

The borders of Eastern Europe today look remarkably like those negotiated at the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk 3 March 1918. Most people today have not even heard of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. There were actually two, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 9 February 1918 between Germany, Austria and Ukraine, which established the independence of Ukraine from the Russian Empire and the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 3 March 1918, where the new Bolshevik government of Russia (The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) and the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

Peace in the East

This treaty ended Russia's participation in the First World War. The town of Brest-Litovsk is now called Brest, and is in Belarus. This Treaty was forced on the Soviet government by the rapid advances of the German and Austrian forces and the complete collapse of the Russian Armed Forces.

Brest-Litovsk

It was the first diplomatic treaty ever to be filmed. In the hall of a grand house that had once been a Russian Officers Club, Prince Leopold of Bavaria, son-in-law to the Austrian emperor, in Field Marshalls uniform, led the delegates of the Central Powers. Representing the Russian side an admiral, some staff officers, and assorted representatives of the Bolshevik government of Vladimir Lenin, several of whom were noticeably drunk.

Redrawing the Map

As Norman Stone in *World War One* observes, *"The terms of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk were quite clever. The Germans did not take much territory. What they did was to say that the peoples of Western Russia and the Caucasus were now free to declare independence. The result was borders strikingly similar to those of today."* The independence of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, were recognised.

The Betrayal of Ukraine

Tragically the Allies betrayed Ukraine back into the hands of Soviet savagery through the Versailles Treaty (28 June 1919), which expressly abrogated the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Compounding the catastrophe, the Allies, Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, at the Yalta Conference (4-11 February 1945 in Crimea) betrayed another 100 million Christians in Eastern and Central Europe to the most brutal and murderous dictatorship in history, that of Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union.

sans-serif; font-size: 12pt;">Operation
Keelhaul</p> <p style="text-align: justify;"><span style="font-family: arial,
helvetica, sans-serif; color: black; font-size: 12pt;">One of the agreements of the Yalta
Conference was that the Western Allies would forcibly repatriate all Russians in Western
Europe to the Soviet Union. This not only affected the Russian Prisoners Of War, but was also
extended to all East European refugees who had fled to the West to escape the ravages of the
Red Army. This included hundreds-of-thousands of Cossacks who had fled Russia after the
Russian revolution of 1917. Many hundreds-of-thousands of these had actually been born in
Western Europe and had never been in the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, between 2 to 3 million
Russians and East Europeans were forcibly handed over to the NKVD secret police of the
Soviet Union, who summarily executed many tens-of-thousands of them within earshot of the
British and American forces who were herding them at gun point and bayonet point, into the
hands of their brutal enemies. The rest were condemned to work as slave labourers in the
Gulag in Siberia.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;"><span style="font-family: arial,
helvetica, sans-serif; color: black; font-size: 12pt;">
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justify;"><span
style="color: black;">Facts Are Stubborn Things</p> <p style="text-align:
justify;">As
the Crimea and Ukraine are back in the news today, it is good for us to remember that the first
taste of freedom and independence for Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine
came from the German victory over the Russian Empire and the terms of their Treaty of
Brest-Litovsk, 18 March 1918.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;"><span
style="font-family: arial, helvetica, sans-serif; color: black; font-size: 12pt;">◆</p> <p
style="text-align: justify;"><span style="font-family: arial, helvetica, sans-serif; color: black;
font-size: 12pt;">Dr. Peter Hammond
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sans-serif; font-size: 12pt; line-height: 1.3em; text-align: left;">The Reformation Society<br
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line-height: 1.3em; text-align: left;">Email:◆