



On June 30, 1941, one week after their Operation-Barbarossa invasion of the USSR, the Nazi forces occupied Lviv, Ukraine. Marching with them was the Ukrainian Nachtigall Battalion. It was allied to Stepan Bandera's fascist Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B) which immediately proclaimed an "independent" Ukraine and gave its total support to Nazi Germany. Bandera's deputy, Yaroslav Stetsko, was declared prime minister, while Nachtigall commander and OUN(B) leader, Roman Shukhevych, became the deputy defence minister.

Inciting ethnic cleansing

That same day, OUN(B) notices plastered all over Lviv incited Ukrainians to ethnically cleanse their newly-created nation state:

Do not throw away your weapons now. Take them in your hands. Destroy the enemy People! Know! Moscow, Poland, the Hungarians, the Jews are your enemies. Destroy them!

Know! Your leadership is the Leadership of Ukrainian Nationalists, is the OUN. Your Leader is Stepan Bandera. Your goal is an Independent United Ukrainian State. Your path is the path of the Ukrainian National Revolution, the path of armed struggle, the path of the OUN. Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes! Glory to the Leader!³

After unleashing mass murder in Lviv, the Nazis and their Ukrainian collaborators went on to slaughter four million Soviet civilians in Ukraine alone.

"I consider Marxism to be a product of the Jewish mind, which has been applied in the Muscovite prison of peoples by the Muscovite-Asiatic people with the assistance of Jews. Moscow and Jewry are Ukraine's greatest enemies

and bearers of corruptive Bolshevik international ideas. Although I consider Moscow, which in fact held Ukraine in captivity, and not Jewry, to be the main and decisive enemy, I nonetheless fully appreciate the undeniably harmful and hostile role of the Jews, who are helping Moscow to enslave Ukraine.

I therefore support the destruction of the Jews and the expedience of bringing German methods of exterminating Jewry to Ukraine, barring their assimilation...."

Source: Yaroslav Stetsko, "My Biography," July 1941.
bit.ly/StetskoBio

Ukrainian ethnonationalists deny OUN(B) links to Nazism. For example, in its article on the 1941 Act of Ukrainian Statehood, the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* does not mention the OUN-B declaration's total allegiance to Hitler, the Nazis and "the Allied German Army against Moscovite occupation." Instead, it claims this is communist propaganda by saying: "Soviet authorities ... painted them [the OUN-B] in the blackest terms as the perfidious undertakings of evil collaborators riding on the coattails of the Nazis."⁴

The proBandera-Stetsko League of Ukrainian Canadians also used the canard of Nazi-Soviet equivalency to whitewash the OUN-B's proNazi proclamation, by saying:

when Ukraine was sandwiched between two likeminded, murderous invaders, Soviet Russia from the east and Nazi Germany from the west ... Stepan Bandera and Yaroslav Stetsko, gave the nation hope for a better, free, democratic future by bravely declaring independence....⁵

References and notes

1. *Samostiynna Ukraina*, July 10, 1941, p.1, cited in John Armstrong, *Ukrainian Nationalism*, 1963, pp.79-80. bit.ly/UkraineAct
2. *Ibid.*, p.81.
3. Nationalist placard posted in Lviv on 30 June 1941 incites pogroms bit.ly/OUNBsigns
4. Michael Savaryn, "Proclamation of Ukrainian statehood, 1941," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, 1993. bit.ly/ActUkraine
5. Ihor Dlaboha, "75 Years Ago Ukrainian Nation re-established Statehood," Jun. 29, 2016. bit.ly/Ukraine-State

Ukraine's fascist state, 1941

The 1941 Act of Ukrainian Statehood glorified what it called their "bloody battle with the Moscovite-Bolshevik enslavers" and their "energetic battle for freedom." Vowing to "continue to fight with the Allied German Army against Moscovite occupation for a sovereign and united State and a new order in the whole world," they declared support for Hitler's goal of a "new order in Europe and the world," and said that their:

newly formed Ukrainian state will work closely with the National-Socialist Greater Germany, under the leadership of its leader Adolf Hitler which is forming a new order in Europe and the world and is helping the Ukrainian People to free itself from Moscovite occupation.¹

Stetsko's public radio broadcast of this proclamation received immediate support from the top leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek Catholic churches. The latter's Archbishop, Andrey Sheptytsky, wrote a pastoral letter which stated:

We greet the victorious German Army as deliverer from the enemy. We render our obedient homage to the government which has been erected. We recognize Mr. Yaroslav Stetsko as Head of State ... of the Ukraine.²

According to Stetsko



The Fascist Canard of Judeo-Bolshevik Equivalency

On May 8, 1939, *Novyi shliakh* [the official publication of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada] featured an article by Yaroslav Stetsko. In it he insisted that Jews were "nomads and parasites," a nation of "swindlers, materialists and egotists," "devoid of heroism" Jews, Stetsko lectured on, were only interested in "personal profit," found "pleasure in ... the basest instincts," and were determined "to corrupt the heroic culture of warrior nations." Ukrainians, Stetsko proclaimed, being "the first people in Europe to understand the corrupting work of Jewry," had separated themselves from the Jews centuries ago, to maintain "the purity of their spirituality and culture." Stetsko also put Jews at the centre of an international conspiracy by suggesting that Jewish capitalists and Jewish Communists were collaborating to promote Jewish interests.

Source: Orest Martynowych, "Sympathy for the Devil: The Attitude of Ukrainian War Veterans in Canada to Nazi Germany & the Jews, 1933-39." bit.ly/Stetsko1939