

“The Religious Empire of *Exousia* (power) Destroys the World
-The 1st Ukraine Volunteer Report-”

May 28th ~ June 12th, 2022.

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<Introduction>

The purpose of our visit to Ukraine is humanitarian assistance. It is a contact with children who lost their parents in the war in order to establish the “Kayoko Children Home”. It means to build a foster home where children live together until they become old enough. There is also the purpose to find Ukrainians who will take care of the orphans. On May 28, 2022, we headed from Kobe to Narita Airport and took off. Murakami Hirotaka, representative of the Kobe International Sustaining Organization, and Noda Kenji sent us off. Iwamura has already built 10 facilities for orphans overseas. As a representative of Kayoko Fund, Sasaki Miwa crosses the border for the first time. Our destination was issued as Danger Level 4 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Japan, it is reported as a war-conflict zone. It can be said to be reckless that a single woman who can't even speak Ukrainian enters the conflict zone only with her courage. However, there are also invitation from local Ukrainian host organization, personal letters from Hyogo Prefecture Governor Saito Motohiko and Kobe City Mayor Hisamoto Kizo. Since the invasion of Russia on February 24, we have been preparing carefully, including PCR tests within 48 hours and securing accommodation on the site.

As a religious person of the past of Christ, I was careful in contacting the local Orthodox Church. We lined up at the Polish Airlines counter at Narita Airport. After Narita Airport, we didn't see people wore a mask until we returned to Japan.

We didn't have no anxiety when we left Japan, but tensions increased. Our tensions increased because of baggage inspection from 5:00 in the early morning, E-ticket confirmation, and departure procedures at the Legal Affairs Bureau. There were no other Japanese passengers. Most of them were Polish. Iwamura said, “It is wrong to say that people are pro-Japanese because of their country or ethnicity. If we contact with our eyes, voice tone and smiling as a same human being, not by words, we can be friend with any countries people.” While remembering his words, I tried not to be shy when meeting Europeans for the first time even I could not speak Polish nor Ukrainian. Then I noticed that my mood was strangely positive.

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(1) Volunteers from Japan to the battlefield

a. Ringing bells in Warsaw

On May 29 (Monday), 2:30pm, we reached to Warsaw, Poland by LOT Airline. Yahoo is not available in Poland, so we use Google for internet searching¹. Japan and European countries have basically a same political structure. However, from April 6 in this year, “borders” were constructed on internet. Even it says to protect data, regionalism, which against globalization, is gradually started to have a universal value. It can be said that this is one of the crisis that Ukraine conflict brought.

We stayed not expensive hotel at Warsaw. There is a Nepal restaurant on the first floor that is carried by Armenian woman, and we became friend. There is a big Roman Catholic church on the other side of the road. That is Parish Saint Barbara. We attended their evening Mass. There are many churches in Warsaw, and there are Mass beside Sunday Mass, and I was surprised to see a lot of believers that almost filled its hall, and give worship. There are many sincere Roman Catholic believers. I was overwhelmed by a real image of model Roman Catholic kingdom that is produced Pope John Paul II [1920-2005]².

I myself, Iwamura grew up as the third generation of Roman Catholic church believer family, so it would be a lie if I say don't have any nostalgia. My first date with beloved wife Kayoko, who already passed away, was at St. Ignatius Church, in Setagaya Tokyo. The number of churches in Poland is more than triple digits compared to churches in Warsaw and Krakow. It seems like a department store of huge gothic style churches, which has a famous historical trace with inheriting tradition. What is amazing about that those are not just standing famous buildings, but still local people pray with their sincere heart every day, so their faith alive. When I meet with nun on the passing street, both of us naturally give smiling each other. Probably, my relationship grown up through my kindergarten, Sunday school time helps me to overcome burden of nationality, country and languages.

During 2 months, about 850,000 people, which is 30% of 2,940,000 people who evacuated from Ukraine to neighboring country Poland, returned to their home. Professional analysis that “The number of returners increase according to the move of Russian military's retreat from surrounding area of the capital Kyiv. The battle situation gives a big influence to those people”³.

b. A long-distance bus drive to Kyiv.

We head to Kyiv, Ukraine. If the world is facing to the biggest crisis after the end of East-West Cold War, Kobe International Sustaining Organization and “Kayoko Fund” that take rescuing orphans as a first priority, cannot ignore the sufferings on the site.

When we cross over the border, there is a severe checking. Many people can understand both Polish and Ukrainian language. Russian is the same. While we were waiting for conformation to enter on the border by Ukrainian border security force, people must endure in their vehicle more than 2 hours⁴. On the other hand, birds flying freely in the sky don't have any borders. Humans lost their freedom since they got orders because they created “states”. Inside of the long-distance bus to Kyiv is mostly filled by the Ukrainian who temporary escaped. When the sluggish bus in front of the border started to move, both mind of adults and children raise up because of feeling of going to their home. When I entered to Ukraine, I got an impression that even flies on the bus window look

¹ Thirty-one countries of the EEA, including the 27 EU (European Union) countries, the United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Iceland, and Norway, tourists, Japanese and foreigners living in Europe are no longer able to access through Yahoo. On June 8, during our visit to Ukraine, EU consumers (450 million) announced the unification of using the charging terminal “USB-C”. The world is about to enter an era in which we will set ourselves apart from American-made Apple and so on.

² Pope from Poland. He was called the “Flying pope”. He kept opposition to the Iraq War till the end, and strongly criticized President Bush.

