

Chronology of the Coup

Feb. 20—A full chronology of the 2013-14 coup in Ukraine would have to begin at least with the 1947-52 quarrel between the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC), which tried to bar the “well-known sadist and collaborator of the Germans,” Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) figure Mykola Lebed, from entry into the United States, and CIA Deputy Director Allen Dulles, who ultimately secured permission for Lebed to come and go freely. In the view of Dulles, Lebed and the OUN were essential to Cold War operations against the Soviet Union.

Indeed, in recent months, historians and intelligence specialists have been perusing and publishing more and more freshly declassified documents on CIA and MI6 (British foreign intelligence) plans for anti-Soviet uprisings in Ukraine, in which they planned to utilize the OUN.

The continuation, in the post-Soviet period, of the OUN, its ideology, and its plans for the takeover of Ukraine and an ultimate showdown with Russia, are summarized elsewhere in this report. The timeline below is but one slice, covering the active coup period of Nov. 21, 2013 through Feb. 22, 2014. The core of it appeared in **EIR** of May 16, 2014, where it served to disprove assertions such as that of then-Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who on Jan. 15, 2014, portrayed the brewing “Euromaidan” coup in Kiev as a spontaneous democratic upsurge:

[T]he movement that started as a demand for a European future grew into a protest for basic human dignity and justice, clean and account-

able government, and economic and political independence of Ukraine.

The allegation that a violent coup was pre-planned is confirmed by very diverse sources.

Former intelligence officer, now Russian President Vladimir Putin, spoke Dec. 2, 2013 about the events beginning to unfold:

[E]verything that is happening now is not a revolution, but a well-organized protest. And in my view, these events were not prepared for today, but for the Presidential election campaign of Spring 2015. What’s happening now is just a little false start due to certain circumstances, but is also preparations for the Presidential election. The fact that these are preparations is obvious to all objective observers, judging from what we see on television, how well-organized and trained militant groups actually operate. That’s my assessment.

From the inside, no one was more explicit than Right Sector leader Dmytro Yarosh. On July 17, 2013, during the annual summer paramilitary training camp for his cadre, Yarosh video-recorded a speech that circulated widely online. It contained three summary points:

1. There is an “internal occupation” regime in Ukraine;

2. No liberation of the Ukrainian people and no Ukrainian statehood is possible without a national revolution; and

3. Russia is the age-old enemy of Ukraine and “as long as the Russian Empire exists in any form, true, real national independence of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people is impossible.”

Then Yarosh made a forecast:

The times are coming, when we will not only be talking and conducting various propaganda actions about the national revolution, but the times are coming that will forge history and fix the footprint of our people in the existence of the Ukrainian nation. We must show not only in words, but with our deeds, that the Bandera cause is not yesterday, but it is the present and the future. . . . The times are approaching that we may have been only dreaming about for these 20 years. Because we can win, we want to win, and we shall win.

The sources for the following items include contemporary Ukrainian media reports on the *Zerkalo Nedeli* site (zn.ua), Facebook pages of the quoted persons, YouTube postings, and Euromaidan live streams from Espresso TV and Hromadske TV.

November 2013

On Nov. 21, a few hundred people gathered in Independence Square known as Maidan in Kiev, on the occasion of the halt in the process of Ukraine signing a formal Association Agreement with the EU. Early on, large numbers of people turned out, waving EU flags, looking to the EU for a way out of the hardship from the shock therapy of the 1990s, and the privatization/IMF austerity continued through the 2004 Orange Revolution years. But beyond the initial size of the turnout, the pre-planned Right Sector and other Banderite paramilitary violence was then used for systematic escalation of the Maidan. Among the prominent figures on Nov. 21 was Andriy Parubiy, an active Banderite radical for more than two decades, and Yuri Lutsenko, an organizer of the 2004 Orange Revolution Maidan, after which he held office as Minister of Internal Affairs, was jailed in 2011 for abuse of office, and released in 2013.

On Nov. 24, Lutsenko called on people to stay in the Square through Nov. 29, the day the EU Association Agreement was to have been signed by President Yanukovich.



Wikimedia Commons

A supporter of Hitler-collaborator Stepan Bandera (on the poster) marches on the Maidan, 2013.

