

2014

&

RUSSIAN

INTERVENTION in

UKRAINE

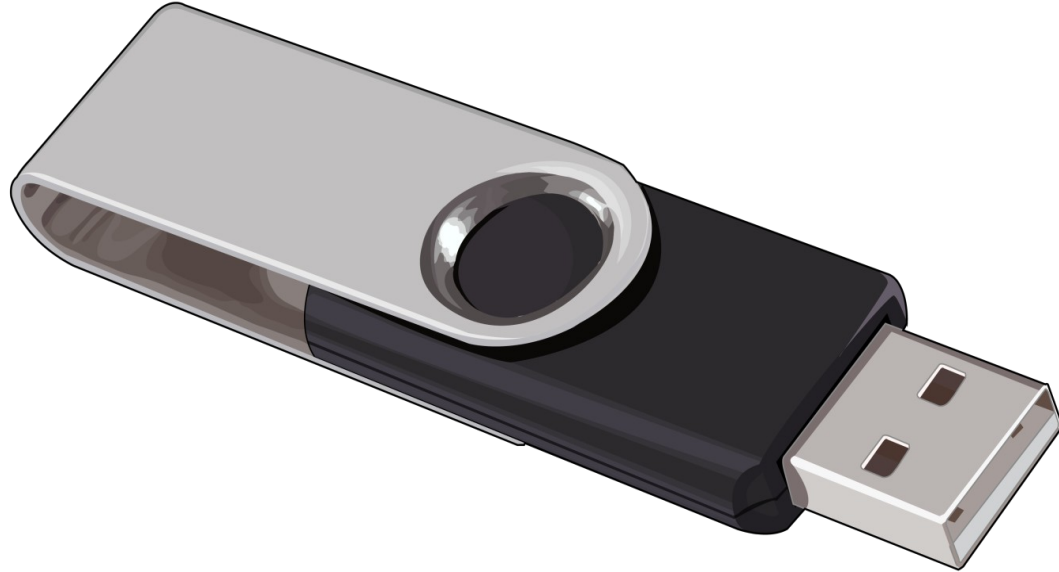


Dr. Mahipal Singh Rathore



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- In March 2014 ,after a referendum held in Crimea, Russian federation ‘annexed’ the Crimean peninsula.
- The southern and eastern regions of Ukraine declared independence and militias supported by Russian military are fighting Ukrainian forces since

Historical Background

- Ukraine– under Russian control since 400 years.
- Crimean war 1853-56

Russia vs. Ottomans+France+Britain

- Russian revolution 1917
- Crimea became Part of USSR

Atrocities by Stalin

- The great famine of 1932-33 killed **2.4-7.5 million** Ukrainians.
- Forced deportations of Crimean Tatars after WW2
- Russians moved to Crimea
- 1954- Transfer from Russian SSR to Ukrainian SSR
- Independence in 1991 – Autonomous region

Political Upheavals

- Victor Yanukovych refuses to sign treaty with EU at the last minute ,in 2013
- Signs an agreement and multi billion dollar bailout with Russia instead.
- Euromaidan protests erupt



- Feb 20 – dozens of protestors killed
- Feb 21- Yanukovych disappears/leaves country
- Interim govt set up
- Putin says its an “illegal Coup”

CRIMEAN CRISIS

- Within days of Yanukovych's leaving, Russian backed protestors occupy parliament in Crimea and a new PM of Crimea is appointed
- He asked Russia for assistance in maintaining peace and security



- Masked soldiers without any insignia take over airports, military bases, administrative buildings and other strategic locations all over Crimea
- The new PM calls for a referendum for joining Russia

The referendum

- On March 16, 2014
- 83% Turnout
- 96.7% in favour of joining the Russian federation
- No international observers allowed
- March 18- Crimea joins Russia