³ 2022. NHK. May 7. 6pm.

⁴ Private journal of Sasaki Miwa

thin.

I watched the movie “Sunflower” halfway through in 1970. I had kept wondering how the end goes. I came to know the whole synopsis through this time Ukraine visit and internet searching. Giovanna (Sophia Loren, Italian actress) was separated from her missing husband Antonio (Marcello Mastroianni) during World War II. Giovanna was looking for her husband desperately in a field of full bloom sunflowers. The scene was filmed at Kherson Oblast where is about 500km South from Kyiv. Inside of sunflowers, Giovanna was hearing about her husband to an old woman. The old woman was answering in Ukrainian. On the way back to Kobe, the Ukrainian Larisa Kukharchuk (age 59)⁵, who became a company with us, told us that sunflower is the national flower, and the yellow color of national flag is came from “sunflower” or wheat.

c. Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

I stepped into Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine for the first time in my life. Even Russian army withdrew from surrounding area of Kyiv, we still hear air-raid siren time to time. In the case of a fire engine, it sounds “kan-kan”, but siren sounds "uh-uh". Nowadays, you don't see Ukrainians who rush into the nearest shelter when siren ringing around neighboring area of Kyiv. In the night, people even sleep without noticing siren inside of their house. However, in the daytime, when siren starts, people take out their cell-phone to check something. It is because there is a system to alert civilians through their smartphone when air bombing is coming. They are working, talking and shopping without batting their eyelashes. The explosion sound heard from the east side of the Dnieper. Then, all of the sudden, the scene become into under the war situation. Here and there in the city, trenches are prepared. I feel that it is because this land has endured the wind and snow, fighting all the time for centuries. In Kyiv, you can find lumps of “hedgehog”⁶ iron everywhere along the road. During our seven-day stay, there was only one bombing and there were no casualties in Kyiv.



The Czech hedgehog all over the street. Near the campus of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine. June 2, 2022.



Kyiv Municipal Government Building.
(Photo: Miwa Sasaki)

⁵ A woman from Zhytomyr we met at the Warsaw airport on June 12.

Due to her fear of war crisis, she traveled to Japan with her brother Mr. Viktor (age 65), relying on her daughter living in Kobe.

⁶ The Czech hedgehog is developed around World War II. It is a big wedge of iron that blocks tanks from entering.



Encountering with Mayor Vitali Klitschko (on left).

June 2, 2022. (Photo: Miwa Sasaki)

We became friend with Mayor Vitali Klitschko⁷. Right after Russian invasion started, he took a leadership role in thorough resistance by appealing to people not to flinch to Russian army.

He is no less popular than President Zelenskyy. The Ukrainian inherit the blood of descendants of brave soldier the Cossacks⁸, so it seems that many people are brawniness. Mayor Klitschko took his dog for walking in the night, 10:00.

Nobody could know about where President Zelenskyy nor Mayor Klitschko is since 400 special task Russian assassins are targeting them.

Due to the very tight security, 100% of important persons from outside of Ukraine could not meet with President, and of course we could not. Filek Shoko, who lives in Kraków City told us that, when President visited Kraków City in neighboring country Poland without notice by wearing walking cloth, people were surprised.

We managed to meet with Mayor of Kraków City on June 2. We could establish relationship with him and he

promised us to give us his personal letter to Japan on June 8. He is also a former world heavyweight boxing champion. He is popular not only among Ukrainians, but also in Europe.

Kickboxing, which started in Japan, made a name for himself, and he sifted to boxing and climbed to the top of the world. His younger brother is also a reigning world champion and everyone in the boxing world knows him. He fortifies entire Kyiv City. He is a big man with 2.01m high. On the ring, the opponent must be afraid of him looking like Goliath. He has a sharp look in his eyes, but with a gentle smile, he arranged our accommodation. I shook hands with him, and his hands were wrapped around my hands and I felt my hands like a baby. It was a contrast to the dog that was friendly with people.

To the Japanese, a relationship with Ukraine is very deep. Among the Ukrainians who fled to Sakhalin after the Russian Revolution in 1918, there was a Cossack cavalry officer, Markiyany Boryshko [1885/88-1960]⁹. Boryshko was from Kharkov, Ukraine's second-largest city of 1.44 million, which is being invaded by Russia. His son is Taiho Koki [大鵬幸喜 1940-2013. Real name 納谷 Naya], the 48th yokozuna (highest rank in sumo). He was so popular that is described as what Japanese people like it, "Taiho, Kyojin (baseball team), and fried egg". Taiho's grandchildren includes Ouhou [王鵬 2000-], Mudouhou [夢道鵬 2001-] are also became sumo wrestlers, and Naya Yukio [納谷幸男 1994-. 201cm] is a DDT (Dramatic Dream Team) professional wrestler.



"Buss Feed News" (April 5, 2022)

⁷ He was elected mayor in 2014. For the next eight years, he was a representative politician of "anti-Russia" and "pro-EU" along with President Zelensky. He was a defending champion of the world title 12 times in total and has achieved the feat of being the "first brothers to hold the world heavyweight title at the same time". Everyone in the boxing world know him. He entered the kickboxing world, which was created by arranging Thai national sport Muay Thai (Thai style boxing) in a Japanese style. And he made his kickboxing debut at the age of 17.

⁸ It is a military community group that existed in the middle and lower side of the Dnipro River since the latter half of the 15th century. The word "Cossack" means "those who have left the group (society)" in Turkish. Or "free people" in Turkic. The Ukrainians I met proud themselves as they are descendants of the Cossacks.

