

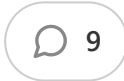
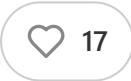
The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists:

The Birth of an Indigenous Fascist Movement in the Ukraine, Part 1



DD GEOPOLITICS

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Written by Identity Redacted



Yevhen Mykhailovych Konovalets

We have all seen the swastika patches and the fascist salutes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, we have all seen the parades commemorating the 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Galician) in western Ukrainian towns and cities, and we have all bore witness to the ultra-nationalist demonstrations of the Azov Battalion (now known as the Azov Regiment) and their affinity for their stylized version of the Nazi's Wolfsangel and the Black Sun; we all know by now that there are indeed ultra-nationalist fascist (see: Nazis) in Ukraine. Period. Full stop. Now, instead of asking how this is possible in a country that promotes "Western values" and is trying, desperately and to no avail, to join NATO, I believe it would be more prudent of us to ask the questions, "When and how did this all begin, and who was involved?" In this article, which I plan to be the introduction to a series of articles, I hope to begin to try and answer some of these questions and shed some much needed light on some events, people, and organizations that would rather remain in the shadows of time and obscurity, much forgotten to the public at large. Whenever one looks back in time for a beginning, the starting point can obviously slide back farther and farther, but for our purposes I have decided to start with birth of two men, two organizations, and two World Wars and travel as far as we can into the modern day, mapping out the trajectory of an Indigenous Fascist Movement in the Ukraine.

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A Tale of Two Men

On June 14, 1891, in the village of Zashkiv, in the Galicia region of Austria-Hungary (currently known as: Lviv Raion, Lviv Oblast, Ukraine), Yevhen Mykhailovych Konovalts was born. Konovalts studied mathematics at University of Lviv in 1909, the same year, on New Year's Day that Stepan Andriyovych Bandera was born. Both men were born subjects of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire in Galicia, a region that

has been fought over since medieval times up to the First World War between Russia and Austro-Hungarian Empire and again in the Second World War between Ukraine and Poland. Both men would later become the leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). Konovalets would come to lead the old guard, battle hardened veterans within the organization, whereas Bandera would come to lead the younger generation that was too young to fight in the First World War (WW1). Bandera would also later found and lead the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-Bandera (OUN-B). Curiously, Konovalets is not as well known as Bandera, even though he was the founding leader of the OUN, and therefore the genesis of the Indigenous Fascist Movement in the Ukraine.

Konovalets, A Born Leader

A year after Bandera's birth, in 1910, students staged a protest in Lviv in which Konovalets participated. At least one protestor was killed during the demonstration and the event seemed to make a lasting impression on Konovalets, as he would spend the next three years joining student movements and organizations, such as the Prosvita and the Executive Committee of the National-Democratic Party. He would rise to the rank of secretary of the Prosvita's ("Enlightenment") Lviv Department in 1912 and in 1913 the leader of another student movement. During this time, he became enamored with Ukrainian Nationalist ideology and authors such as Ivan Bobersky, Dmytro Dontsov, Myroslav Sichynsky, and more. He was also very active in sports, physical fitness, and sport "Sokol" (Falcon) societies. Once he had graduated from his secondary education, he spent much of his time networking in various social activities in his area, organizing societies for education, giving frequent lectures on and advocating for mass education in Ukrainian as a vehicle for planting nationalist fervor within the public.

It isn't difficult to get the feeling that he must have been a charismatic man and a zealous believer of nationalism, with enough discipline and energy to propel him into these roles of leadership and power. These formative years laid the foundation of the man he would become, but there was something else that he would need to master to become the leader of a brutally violent terrorist organization, something that turns radical thinkers into extremist killers: Warfare!

"The Shots Heard Round The World"

On June 28, 1914, Gavrilo Princip fired "the shots heard round the world" assassinating the heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, launching Europe into what would become the world's First World War. Before Summer's end, the Austrian-Hungarian Army was mobilized and Konovalts along with it as a soldier and later second lieutenant of the 19th Regiment of the Lviv Regional Defense. He was captured in battle by the Russians in the Carpathian Mountains in 1915 and became a prisoner of war (POW) at the Tsaritsyn POW camp before being transferred to the Dubovka concentration camp in 1916. It was in this concentration camp near Dubovka that fate would bring together Konovalts with "Lord Melnyk", a man of culture and kindness (according to his associates). Andriy Melnyk was a former Galician officer, who commanded a company of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen before his capture earlier that year by the Russians. Konovalts and Melnyk would form a close bond in captivity and would join together with several other former Galician officers and together they escaped and fled to Kyiv. These two men would be instrumental in the formation of the OUN and would remain lifelong friends, but first we will need to explore a little slice of history from the 1700's, the Ukrainian independence movement, and the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR). In part 2 of this series, we will delve into the above topics and maybe even go so far as to the founding of the Ukrainian Military Organization (Ukrainian acronym: УВО, romanized: UVO) that directly preceded the OUN, but that is a tale for another time...

-Identity Redacted

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Good article overall, however, quoting: "a region that has been fought over since medieval times up to the First World War between Russia and Austro-Hungarian Empire and again in the Second World War between Ukraine and Poland. " - there was no "ukraine" during WW2. There was the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, firm part of the USSR. And with the rest of the USSR this Soviet republic was fighting the Axis powers led by the Nazi Germany.

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Wonderful. It read so well...;)

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