The Impact of Organized Crime and Corruption on Political and Legal Situation in Ukraine

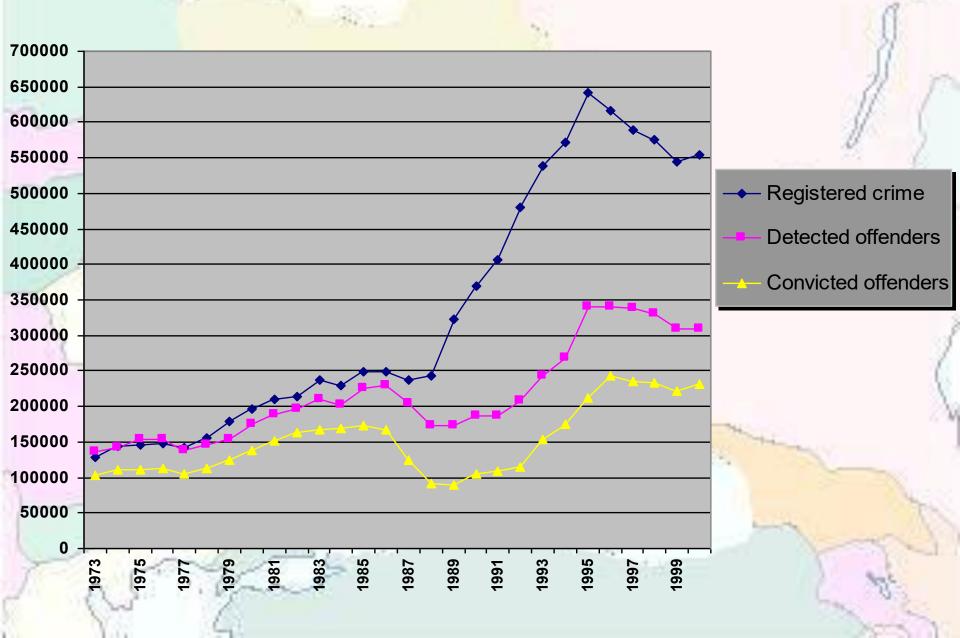
Victor Dryomin

Director of Odessa Information and Analytical Center for Combating Organized Crime, Head of the Criminology and Penitentiary Law Department, Odessa National Academy of Law (Ukraine).



Criminal Situation in Ukraine in 1972-2000

Dynamics of Criminalization in 1973-2000



The first period (1973-1981) stagnation period or Brezhnev's epoch, marked by the authoritarian system of government.

The second period (1982 - 1990) *perestroyka*, used in different languages without translation. Began under Yu. Andropov and continued under M. Gorbachev.

The third period (1991 - 2000) collapse of the Soviet Union; emergence of new independent states

Each period is characterized by specific peculiarities reflected, among other things, in the criminal statistics:

1973 – 1981: the total number of registered crimes was 1 447 045.
1992 – 1990: 2 350 442 registered crimes.
1991 - 2000 the number of registered crimes was 5 520 506.

Compared to 1973 the growth of crime rate was 184,3% in 1983; 500,1% in 1995 431, 4% in the year 2000.

New Features of Crime:

- organized
- armed
- criminal terror as a method of coercion
- international character
- merger with economic activity and business production, commerce, etc

Organized Crime in Ukraine is a system of organized criminal

groups capable of exercising influence on economic,

political and social institutions of a state by applying criminal

terror and murder, blackmail, racket, economic coercion and

dissipating moral values.

Organized crime in Ukraine is based on the merger of Soviet *apparatchiks* working in government and Communist party bodies and common criminal elements, specializing in murder,

robberies, robbery attacks.

Peak of Organized Crime Activity

1997: 1079 organized criminal groups were exposed.

- 4393 members of these groups committed 7434 crimes,
- including 361 crimes in financial sphere;
- 184 crimes in foreign economic activity;
- 329 business crimes.
- Members of these groups were involved in organizing 90 armed gangs, committing 112 murders and 530 robberies.

