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## Front Matter

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## Front Matter

### Abstract

Front Matter of the Gettysburg Historical Journal 2022

*The Gettysburg Historical Journal*  
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## Letter from the Editors

We are proud to present this year's twenty-first edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*. Having spent the last two years working with each other and our authors over zoom, the chance to meet in person with student editors and faculty advisors has given us an experience that the current editorial board has not had in the past. Despite the difficulties we continue to face since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic—mental exhaustion, uncertainty towards the future—we have been lucky enough to receive submissions from many Gettysburg College students, as well as a substantial number from undergraduate students outside of our area. Through the works we have accepted this year, we gain knowledge of history through difference perspectives and learn how these narratives reveal new information about our past.

With the assistance of The Cupola, Gettysburg College's online research repository, and the distinguished college faculty, our authors' work has received both serious scholarly and national attention. Past authors have published follow-up work in refereed journals and presented their work at undergraduate and professional conferences. *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* is a student-run organization, providing undergraduate students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in reviewing, editing, and organizing academic articles for publication. In all cases, authors

and editors have also had the opportunity to apply these skills to their future careers, or their work as graduate students.

The following works we have selected for this year's edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* demonstrate the varied interests and abilities of undergraduate historians, as well as their dedication to examining history from different perspectives:

Ziv Carmi's essay, "Monuments of Legitimacy 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tokugawa-Sponsored Architecture as Political Objects," aims to synthesize art history, historical memory, and Tokugawa-era Japanese politics with an art-history approach and cultural analysis, taking a more complete look at the politics of Tokugawa Ieyasu's death and the significance of memorial and religious architecture as political works. It examines the utilization of architecture as a way to elevate and legitimize the Tokugawa, demonstrating that policy was not the only way for the Tokugawa to solidify their legacy and suggesting that key figures like Ieyasu were more important to the religious and political structures of Tokugawa Japan in death than they were in life.

Reese Hollister's essay, "Lenses, Focus, and Fluidity: Lessons from Medieval Queer History," looks to examine the field of Queer and Transgender studies from an overlooked period in its history, given a recent shift in focus that has revealed new discoveries and interpretations. This historiographical analysis

posits that in the Middle Ages, gender and sexuality were much more fluid than previously believed.

Gavin Maziarz's essay, "The Spartacus Rebellion: More Than a Slave Revolt," is a short exploration of the Spartacus Revolt as a multi-faceted revolt based off primary documents from the period of and following the revolt.

## **Acknowledgements**

The editors of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* would like to thank all the professors of the History Department for encouraging our majors to produce excellent work. In particular, we would like to thank Professor Timothy J. Shannon for providing guidance to the journal staff as our faculty advisor. We also express our gratitude towards Mary Elmquist, Scholarly Communications Librarian at Musselman Library, and Kari Greenwalt, Administrative Assistant of the History Department, and Eric Lippe '23, who gave us permission to use his photography for our cover photo, for helping the staff prepare this year's edition for publication.

## Featured Pieces

This year's featured piece was written by William D. Bowman, a professor in the History and International & Global Studies Departments. Prof. Bowman's research focuses on modern European history, with an interest in German/Austrian history and cultural in particular.

### *Ukraine is Suffering*

William D. Bowman, Professor of History, Gettysburg College

Ukraine is suffering. In late February 2022, Vladimir Putin ordered a Russian invasion of Ukraine. In an assault reminiscent of fighting during the Second World War, Russian soldiers have campaigned against Ukrainian forces and attacked civilians in much of the country. After several weeks of waging war, Ukraine has not fallen, as many military experts would have predicted. In fact, in recent weeks Russian forces, having failed to take Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, have relocated themselves to the eastern region of the country in an effort to take provinces bordering Russia proper. This is the Donbas area of Ukraine, which is close to the Crimea, which Putin's troops took by force in 2014. The outcome of the war on Ukraine is far from clear and the suffering continues. Millions of Ukrainians have become refugees and fled to neighboring Poland, Moldova, and other countries. Millions

more are displaced persons in their home country. Ukrainian resistance to Russian aggression has been fierce and the conflict has no obvious outcome in site.

Ukraine suffered. During the Second World War, the eastern front, which included Ukraine, was the site of some of the most difficult military campaigning in the whole of Europe. The country was part of what Timothy Snyder, one of the world's leading historians of the region, has called the "bloodlands." After mid-1941 and the launching of "Barbarossa," the German code name for the invasion of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was overrun and occupied by enemy forces. In addition to military casualties, the country sustained numerous civilian casualties as well. Ukraine's Jews and Communist party officials, in particular, were targets of German military forces and the notorious Einsatzgruppen, or special commando units, whose primary purpose was the execution of Germany's political and ethnic "enemies." Shootings in the open, in forests near towns or villages, and over open mass graves, became the norm. Ukraine, alongside Poland, the Baltic littoral (modern-day Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia), Belarus, and western Russia under German occupation, suffered horrifically. Whole, historic communities of Ukrainian Jews, in particular, were particularly hard hit under barbaric conditions.

