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## UKRAINIAN GREECE OR GREEK UKRAINE. THE STORY OF ONE FRIENDSHIP

Modern European world was based on achievements of the Great Greekish Civilization. Also Greece gave us such concepts like philosophy and since, democracy, politics and liberty, Olympics games, theater and literary genres, and still a lot of things, that make up our modern culture.

Modern Ukraine chose direct way to Europe. But if we look through the history we can see – Ukraine territory was a peace where European Civilization was born, this land was a part of the great Greek World. It happened when Greek and Scythian worlds met on our land.

The first meeting was during a Mythological period of history. When Greek mariners Argonauts went to Colchis (Kolkhida) (modern Caucasian seashore) they visited North Black Sea region of modern Ukraine. Hercules had lived several years on the territory of modern Ukraine with woman— snake and had three sons, who became parents for Scythian people. Mother of Achilles hid the young hero in cave on the island of Lefka (Zmiinyj Island).

The Great Greek Colonization began in the 7— 6 centuries B.C. In the Northern region of Black Sea there were founded a lot of Greekish colonies. The largest among them are Olbia, Chersonesos, Panticapaeum, Tyras, Nikonion and others. Greeks sold weapons, olives oil and wine. Scythians sold horses and bread. The Northern region of Black Sea became a territory of dialogue of cultures and cultural exchange.

In the Middle Ages the Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus' had a permanent trading and cultural communication. Kievan Rus' adopted Greekish Orthodoxy. Byzantine gave us stone architecture and took a hand in foundation of Kievan Rus' churches style. Slavic

artists studied art of frescoes and mosaics, stone sculpture. Kievan Rus' varangians guardians defended Emperors.

After “dark times” of the late Middle Ages, when Byzantine and Kiev were destroyed our people gave a helping hand to one another a lot of times.

Greekish warriors took part in Ottoman— Russian wars. Greekish sailors helped admiral Senyavin in Mediterranean expeditions. Ioannis Varvakis with his ships took part in this war. After war Crimean Greeks came to Azov region of modern Ukraine. They built a lot of small cities in this region. Today we know them as Azovian Greeks. Greeks from the territory of modern Greece came to Odessa, Balaklava, Kerch and organized their colonies in the south of the Russian empire. They fled from Tatar and Turkish repressions. The South of Ukraine became a new motherland for thousands of Greek families. Catherine II the Great protected them from the Turks.

Admiral F. Yshakov founded the first Greek state in the beginning of the 19th. century on several islands and wrote the first constitution. The first Greek president Ioannis Kapodistrias gained his education in Russia and was a Russian minister. The leaders of the Greek War of Independence Ypsilanti brothers were Russian officers too. Odessa was a base for “Filiki Eteria” organizations that engaged many and volunteers for Greek army. Our people stood shoulder to shoulder and fought for independence of Greece.

Kharkiv also has its own Greek history. In our Annunciation Cathedral there is tomb of Greek Patriarch St. Athanasius. He is highly revered Santos among locals and one of patrons of our city. The one of the famous Santos in Greece John the Russian was born on territory of modern Ukraine.

One of the greatest sons of Greece Vasiliy Karazin (the Karazins derive from the Greekish clan of Karadzhi) was born in Kharkov. He founded Kharkiv University and turned our city to the center of science, culture and education. In the XXth. century a lot of Greeks lived and worked in our city and built Kharkiv. And now we write a small new page of our common history together.