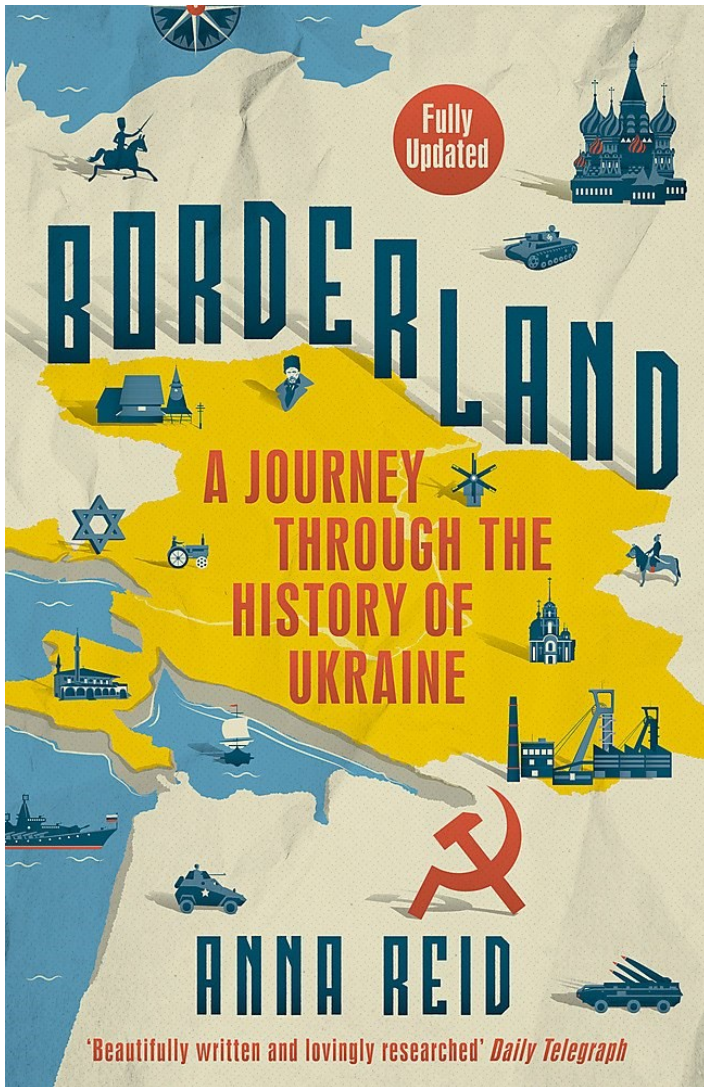


Reading something as a potential source for academic work



Before you read!

1. Search the title to determine if this book has been reviewed by credible sources? Is it a “well-known” book (if it isn’t, you need to ask why).

2. Search the author – what perspective are they bringing to the subject? What makes them credible?

Before you open the book/article (or view it online)!

1. What are you looking for with this resource? What is the point in spending time (which is finite in university/college) with this text? (Example: Are you looking for a general history, a specific period of history, a specific person, etc.)

2. Do you need to read the whole book to get after the knowledge you are seeking?

3. **REMEMBER** to record the information you will need to cite the book:

Footnote: Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine*, (London: Orion, 2015), [Page #].

Bibliography/Works Cited: Reid, Anna. *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine*. London: Orion, 2015.

Reading with purpose

Read through this section from Anna Reid's *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine* as if you were writing a piece with the following thesis:

By understanding the complex history of the Cossacks in Zaporozhia the currently invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation can be better explained.

Polish rule robbed Ukraine of its nobility. But it also saw the emergence of a new power in the region – the Cossacks. Outlaws and frontiersmen, fighters and pioneers, the Cossacks are to the Ukrainian national consciousness what cowboys are to the American. Unlike the remote and sanctified Rus princes, the Cossacks make heroes Ukrainians can relate to. They ranged the steppe in covered wagons, drawing them up in squares in case of Tatar attack. They raided Turkish ports in sixty-foot-long double-ruddered galleys, built of willow-wood and buoyed up with bundles of hollow reeds. They wore splendid moustaches, red boots and baggy trousers 'as wide as the Black Sea'. They danced, sang and drank *horilka* in heroic quantities. 'No sooner are they out of one state of inebriation,' wrote de Beauplan, 'than they set about drinking again as before.'¹⁰ Though the historical Cossacks ceased to exist in the eighteenth century, they lived on powerfully in the Ukrainian imagination. The anarchic peasant armies of the Russian Civil War called themselves 'Cossacks', as do a few fringe nationalists today, turning out in astrakhan hats and home-made uniforms at anti-communist rallies. *Khokhol* – the name of the long pony-tail, worn with a shaven head, which was the Cossack hallmark – is still derogatory Russian slang for a Ukrainian.

