# Nicolai N. Petro

# The Tragedy of Ukraine

What Classical Greek Tragedy Can Teach Us About Conflict Resolution

## **Contents**

List of Figures and Tables —— IX		
Acknowledgements —— XI		
Introduction — XIII		
A Note on Transliteration —— XVII		
Chapter One		
What D	oes Athens Have to Do with Kiev? —— 1	
1.1	The <i>Dionysia:</i> Classical Greek Theater as a Political Institution — 3	
1.2	How Tragedy Created Better Citizens — 5	
1.3	How Modern Politics Lost Sight of Tragedy —— 11	
1.4	Tragedy and the Limits of Modern Political Realism —— 16	
1.5	What Tragedy Has to Offer Modern Politics —— 21	
1.6	Applying Tragedy's Untapped Potential to Ukraine —— 31	
Chapter Two		
Two Nations in One State — 36		
2.1	Debating the Origins of Rus —— 37	
2.2	How Ukraine Joined the Russian Empire —— 40	
2.3	Maloross Ukraine under Russian Rule: Shulgin vs. Hrushevsky —— 44	
2.4	Galician Ukraine under Austro-Hungarian Rule: The Political Debate —— 48	
2.5	Maloross and Galician Responses to the Collapse of Empire —— 51	
2.6	1991: A Flawed Independence — 70	
Chapter Three		
The Fatal Attraction of the Far Right —— 90		
3.1	The Parliamentary Far Right: Svoboda (Freedom Party) —— 91	
3.2	The Extra-Parliamentary Far Right: The Right Sector —— 94	
3.3	The Maidan in Power: Mainstreaming the Far Right —— 106	
3.4	Searching for a Better Nationalism —— 120	

Chapter Four The Mental Habits of Nationalism —— 124		
4.2	The Nationalist Struggle to Vaccinate Ukraine — 136	
4.3	The Consequences of Franchic Nationalism	

4.3 The Consequences of Economic Nationalism — 142
 4.4 Jacob and Esau in Ukraine: Culture and Religion as Sources of Social Disunity — 163

#### **Chapter Five**

## The Tragedies of Crimea and Donbass —— 174

- 5.1 Crimea's Quest for Autonomy —— 178
- 5.2 The Donbass Difference 201
- 5.3 Is There No Escape from Tragedy? —— 220

#### **Chapter Six**

### A Flawed Peace —— 223

- 6.1 From Geneva to Minsk: Why Peace Failed —— 224
- 6.2 Domestic Peace Proposals 235
- 6.3 How Cleft Societies Can Be Made Whole 247
- 6.4 Truth and Reconciliation: A Model for Ukraine? 253
- 6.5 Afterword: The Lessons of Tragedy —— 265

Index --- 275