwehr HQ for occupied Poland. The UCC, being an asset of Abwehr's "Second Department," was responsible for "sabotage," particularly the "direction of covert contacts" and "exploitation of discontented minority groups in foreign countries for intelligence purposes."[5] It also created two Nazi-trained, -armed and -led Ukrainian battalions (Roland and Nachtigall), which were set up by Stepan Bandera's faction of the OUN. The latter battalion's Ukrainian commander, war criminal Roman Shukhevych, is glorified as a freedom-fighting hero by Bandera-revering émigré groups that still receive very generous funding from Canada's government.

Created in 1940, the UCC was a Nazi asset run by Abwehr Colonel Alfred Bisanz

References

1. Richard Sanders, "Aryanisation and the 'Mighty Wurlitzer,'" The Chomiak-Freeland Connection, Mar. 2017.   bit.ly/FreeChom8
2. Tarik Cyril Amar and Per Anders Rudling, "What Standards Should be Applied when Deciding to Accept Funds?" April 15, 2015.   bit.ly/Kubijovych
3. Personal email communication from Pawel Markiewicz with author, March 8, 2017.
4. Klym Dmytruk, "Who are the 'Diviziynyks,'" *Their True Face, Pt.4*, 1979, pp.16-17.   bit.ly/BisanzUCC (This would equal $3 to $3.6 million/year in 2020.)
5. Abwehr, The Crypto Museum   bit.ly/AbwehrUCC

(2) Canada's *Ukrainian Canadian Congress* (UCC)

In 1940, King's Liberal government created the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (UCC). Although claiming to speak for *all* Ukrainian émigrés, it is explicitly anticommunist. The UCC helped the government smash leftist groups that dominated the diaspora. It has cheerled government support for US and NATO wars since WWII.

After WWII, 40,000 Russophobic/antiSoviet Ukrainian émigrés boosted the UCC and its member groups. They brought the internal conflicts of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). Formed in Vienna in 1929 by fascist/terrorist groups, the OUN assassinated Polish and Soviet officials. Although united by fascist eugenics, Christian antisemitism and anticommunism, the OUN split in early 1940. Canada's UCC, formed in late 1940, united the two factions.

Renamed the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in 1989, it still unites businesses, credit unions, churches and groups for veterans, women, youth, the arts and education.

Bandera's OUN(B) and LUC
League of Ukrainian Canadians

The strongest faction, led by Stepan Bandera (the OUN-B), worked with the Nazis until 1941 when they declared an "independent," fascist Ukrainian state. Their support for the Nazis began again in 1943, when they formed what became the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations. Banderites, led in Canada by the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), have dominated UCC leadership for decades. One LUC affiliate, the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA), like scouting outfits across the former British empire, is structured along military lines. LUC's Bandera youth wear army-style uniforms, march in formation with battle flags and venerate fascist leaders of the OUN(B) and its Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) like Bandera, Yaroslav Stetsko and Roman Shukhevych.

Melnyk's OUN(M) and the UNF
Ukrainian National Federation

The OUN(M) faction, led by Andriy Melnyk, was associated with the Ukrainian Central Committee. It led Ukrainian collaboration with the Nazis during WWII. Deputy PM Chrystia Freeland's maternal grandfather, Michael Chomiak, was the chief editor and office manager for this Committee's pro-Nazi newspapers. This OUN(M) heritage is represented in Canada by the Ukrainian National Federation (UNF) of Canada which was pivotal in creating the UCC. The UNF was founded, says its website, by OUN figures whose "influences and vision remain a vital part of the organization to this day."

Ukrainian Insurgent Army

Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood

Waffen SS Galicia Division

League of Ukrainian Canadians

Ukrainian Youth Association

Ukrainian National Federation

Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood

The longtime leader of this key UNF member was Father Wasyl Kushnir who promoted antisemitic beliefs in the 1930s. In 1940, he became the first UCC president and filled that post for most of its next 30 years (1940-53 and 1959-71). Soon after WWII, Kushnir led UCC efforts to aid the Liberal government in bringing 40,000 largely antiSoviet Ukrainian émigrés to Canada, including 2,000 vets of the Nazi's Waffen SS Galicia.

14th Division Waffen SS Galicia

Formed in 1943, this division was created, trained, armed, funded and led by the Nazis. Its volunteers, who swore an oath to fight to the death for Adolph Hitler, battled the USSR's Red Army and fought partisans in Ukraine, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria. Recruitment was done by Nazi Germany, the Ukrainian churches (Catholic & Orthodox) and the Ukrainian Central Committee. Its papers, edited by Chomiak, told Ukrainians it was their duty to enlist. Proud of these SS vets in Canada and those of Bandera's UPA, their associations were listed as member groups on the UCC website until mid-2016.

Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA)

The group representing UPA vets in Canada was also deeply engaged in the UCC. In 2010, when Ukraine's proNATO president declared UPA vets as "Heroes of Ukraine," he was praised by UCC president Paul Grod. Grod, a former UYA leader, then called on Canada's government to change the law so that UPA vets who were still alive in Canada could receive military benefits.

Canada's UCC was formed in 1940 by Mackenzie King's virulently antisemitic, anticommunist Liberal government.

The UCC united groups loyal to government, including those steeped in fascist traditions and ideologies.

Meanwhile, the government banned antifascist Ukrainian groups, arrested their leaders, expropriated their meeting centres and burned tons of their books.

After WWII, Canada's Cold War strategy was to give safe haven to 40,000 antiSoviet Ukrainians, including thousands of veterans of fascist military formations, like the Waffen SS Galicia and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.

These émigrés soon dominated the UCC, which still reveres them as heroes.

⚜ *Government funding* ⚜

The Public Accounts of Canada show that far-right Ukrainian groups receive millions in government grants. For example, UCC-Toronto has received $10.2 million to run language programs since 1995. In addition, UCC HQ got $300,000 while local chapters and provincial councils (Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) got $145,000 since 2008. During that same period, $983,000 was dispersed to ultranationalist Ukrainian groups for mass public events in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba. The largest of these, the UCC's Toronto festival, which promoted far-right groups, received $667,000.

Major UCC member groups also benefit. For example, UNF got $141,000 (2012-19) and the Ukrainian Women's Assoc. of Canada (an Orthodox affiliate of the World Ukrainian Congress) got $58,000 (2015-19). Banderite fronts like LUC's *Echo* paper, and its women's group, got $114,000 (2010-19) while its UYA got $141,000 (2015-19). Cultural centres of the LUC, UPA and UYA got grants for repairs in Winnipeg ($47,000 in 2013) and Edmonton ($279,000 in 2015).

In 2008, the UCC-created Shevchenko Foundation (SF) received $10 million to memorialize Canada's internment of Ukrainians during the WWI/Red-Scare era (1914-20). Claiming this was based solely on ethnicity, SF ignores the fact that Canada targeted single, young, laid-off, urban, male Ukrainians whose protests were feared might spark a leftwing revolution. (See Richard Sanders, "Rendered Captive by Barbed Wire and Maple Leaves." bit.ly/CapCda)

Provincial governments also give generously. For example, Saskatchewan's Public Accounts record that its government gave $1.6 million to the UCC (2007-16) plus $587,000 to UCC-Saskatchewan, $335,000 to UCC-Regina and $1 million to UCC-Saskatoon (2013-19).

Since 2008, the leftwing Assoc. of United Ukrainian Canadians received only $5,500.