Shadow Economy

The share of shadow economy amounts to 40% of GDP The basis for shadow economy is criminal privatization.

According to Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Research:

Average consumption of Ukrainian population 2.5 times exceeds declared incomes.

Power Crisis

According to the information of National Security Service

• 60% of organized criminal groups have established links with corrupt government officials;

• 50% of private businessmen and around 90% of commercial firms have contacts with representatives of the law-enforcement bodies;

• a bigger share of income (more than 60%) of an average civil servant is derived from bribes;

Corruption in Ukraine has acquired systemic character and substituted formal relations, regulated by law. The systemic nature of corruption is expressed in the interrelation of corrupt activities, involving diversified network of financial and other types of rewards and services, presuming reproduction of corrupt relations between the power and the population or among different power bodies.

The systemic nature of corruption is also manifested in its links with legitimate economy and inclusion of ill-gotten capital into other sources of income, similarly to financial remuneration for other types of professional activity.

Some data regarding public opinion survey

Public Opinion regarding Executive, Legislative, Judicial Power and law-enforcement Bodies:

1.8.2	
Trust	Do not trust
3.1%	60%
5.1%	56%
2.3%	58 %
10.1%	49%
7.3%	54%
4.3%	59%
13.3%	46%
2.3%	59%
	3.1% 5.1% 2.3% 10.1% 7.3% 4.3% 13.3%

58% do not trust political parties52% do not trust non-government organizations

Human rights

Impossibility of arrest without prosecutor's or judge's warrant:

fully ensured4 %ensured to a large extent20 %ensured to some extent29 %not ensured18 %hard to say29 %

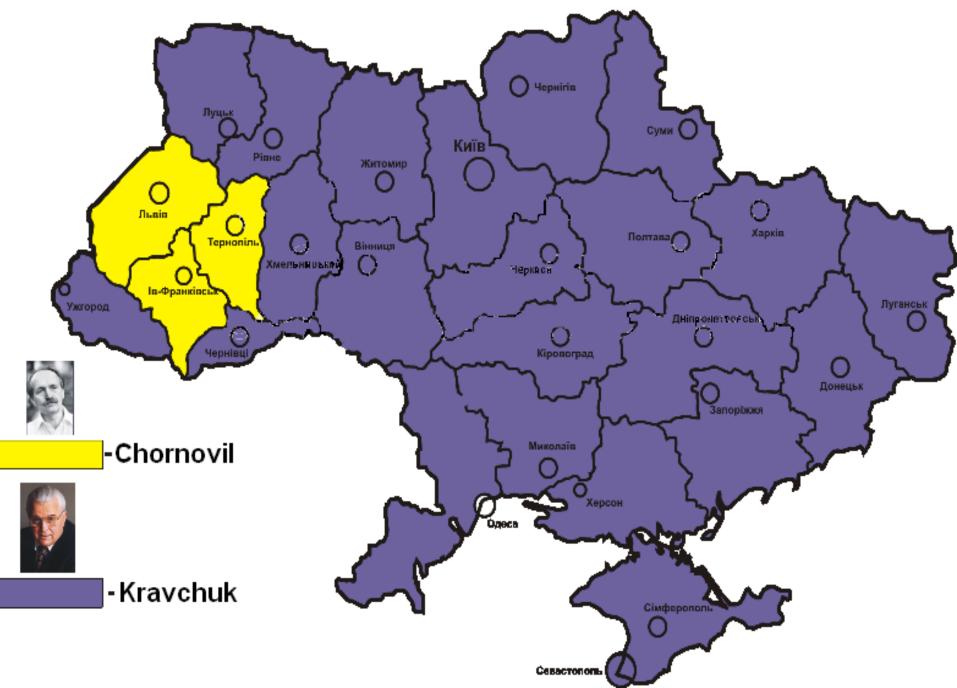
(% of respondents)

executive power is corrupt, related to family business and Mafia (% of respondents)