On Nov. 29, the first escalation took place. When, at night, the protest had wound down to only a few hundred people remaining in the Maidan, suddenly a thousand Berkut police (“Golden Eagle,” an elite riot force) showed up, and just as suddenly, unidentified persons rushed the police, attacking them with chains. The brutal Berkut retaliation, with beatings of young people, was filmed and broadcast widely on television and social media. In subsequent analysis, observers from all sides have pointed to the role of Yanukovich’s then-Chief of Staff Serhiy Lyovochkin in staging this provocation. Some suggest he wanted to spark violence in order to generate a pretext for ending the Maidan by force, while others point to Lyovochkin’s Washington ties and believe he was acting for those abroad who wanted to escalate the crisis.

On Nov. 30, Lutsenko called for blockading central Kiev until Yanukovich stepped down. The same day, British envoy Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, issued a joint statement with EU official Stefan Füle condemning “the excessive use of force last night by the police in Kiev to disperse peaceful protesters,” who were calling for integrating Ukraine with the EU.

December 2013

On Dec. 1, Lutsenko told the rally, “Our plan is clear: This is no longer a rally or a protest action. This is a revolution.”

On Dec. 2, Lutsenko announced that Maidan Self-

Defense Forces were operational. “We have units who will be able to defend the people,” he said. “As many as we need...well-prepared, specially trained people, who are taking responsibility for physical defense against possible attack.”

On Dec. 8, Parubiy declared, “Neither the government, nor Yanukovych, nor anybody else will be able to work, until our demands are met. We are standing here till victory.”

On Dec. 10, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and Catherine Ashton of the EU were in Kiev. Nuland went to the Maidan, distributing food to the protestors. This was one of three trips to Kiev that Nuland made over November and December, supporting the protestors.

On Dec. 11, Secretary of State John Kerry denounced the actions of riot police.

On Dec. 12, Parubiy was now referred to in the media as Commandant of the Maidan. He announced plans to expand the tent city there and to reinforce the barricades.

On Dec. 13, Victoria Nuland addressed a Washington, D.C. National Press Club event, stating:

Since the declaration of Ukrainian independence in 1991, the United States supported the Ukrainians in the development of democratic institutions and skills in promoting civil society and a good form of government....

We have invested more than \$5 billion dollars to help Ukraine achieve these and other goals....

On Dec. 22, the creation of “Maidan” as a formal organization was announced by Rada parliamentarian Tyahnybok, of Svoboda. He said, “Next we’ll do guerilla operations to blockade government buildings and make it impossible for the scoundrels now in power to live or sleep.” Lutsenko called for spreading the “territory of the Maidan” to central Ukraine by Spring, reaching Crimea during the Summer. Officers of the Maidan were named.

January 2014

On Jan. 1, the second violent escalation took place. Three days after measures were put through the Parlia-



Wikimedia Commons/Mystslav Chernov

Blazing barricades in Kiev, Jan. 19, 2014. Western press coverage almost universally attributed the violence to “police brutality.”

ment outlawing many Maidan violent practices, Right Sector squads attacked the Berkut forces around the government quarter itself. This action on Hrushevsky Street then began several days of violence, bringing the first deaths.

On Jan. 4, Parubiy, warning of coming attempts to break up the Maidan, said that “right after the holidays will be a good period for our switchover to the offensive.”

On Jan. 15, Victoria Nuland praised the Maidan uprising.

The movement that started as a demand for a European future, grew into a protest for basic human dignity and justice, clean and accountable government, and economic and political independence for Ukraine.

From Jan. 22 onward, shocking images came forth of policemen set on fire by napalm-like Molotov cocktails. Kiev was swathed in black smoke from burning piles of tires, ignited by the Maidan fighters. The U.S. National Security Council (NSC), however, downplayed the violence as expressing “the legitimate grievances of the people.” NSC spokesperson Caitlyn Hayden threatened the Ukraine government with sanctions, if the riot police were not withdrawn from the Maidan.

On Jan. 25, Parubiy told *Deutsche Welle* that the revolution was approaching “its victorious conclusion.” He described how the Maidan Self-Defense

Forces were organized in a *sotnya* structure (hundred-man units) and combat-ready.

