

## **Ukraina in our hearts I**

Ukraina is not far from Kristianstad. Historically, Hetman Philip Orlik lived in Kristianstad in exile between the years 1716-1719. Today, Kristianstad University have exchange agreements for students with a university in Kharkov, 'Peoples Ukrainian Academy', which is very progressive in lifelong learning.

Ukraina has also historical similarities with the Northeast Skåne. During many centuries Göingebygden, i.e., the Northeast of Skåne, was caught between two states, Sweden and Denmark, that developed their superpower dreams. East Skåne became the haunting ground for various armies, that burned and killed.

Ukraina has also been a corridor for armies that marched through the country, killing and burning. They, like Scanians, i.e., people living in this region, has been the victim of holocaust-like activities. Charles XI gave the order in April 1678 to murder all the able-bodied men in the parish of Örkened. Stalin gave orders to kill Ukrainian farmers in 1932. Skåne got peace when one of the great powers, Denmark, lost its power, and then, a little bit later, the other superpower, i.e., Sweden, lost its capacity. Ukraina's tragedy of today is that she does not have the same luck as Skåne. She is sandwiched between two superpowers, the United States with his lapdog, NATO, and Russia, which have become more aggressive after gathering force during the last 20 years.

The inhabitants of Skåne, with their similar story, should feel solidarity with Ukraina. We should have a hope that Ukraina will preserve its independence, and be respected by all the powerful nations, Russia, EU and USA.

But we can also act. Kristianstad University can develop their exchanges with Ukrainian universities. The municipality can commemorate Orlik and his work, Kristianstad municipality and the university can create democratization projects for Ukraina.

As individuals, we can use our consumer power by trying to find Ukrainian products, and making requests for Ukrainian products at our dealers. We can help to develop their agriculture by investing in companies such as Trigon Agri. There is an association 'TUFF Broby', organizing Chernobyl Children's summer camp. And more to find out.

While all actions as such are very small, we can do something. Since Ukraina is in our hearts.

Sven-Olof Yrjö Collin

*...and yes, I know that Ukraina in English is spelled with an ending –e. But if you spell it my way, then you pronounce it my way, Ukraina! Which sounds very beautiful. Beauty is more important than to follow the rules.*