



Ukraine



**Ukraine** is a country in [Eastern Europe](#). It has an area of 603,628 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the second largest contiguous country on the [European](#) continent, after Russia.

**Ukraine borders the Russian Federation to the east and northeast, Belarus to the northwest, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the southwest, and the Black Sea and Sea of Azov to the south and southeast, respectively.**

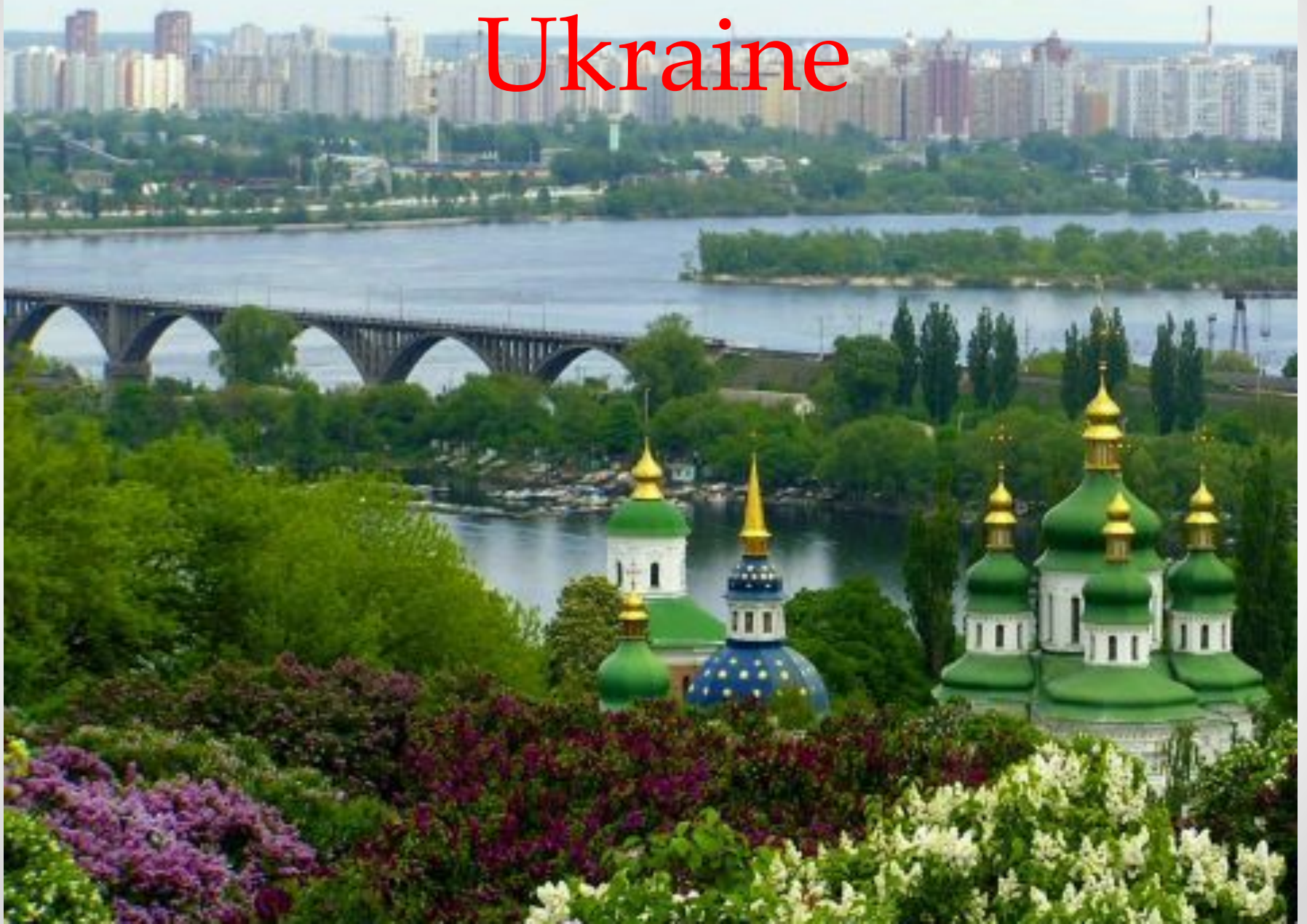




Ukraine became independent again when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. This dissolution started a period of transition to a market economy, in which Ukraine was stricken with an eight-year recession

Ukraine is a unitary state composed of 24 oblasts (provinces), one autonomous republic (Crimea), and two cities with special status: Kiev, its capital and largest city, and Sevastopol, which houses the Russian Black Sea Fleet under a leasing agreement.