⁹ Boryshko was also separated from his family and survived. Around the end of the World War II, Boryshko was arrested and detained by the Soviet authorities. He was granted a pardon in 1954 and released from prison, but died of pneumonia in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Toyohara) in 1960.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has a strong impression that Cossack DNA has been inherited down uninterruptedly when I meet with mighty Mayor Klitschko and Ukrainians.

(2) Is the situation of Ukraine a victim of a religious empire?

a. Change in values from communism to Orthodoxy.

It was April 4 when a town of 10,000 population became famous in the world. It was because President Zelenskyy accompanied Western press corps to take them to a tragedy City of Bucha where local civilians' dead bodies were abandoned here and there.



I wanted to clarify the truth that either the Russian army killed Ukrainian civilians attack indiscriminately even both Russian or Ukrainian army has a same religious background and share same roots.

It is because that the reports of France, Spain, and the United Nations differed greatly from the media reports of Japan regarding the tragedy, the number of victims, and the cause of death¹⁰.

Before visiting Ukraine, I talked at my seminar based on paper of France that the Ukrainian army themselves brown off a bridge lead to the capital

Bucha City. Photographed by local reporter of Vlad
frc 1, 2022



St Andrew's Church, Kyiv.

Disconsolate about the death. St Andrew's Church.

Kyiv. Also, I mentioned in my resume¹¹. Therefore, I was laughed by many of people who believes Japanese media reports.

Standing on the real place, and staying in the capital city Kyiv Ukraine, questions came up in my mind. One thing is that why there is not many causalities in Kyiv City. Why has the capital Kyiv not been bombed and safe from mass dead? Why only cities like Bucha and nearby Irpin end up with tragic results?

There is Church of St. Andrew & Pyervozvannoho All Saints in Bucha.

¹⁰ 2022. *The Ukrainian army committed the massacre in Bucha*. Spain, Editorial Office. April 26.

From the first days of the war, Ukrainian artillery fired at the Russian columns on Vokzalnaya Ulista. Ukraine announced the number of civilians killed in Bucha to almost 900, but the UN says 50.

¹¹ 2022. Y, Iwamura. *Kobe Shinbun Kaikan The 94th Series of the Bible Words*. "Will the Ukrainian War Hinder Humanity?". April 25.

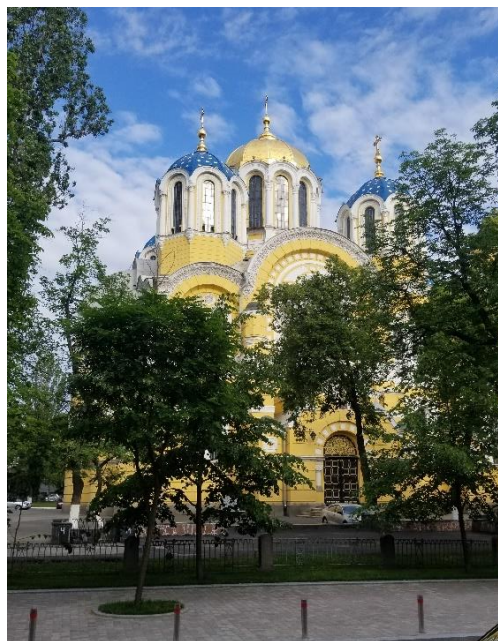
"Ukraine Peace Declaration" Joint communiqué. April 25, 2022.

Before leaving from Japan, I was repeatedly told by media reports that the Russian military was one-sidedly evil, and so that the theory of a dualistic structure that the good side one of Ukraine was imprinted in my mind¹². For three reasons, I had doubts about the truth of the one-way news reports, and wanted to confirm. First, was it the Russian army that blew up the Bucha Bridge? Secondly, was it possible to exterminate the Ukrainian citizens even both Russians and Ukrainians grow up in the same religious environment? And thirdly, why the small Ukrainian armies had the upper hand and Russian armies were forced to retreat? Those three were my points.

The population of Bucha City, which locates on north-east side of Kyiv, is 36,971 (year of 2021)¹³. The place we are standing now, Russian armies stayed 2 months before. Our visiting day of June 3 was the 100 days after the Russian invasion. Bucha City was occupied by Russian armies about 1 month until Ukrainian armies recaptured it on April 4. We visited Priest Andriy Halavin of St Andrew's Church, Kyiv¹⁴, which is seated in the center of Bucha and can be said to be a symbol. He was engaging in restoration of the Church. The number of Orthodox believers is 4~5 times more of Roman Catholic churches¹⁵. The Kyiv and independent Orthodox churches merged together in 2018. The sacraments of the Roman Catholic churches and traditional Protestant churches after the Reformation are very different from those of the Orthodox churches and the Arab Orthodox. The impression given by the stately church architecture is very similar, but the attitude of the worship attendances is different. In the Orthodox churches, regardless of age and sex, people keep standing for more than 2 hours. At the worship service, which we attended on June 3 in Kyiv, more than 1,000 believers were kept standing during the service. We saw some disabled people who are taking seats, but basically even small children keep still on the side of their parents. Even restless children are used to be it. Traditional customs may make those children do that. It is very different from Japanese short service. In the case of Japanese Protestant churches, if the pastor's sermon lasts more



St Volodymyr's Cathedral, Kyiv, which we attended the service. June 5, 2022. The whole picture on the right is also photographed by Iwamura.



than 15 minutes, the audience feels that it is too long. I was particularly impressed by the large

¹² The Russian Ministry of Defense denied any responsibility, saying that Russian troops "completely withdrew from Bucha on March 30." The Russian president's office also said that the photos and videos of Bucha were "hoaxed" by Ukraine. On Japanese SNS, there was information that "the damage was self-produced by Ukraine." "Yomiuri Shimbun" (April 15, 2022).