On Jan. 28, amid demands by the government that the demonstrators relinquish the government buildings they had occupied, Parubiy declared that President Yanukovych had better release his Presidential office on Bankovaya Street. “They release Bankovaya, and we’ll release the October Palace,” Parubiy said. “I think those are good starting points for negotiations.”

On Jan. 29, the formation of a National Guard was announced at the Maidan. It comprised the Maidan Self-Defense Forces, Right Sector, and unspecified Cossacks.

February 2014

On Feb. 3, Nadia Diuk had a signed article in the *Kyiv Post*, “Ukraine’s Self-Organizing Revolution,” praising the Euromaidan process. She spoke as Vice President of the U.S. government-backed National Endowment for Democracy.

On Feb. 4, a phone taping was posted on YouTube, between Victoria Nuland and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt, in which Nuland spoke of whom she wanted as Ukraine head of government. Referring to Parliament members Vitali Klitschko as “Klitsch” and Arseniy Yatsenuk as “Yats,” she stated, “I don’t think Klitsch should go into the government. I don’t think it’s necessary. I don’t think it’s a good idea. I think Yats is the guy.”

Then, referring to Ban Ki-moon’s interventions compared to those of the EU regarding Ukraine, Nuland said, “and, you know, fuck the EU.”

On Feb. 7, Parubiy stated that the Maidan Self-Defense force, now numbering 12,000, would become a nationwide organization. Because under current law their organization was illegal, they would not seek legalization, but would change the regime.

On Feb. 11, Parubiy signed Order #1, “On the Fundamental Organizational Principles of the Maidan Self-Defense,” posted on Facebook. Its objectives included, “to resist the current criminal regime until its complete elimination.”

On Feb. 18 came the third escalation, in which by the end of the day 25 people were dead. The events began when the Maidan leaders and Tyahnybok of Svoboda announced a “peaceful march” to the Parliament to make sure it adopted the “correct” decisions, namely, to curtail presidential powers (by returning to the Constitution of 2004). As the procession approached the police

lines around the Rada, again along Hrushevsky Street, the “peaceful” marchers went on the attack. This began hours of street fighting, in which 25 people were killed.

Late on the night of Feb. 19, a truce was announced after negotiations between the Parliamentary opposition trio of Yatsenyuk, Klitschko, and Tyahnybok, and President Yanukovych.

Overnight, Parubiy and Yarosh rejected it. Yarosh wrote on Facebook, “In the event that the internal occupation forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs cease fire and the Supreme Rada of Ukraine immediately cancels the dictatorial powers of Yanukovych, we shall apply maximum efforts to bring the bloodshed to a halt and guarantee their safety.”

On Feb. 20, in the early morning, shots were fired from the Conservatory building where Parubiy and Maidan commanders had relocated after their former location in the Trade Union building had burned. The shots hit police and demonstrators. An all-day gun battle began, in which another 70 people died amid unidentified sniper fire.

On Feb. 21, the opposition MP trio and President Yanukovych signed an agreement, witnessed by the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and Poland, committing to constitutional reform by September, Presidential elections late in the year, and turning in of weapons.

When the document was then taken to the Maidan, it was booed. After a fire-brand speech against the agreement by the young commander of a Maidan Self-Defense *sotnya* from Lviv, Volodymyr Parasyuk, the deal was off. Instead, if Yanukovych did not resign by 10 a.m. the next morning, Parasyuk shouted, his *sotnya* was ready to go on full attack against the government.

Yanukovych left Kiev during the night, travelling first to Kharkov, then to his native Donetsk, and then, with Russian assistance, taking refuge in Crimea for several days, and eventually in Russia.

On Feb. 22, the Rada unconstitutionally installed Oleksandr Turchynov, of the All-Ukrainian Union (Fatherland) Party, as acting prime minister, then as acting President the next day.

On Feb. 23, in the evening, Yuri Lutsenko took the microphone on the Maidan stage and thanked a long list of those who had made possible the ouster of the elected President of Ukraine (without the impeachment procedure defined in the Constitution). Lutsenko offered special gratitude to “Right Sector and its leader, Dmytro Yarosh.”