

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### World War II and the (Re)Creation of Historical Memory in Contemporary Ukraine

September 3-6, 2009, Kyiv, Ukraine

During the post-World War II period, the narrative created by the Soviet Union from the events of the war played a significant role in the construction of an ideology of Soviet unity in the struggle against and victory over Fascism and in the creation of a new Soviet society. A highly-politicized mythology of loyalty and unity amongst all Soviet peoples during the great struggle was propagated through the establishment of state holidays, celebrations and rituals, film and literature, public monuments and public education that emphasized unity. In the process, alternate memories and interpretations of Ukrainians' relationship to the Soviet state and its policies were forbidden or forcibly suppressed. Since independence in 1991, Ukraine and scholars of Ukrainian history have only slowly begun to address the formulation of a new national identity and the evaluation of the ideology and mythology created in the Soviet era. Events such as the genocidal famine of 1932-33, forced collectivization, the Holocaust, and Stalinist persecutions remained hidden deep within the collective memory of most Ukrainians. Among the least studied topics to date has been the role played by Ukraine and Ukrainians during World War II in the context of the Soviet Union and of Europe in general.

The conference "World War II and the (Re)Creation of Historical Memory in Contemporary Ukraine," will address these crucial issues of Ukrainian and European history through the lens of the Ukrainian experience of World War II; the subsequent mythologizing of the war and Ukraine's role in it by Soviet authorities; and the politics of collective memory in contemporary, independent Ukraine. Scholars are invited to advance the broader international dialog of Ukrainian historical memory and national identity. Papers will be welcomed on topics that include (but are not limited to):

- philosophy, theory, and politics of historical memory;
- the creation of historical memory in Soviet and contemporary Ukraine - public commemoration of the war; public education about the war and Ukraine's role in it; representation of the war and its memory in art, film, and literature; and contemporary issues surrounding the politics of historical memory of World War II and national identity in Ukraine.

**October 15, 2008** Abstracts of 300-500 words and queries should be sent by e-mail to the organizers at [historical\\_memory@fulbright.com.ua](mailto:historical_memory@fulbright.com.ua)

**January 1, 2009** Speakers will be notified of their acceptance.

**June 15, 2009** Final drafts of papers are due for distribution to session chairs, participants, and commentators.

Conference proceedings will be published following the conference.

Conference organizers:

Fulbright Program in Ukraine

The Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U. S. Department of State

I. F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnonational Studies, NASU

Ukrainian Institute of National Memory

Institute of History of Ukraine, NASU

*Krytyka*, Kyiv

For more information see [www.fulbright.org.us/historical\\_memory\\_conference](http://www.fulbright.org.us/historical_memory_conference)