¹³ Source: Wikipedia. Bucha city belongs to Kyiv province. When our Ukraine report use "Kyiv", it means "capital city and city with special status" Kyiv.

¹⁴ In the Orthodox Church, when entering a church, one bows and make a cross on one's chest. There is no holy water like in the Roman Catholic Church.

¹⁵ The overwhelming majority of Ukrainian Catholics are Eastern Catholics.

number of attendees of the Orthodox church. When I asked a believer next to me in St Volodymyr's Cathedral¹⁶ in Kyiv that children might can participate in the sacrament at home because of the development of the Internet, she answered “Ni (No in Ukrainian)”. The worship programs, which gathers people every morning and evening, is profound and gives a feeling of reverence and “holiness”. The architecture of the churches, the sound of a pipe organ that is two stories high behind the synagogue. The attendees kneel down before the beautiful hymn. I heard that there are 800 churches in Kyiv alone.

On the way back, we also attended Roman Catholic church, not Orthodox, in Krakow, Poland. In Ukraine and Poland, there are several times sacraments in a day, so you can do church-hopping as you like. An hour-long sermon by a Roman Catholic priest is also common.

After perestroika¹⁷, the spirituality of the Orthodox Churches in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan seems to have taken the place of communist thought. If you can't understand that shift, you won't be able to take the fate in that Ukraine can never join the West. The Orthodox spirituality is fundamentally different from the Roman Catholic spirituality. Therefore, it is hard for me to understand that the Russian army trample on the same Orthodox Church, especially the brothers' religion. In contrast to the Roman Catholic Church, which has a hierarchy of the Pope, the Orthodox Church worships the patron saint of each region in each country. You may can think of it was a Shinto shrine *ujiko* (氏子. Parishioner) becoming a *ujigami* (氏神. Local deity). Prayer is cultivated in a yoga-like practice called “Hesychasm¹⁸”. Just as Muslims pray five times a day, Orthodox Christians pray by making the sign of the cross from their childhood¹⁹. The grounds for their pious faith were refined in the 20th century, in the storm of persecution^{20,21}. From an early age, people have been brought up on the example of goodness from their grandparents and parents. The Orthodox liturgy²² would have become like air. In “confession²³”, believers cover themselves with a small piece of cloth, where they can be seen by other believers, and confess their sins only can be heard by a priest, and they will receive a prayer while surrounding by “icon²⁴”. The spirit, style and worldview of the Orthodox Church cannot be deleted even if Ukraine temporarily be side with NATO. The Roman Catholic Church does not worship icons as idols. However, much of the media in the West, especially Japan, would like Ukraine to join NATO. They are religious deaf.

¹⁶ You will be surrounded by Byzantine architecture, gorgeous frescoes, beautiful hymns, ethereal sounds of bells, and fragrant scents.

¹⁷ “Reconstruction (re-revolution)” is the reform of the political system advanced in the Soviet Union from the late 1980s to the 1991 by Gorbachev with glasnost idea and it begot a conservatives coup d'état.

¹⁸ It is a term coined to denote the Greek word “ἡσυχία *hesychia*” means “silence”, and usually called “quietism”. A term used to describe the method of prayer and contemplation that began around the 14th century on the sacred Mount Athos, the center of Eastern Orthodox monasticism, and spread throughout Byzantine and Slavic Orthodox religious regions.

¹⁹ In the Orthodox Church, when entering the church and during the sacrament, people make a cross on their chest from right to left many times. It is opposite way to the Roman Catholic Church.

²⁰ Until 1970, 670 Russian Orthodox monasteries had closed.

1995. D.A, Volkogonov. *Lenin: A New Biography*. Translated by Shirasu Hideko. NHK Publishing. 207.

1966. L, Trotsky. *My Life: An Attempt at an Autobiography*. Translated b Kurita Isamu. Gendai Shichosya. 854.

2001. Y, Uchida. *The Tragedy of the Solovetsky – Tracing the unknown history of lager*. NHK Publishing. 43.

(provisional translation)

²¹ It is detailed in the book of deported author Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn [1918-2008]. In the 1920s, religious education of children came to be regarded as a political crime, it means counter-revolutionary agitation, by Article 58 Paragraph 10. All religious people were sentenced to 10 years, the maximum period at the time. The communist carried out “confiscation of church property, orders to shoot clerics”, and “sending people to concentration camps, and eliminate religious leaders and believers by shooting or torturing” throughout the Soviet Union.

²² The liturgical Greek for “worship” is *λειτουργω* *leitourgeo*. It changed from Latin into English word “liturgy”.

²³ One of the sacraments. Reformer Martin Luther [1483-1546] also acknowledged baptism, communion, and confession.

²⁴ The icon is only a “window”, and it is a way of contemplating the celestial essence. Worshiping an icon is different from worshiping a material idol.

Until the 1930s, the churches were destroyed by the atheists of own country and by the German Nazis during World War II. Once more, religion has been rebuilt like a phenix. I saw the strength that even violent aggression could not cense the faith of the people. In Ukraine, I heard villagers talk about external events that had not given any influence on their such inner faith²⁵.

