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Russian Intervention in Foreign Elections: Implications in the 2004 Ukrainian Presidential Election

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PRESENTER:
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Disinformation and
Naivete II

BACKGROUND (The Research
Questions):

- How did disinformation campaigns disseminated by the Kremlin affect the way the public regarded notable historical events throughout the 2004 election?
- What motivated the global superpowers of Russia and the United States to get involved in this election?

KEY EVENTS:

- Poisoning of Viktor Yuschenko (September 5th, 2004)
- Viktor Yanukovich Victory in 1st Election (November 21st, 2004)
- “Orange Revolution” (November 2004-January 2005)
- Yuschenko Victory in Rerun Election (December 26th, 2004)

METHODS

1. Analyzing Primary Source

Documentation around key events that illustrate evidence of tampering part of a larger Russian disinformation campaign to destabilize Ukrainian national legitimacy and political infrastructure.

2. Analyzing election data to illustrate

how widespread fraud resulted in a “stolen” election to favor a candidate in which the Ukrainian people did not vote for.

Russian Intervention in Foreign Elections: Implications in the 2004 Ukrainian Presidential Election

Russian involvement in the Yanukovich campaign in 2004 illustrates an important historical moment in which disinformation was disseminated through an undermining of the democratic electoral process.

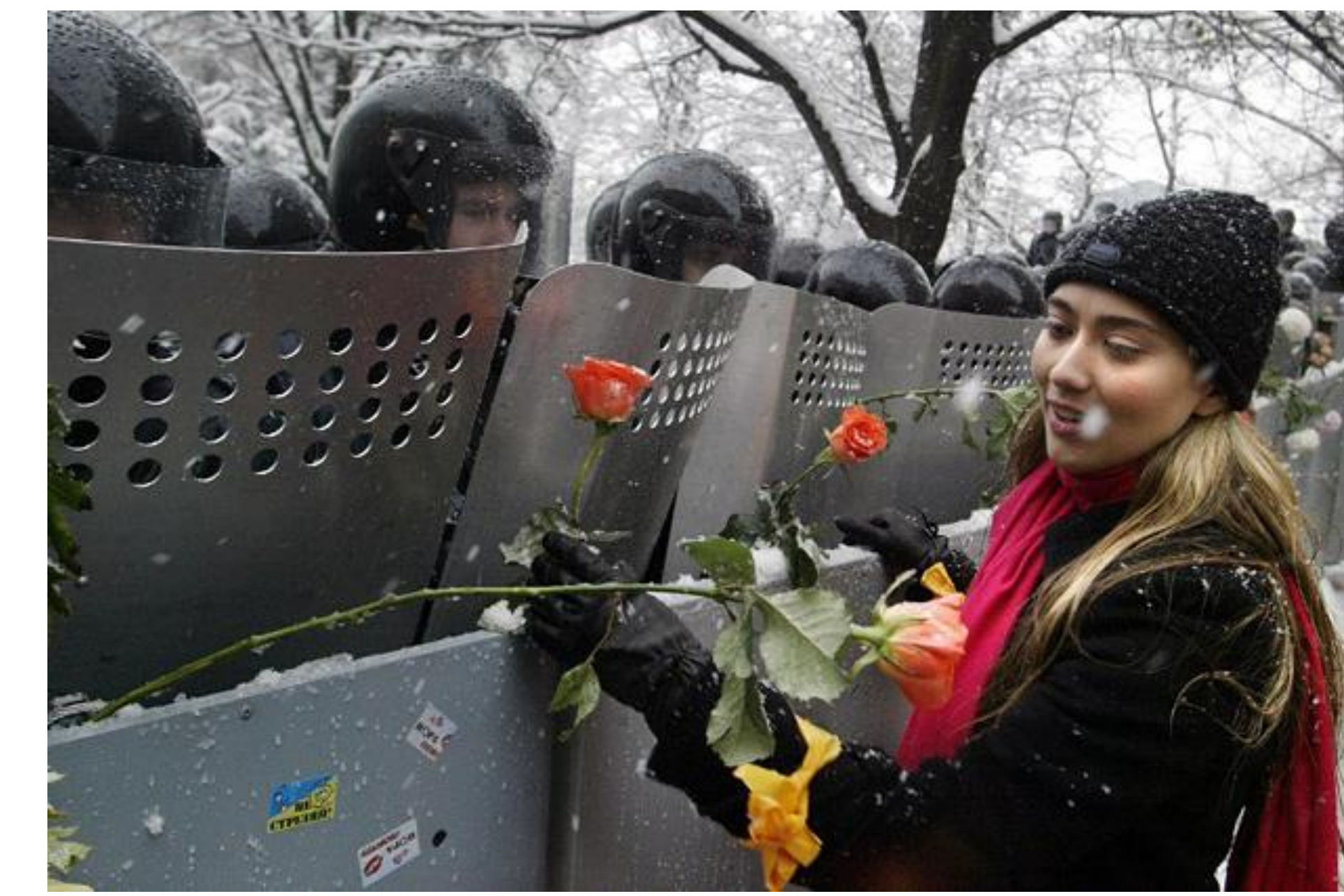
%	Chart	Region of Ukraine	Chart	%
51.99%		UKRAINE		44.19%
15.41%		Autonomous Republic of Crimea		81.26%
84.07%		Vinnitsa Region		12.94%
90.71%		Volynsk Region		7.01%
32.00%		Dnipropetrovsk Region		61.14%
4.21%		Donetsk Region		93.54%
66.86%		Zhitomir Region		28.90%
67.45%		Zakarpatskaya Area (Transcarpathia)		27.58%
24.52%		Zaporozhye		70.13%
95.72%		Ivan Franko Region		2.86%
82.70%		Kiev Region		13.77%
63.42%		Kirovograd Region		31.74%
6.21%		Lugask Region		91.24%
93.74%		Lvov Region		4.72%
27.72%		Mikhailovsk Region		67.13%
27.46%		Odessa Region		66.56%
66.00%		Poltava Region		29.15%
84.52%		Rovno Region		12.29%
79.45%		Sumy Region		16.89%
96.03%		Ternopol Region		2.70%
26.37%		Kharkov Region		68.11%
43.43%		Kherson Region		51.32%
80.47%		Khmelnitsky Region		16.03%
79.10%		Cherkassy Region		17.35%
79.75%		Chernovtsy Region		16.37%
71.15%		Chernigov Region		24.16%
78.37%		City of Kiev		17.51%
7.96%		City of Sevastopol		88.83%



