



IF THESE STREETS COULD TALK

IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES IN TOPONYMIC CHANGES

FINAL REPORT

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Research was conducted in frame of the Democracy Study Centre, the international project of German-Polish-Ukrainian Society, by the scholars of the program, particularly by the group of historians.

The main **aim** of the research is to define, how different political actors use to change the toponymes according to their ideas and ideologies, while the aim of the current report is to raise awareness and knowledge about this topic.

The **scope** of the research includes Kyiv's streets', highways', squares' names and during last two centuries (19th, 20th)

THE HYPOTHESIS

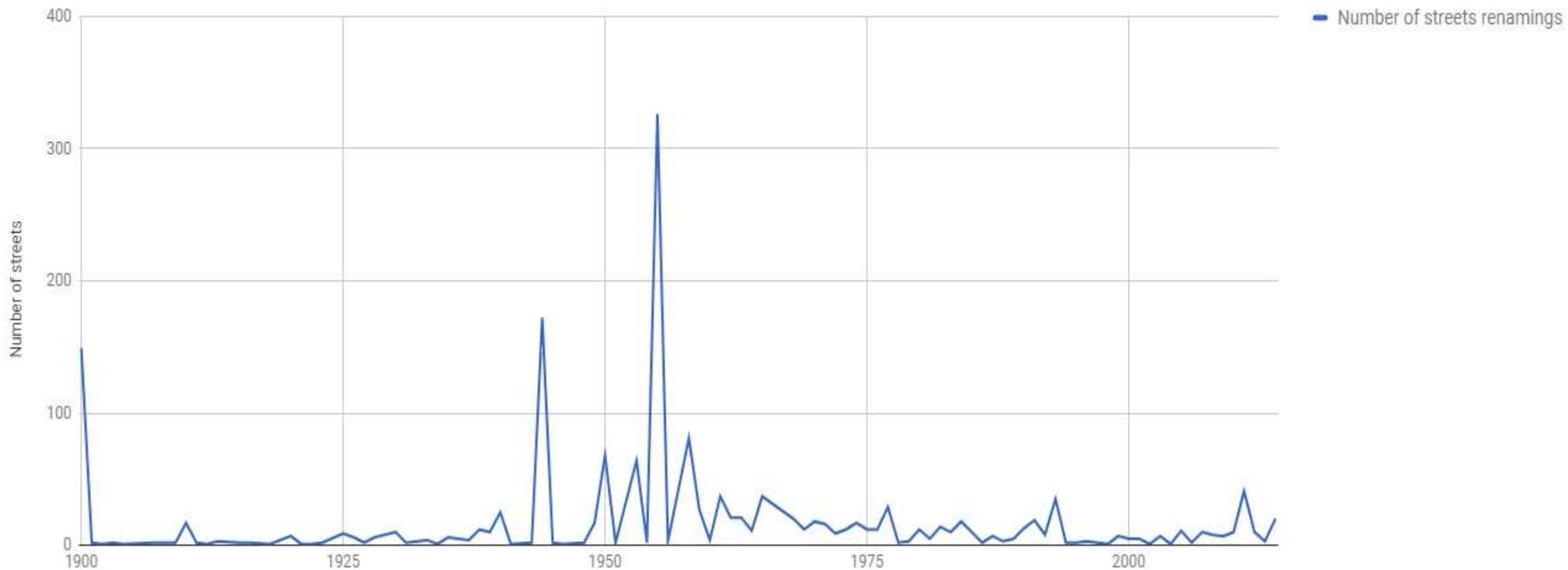
The working hypothesis of our study is two interrelated theses:

1. Modern Ukraine in the process of state-building and efforts to build and strengthen democratic form of government, following the example of Western democracies today is not able to abandon the legitimizing meta-narrative times XIX - early XX century. The global idea of Ukrainian statehood is the foundation which gives legitimacy to the existence of the country.
2. The meta-narrative, which the current Ukrainian political conjuncture has adopted during the state building is a compromise. It is built by integrating various, often polar philosophical concepts, in the single idea of Ukrainian statehood.