On February 27, more than 100 vehicles of the Russian army invaded the Motyzhyn village in Bucha City with a population of about 1,000. On March 23, village head Olga Sukhenko (age 50) urged villager Klatch to evacuate with her wife and child because of impending danger. At first, Klatch also refused to leave since the village chief told him that he will stay in village with his family. However, the village chief started the engine of Klatch's car and he forced him to take his family and evacuate. A few minutes later, around noon, the Russian army invaded the village and entered the village chief's house since because they were searching for the main people of the villagers. Soldiers painted the letter "V" on the side of a silver sedan owned by Oleksandr, a former player of soccer club "Seagull Second League", which also the village chief's son was a member. As if they were branding cattle owned by a ranch, they left the ownership belongs to the Russian side.



Residents in Bucha.
Photographed on June 3,
2022.

In advance, the Russian army prepared a list of influential people who would be cooperating and went door to door checking. The village chief, husband and son were killed because they refused to cooperate with the invading Russian forces. On April 2, the bodies of their families and about 30 other tortured Ukrainian citizens were found in the forest.

Thus, was my reasoning wrong? I believed that the Ukrainian side had destroyed Bucha City to prevent Russian troops from invading, and resulting in casualties. However, I heard from the villagers that the Bucha massacre was not performed by the Ukrainian side.

The news that "Alexei Navalny died" was circulated around the world. This information was obtained by a German report in Bucha²⁶.

Alexei Navalny²⁷ is an anti-Putin Russian lawyer and political activist who is also known by Japanese through his books²⁸. Navalny's father is from a village in a restricted area with a radius of 30km from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. That's why there are people with the same surname in Bucha that locates in northern Kyiv. In fact, Bucha villager Ilya Navalny (age 60), was shot dead when he carelessly left his house to smoke.

To enter the capital city Kyiv from a suburban city, you have to go through three bridges. Those were blown up by the Russian army and the world's media picked up many images of the local damage. However, none of the local residents, the Territorial Defense Forces, or civilians saw an attack by Russian forces.

²⁵ We learned from believers and volunteers who became close at St Volodymyr's Cathedral, which is a Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kiev Patriarchate. Inside of it, the pillars and walls are covered with art nouveau frescoes. The front is the "Virgin Mary Madonna and Infant Jesus Christ". In the back, there is the "Last Judgment".

²⁶ 2022. *Bild-Zeitung*. April 17.

²⁷ Alexei Navalny posted criticism of the regime on Instagram on March 2nd. He called on Russians to hold daily anti-war demonstrations in the center of their cities against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He called President Putin as "our mad emperor". Putin hated him so much and never even mentioned Navalny's name. Navalny was almost killed by the military nerve agent Novichok in August 2020.

²⁸ 2021. *Alexei Navalny [1976-]. The man Vladimir Putin fears most*. Wall Street Journal, July 18.



A body with hands tied behind its back and a shot through the back of the head.



Ukrainian restaurant.



City view of Bucha.

Photographed on June 3, 2022.

Both myself and Sasaki Miwa heard from the man, who was walking down the street of the Kyiv Special City (and also, he calmly talked about the explosion of the bridge), told us that “There is also the view that Bucha became a sacrifice because some people thought that is fine if only Kyiv could have been protected”. That is to say, if it is true that the Ukrainian army destroyed those bridges to prevent a Russian invasion to the capital, history may prove it later.

b. Irpin – was it bombing to protect the capital?

A more convincing scenario would be that all other bridges to the west of Kyiv were blown up by Ukrainian forces to slow the Russian force’s foray. Information is inconsistent and confusing. Because it depends on who you ask. For example, Navalny from Bucha was once introduced in a foreign newspaper as a cousin of vanguard of anti-Putin. Various theories were circulating outside the country, such as that Bucha was attacked because there were close relatives of Navalny. The death toll in Bucha in the newspapers, even it has been less than two months, varies like 280 people, 410 people²⁹, and according to Bucha City Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk, it is 600. Speaking of wartime information, the number of casualties in the Nanjing Massacre [December 1937] is still a matter of debate, and it teaches us the lesson that it is very difficult to ascertain the truth.



Irpin. Destroyed bridge. Miwa is beside Ruslan June 3, 2022.



The place beyond the “last bridge” over the river that runs along the town, it was known as a rich green summer villa area. The “last bridge” was about 22km to the center of Kyiv, where the presidential palace is located. It made unclear whether the Ukrainian military took down the bridge over the Irpin River to prevent a Russian invasion of Kyiv.

Ruslan Zahorui, a soldier of the Territorial Defense Forces, guided me to the severed bridge. I asked Ruslan, to point the place where Irpin Mayor Oleksandr Markush and President Zelenskyy had agreed to set up the memorial facility.

²⁹ Ukrainian authorities’ announcement.

The Russian military reported by the Japanese media that they brutally and indiscriminately killed, tortured, and raped local Ukrainians. Tanya Alexandra (age 38)³⁰, whom I met in Irpin, also testified us that Karina Yershova (age 23) was raped. According to Tanya, it was Chechen mercenaries in the Russian army who raped the young Ukrainian lady. There are many mercenaries from foreign countries such as Kyrgyz and Syrian soldiers in the Russian army. I was also heard that it was the mercenaries who slaughtered the villagers outrageously. Tanya told me that her and her husband's lives were able to escape the Avtomat Kalashnikova's bullet by a few centimeters. However, the woman who was right next to her was hit by the bullet. Her voice was trembling even she could talk to described the condition in English as the woman's head cracked "open".



