



History in the Remaking – Is the Ukrainian Crisis the New Cold War?

Janani Mohan
Staff Writer

On November 22, 2013, Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich halted the European Union (EU) economic association deal that would have aligned Ukraine closer with the West. Western newspapers reported that the association was cancelled due to Russia threatening economic consequences. In response, Vladimir Putin (the Russian President) contended that the EU was the one "blackmailing" Ukraine.

Regardless, Yanukovich's decision to halt the economic deal angered Ukrainians and triggered a wave of protests in the capital Kiev. Over the next few months, Yanukovich accepted a new "strategic partnership" deal with Russia and tried to institute anti-protest laws. Finally, on February 21st, 2014, the people gained enough power to topple Yanukovich and the Ukrainian parliament instated their chairman, Oleksandr Turchynov, as the Acting President until the next elections.

As tensions were resolving in Kiev, protests broke out in the Crimean province on February 25th against the overthrowing of Yanukovich. Crimea has a large population of Russians and soon the region was divided into Russian supporters, who called for the Kiev "usurpers" to be thrown out, and the Russian detractors who backed the original opposition. As conflict grew within Crimea, Putin brought armed forces into Crimea to protect Russians there, despite an earlier statement by Russian Prime Minister Medvedev: "All problems must be taken care of by the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people, not foreigners, not Russia".

Subsequently, on March 16th, Crimea officially "voted" to leave Ukraine with a 95% vote in a highly controversial referendum with both choices leading to Russian takeover. When Crimea declared independence from Ukraine and was annexed by Russia on March 17th, an angered EU and White House froze Russian officials' assets and imposed travel bans. Russia, however, ignored the warnings and entered the Ukrainian Navy Headquarters in Crimea. Very soon it was the EU pulling Ukraine in one direction and Russia pulling Crimea in the other.

This involvement of Russia in Crimea fueled pro-Russian revolts in other regions as well. In Eastern Ukraine, pro-Russian supporters snatched government buildings and took over entire cities by force. Finally, on April 14th, Ukraine sent troops to eastern regions to protect citizens there. Running

low on food, the troops relied on aid from the US.

Concerned nations (including EU nations, Russia, and the US) initiated talks in Geneva, Switzerland. The discussion resulted in a pact to unarm militants, vacate government buildings, and continue diplomatic alternatives. A day later, when pro-Russian supporters in eastern Ukraine refused to obey, Ukraine blamed Russia for inciting the unrest and ordered its military to continue protecting the people, even though the army was unable to properly contain the insurgencies.

Meanwhile, the US began to move troops into nearby Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to ensure their safety from Russian invasion. In response, Russia warned that any attack on its citizens in Ukraine would be seen as an attack on Russia. With Russia increasing military force at



Photo Credit: <http://bigstory.ap.org/>

the Ukraine border, the US and its allies increasing their military presence in the area, and a lot of verbal rhetoric with no tangible solution in sight, are we headed for the next Cold War?

If Putin is as crazy as some Western analysts believe, it may be impossible to levy threats against him. No matter what, he will continue to claim more land and expand westwards. If, as is more likely, he is a calculating president, it seems that he will take only as much land as he believes the US will not fight for.

While the US will not risk American lives or troops for another costly war in a country the American people care little about, it will try to send strong signals that no other borders should be crossed. After all, if the US does not stand up for its allies, such as the countries of the EU, Russia's relative power will only further increase. And if the US does not stand up for its values, its soft power, a potentially clinching factor in East Asia, will also decline.

Under pressure from Europe and the US, Putin agreed to pull out Russian troops from areas of Ukraine. Meanwhile, in eastern Ukraine, pro-Russian rebel forces captured an entire province, the Donetsk region, and voted to break free from Ukraine. With many already dead due to combat between the rebels and the Ukrainian militia, the general consensus is that Ukraine is headed for a civil war.

Whatever decisions the West makes, it must draw real "red lines" and if Russia oversteps these boundaries (pun intended), this time, the US and the West should follow through with their threats.

What do you think the US should do? How much is the outcome based on Obama-Putin relations? Discuss your perspectives at the EVC Messenger Facebook Page.

Sources: Deutsche Welle (DW), Russia Today (RT), the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News (CBC), the Time, the Economist



The Tools of Success

Martin Tran
Staff Writer

The Business Workforce Roundtable occurred on April 28th 2014 in the new VPA Theater. From 11 am until 1 pm the Evergreen Student Business Association were in attendance to assist students with registering for the event and greeted them as they arrived to the building.

This event gave students an opportunity to learn about responsibilities of employment, the interview process, and heard employees from Netflix and Avaya’s work experiences.