<http://old.kiis.com.ua/pub/president%20election%20in%20ukraine%202004.pdf>



<http://old.kiis.com.ua/pub/president%20election%20in%20ukraine%202004.pdf>



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ARGUMENTS CONTINUED:

- The main strategies utilized by Russia and the Kremlin were inciting regional and inter-ethnic conflict, assassinations, violence against the opposition, counter-revolution and use of the security forces. (Kuzio 383)
- United States played a crucial role in preserving overseas democracy in Ukraine through financial support in the form of IO's and NGO's. (Shulman and Bloom 449)
- Russia's multifaceted and complex election fraud tactics included methods such as "Registration coupons", "roundabouts", "kerchiefs", "damaging of voting lists", and much more... (Paniotto 13)

RESULTS/FINDINGS

- Ukrainian citizens found greater issue with American intervention compared to its Russian counterpart (Shulman and Bloom 470).
- Election was strongly divided across geo-political lines.
- Eastern and Western Ukrainian citizens had conflicting beliefs and opinions on similar events due to a disinformation permeated political ecosystem.
- Failure of Russian tactics to exhibit foreign control over Ukraine should serve as a testament to resilience of the Ukrainian people.

REFERENCES
(Link to Digital Bibliography)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ByCmpJGpbySHPxWoLb76EjjkxNI7x0EWoWmRYc2mLh8/edit?usp=sharing>