Aftermath

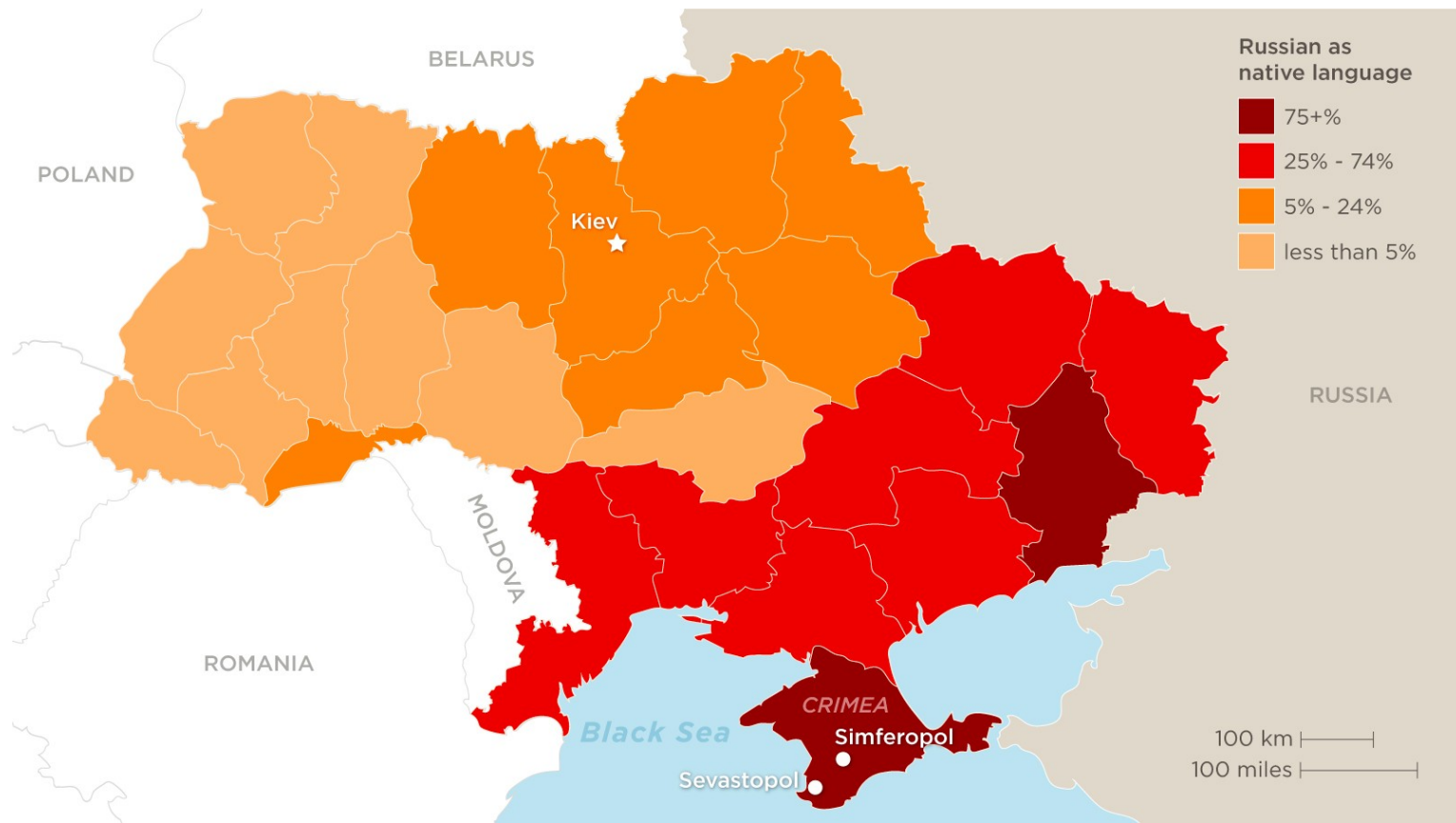
- US, UK and Nato countries levy economic sanctions on Russian economy and its leaders

