The Impact of The Maidan Revolution on Ukraine
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Introduction

The crisis of spring 2014 saw the city centres of Kyiv turned into a battlefield in a fight for democracy, human rights, and civil rights. This battle, known as the Maidan Revolution, was a critical moment in Ukrainian history that sought to change the direction of the country for the better and to remove the corrupt entities that were deterring the nation from true freedom. This revolution was an attempt by the Ukrainian people to demonstrate their desire for a moral order, respect from the government, and modernization in hopes that one day their country could be better recognized as an equal nation in the world.

The Maidan Revolution impacted all aspects of Ukrainian life, from politics, to society, to the economy, and to the arts. This widespread phenomenon affected the attitudes toward the operation of government, the economy, and Ukrainian society in general. The revolution demonstrated that Ukrainian society was ready for change and that common values were extremely important to the Ukrainian people.

Background

The Maidan Revolution began on the eve of November 21, 2013, in Kyiv, Ukraine, and lasted until the end of February 2014. Initially, dubbed the “EuroMaidan Revolution,” the movement began as a protest against the refusal of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

Through the use of social media about seven-eleven and actions organized as a rally to be held that night at Mezhyhirya, Kyiv’s independent square and city hall. In line with the rally, many said they were concerned about the situation in the government and that these actions did not support the event more than the European Union. Between the event and rally of November 21, a number of small protests were occurring in various parts of Ukraine. The revolution started as a result of the officials’ state opposition on November 22 but a Euro Union march was in Kyiv.

On the 24th of November, the peaceful protest turned violent, as the special police force of Ukraine, called the “Berkut,” were ordered to disperse the protesters. This attempt resulted in the beating of hundreds of young students and activists. This was the point at which the “Maidan Revolution” had ended, and the “Revolution of Orange” had begun. The end of December saw the March of Million, as nearly one million Ukrainians flooded the streets of Kyiv to show their support for the revolution.

Maidan January saw the introduction of what were later called polizia, better known as the “chernobyl, green” legislation passed by the Ukrainian government that limited the civil rights of the protesters. In order to enforce this legislation, the Berkut attacked the Maidan protesters once again on January 22, 2014. The using rubber bullets, water cannons and tear gas to disperse them. Firing against the police, and these marches to the first death of the revolution.

The most violent period of the Maidan Revolution occurred in late February 2014, as demonstrators with the Berkut regime dramatically occurred and the dominant violence was being in Kyiv. As demonstrator marched towards the Maidan Rady Building, they were met with extreme violence committed by the police. Between the 26th and 26th of February, over 180 protesters were killed by the police, with thousands more injured.

Extreme violence made it clear that a resolution was needed in order to stop the loss of life occurring in the centre of Kyiv, and the official opposition worked with the President to government to come to an agreement about ending the revolution. Their proposal, named the Maidan on the 26th that was immediately rejected. An ultimatum was offered to the demonstrators that either accepting the proposal and turning down the revolution. If not, the Maidan would turn to violence.

Political Impact

The end of the Maidan Revolution was met with a confusing statement that the government would continue to hold on to political and social changes made by the Maidan. This statement was not true. The events that have unfolded on December 26, 2014, resulted in the election of President Petro Poroshenko and a new Radio, with 39% of the ministers of Ukraine.

The event was a blow to the Maidan protesters and was widely considered a blow to Yanukovych’s legacy. The Maidan protesters are celebrated as heroes, symbolizing resistance to authoritarianism and free from political oligarchs. Yet, Yanukovych is still a household name in Ukraine.

The continuing and destabilization that occurred during Maidan prevented on opportunity for Russian intervention in Ukrainian affairs. The events in Ukraine have been a result of Yanukovych’s betrayal, which is more likely than a true ideological commitment to any single ideology. This forced the position of critical and corruption that continue to exist on both sides. Ukraine is a result of the unprecedented Maidan movement.

Cultural Impact

The emotional atmosphere of the Maidan Revolution led to forms of self-expression in many different modes of art, including paintings, music, photography, and films. These works captured the essence of the Maidan movement, and the atmosphere of the revolution, and the themes of the Maidan activists are often cited as inspiration for future generations of artists.

The Maidan Revolution has also led to a new generation of Ukrainian intellectuals, who have seen the revolution as an opportunity to express their feelings and attitudes about the state of democracy in Ukraine. Many of these intellectuals have been influenced by the Maidan movement, and they have used their art to express their views on the Maidan and the revolution.

Economic Impact

The Maidan Revolution has had a significant impact on the Ukrainian economy. The revolution led to the ousting of President Yanukovych, who was seen as a threat to the country’s economic stability. The neue corps, which supported Yanukovych, was also removed from power, and this led to a more stable political environment.

The Maidan Revolution also led to a new wave of foreign investment in Ukraine, as many countries saw the revolution as an opportunity to invest in a country that was once considered to be a failed state. The revolution also led to a more open economy, as the government removed many of the obstacles to foreign investment.

The Maidan Revolution has also had an impact on the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia. The revolution led to a significant increase in the value of the hryvnia, as people saw the revolution as a sign of hope for the future.

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Conclusions

It is evident that the Maidan Revolution affected all aspects of life for the Ukrainian people, from economy to culture to politics. The Maidan Revolution has had a significant impact on the Ukrainian government, and it is likely that the Maidan Revolution will continue to influence Ukraine’s future in ways that are yet to be determined.

The Maidan Revolution has demonstrated to the world the effectiveness and importance of popular demonstration and social movements, and how well-organized, the power of the people can achieve its goals. It is important to understand that the Maidan revolts were not a defeat for Ukraine, but rather a victory for a country that wanted positive change and realized their collective power to make a difference.

Acknowledgements & References