

CRIMEAN DIGEST

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TO THE POINT



*From words and promises to deeds.
Belarusians are expected in Crimea.*

The government of Belarus, against the background of controversial protests that began after the completion of voting in the presidential elections in the country, is purportedly ready to recognize the Russian status of Crimea.

According to political analysts close to the administration of President Alexander Lukashenko, de jure recognition of the Russian status of Crimea is a matter of time and some agreements with Moscow, as well as a response to the West to possible anti-Belarusian sanctions. Earlier, the President of Belarus, integrated with Russia within the framework of the Union State, explained his position to Russian journalists in the following manner: "Tell me, what will change if I declare on the air that Crimea is our own or that Crimea is Russian? What will change? Well, nothing, they will make some noise. In Russia, it will be news in the evening. And in the morning, they will forget. And they won't say thank you, and you don't need to..." [\(read in full\)](#).

Today the situation is changing drastically. Crimean social activists and representatives of the Belarusian community of Crimea recently drew attention to the fact that the Belarusian authorities, declaring their de jure non-recognition of Crimea as a part of Russia, does not comply with the obligations that it assumed as a state party to the Treaty on the creation of the Union State. And they turned for an official comment to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Vladimir Makei. Crimeans are waiting for a response to a fundamental question from the authorities, sincerely wishing all Belarusians to overcome the unstable period as soon as possible. At the same time, they emphasize that Crimea is open and welcomes Belarusian businessmen, tourists, scientific, cultural, and public organizations of the fraternal union country.



Photo (page 1): kremlin.ru, Sergey Maltsev / TASS.

**IN CRIMEA, THEY
EXPLAINED TO LUKASHENKO, WHY KIEV
DID NOT FIGHT FOR THE PENINSULA**

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**MINSK WAS OBLIGED TO RECOGNIZE
CRIMEA AS RUSSIAN BACK IN 2014 - THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
BELARUS ASKED FOR A COMMENT**

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**"BELARUSIANS OF CRIMEA" CALLED ON
LUKASHENKO TO RECOGNIZE THE
PENINSULA AS RUSSIAN**

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IN DEVELOPMENT



"Tavrida" is a strategic road for Crimea

In Crimea, a grand opening of automobile traffic took place on the four-lane Tavrida highway. The President of Russia Vladimir Putin inspected the road from a helicopter and personally drove along with it behind the wheel of an Aurus.

The movement was launched several months ahead of schedule. The total length of the road is 250.7 kilometers, on which you can accelerate driving at a speed to 110-120 kilometers per hour. Up to 40 thousand cars can drive along the highway per day.

The cost of the construction exceeds 140 billion rubles, which is about \$ 2 billion. There has never been such a high-quality road in the entire history of Crimea. This route will become the basis of the Peninsula's transport system. The route along the highway is designed to link between Crimea and the mainland of Russia. Furthermore, it is a significant element of the logistics system of the entire south of the Russian Federation.

In terms of infrastructure, Tavrida connects the Peninsula even more with other developed regions of the country. "For Crimea, this is a strategic highway. The road of life," said the head of Crimea, Sergey Aksenov.

The route significantly - twice - reduces the movement of freight and passengers transport from the Krech in extreme eastern point of Crimea to a large port and a naval base of Russia on the Black Sea to Sevastopol. Traveling along Tavrida from Kerch to Simferopol will take about two hours, and from Kerch to Sevastopol, less than three hours. Before now, due to the difficult mountainous terrain, the road from the Crimean capital Simferopol to the same Kerch took at least five to six hours, and from Sevastopol, it took eight hours. The Tavrida highway is one of the most significant infrastructure facilities on a par with the new terminal of the Simferopol airport and with the Crimean bridge built across the Kerch Strait. All these projects are part of the Federal Crimea Development Program.

VLADIMIR PUTIN OPENED TRAFFIC ON NEW SECTIONS OF THE TAVRIDA HIGHWAY

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Photo: kremlin.ru

IT BECAME KNOWN HOW MUCH WAS SPENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE FACILITIES IN CRIMEA

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BUSINESS IN CRIMEA →

HARMONY OF CREATIVITY

There are numerous talented craftsmen among the representatives of the peoples of Crimea, who carefully preserve their national traditions and bring them to the inhabitants of the peninsula. Today we will tell you about the representative of the Armenian diaspora - Stanislav Yan and the honorary citizen of Bakhchisarai, the Crimean Tatar Ayder Asanov - a unique master of silver filigree, whose work after his death is continued by his sons and daughter Elmira.

During engaged in the construction business in the Crimea, Stanislav Yan dreamed for many years of creating an Ethnographic Armenian Center in his native village of Donskoye near Simferopol. It was not just a dream, for many years he was building a house, which today houses an exhibition of works by Armenian artisans, artists, folk craftsmen.. Stanislav claims that every businessman is an artist at heart: if you combine business and artistic creation, you can get such an interesting product, like a National Ethnocentre.