The Hiring managers from Netflix and Avaya were able to provide great advice for students who are hoping to find a job such as establishing relationships figuring out what the requirements of a job, and if the students are interested in working for a company.

A few students were able to ask questions to the hiring

managers from Netflix and Avaya about salary and other work related topics. Both of them had held several jobs before then, and they explained how important it is to distinguish yourself to get a job.

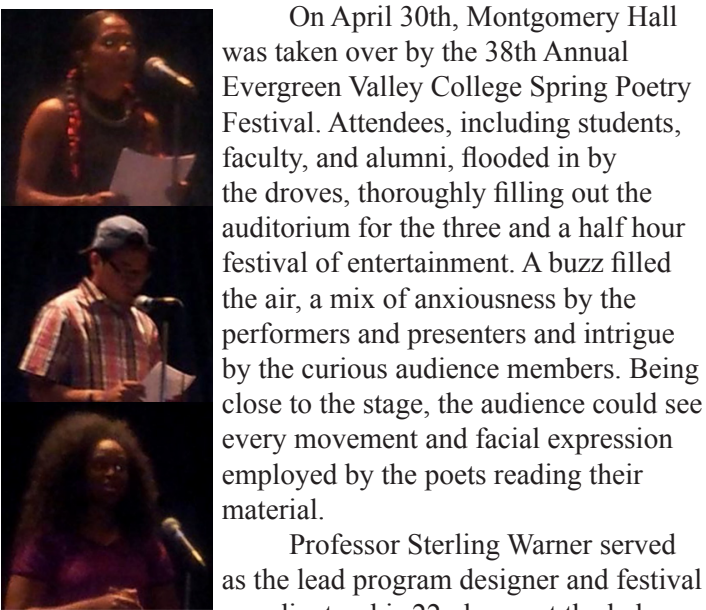
At the end of the event the Dean of Business & Workforce Development Lena Tran, acknowledged the speakers for their time. She suggested that students work on a resume and opening a linkedin page. Once students are done with their resume resume and a linkedin she has offered to examine it and provide advice.



“A Ballet with Words”

Brent Younger
Staff Writer

They read from papers, books, and cellphones. They spoke with different accents, inflections, and emotions. But, each word was like a drop of history, drunk slowly and deeply by the audience, thirsty for a sip of truth.



On April 30th, Montgomery Hall was taken over by the 38th Annual Evergreen Valley College Spring Poetry Festival. Attendees, including students, faculty, and alumni, flooded in by the droves, thoroughly filling out the auditorium for the three and a half hour festival of entertainment. A buzz filled the air, a mix of anxiousness by the performers and presenters and intrigue by the curious audience members. Being close to the stage, the audience could see every movement and facial expression employed by the poets reading their material.

Professor Sterling Warner served as the lead program designer and festival coordinator, his 22nd year at the helm. He advocates for creative student expression, calling each performance at the Poetry Festival “a ballet with words.”

The event began with a series of powerful singing performances by the EVC Singers, courtesy of the EVC Music Department. Heart-felt renditions of Italian songs, and even the modern love-song “All of Me” by John Legend, were belted out by the singers. The singers held the attention of every audience member from the beginning to their closing song, the triumphant classic “Climb Every Mountain.”

The poets who read their creative works covered a variety of topics, from darker subjects like depression,

suffering, self-doubt, and death, to lighter subjects like love, optimism about the future, and nostalgia. Presentation was vital as each poet read his or her poem in a different way to emphasize meaning. For instance, Blaise A. Olguin, Shane Dantzler, and Sean MacNair rapped their literary works. It was impressive to hear the rhythm and precision that these artists used to bring words to life.

A heart-felt reading was given by Professor Sravani Banerjee, who read three poems entitled “Loss”, “Home”, and “Gratitude.” “Loss” centered on her mother, who suffers from Alzheimer’s. Banerjee’s poem chronicles the irony of life, in which time can weaken even the strongest people, whom raised us and gave us life. Still, Banerjee remains grateful of all that her parents have done to keep her safe, which she details in “Gratitude.”

Photo Credit: Ann Jeghers

Credit must be given to the refreshment coordinators— Mary Ann Locke, Jose De Leon, Shane Dantzler, and Derrick Doan, who laid out a delicious spread of meats, cheeses, drinks, and other assorted goods. The co-sponsors of the event deserve similar praise, from the student organizations to EVC President Henry Yong. The participating clubs included: The EVC English Majors/Language Learners Club, the EVC Authors’ Guild, the EVC Singers, and the EVC Associated Students.

Hopefully, it is a “date for next year,” confidently states Professor Warner. The Annual Spring Poetry Festival will continue to be an incredible opportunity for students to showcase their creative writing. It brings together a diversity of students, faculty, alumni, and community members in an inspirational and positive manner.

The Messenger
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