Listening to the testimony from Tanya Alexandra

According to media reports, during only just three months, the death toll of the Russian army has surpassed the 15,000 killed in the Soviet Union's nine-year invasion of Afghanistan³¹. However, the proportion of mercenaries is not well known. When I arrived in Kyiv by a long-distance bus from Warsaw, Poland, there were two Israelis on board to join the Ukrainian army. Also in Kyiv, there were four foreign volunteer soldiers with American accents, dressed as Ukrainian soldiers and eating at a fancy restaurant. It means that foreign troops are on both sides. So that, strictly speaking, this conflict cannot be called a dichotomy between Russia and Ukraine. Geopolitically, there is no doubt but this is a war that the world participates and all are involved.

c. A new power map due to the rise of the power (*exousía*).

The Russian Ministry of Defense denied their responsibility, stating that the Russian army "completely withdrew from Bucha on March 30". The Russian president's office has also consistently said that Bucha's photos and videos were "hoaxed" by Ukraine side. Vassily Nebenzia, the Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations, spoke at the UN Security Council on April 4 about the bodies photographed in Bucha that those never existed before the withdrawal of Russian troops, and he also told that to reporters. However, from satellite images³² taken by Maxar Technologies on March 19 and 21, it is possible to confirm some bodies on Yablonskaya Street in Bucha. When I visited Bucha and heard the testimony of the villagers, it was clearly lies. Even though these is no justification for war, why would Russia tell such a blatant lie?

There would be a new feud that cannot be determined by the confrontational concepts of democracy vs. imperialism, communism vs. liberalism, and permanent members vs. non-permanent members of the UN. On June 2, there was an explosion east of Kyiv. There were no fatalities. At that time, people said it happened on the east side of the Dnieper River. "The Dnieper River" is Russian language. Nobody said in Ukrainian, "Dnipro" River. Countries supporting Ukraine have changed the name of the Russian origin "Kiev" to the Ukrainian "Kyiv". However, the Russian "Vladimir" is more established than the Ukrainian "Volodymyr". St. Vladimir Cathedral³³, where we attended worship service, is an example. No matter how much the Western countries and NATO³⁴ support Ukraine, the fate of Ukraine is unpredictable. It is because that it is not a strong

³⁰ 2022. *Mainichi Shimbun*. April 14.

³¹ 2022. *The Asahi Shimbun*. May 23.

³² A constellation of four high-resolution satellites from Maxar Technologies (formerly DigitalGlobe), which owns the World View series. Anything on the earth can be photographed by high frequency and high accuracy.

³³ The interior of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kiev Patriarchate is covered with frescoes in the Art Nouveau style on the pillars and walls. The "Virgin Mary Madonna and Infant Jesus Christ" in the front and the "Last Judgment" in the back overwhelm visitors.

³⁴ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political system consisting of 30 countries in Europe and North America, centered on "collective defense", "crisis management" and "cooperative security".

pressure only by President Vladimir Putin [1952-] of Russia. Not only by Putin's historical, political and heavy-skill, but there is another powerful one (*exousía*)³⁵, which has influence over all of Russia.

I touched on the climate and lifestyle of Kyiv. There is an honest clumsiness that may be connected to Japanese samurai. As much as I know about Ukrainian religious views, history, and Cossack spirit, it seems that their appearance is Western but the essence is different. We should not be overlooked that NATO and Ukraine have different religious sensibilities³⁶ like water and oil.

Looking back its history, the land of Ukraine has a genealogical background of being trampled on. Even the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union had end, we must not ignore the fact that "*exousía*" has dual political and religious system. Putin has begun to declare a returning to the old regime³⁷ politically. The presence of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow [1946-]³⁸, who endorses, cooperates, and supports the bold vision of politicians, cannot be underestimated. President Putin amended the constitution in 2020. In the new constitution of the Russian Federation states, it is written that, "The Russian Federation, united by a thousand years of history and preserving the ideals and faith in God and also the memory of our ancestors who endowed us with a continuity of the development of the Russian, and so that it is determined as a historically formed unified state." It seeks "spiritual conception" built up over trials³⁹ that emphasizes the Ruthenian dedication for the purpose of God building "Holy Russ" through "*Russkiy Mir* (Russian World)", "solidarity with Russian-speaking people and Russian Orthodox believers in the world" and "Russ baptism". Patriarch Kirill of Moscow calls Kiev (Kyiv) as "the mother of all Russian cities. Kyiv is Jerusalem to us and to many people. Russian Orthodox Church claims that they began there. In other words, even if someone may success the seat of Russian President, who has different policy from Putin, the regime will not be changed. All that is fine as long as they are able to lead the people by riding a horse of the spiritual pillar of "faith in God". The revolutionary regime of the Soviet Union of 1918 sent Orthodox clerics to forced labor in Siberia, claiming that the religion as an opium⁴⁰. The church as also completely destroyed in pieces. I believe that liturgy, "hesychasm" and holiness were the key of revival of the Orthodox Church, which had been kept silence since "perestroika". It is not based on the missionary work of the revival movement. There are moves that must not be missed. It is a coalition of new politics and religion from the latter half of the 20th century to the first half of the 21st century. What superpowers have in common is not the separation of politics and religion. Rather, it is the unity of church and state. In the United States, the man of the West, religion and politics have also become strongly linked. Billy Graham⁴¹ was in charge of prayers at the inauguration ceremonies of Nixon [1913-1994] and Reagan [1911-2004]. He is like an American evangelical pope. He was an influential person in interventions in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War,

³⁵ The Greek word *exousía* means "authority," "power."