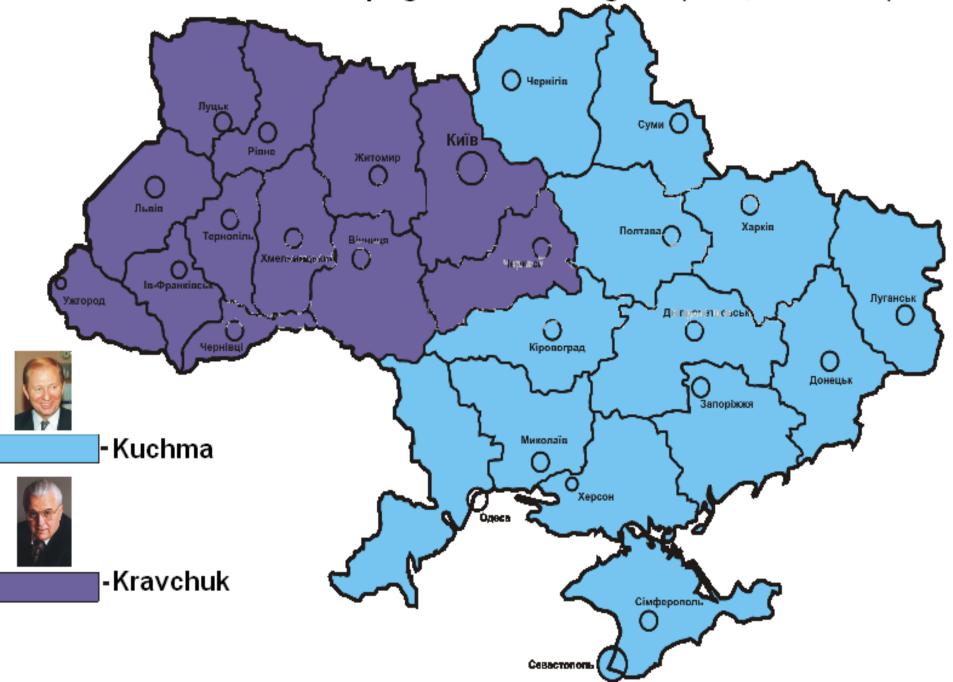
	Central (republican)	Regional (Oblast)	District/ municipal
Agree	27%	25%	21%
agree to a large extent	45%	43%	38%
agree to some extent	9%	12%	19%
absolutely disagree	2%	2%	4%
hard to say	15%	8%	18%

Presidential Elections in Ukraine

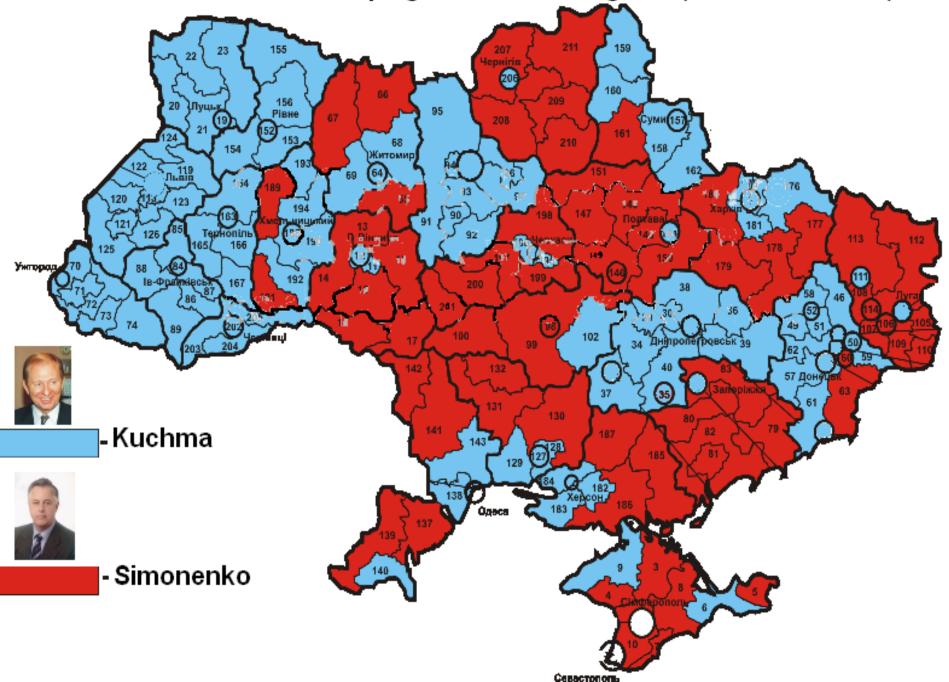
Leaders of Presidential campaign in different regions (1991)



