

## It's 'Ukraine,' not 'the Ukraine' – here's why

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, English speakers referred to “the Ukraine,” following Soviet practice. That’s not the case now. Ukraine’s official name in English does not include “the,” and for good reason. What is at stake? Nothing less than the political sovereignty of Ukraine. Yet in their coverage of the current crisis, some journalists and commentators still refer to events unfolding “in the Ukraine.” It might seem innocent, but it’s not.

“The Ukraine” is incorrect both grammatically and politically, says Oksana Kyzyma of the Embassy of Ukraine in London. “Ukraine is both the conventional short and long name of the country,” she says. The use of the article relates to the time before independence in 1991, when Ukraine was a republic of the Soviet Union known as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, she says. Since then, it should be merely Ukraine.

There is no definite article in the Ukrainian or Russian languages, and there’s another theory why it crept into the English language. Those who called it “the Ukraine” in English must have known that the word meant “borderland,” says Anatoly Liberman, a professor at the University of Minnesota with a specialism in etymology. So they referred to it as “the borderland.” “After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukrainians probably decided that the article denigrated their country [by identifying it as a part of Russia] and abolished ‘the’ while speaking English, so now it’s simply Ukraine. That’s why the Ukraine suddenly lost its article [at the turn of the millennium]. It’s a sort of linguistic independence in Europe. It’s hugely symbolic.”

Based on

<https://theconversation.com/its-ukraine-not-the-ukraine-heres-why-178748> and  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18233844>

## **The coronation of Charles III**

The coronation of Charles III and his wife Camilla as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023, at Westminster Abbey. Charles acceded to the throne on 8 September 2022, upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II.

Compared with previous coronations, the ceremony will undergo some alterations to represent multiple faiths, cultures, and communities across the UK and will be much shorter than Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. The ceremony will begin with the anointing of the King, symbolising his spiritual entry into kingship, and then his crowning and enthronement, representing his assumption of temporal powers and responsibilities. The Queen Consort will be crowned in a shorter and simpler ceremony. The royal family will travel to Buckingham Palace in a state procession and appear on the balcony to celebrate the occasion.

The coronation will mark not only a sacred anointing and formal crowning, but also include public celebrations. On 7 May, the Coronation Big Lunch will take place, providing the public with the opportunity to mark the occasion with street parties. The Coronation Concert will be held on the same day at Windsor Castle with representatives of the King and the Queen Consort's charities as well as members of the general public in attendance. On 8 May, the Big Help Out initiative will take place to encourage community service and volunteering. Both the coronation at Westminster Abbey and the concert at Windsor Castle will be broadcast on television.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation\\_of\\_Charles\\_III\\_and\\_Camilla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation_of_Charles_III_and_Camilla)

## **Death and state funeral of Elizabeth II**

On 8 September 2022, at 15:10 BST, Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, and the longest-reigning British monarch, died of old age at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, at the age of 96. The Queen's death was publicly announced at 18:30. She was succeeded by her eldest son, Charles III.

The death of the Queen set in motion Operation London Bridge, a collection of plans including arrangements for her state funeral, and supported by Operation Unicorn, which set protocols for her death occurring in Scotland. The United Kingdom observed a national mourning period of 10 days. The Queen's lying in state took place in Westminster Hall from 14 to 19 September, during which time an estimated 250,000 people queued to pay their respects.

The Queen's state funeral on 19 September was the first held in Britain since that of Winston Churchill in 1965. A funeral service was held at Westminster Abbey, followed by a procession to Wellington Arch that featured around 3,000 military personnel and was watched by around a million people in central London. The state hearse then transported the Queen's coffin to Windsor, followed by another procession through Windsor Great Park and a committal service at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. The Queen was interred with her husband Philip in the King George VI Memorial Chapel later that evening, in a private service attended only by her closest family.

The occasion of the Queen's state funeral was a public holiday in the UK and several Commonwealth states. The state funeral was one of the United Kingdom's most watched special television broadcasts, surpassing the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, the previous most watched royal event of the 21st century.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death\\_and\\_state\\_funeral\\_of\\_Elizabeth\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_state_funeral_of_Elizabeth_II)

## WHO invented the first computer? And when?

The answer will surprise you: it was Charles Babbage, in the year 1832.

Babbage, who was born in London in 1791, was a great mathematical **genius**. He was a natural inventor, and invented all sorts of new products.

When he finished school, he went to study mathematics at Cambridge University. Later, he got a job teaching at the university ; and while Professor of Mathematics in this **illustrious** university, he designed his "first difference **engine**". This was, basically, a hand-operated mechanical calculator.

He took nine years to build a part of the machine. This machine, which is in the London Science Museum, can make complex mathematical calculations. It is a basic mechanical computer.

Babbage dreamed however of more complicated machines. In fact, he did not only dream; he began to design them. The result was a series of "analytical engines" which were in fact powerful computers!

His designs contained processors (he called them "mills"), control units, a memory (he called it a store), and an input/output system. These are the four essential parts of a modern mathematical computer!

Alas, Babbage was born 100 years too soon! His "second difference engine" could not use electricity, since this had not yet become a usable source of power; so Babbage had to **make do with** mechanical systems. For this reason, the machine was big and very complicated, and very expensive. Though Babbage produced complete plans for the machine, he could not build it. It was too sophisticated for its age!

It was not until almost 160 years later that Babbage's "second difference engine" was finally manufactured. The first working version of this machine was built by the Science Museum in London, for the Babbage *bicentenary* in 1991. It can now be seen at the Museum; a second machine was then built for an American high-tech millionaire, who put it in the Computer History Museum, in Mountain View, California.

Babbage's analytical engines would have used "programmes" like those used in the textile industry to make complicated patterns; but they were never built. This brilliant mathematician, the father of the computer, really was too far ahead of his time!

<https://linguapress.com/advanced/babbage.htm>