2022. Y, Iwamura. *How does religion aim for a post-coronavirus society?* WCRP Peace University Lecture. 1-3. March 10. <http://kicc.sub.jp/category/argument/>

³⁶ False Dmitry I [1582-1606] married Marina Mniszech of the Roman Catholic Church on May 8, 1606. After his accession to the throne, he converted to the Roman Catholic Church. He received strong opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church, the great nobility and the people. On the morning of May 17, he was killed and cremated. I guess "History will repeat itself."

³⁷ Regime; system, political system.

³⁸ On November 3, 2009, Russian Orthodox bishop, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow determined the Russian world as "It is found in the three pillars; the Eastern Orthodox Church, Russian culture, and especially language and common historical memory, and it is a common space of civilization linked to common ideals of further social development."

³⁹ The alliance between the state and the church is fulfilled by sanctification.

Church organizations are at the center of central power based on commoditized agricultural slave labor, usury activities, and church land.

1990. N. M, Nikolsky. *The history of the Russian Orthodox*. Translated by Miyamoto Enji, Kobunsha. 105.

⁴⁰ For materialists, "*Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.*"

1972. K, Marx. *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*. Translated by Mashita Shinichi. Kokumin Bunko.

⁴¹ 2022. *The politic researching of evangelist Billy Graham*. Christian Press. Mary 22. Reviewer, Murata Michiya.

Afghanistan, Iran and the Iraq War. He is a consistent anti-communist person. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow has also been consistent in his struggle against good and evil in his view of the West's intolerance of LGBTQ people.

Mr. Viktor (age 65) from Zhytomyr, a Ukrainian, who also speaks Russian, said; "Whether I consider myself as a Russian or Ukrainian is not decisive. It doesn't matter which nationality I am, but which one I support depends on time, place and selection." His words also made me think that it is ridiculous to shed blood, even though they are the same ethnic group and of the same Orthodox Church member. Moreover, I was realized that the imposition of worldviews such as "human rights", "justice", and "democracy" by other countries will just complicate the war situation.

(3) Orphan support.

a. Who will take care of children?



An elderly woman living alone, sleeping on an outside park bench.

The conversation for searching orphans for humanitarian assistance, I could not have done without hearing the memory of occupation of the village by the Russian army. Why did the child's parents have to be killed? How should they accept the unreasonableness of being treated badly even though they have done nothing wrong to Russia? The starting point is communication about how children who have lost their parents can survive.

English hardly be understood by people. I came through Poland, but there were few people who could speak English. I have been experienced to deliver my thoughts without "words" communication in poor regions of Africa, the South Pacific, and Asia.

Ukrainian people love flowers. There are street shops selling flowers on every street of corners.

Fresh flowers such as large roses, colorful gerberas, rosemary, and cymbidium. Those are a little bit more expensive than food, but people decollate it in their room. There are many parks, and trees are said to be hundreds of years old. There are also homeless people living on benches.

Walking through city of Kyiv to look for orphans from the first day in. There are many slopes, so I sweat after an hour. Since the road is cobblestoned, cars do not slip. Many young people were riding kick scooters. When I saw some low-price renting spot on the uphill road, I wanted to use it, but I missed the opportunity. We kept walking for hours.



Jenny, asking for bread. (age 22)



Five orphans who belong to "Kayoko Children's Home" live together until they become adults. 3,000 yen is sent every month from foster parents in Japan.

Every time I receive challenge that whether orphans will trust the volunteers from Japan and follow them. At the same time, we also look for people who will take care of the orphans. I don't

have any local acquaintances. If I go to a facility like the Social Welfare Council of the government office, I can meet the orphans right away, and if Kobe International Sustaining Organization give donations to them, the task from Japan will be completed. Furthermore, we are not a well-funded volunteer organization like the United States. We have no money. We don't know anyone in the area. We can't even speak local language. We only have "don't have". However, there are ten "Kayoko Children's Home" in Asia, Oceania and Africa. Everything was started from zero, and local people have been helping us. Negotiations for land are always a challenging. What does motivate me?



Be with the most "small people" in Kyiv.

The Bible says, ".....show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other⁴²." The only thing that matters is that children are should not oppressed by war, neoliberal inequality, or parental divorce.

On street corners, we approach children and adolescents begging for food or war funds and ask if their parents are alive or not.



⁴² Zechariah 7:9-10

b. Meeting with orphans.

We were just walking for 3 days. Strangely, there are unexpected encounters. We were gravitated to Ukrainians who had always wondered if there was anything they could do for the orphans. Orphans who evacuated from the war are also returning to Kyiv. At the long-distance bus stop.

In rural areas, aunts, uncles, and grandparents will take care of orphans. But if children don't have any relatives to look after them, they have no choice but to move to city. And they will be so-called street children.

c. Encountering with the person to take charge of caring for orphans



Reunited with Oksana Seenka for the first time in four days.

Although we found the orphans, it is not easy to find someone to take care of five children at “Kayoko Children’s Home”, who live together, for helping their clothes, meals, and school life.

Fortunately, Ms. Oksana (age 34) has experience caring for orphans. She is a single woman with a volunteering spirit to help out our “Kayoko Children’s Home”. We had a meeting on June 6 and we will keep tight contacting each other between Ukraine and Japan.