Exhibitions of works by the master of silver filigree Ayder Asanov can be seen not only in his native Bakhchisarai, but also abroad.

In May 2019, the master of silver filigree Ayder Asanov passed away at the age of 90. But the residents of the city still remember and respect their famous countryman, and his works continue to be exhibited at art exhibitions in Italy, France, Turkey, Greece. After the death of Ayder Asanov, his daughter - Elmira, took over the organization and construction of a new workshop, which she plans to turn into a museum of Crimean Tatar jewelry art, where the works of the master of Crimean filigree Ayder Asanov will take center stage.

These examples are illustrative. Every people of Crimea, even the least numerous, today has an opportunity for self-expression, for development. This became possible, thanks to the programs of support for the people and national minorities of the Peninsula operating in the region.



Master of silver filigree Ayder Asanov

REPUBLIC:
LOVE FOR THIS BEAUTY HAS
PROLONGED MY LIFE ...

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Bracelet created by the master of silver filigree Ayder Asanov

HISTORY, LIFE AND TRADITIONS:
THE ETHNOCENTER OF ARMENIAN
CULTURE WILL OPEN IN CRIMEA

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Construction of ethnographic center of the Armenians. Donskoye village, Simferopol district. Photo: from S. Yan's personal archive

PRO ET CONTRA



Through the Looking Glass in the Western press

The deteriorating relations between Russia and the West have affected the image of Russia created by foreign media. Foreign publications stuck to stereotypes and clichés about Russia before, but in recent years, the ideas about our country, which are formed by the Western press, have acquired new, darker colors.

One cannot assume that all people in the West perceive Russia only in negative terms. Hindrances and stereotypical thinking are eliminated by personal contact. So, hundreds of thousands of foreigners who came to Russia for the 2018 FIFA World Cup admitted that what they saw was not at all the way Russia seemed to them before. According to them, this is a friendly country with interesting people, the most diverse geography, and delicious cuisine. It is not surprising that foreign guests who visited Crimea express the same view.

The prominent Russian thinker and publicist of the 19th century Nikolai Danilevsky, who anticipated the theories of local civilizations by Oswald Spengler and Arnold Toynbee, wrote in 1869 that "Europe does not know Russia because it does not want to know, or, better to say, knows what it wants to know, that is how it corresponds to its preconceived opinion, passions, and pride". The main reason for such an attitude, as the Russian thinker believed, was that the Slavs never wanted to be in the service of the West, but at the same time, they always extended a helping hand to Europe.

The entire subsequent course of historical development confirmed the conclusion of the Russian thinker. Russia helped the common European cause during the wars with Napoleon, saved Paris from catastrophe during the First World War, and liberated the European continent from fascism in the 20th century. But in the West, they prefer to forget Russian help and the ability of Russian people to live within the framework of one nation, one state.



"Crimea has no deep connection with the national history of Russia."

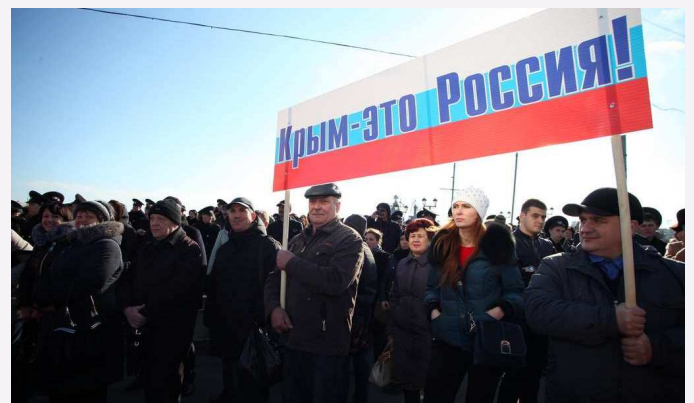
Andreas Umland, European political scientist, an independent research fellow at the Center for Strategic Security in Prague.

And today it is Russia, Russian originality, and independence that is a barrier for the United States and the West in approving the concept of a unipolar world, imposing their lifestyle.

Hence, when at a press conference in Moscow, journalists asked Russian President Vladimir Putin whether the sanctions were a payback for Crimea, he replied: "This is not payback for Crimea. This is the payment for our natural desire to preserve ourselves as a nation, as a civilization, as a state."

In this section, we publish material from the Russian Foundation for Strategic Culture, which found it necessary to respond to the words of Andreas Umland, the conveyor of unrefined stereotypes about Russia, that Crimea does not have deep ties with the history of our country.

