

## Ukraine in the Modern World

*by Natalia Umantsiv*

The political sphere is extremely important and affects not only statesmen of different countries, but also us, the people of these countries. It is for this reason that every self-respecting citizen must have at least a basic understanding of the world situation and the place that belongs to Ukraine around the world. Of course, I am not a political scientist, but I have my own opinion about the place of Ukraine in the modern world.

I once read that, unfortunately, the modern world continues to look at Ukraine more as a part of the post-Soviet space, and less as an independent state. Therefore, an important task of Ukraine on the world stage is to change its image of one of the regions of the former USSR as soon as possible and gain the authority of an independent European state. This can be achieved only in the process of realizing the main national interest of Ukraine – the revival and strengthening of its statehood, the full reproduction of democracy, the formation of self-identity of its citizens as citizens of Ukraine. All this is a necessary condition for the prosperity of the nation, an important means of ensuring national security. I will not talk about difficult political terms, but I want to talk about what we all understand.

We must all do at least something to preserve the uniqueness and dignity of our country. It is worth starting at least with the formation of self-identity in us, the citizens of Ukraine. There has been a lot of discussions lately about patriotism, especially today, when there is a question of love for the native land, the ability and desire to protect it, even at the cost of their own lives. There are disputes over who can be called patriots, because there are people who adore the beauty of their native land, enjoy its benefits, but complain about the environment; there are those who love the past and criticize the present; there are those who loudly announce their love for Ukraine and the people; there are those whom few people know, but they tirelessly multiply material values; there are heroes who defend the honor and independence of their state with weapons in their hands, giving their lives for it... So who is a true patriot ?!

In my opinion, a patriot is a person devoted to his people, who loves his homeland, ready to defend it in the most difficult moments, a person who lives and works for the prosperity of his land. Sometimes, and even today, a sea of words about love and devotion to Ukraine is heard from high tribunes, but, unfortunately, these are just words. However, there are many examples of the selfless love of Ukrainians for their homeland, even outside it.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to be present at the presentation of Askold Lozinski's book "Ukraine in the Modern World". The book depicts the author's thoughts on the place and role of Ukraine in the modern world, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of its independence. I really liked the author's story about how, even while living abroad, he fearlessly defended his patriotism and how his parents instilled in him a love for his native language and people. Who said that all migrant people flee their homeland, forget it and keep away from it?

I believe that to be a patriot, you need to be inspired by the same people, to listen to the course of their thoughts. And to be honest, such patriotic conversations awaken in me this very feeling of patriotism.