Professor Emeritus Leonid Bulavin of National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, who sympathized with the work of the “Kayoko Fund”, invited us to the university and his home.

He promised us that he will help us to consult about the facility construction site and other things on our next visit to Ukraine. He published many books and also is head of the Department of Molecular Physics. The *bulava*⁴³, a type of mace with a round-tipped that the professor showed us holding it in his hand, is said to be more destructive than any sword against armored enemies.

Again, I was touched by the Cossack spirit. Prof. Leonid has a handicapped child.

When Sasaki Miwa treated his child gently at the station waiting room, the boy became quite fond of Sasaki. Because of this, we are able to build a



⁴³ There is a statue of Bohdan Khmelnytsky [1595-1657] holding the bulava (round-tipped mace), a Ukrainian military commander of the Ukrainian Cossacks, stands at Sofiyskaya Square. He is the greatest hero for Ukrainians, whose portrait is on the banknote 5 grivna. The priests who participated in the Khmelnytsky Uprising used blunt maces, which doesn't shed blood, instead of swords because of the commandment “forbidden the shedding of blood”.

family-like relationship. From a once-in-a-lifetime encounter, we were able to have continuous interactivity.

Ms. Elena, and English teacher, was also interested in caring for orphans and kindly offered advice.



Medvedyheva Elena. June 7, 2022.

The city of Kyiv has high and low side, so the view from the high place is good. For the elderly people, convenient streetcars, buses, and subways are properly covered. Ms. Elena was grateful for donating the train fare.

It was a great consolation that the 1st Ukraine Volunteer under the war going on could gain sympathy to many Ukrainians. The reason why I felt this way is that the plan to deliver a personal letter to President Zelenskyy, which was originally planned, from the Hyogo Prefectural Office's International Affairs Division and Mr. Umezawa Akira of the Kobe City Hall, could not be realized. The plan didn't come true because we took more time to visit eastern side of Ukraine. However, it was

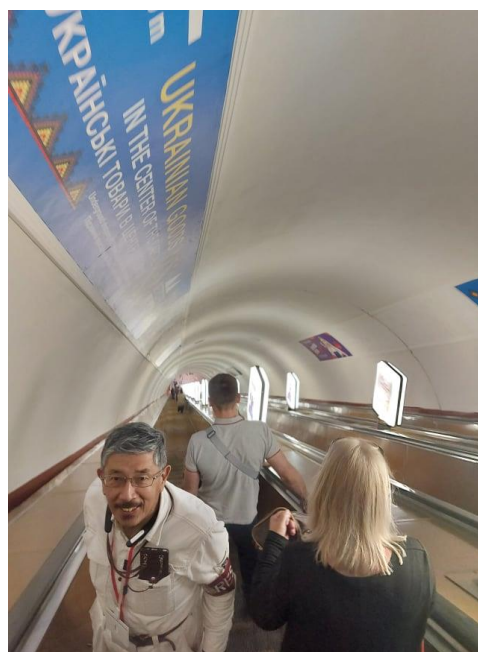
grateful that Mayor Vitali Klitschko, an important figure targeted by the Russian government, promised us to give his personal letter to the governor of Hyogo and Mayor of Kobe. It was an unplanned thankful by-product.

I would like to thank to all of people in Japan prayed our safety travel. The relationship was born between Mr. Kushnira Alexander & Mrs. Julia, who we became acquainted at St Volodymyr's Cathedral, and they promised us to call for orphan support activities came courtesy because of your prayer.

<Conclusion>

On the way back, we went through Poland. From Kyiv, we visited Kraków, the second-largest and one of the oldest cities in Poland, by bus. At there, a musician xxx has been living for 12 years. I was introduced her from Pastor Tomonou Yasushi. There is a remain of Auschwitz concentration camp in Kraków. It is impossible to look around in one day. We went to the place where Jews and others were executed in gas chambers. It is a horrific memorial hall that cannot be seen directly. A lot of high school students from European countries came by school unit. I looked back my visits during high school days to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders [December, 1937], I replaced myself as a teenager of Slovakia, Lithuania and Israel and asked myself. My impression that the high school students who come to Auschwitz that they are overwhelmed by how human beings can be so cruel. They kept silent. They were cheerful bustle before entering the entrance of the facility, but they became depressing. I had a similar reaction in Hiroshima. However, when I turned to twenty-year-old, I forgot about “no more Hiroshima” and changed from absolute pacifism to preferential pacifism.

In other words, humans are versatile in mind. No matter how much I pledged no war, hearing



Long way to the platform.

threats from neighboring countries reminded me of the change that sluggish my absolute pacifism. As soon as a power (*exousía*) take position, we abandon our ideals, leans of its interests, forgets the fact that he once had a righteous resentment against the contradiction of disparities, and turned to the side of oppression. This time, we visited Ukraine, and I went up and down the sloping road while meditating on how far the Cossack spirit could be maintained. Mastering the *Volunteer-dō* (The principle way of volunteer) means that it was a journey to tell myself not to give own soul to wealth, power and honor. I would like to express my respect to Sasaki Miwa, the representative of the “Kayoko Fund”, who accompanied me without complaining about the extreme cold-hot, hunger, and long traveling. The ties with Ukrainian are strange. We traveled all the way from Europe to Kobe, Japan with Ms Larisa Kukharchuk and Mr. Viktor Bahinskyi on the same Polish Airlines

I would also like to thank brothers, Murakami Hiroataka and Noda Kenji for taking the time for transportation support between Narita Airport.