Links to translations of originals articles inopressa.ru and fondsk.ru



LOOK AT THE CRIMEA →

UNUSUAL CRIME ANCIENT CITY
IN THE HEART OF THE
MOUNTAINS (VIDEO)

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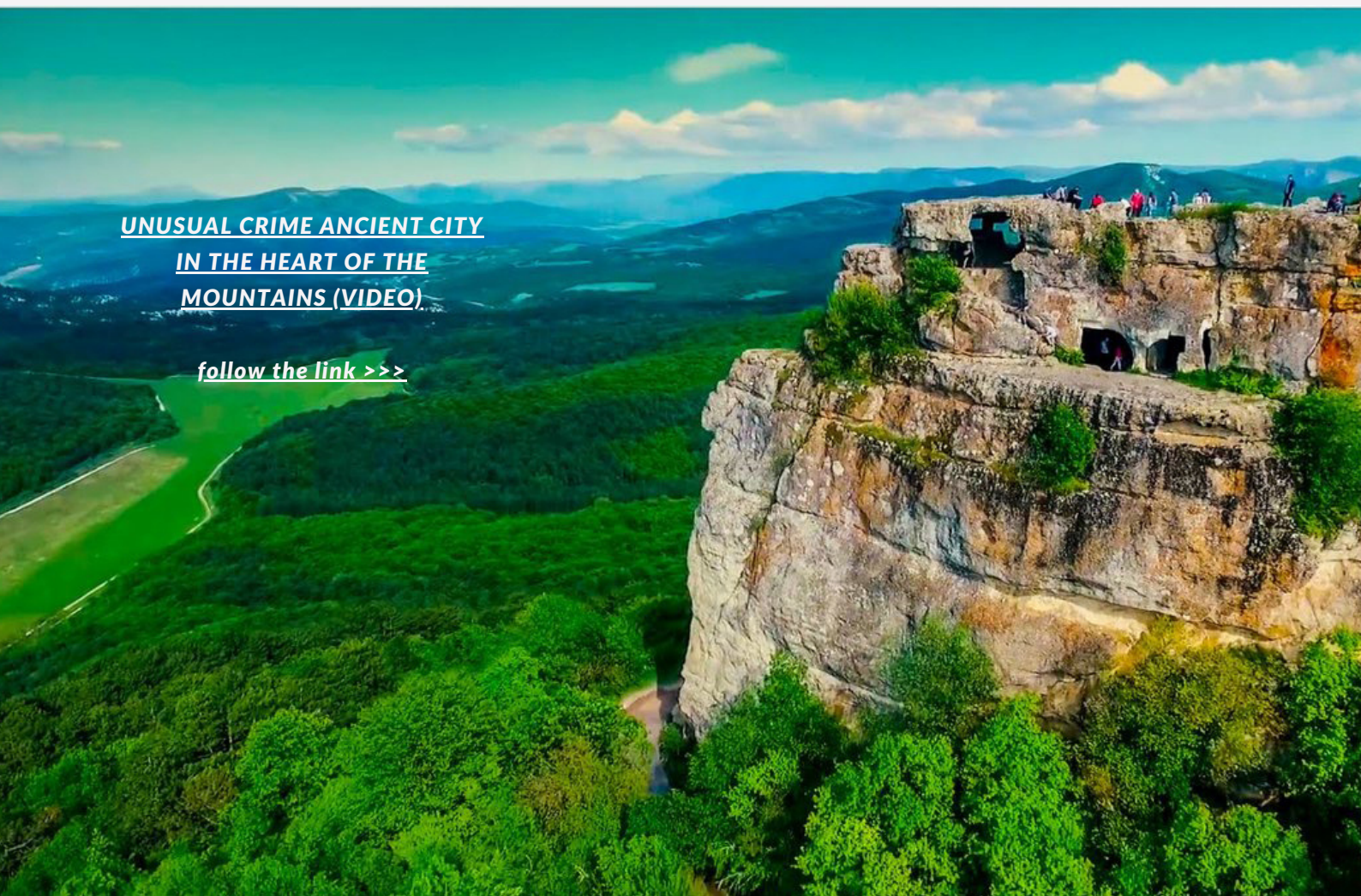


Photo: Mangup-Kale plateau

THE BEAUTY OF THE CAVE CITY

Despite the fact that the tourist season is in full swing in Crimea, there are still places on the Peninsula where some kind of extraordinary peace reigns, seasoned with a kind layer of age-old history.

One of these places is the medieval settlement of Mangup. Engravings on stones associated with the construction of fortress walls and written sources indicate that from the 13th to the 15th centuries the city was called Theodoro.

The fortress city of Mangup stands on a 90-hectare plateau of an outstanding mountain, towering 250 m above the level of the surrounding valleys.

It is the largest medieval fortified settlement in the territory of the South-Western mountainous Crimea. Until the year 1475, according to experts, there were up to 30 thousand houses in Mangup.

Back in the 30s of the last century, Soviet scientists concluded that the first settlers and founders of the settlement were immigrants from Germany, the Goths. Maybe, regarding this, in 1942 the organization 'Ahnenerbe' began its activities on the Peninsula occupied by the German fascists.

In the Crimean mountains, the fascists were probably searching for traces of the once-great civilization of the Goths.

Watching a movie about Mangup, you can see how great this place is. The wild beauty of abandoned ruins, over which only nature reigns, intrigues and enchants. Besides, these places keep many secrets and mysteries.