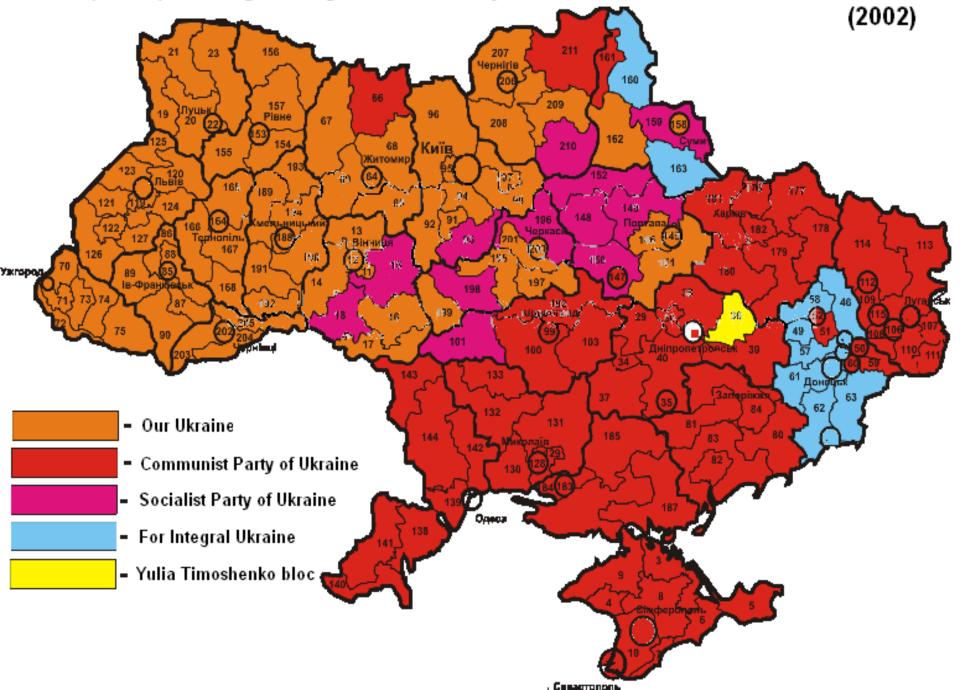
Leaders of Presidential campaign in different regions (1994, 2nd round)

