The Crimean Peninsula is the southern heart of Ukraine. It covers 26,100 square kilometers of the state's territory, with its administrative center in Simferopol, and is bordered by the Black and Azov Seas, making it a true geopolitical treasure. The status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine, and the global community, including the UN, has repeatedly confirmed that Crimea is Ukraine.

The peninsula is distinguished by its unique natural landscape: the boundless steppes in the north transition into the majestic Crimean Mountains, featuring the highest peak, Roman-Kosh (1,545 m), while the southern coast boasts a subtropical climate. The region is rich in nature reserves, such as the Crimean and Karadag Nature Reserves, where rare species of plants and animals grow and live.

For millennia, Crimea has served as a crossroads of civilizations: from the ancient poleis of Chersonesus and Panticapaeum, where Greeks traded and philosophized, to the medieval Genoese fortresses, mysterious cave cities, and the Crimean Khanate (1441–1783), which added Eastern flavor to the peninsula.

Crimea is a mosaic of peoples, an integral part of Ukraine where unity overcomes challenges. It is a place where European, Ukrainian and global cultural heritage is interwoven. The exquisite Crimean Tatar ornaments (the Ornek), the fairy-tale architecture of the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai,



the grandeur and natural wealth of the Nikita Botanical Garden, and the boundless sea element, which the Armenian-Ukrainian marine painter Ivan Aivazovsky conveyed with special skill on his canvases – all these form the unique cultural code of Crimea. The peninsula is also known for its scientific potential: The Volodymyr Vernadskyi Taurida National University and the Crimean Scientific Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which have now relocated to Kyiv, were for a long time centers for the development of Ukrainian science.

Since 20 February 2014, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has been under the temporary occupation by russia — an act of armed aggression that grossly violates international law. However, even on 26 February 2014, thousands of people rallied in Simferopol for the unity of Ukraine, and this day became a symbol of resistance. Since 2022, russia has been using the peninsula as a bridgehead for further aggression, but Ukraine's Armed Forces are resolutely countering this, particularly by striking the russian Black Sea Fleet and demonstrating the power of Ukrainian resistance.

Crimea will undoubtedly return home — even brighter, stronger, and ours!

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!

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## WE ARE STRONG. WE ARE UNITED. THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

