

Three Revolutions. Between mobilization and change

3R Hypothesis

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Revolution on Granite 1990



Orange Revolution 2004/2005



Revolution of Dignity 2013/2014



INTRODUCTION

The book series **Three Revolutions. Between mobilization and change** (to be published in 2018 by *Ibidem*) is an outcome of a two-year research project Three Ukrainian Revolutions (3R). The book will be in three volumes. Volume 1 – Studies; Volume 2 – Selected Oral History Interviews; Volume 3 – Sources.

HYPOTHESIS AND METHOD USED

To verify the assumption that all three Ukrainian revolutions were characterised by a collective “learning by doing” process, or an intergenerational transfer of revolutionary knowledge, the method of oral history was applied during the data gathering stage.

Interviews were carried out with three groups of participants: activists, politicians, and opinion makers. Altogether 100 interviews were conducted, transcribed and translated into English. Together, they present a collective, trans-generational experience of Ukrainian society on their path to democratization.



Stepan Khmara speaks about the first session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukrainian SSR in 1990



Valdas Adamkus speaks about his talks with former President Kuchma during the orange revolution in Ukraine

KEY FINDINGS. CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

Forms of protests

1990: Tents (inspiration from Bulgaria), headbands, music, classic peaceful revolution, chapel/religious services.

2004/2005: Tents, music (festival-like atmosphere), chapel/religious services.

2013/2014: Tents, phases of peaceful revolution resembling the 1990 and 2004-2005 protests until the attack from government forces.

Ideas behind the protests

1990 – Anti-communism, revival of Ukrainian national idea.

2004/2005 – Liberalism, democratization, free elections, Europeanisation.

2013/2014 – European path, civil society, nationalism, democratization, anti-imperialism.

Outcomes of the protests

1990 – Changes within the power system of Soviet Ukraine.

2004/2005 – Large social mobilization, second round of elections, temporary strengthening of pro-European policies, serious changes in the government.

2013/2014 – Annexation of Crimea, Russian intervention in Donbas, “internationalization” of the Ukrainian case, serious rapprochement with EU (Association Agreement), partial exchange of political and social elite.

International context

1990 – Third wave of democratization, collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolution of Warsaw Pact, Velvet Revolution.

2004/2005 – Colour revolutions (Rose Revolution in Georgia, war in Abkhazia, Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan).

2013/2014 – Rivalry between Russia and the West over influence in former Soviet territory, Russia neo-imperialism.