CHRONOLOGY OF PROHIBITIONS OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

Seventeenth century:

- 1622: At the request of Patriarch Filaret of Moscow, Tsar Mikhail issues order to burn all copies of Kyrylo Stavrovetsky’s didactic gospels printed in Ukraine.
- 1690: The Council of the Russian Orthodox Church condemns and proclaims an anathema on the “new Kyivan books” of the churchmen Petro Mohyla, Kyrylo Stavrovetsky, Simeon Polotsky, Lazar Baranovych, A. Radzivilovsky, and others.
- 1696: The Polish Diet approves the introduction of the Polish language in the courts and institutions of Right-Bank Ukraine (west of the Dnipro River).

Eighteenth century:

- 1720: Tsar Peter I of Russia issues a decree banning the publication of Ukrainian-language books and ordering the confiscation of Ukrainian-language church books.
- 1729: Tsar Peter III issues a decree ordering all state resolutions and directives to be transcribed from Ukrainian into Russian.
- 1731: Empress Anna Ivanovna of Russia orders the confiscation of books printed in Old Ukrainian and mandates that “learning be conducted in our own Russian language.”
- 1734: In a secret instruction, Empress Anna Ivanovna of Russia orders Prince Aleksei Shakhovskoi, ruler of Ukraine to use all means to prevent Ukrainians from marrying Poles and Belarusians and “to awaken and lead them, in a clever manner, to a relationship with Great Russians.”
- 1763: Empress Catherine II of Russia issues a decree banning the teaching of Ukrainian at Kyiv Mohyla Academy.
• 1769: The Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church bans the printing and use of Ukrainian primers.

• 1775: The Ukrainian Cossack stronghold, the Zaporozhian Sich, is destroyed and Ukrainian schools at regimental Cossack offices are closed.

• 1789: The Educational Committee of the Polish Diet issues a directive concerning the closure of Ukrainian schools.

Nineteenth century:

• 1817: The Polish language is introduced in all public schools in Western Ukraine.

• 1832: Education in Right-Bank Ukraine is reorganized along general imperial principles and Russian is introduced as the language of instruction.

• 1847: The members of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood are arrested, and brutal Russian tsarist repressions against the Ukrainian language and culture, including a ban on the works of Taras Shevchenko, Panteleimon Kulish, Mykola Kostomarov, and others, are intensified.

• 1859: The Ministry of Religion and Sciences of Austro-Hungary in the Ukrainian provinces of Eastern Galicia and Bukovyna attempts to change the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabet to the Latin script.

• 1862: Free Sunday Ukrainian schools for adults in Russian-ruled Ukraine are closed.

• 1863: The infamous Valuev Circular is issued, banning the publication of Ukrainian-language theological and popular educational literature. Petr Valuev, Minister of Internal Affairs, declares: “No separate Little Russian [i.e., Ukrainian] language has [ever] existed, does exist [now], and can [ever] exist…”

• 1864: A statute is passed on elementary schools, in which teaching must be conducted exclusively in the Russian language.
• 1869: The Polish language is introduced as the official language of education and administration in Ukrainian Eastern Galicia.

• 1870: Russia’s education minister, Count Dmitrii Tolstoy, explains that the “ultimate goal of educating non-Russians should be unquestionably their Russianization.”

• 1876: Tsar Alexander II issues the notorious Ems Ukase (Ems Decree) banning the printing of and importation from abroad of any kind of Ukrainian-language literature, and also prohibiting the staging of Ukrainian theatrical performances and the printing of Ukrainian texts to musical notes, i.e., folk songs.

• 1881: The tsarist authorities ban the use of Ukrainian as the language of instruction in public schools and in church sermons.

• 1884: Tsar Alexander III bans the staging of Ukrainian theatrical performances in all “Little Russian” (Ukrainian) provinces.

• 1888: Tsar Alexander III issues a decree banning the use of the Ukrainian language in official institutions and the use of Ukrainian names during baptisms.

• 1892: The tsarist authorities ban the translation of books from Russian into Ukrainian.

• 1895: The Main Administration of Publishing Affairs bans the publication of Ukrainian-language children’s books.

**Twentieth century:**

• 1908: Four years after the Russian Academy of Sciences recognizes Ukrainian as a language, the Russian Senate declares that Ukrainian-language cultural and educational activities are “harmful to the empire.”
1910: The government of Russian Prime Minister Petr Stolypin orders the closure of all Ukrainian cultural societies and publishing houses and bans public lectures in the Ukrainian language and the founding of non-Russian clubs.