Cossackdom had its beginnings in the early fifteenth century, when the Grand Dukes of Lithuania built a line of forts on the edge of the empty 'wild field' between the Duchy and Tatar-ruled Crimea. Initially garrisoned with Tatar mercenaries called 'kazaks' or 'free adventurers', they soon attracted runaways of every class and nationality – escaped serfs, indebted nobles, defrocked priests. By the end of the century these makeshift frontier communities had turned into a semi-independent society with its own elected leaders – called 'hetmans' and 'otamans' – army, laws and vocabulary. Epitome of Cossackdom was the Zaporozhian Sich, a stockaded wooden barracks-town on a remote island south of the Dnieper rapids. Symbol of freedom for generations of Ukrainians, it was where the wildest outlaws gathered, the most daring raids were plotted, and the most *horilka* drunk. No women were allowed to enter the Sich, and important decisions were taken by the Rada, a rough-and-

ready open-air assembly where, in theory at least, everybody had an equal voice. 'This Republic could be compared to the Spartan,' wrote a seventeenth-century Venetian envoy, Alberto Vimina, 'if the Kozaks respected sobriety as highly as did the Spartans.'¹¹

Despite Ukrainian wishful thinking, Cossackdom never formed anything approaching a state in the modern sense of the word. It had no borders, no written laws, no division between army and administration, and no permanent capital (the Sich moved several times in its career). Nor, since not all Ukrainians were Cossacks and not all Cossacks Ukrainians, did Cossack-dom form an embryo Ukrainian nation. As Zamoyski says, the Cossacks were not a people, but a way of life.

What they also certainly were was a military power. Most of the time they worked on the land as ordinary farmers and craftsmen. 'Among these people,' wrote de Beauplan, 'are found individuals expert in all the trades necessary for human life: house and ship carpenters, cartwrights, blacksmiths, armourers, tanners, harnessmakers, shoemakers, coopers, tailors, and so forth.'¹² But when inclination and the hetman dictated, they took up horse-tail banners and spiked maces, and launched fearsome raids deep into Poland. In 1498 they reached Jaroslaw, west of Lviv; four years later they got all the way to the Vistula.

Poland's response, never more than partially successful, was to try to redirect Cossack aggression eastwards, towards the Muscovites and Turks. In 1578 King Stefan Batory granted the wealthier, town-dwelling Cossacks stipends in exchange for military service against Muscovy and the wild outlaws of the Sich. The move split Cossackdom into three – the 3,000 'registered' Cossacks loyal to the Poles, the 5,000 or 6,000 independent Cossacks of the Sich, and the remaining 40,000 or so who pitched in on either side as whim and circumstance dictated.

(1650s)

By now Muscovy was already a vast empire. Ivan IV ('The Formidable' to Russians, 'The Terrible' to everyone else) had conquered the Muslim khanates of Kazan and Astrakhan, taking the border south to the shores of the Caspian. Trappers and traders had crossed the whole length of Siberia, followed by officials staking out taiga and pine-forest for Moscow. But compared to their neighbours the Russians were still backward and thinly spread. With about 8 million inhabitants, Russia's population was about the same size as Poland's

and only half as large as that of France. To turn into a true European power Russia needed to push towards the rich, populous West. Though nobody saw it that way at the time, its alliance with Khmelnytsky was the first step in a process which came to an end only with the collapse of the Soviet Union – and perhaps not even then.

The transfer of Ukraine's loyalties from Cracow to Moscow took place in January 1654 at Pereyaslav, a small town on the eastern bank of the Dnieper, not far south of Kiev. From the beginning, the partnership was an unhappy one. The two delegations, headed by Khmelnytsky and the Russian envoy Vasiliy Buturlin, met in a church. Khmelnytsky had expected that in exchange for an oath of loyalty on the Cossacks' side, Buturlin would, on behalf of Tsar Alexey, swear 'that he would not betray the Cossacks to the Poles, that he would not violate their liberties, and that he would confirm the rights to their landed estates of the Ukrainian *szlachta*'. Buturlin refused. Polish kings might make oaths to their subjects, he said, but they also often broke them, whereas 'the tsar's word is unchangeable'. Furious, Khmelnytsky stalked out of the church, only to stalk back in again a few hours later, and sign a unilateral oath of obedience. The tsar's title changed from 'the autocrat of all Russia' to 'the autocrat of all Great and Little Russia', and the Cossack hetman took a new seal substituting the tsar's name for that of the Polish king.

Symbolism aside, Pereyaslav's significance became apparent only with hindsight. Over the next thirty years Russian, Polish, Cossack and Tatar armies swept repeatedly through Ukraine in a series of formless wars dubbed 'The Deluge' by Poles and 'The Ruin' by Ukrainians. The situation did not stabilise until 1686, when Poland and Russia – this time without even consulting the Cossacks – signed a so-called 'eternal peace', handing Kiev and all lands east of the Dnieper over to Muscovy. For the next three and a quarter centuries Kiev would be ruled from Moscow.

You probably don't know who this is – find out!

Don't forget to Google a map of the region during this time (to help you visualize this complex history).