

UKRAINE: Is war on the horizon?

Continued from Page 1

2. So what is everyone mad about now?

In November 2013, President Yanukovich suspended talks of a trade deal with the European Union in favor of reviving a trade deal with Russia. According to the Chicago Tribune, some 100,000 protesters gathered in Kiev to demonstrate against the ties to Russia.

The President called for strict laws to contain the protesters. Police used tear gas on the crowd and three protesters are killed by live ammunition. Riots broke out all over the capital and the death toll rose as protesters clashed with police. Yanukovich eventually stepped down from his position and fled for Russia, making room for interim President Oleksander Turchynov.

3. What role does Russia play?

Russian President Vladimir Putin held off action until the conclusion of the Sochi games but immediately followed up by moving troops into Crimea and taking control of strategic points including their Black Sea naval base. According to CNN, Turchynov called the invasion "an act of war" on his country.

Hite calls the invasion of Crimea a "power play" by Putin and says that having control of the peninsula is an important strategic and economic move. Putin is pushing for a ballot for Crimea to secede from Ukraine and become close partners with Russia.

It remains unknown how far Putin wants to push for taking control of Ukraine. For now, Crimea remains his focus but having control of the region

would provide a better opportunity to move into mainland Ukraine.

"It's easier to move into Ukraine after going into Crimea... every little piece makes him stronger and more powerful," said Hite. "Putin is all about money and power... He's creating an oligarchy."

4. What about the rest of the world?

All of the other G8 countries (Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, The United Kingdom, and United States) as well as the European Union were displeased with the Crimean invasion and backed out of the scheduled G8 summit in Sochi later this year. All proposed economic sanctions but ultimately little has been done to set back Putin's invasion.

CNN reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel told President Barack Obama that Putin has "lost contact with reality." Putin and Obama spoke on the phone for an hour on March 7, but the Russian president claims the two are "still far apart."

5. Is war on the horizon?

While initially there was some media speculation of potential war, Hite says the notion is very unlikely.

"Russia probably won't invade Ukraine but will try to influence their elections somehow," said Hite. "Germany is probably the most significant outside player to impose sanctions... but there is really no chance at all of war."

The world watches as new developments sprout up from Ukraine daily while the future of the country remain unclear. The following weeks and months will be a significant indication of the role the developing east will play in world politics.

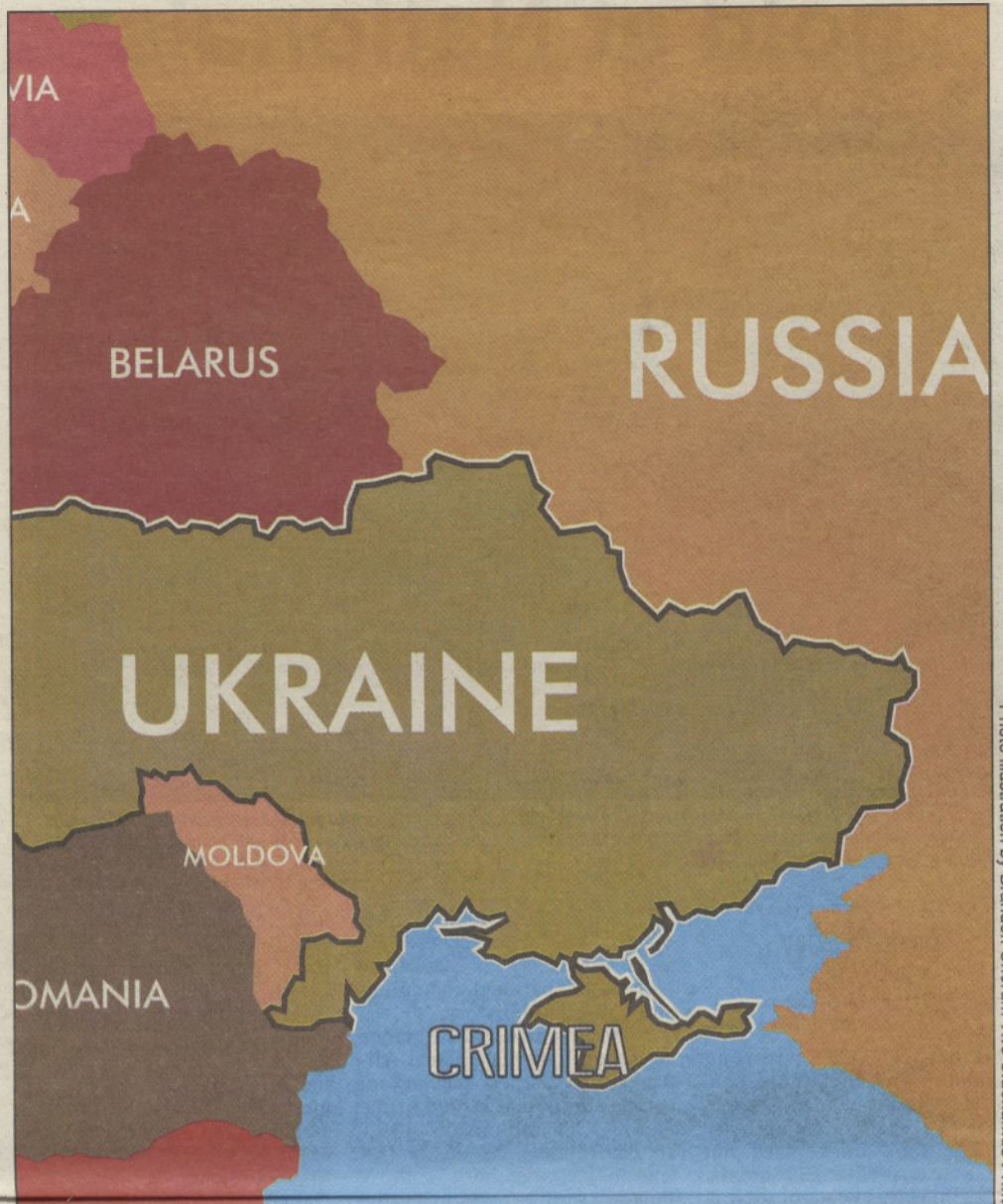


Photo illustration by Brandon Chorrum The Clackamas Print

CCC BOOKSTORE PRESENTS

**TEXTBOOK
BUYBACK
WITH RENTAL RETURN**

**Oregon City Bookstore
March 17 - 21, 2014**

Mon. - Wed., 7:45 am - 6:00 pm

Thurs., 7:45 am - 5:00 pm

Fri., 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Harmony Bookstore
March 17 - 21, 2014**

Mon. - Wed., 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Thurs. & Fri., 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Community Center
March 17 - 19, 2014**

Mon. - Wed., 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Photo ID Required!!