# Kyiv — the Capital of Ukraine



**The main Ukrainian river is  
the Dnieper.**

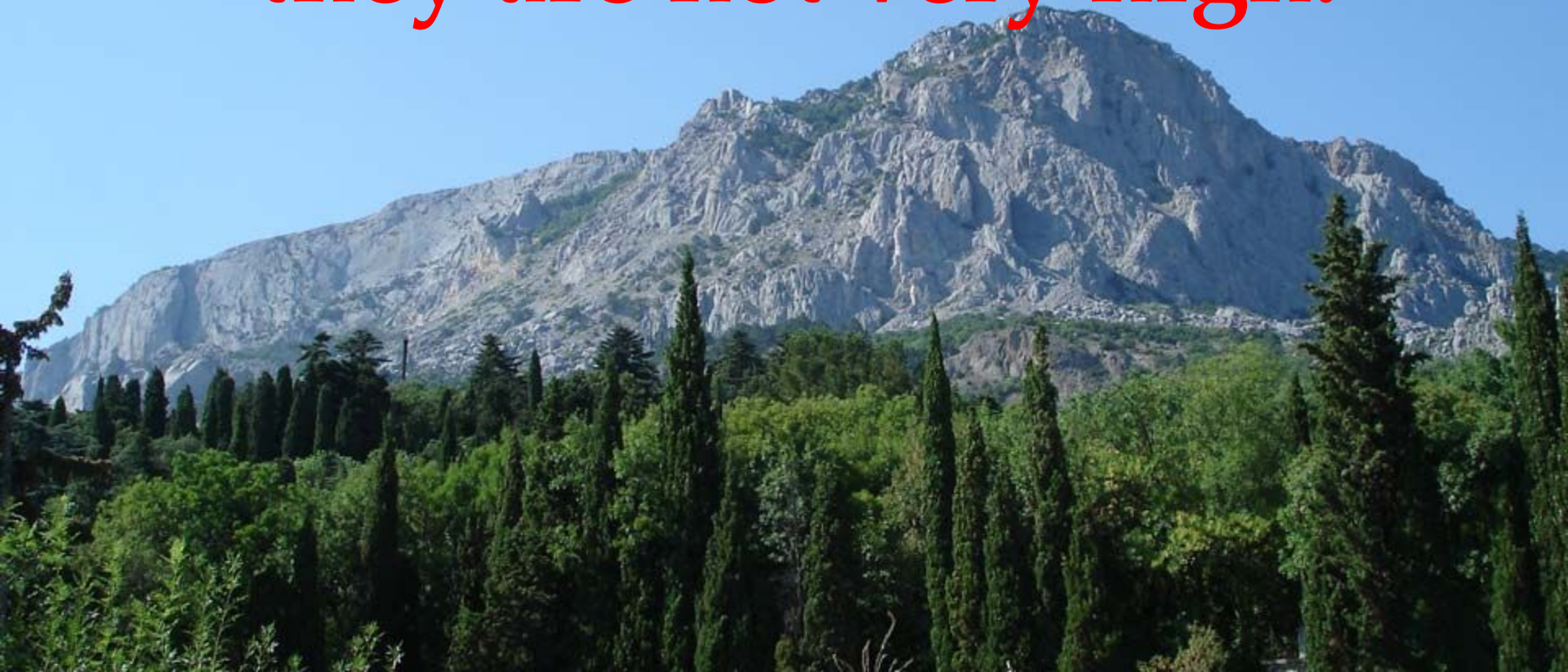


mostly a level, treeless plain,  
calls "steppe"





**Mountains in the Crimean  
peninsula and the  
Carpathians in the west, but  
they are not very high.**



**Odessa, Sebastopol,  
Nickolayev, Kherson and  
Kerch are main ukrainian  
ports.**