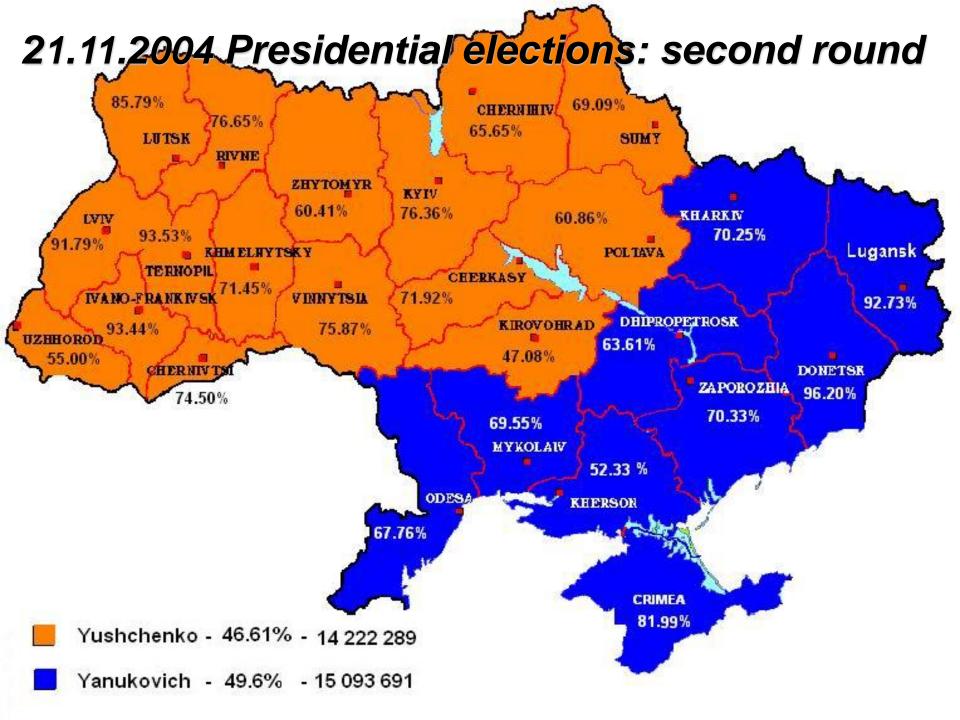


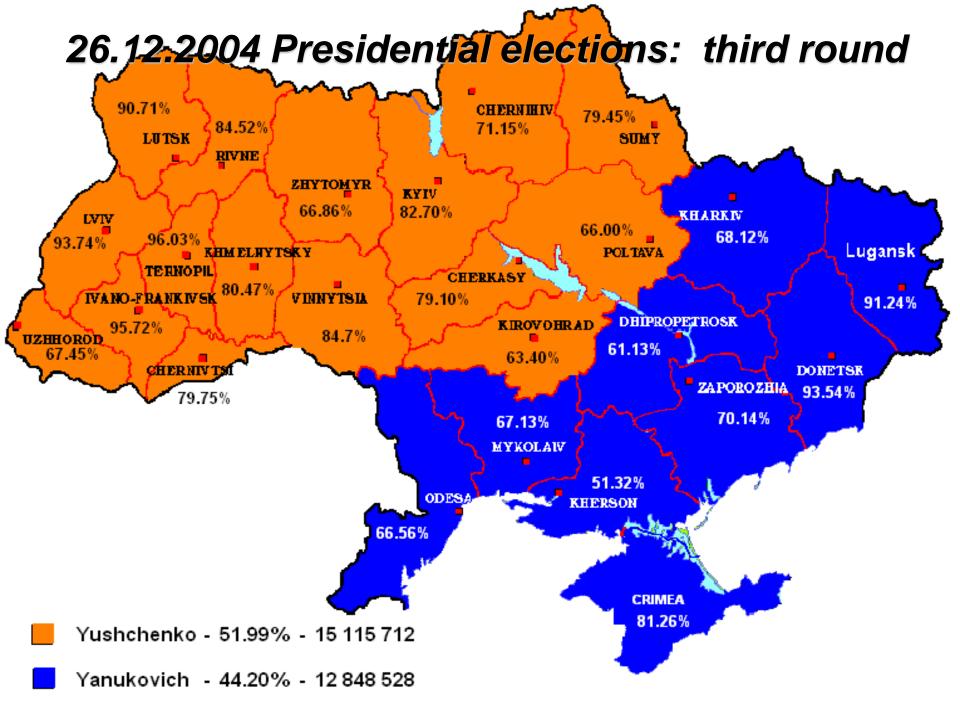
Leaders of Presidential campaign in different regions (1999, 2nd round)