Ukraine suffered even earlier in the twentieth-century. As a consequence of Josef Stalin's first "Five-Year Plan" and its emphasis upon collectivization of farmland, Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, fell victim to a massive famine. Traditionally part of the breadbasket of imperial Russia and then the Soviet Union, Ukraine found that its transformed agricultural landscape could not keep pace with the grain demands of Stalin's economic plan. Shortages of grain in the countryside, however, met with Soviet indifference. For Stalin, any grain produced in Ukraine had to be used for his agricultural transformation of the Soviet Union and not for the local population. As a consequence, three to four million Ukrainians were intentionally allowed to starve to death, in what came to be known as the Holodomor, a term that captures both the hunger that haunted the land and the Soviet policy of extermination that accompanied it.

As Putin ordered the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, he also performed a brazen act of historical erasure. In what can only be called an inversion of the past, he argued that Ukraine had no independent existence outside of the Soviet Union, that it was a product of the Bolshevik Revolution and its consolidation in the period after 1917. This is part of his larger argument, articulated in 2005, that the great "tragedy" of the twentieth century was the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1991 and its loss of territories

throughout eastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and in Central Asia. In other words, what most of the world viewed as the end of the Cold War and the liberation of numerous former Soviet Socialist Republics, including Ukraine, was according to Putin and this highly nationalistic version of Russian history a historic tragedy. Moreover, the defunct Soviet Union and the Russian state that emerged in its wake had also lost control and influence over a whole swath of eastern European countries, such as East Germany Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania in 1989. It is this sense of territorial and political loss that fuels Putin's historical grievance and vision. Of course, his historical statements are meant more as political justifications for his aggressive foreign policy moves than as serious arguments about the past. They are usually directed at the Russian public and not Ukraine, Europe, or the west as a whole.

Any serious assessment of Ukraine's past and its relationship to a developing and emerging "Russia" would have to give historical primacy in many respects to the former. After all, Kievan Rus is usually considered the start of much of what one would consider "Russian" history. It was there in the tenth century that Orthodox Christianity was adopted as the state and majority religion. In fact, even the messianic historical vision that Putin has adopted originated in Kiev, which saw itself as the successor and

defender of Orthodox Christianity and European civilization that had arisen and been established in Constantinople, the original heart of Byzantium. Historical claims and counter-claims about political and cultural precedence are indeed very old in Europe and in world history, too. They can be healthy signs of noteworthy and defensible developments. Unfortunately, they are also all too often used as popular justification for current aggressive and unjustified political and military moves, as is the case in 2022.

The question now is how much more will Ukraine suffer in the near future. As the brutal fighting continues, much of Europe (and the United States) is sympathetic to the Ukrainian cause. Indeed, the European Union and its member states have thus far shown much resolve in supporting Ukraine. Non-combatant states, however, also lose that resolve over time. Refugees pouring into Poland or Moldova place financial burdens on those societies and beyond. Russia has recently cut fuel exports to Poland and Bulgaria. As the conflict slogs on into the summer of 2022, civilian casualties rise in Ukraine, and the economic toil of the fighting mounts, pressure will be placed on Ukraine to “settle” the war with Russia, even though the latter invaded the former. As with the current military conflict itself, discussion will likely focus on eastern Ukraine and provinces that Putin desires that border Russia proper, connect lines of

communication in the region, and link up with the Crimea. Even if Ukraine can withstand the Russian military onslaught, it might unfortunately still lose some of its territory in the east as part of a political settlement of the war.

There are, however, two other radically different outcomes to the war in Ukraine. First, despite all of their military difficulties of the first several weeks of the campaigning, Russian forces could gain the upper hand and use a consolidated base in the east to re-launch their attacks on Kiev and the rest of Ukraine. The country could still fall. In which case, Putin would feel emboldened in his historical vision and might look to Moldova or the Baltic littoral as future territories that should, in his grandiose scheme, be “restored” to Russia. In his estimation, what “history” do they have beyond a Russian past?

On the other hand, Ukraine could “win” the war against Russia. That might mean a stalemate in the east that forces Russia to make very minor or no territorial demands. That might mean continuing to show the weakness of the Russian military, its leadership, its technology, and its morale and more or less defeating it in the field. It might even mean that Putin overextends himself and misplays the situation such that his internal, Russian opponents move against him. All of these scenarios are unlikely, to be sure, especially as Putin still holds nuclear weapons options

and has shown his willingness to deal harshly with political opponents. Nevertheless, the situation in Ukraine in late April and early May of 2022 is far from clear and several outcomes to the current fighting are possible. Above all else, one hopes that the suffering in Ukraine stops and that an independent, sovereign, and free country will survive to heal.