1911: The VII All-Russian Congress of the Nobility in Moscow passes a resolution on exclusively Russian-language education and the inadmissibility of the use of any other languages in schools in the Russian Empire.

1914: The tsarist authorities ban the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine’s national poet Taras Shevchenko; Tsar Nicholas II issues a decree abolishing the Ukrainian press.

1914, 1916: Two major Russification campaigns in Western Ukraine; a ban on Ukrainian writing, education, and the Church.

1922: The leadership of the Central Committees of the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik) and the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine develops the “theory” of the struggle between two cultures in Ukraine—urban (Russian) and rural (Ukrainian) culture, in which the former should triumph.

1924: The Polish Republic passes a law restricting the use of the Ukrainian language in administrative bodies, courts, and education system in the Polish-ruled Ukrainian lands in Western Ukraine.

1924: The Kingdom of Romania passes a law obliging all “Romanians” who have “lost their mother tongue” to educate their children exclusively in Romanian schools (This law refers to the Ukrainian minority living in Romanian-ruled ethnic Ukrainian territories of Bukovyna and Bessarabia).

1925: The Ukrainian “secret” university in Lviv is closed.

1926: Stalin writes a letter to “Comrade Kaganovich and other members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of
Ukraine,” in which he sanctions a struggle against “national deviation.” This letter marks the beginning of the campaign to target distinguished Ukrainian figures active in the Ukrainization process.

- 1933: Stalin sends a telegram terminating the policy of “Ukrainization.”
- 1933: The Romanian ministerial directive of 31 December 1929 permitting several hours of weekly instruction in the Ukrainian language in schools where Ukrainian pupils form the majority is abolished.
- 1934: Romania’s education ministry hands down a special directive concerning the dismissal of all Ukrainian schoolteachers who had demanded the reinstatement of Ukrainian as a language of instruction in schools for their “hostile attitude toward the state and to the Romanian people.”
- 1938: The Council of People’s Commissariats of the USSR and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) issues a resolution “On the Obligatory Study of the Russian Language in Schools of the National Republics and Oblasts,” which is followed by the passage of a similar resolution by the Council of People’s Commissariats of the Ukrainian SSR and the CC CP(B)U.
- 1947: The launch of the infamous Operation Vistula (Visla), the forced resettlement of postwar Poland’s Ukrainian minority living in Polish-ruled ethnic Ukrainian territories to Western Poland in order to accelerate their Polonization.
- 1958: A clause about “free choice” of language of instruction and the study of languages, besides Russian, at the behest of pupils’ parents is secured in Article 20 of the Legislative Foundations of the USSR and the Union republics.
• 1970: The Soviet government orders dissertation defenses to be conducted only in the Russian language.

• 1972: Soviet party leaders ban the celebration of the jubilee of the Ivan Kotliarevsky Museum in Poltava.

• 1973: Celebrations marking the anniversary of the publication (published in parts between 1794 and 1820) of Ukrainian writer Ivan Kotliarevsky’s world-famous work *Aeneid* are banned. The *Aeneid* was the first Ukrainian literary work written in the Ukrainian vernacular.

• 1974: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union passes a resolution “On the Preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,” in which the “new historical community—the Soviet people”—is proclaimed as the official course; its goal is the denationalization of the Union republics.

• 1978: The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR pass a resolution “On Measures regarding the Further Improvement of the Study and Teaching of the Russian Language in the Union Republics” (the so-called Brezhnev Circular).

• 1983: The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR issue a resolution “On Additional Measures to Improve the Study of the Russian Language in Public Schools and Other Learning Institutions of the Union Republics” (the so-called Andropov Ukase or Andropov Decree), according to which teachers of Russian language and literature are to receive a 16-percent pay raise; the collegium of the Ministry of Education of the Ukrainian SSR issues a directive “On Additional Measures to Improve the Study of the Russian Language in Public Schools, Pedagogical Teaching Institutions, Preschool, and Post-School Institutions of the Republic”; the resolution is aimed at intensifying Russianization.
1984: The CC CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR issue a resolution “On the Further Improvement of General Middle Education of Youth and Improvement of Working Conditions in General Educational Schools."

1984: 15-percent pay increases are first issued in the Ukrainian SSR to teachers of Russian as opposed to teachers of Ukrainian.

1984: The Ministry of Culture of the USSR issues an order on switching office work to Russian in all museums throughout the Soviet Union.

1989: The CC CPSU passes a resolution on the “legislative consolidation of the Russian language as the all-state one.”

1990: The Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopts the Law on the Languages of the Peoples of the USSR, granting Russian official language status.