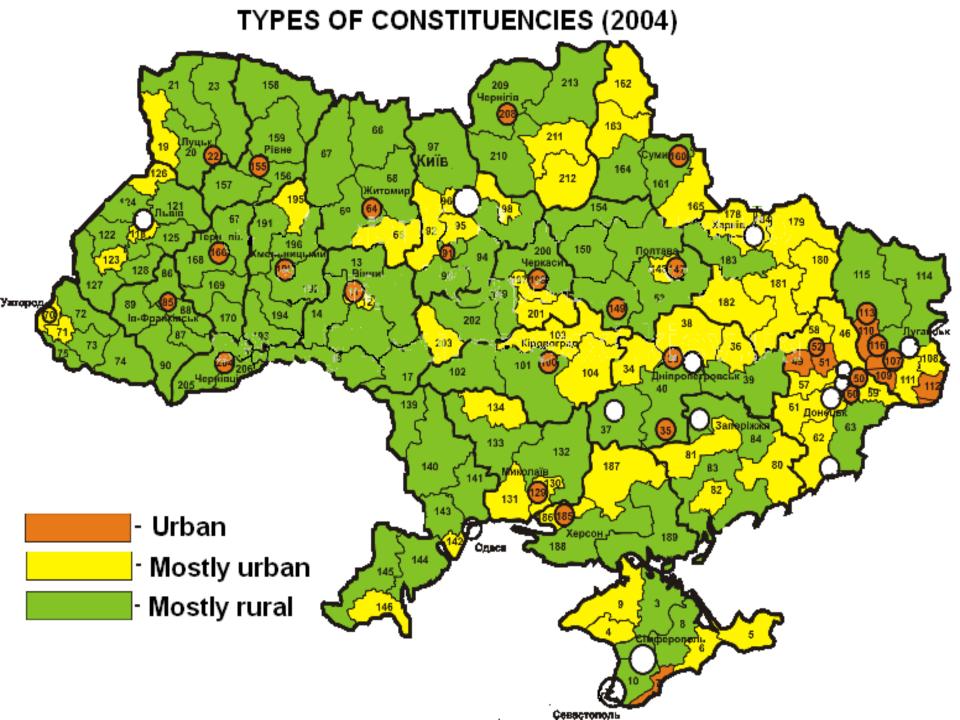


Parties (blocs) leading during Parliamentary elections in different constituencies









Orange Revolution













ІНСТИТУТ ЛІТЕРЯТУРИ НАН УКРАІНИ Імен Т.Г. Шевченка Національна Слілка Пасьменників

1

.......

*

Борітеся – по вам Бог пом



















. 187.

-

Український НАЦІОНАЛІЗМ-RIAAH YKPAĨHN!

www.inter.criminology.org.ua

Legal Basis for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption in Ukraine

Odessa Information and Analytical Center for Combating Organized Crime

Some Important Laws on Combating Organized Crime and Corruption in Ukraine: On Combating Terrorism (2003)

- Against Money Laundering (against legalization of money obtained through criminal activity) (2002)
- On Measures against Corruption (1995)
- Against Trafficking of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors 1995)
- On Organizational and Legal Basis for Combating Organized Crime (1993)

Some Important Conventions on Combating Organized Crime and Corruption Ratified by Ukraine:

- UN Convention on Corruption
- European Convention on Terrorism
- European Convention on Cyber Crime
- 1990 Convention on Money Laundering
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- UN Convention on Controlling Illegal Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- Convention on Human Trafficking and Exploitation by the Third Parties

www.inter.criminology.org.ua

Success in combating organized crime and corruption and establishing a truly democratic state depends on political will of the country's leadership.

Odessa Information and Analytical Center for Combating Organized Crime