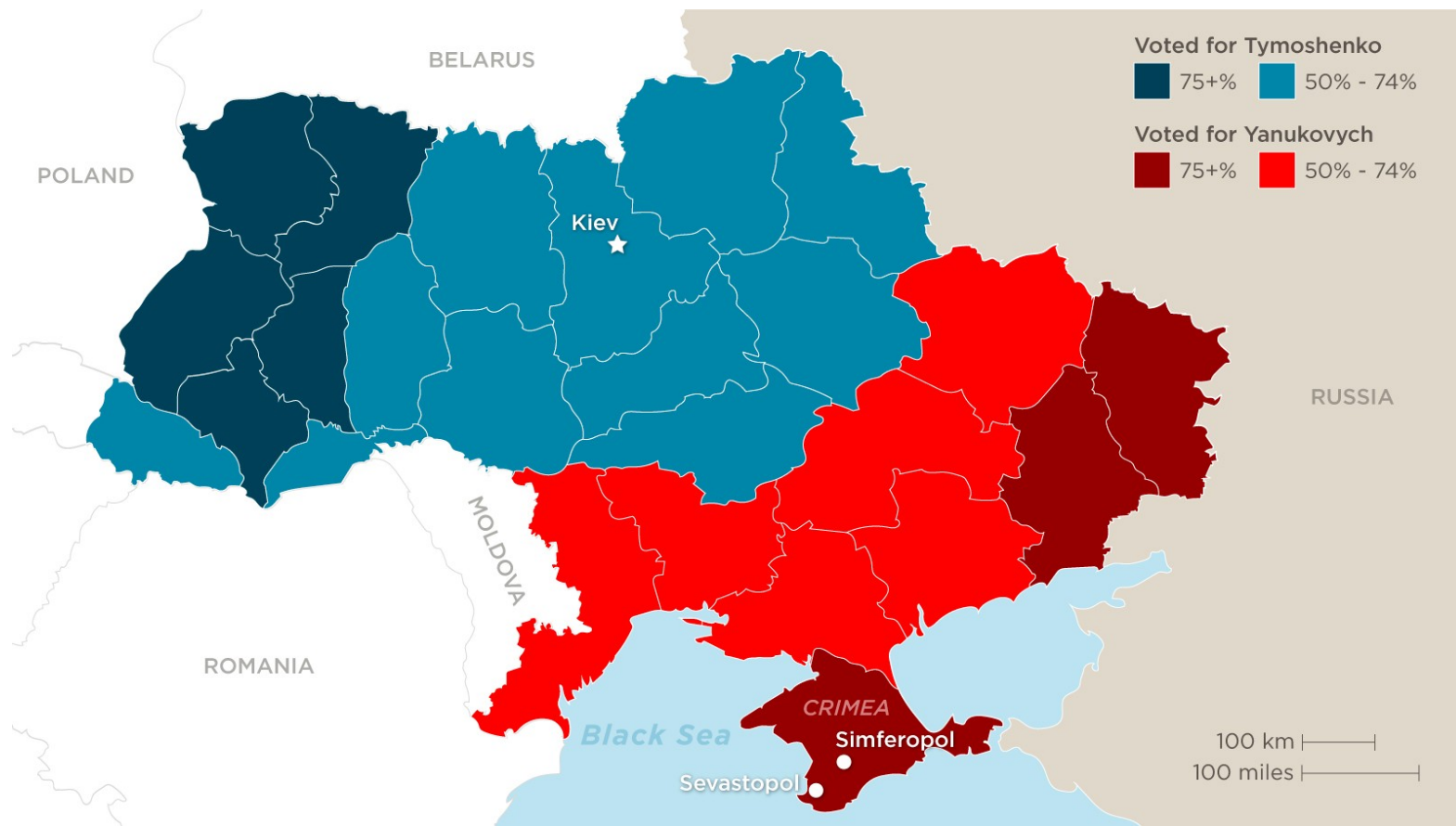
G8 to G7

Separatist/Pro Russian protests and conflict in Eastern Ukraine

The Unrest in East

- Protests erupt in ethnically Russian and Russian speaking eastern and southern regions of Ukraine.
- Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Odessa





- March to August 2014- Fighting between Ukrainian govt forces and militias aided by Russian army in eastern Ukraine
- September- Ceasefire agreement signed by Petro Poroshenko, Russia and eastern 'republics' in Minsk

Why is Russia so interested in Crimea?

- Strategic location – access to Black sea, Mediterranean, Balkans
- Black sea fleet of NAVY
- Transport – all weather ports
- Encircling by NATO and EU

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