RESEARCH METHODS

1. **Method of statistical analysis**, to systematize the gathered information and identify the characteristics of urban spaces, which were filled by different semantic meanings in different periods of history
2. **Method of interpretation**, was used to deep rethinking of strategies and specifics of renaming public space in Kyiv due to changes in the development of Ukrainian meta-narrative
3. **Historical-comparative method**, to confirm the changes in the character development of modern Ukrainian state idea in comparison with the Soviet

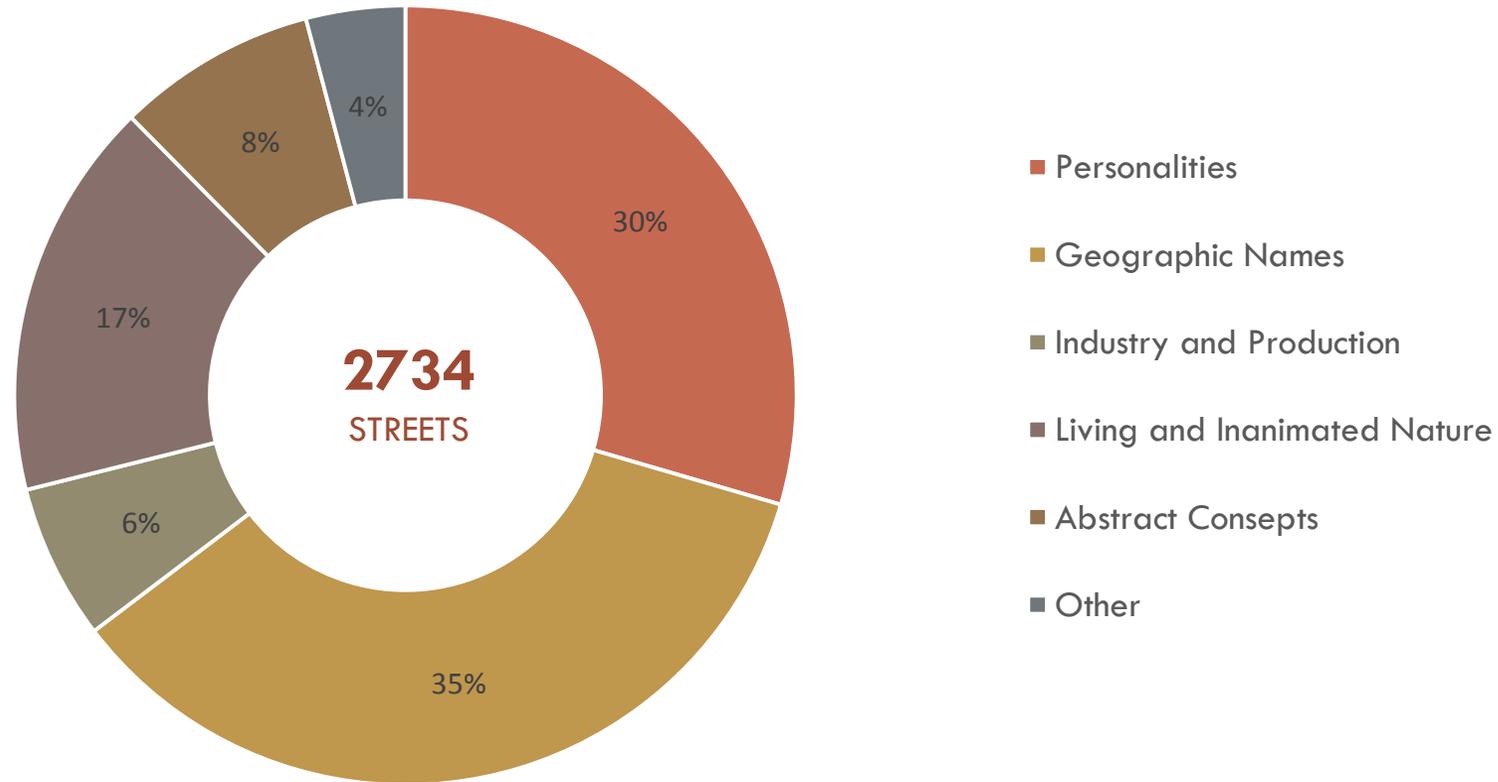
Renamings by date



Kyiv streets in 2017. Dates of naming

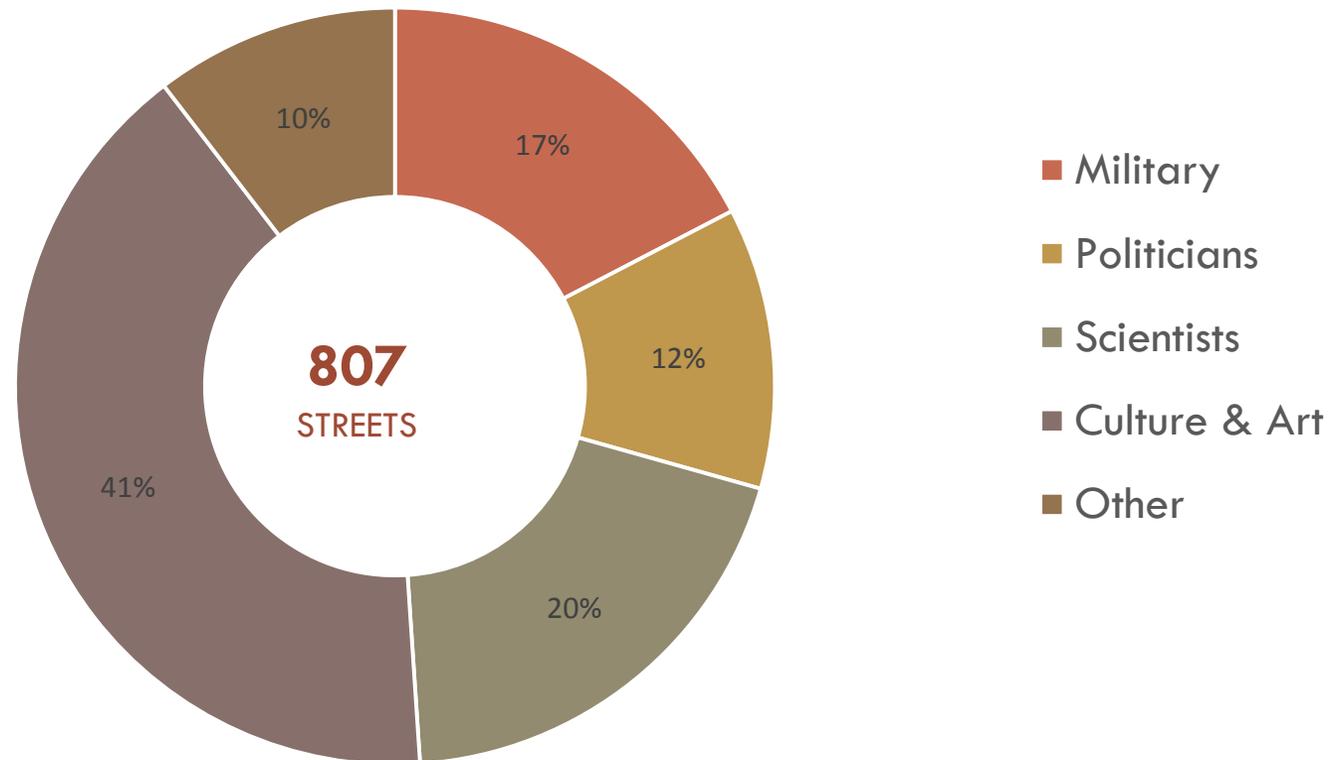
CATEGORIZING

During the proceeding the data-base that we have collected, we have spread all streets of Kyiv according to different characters.



PERSONALITIES

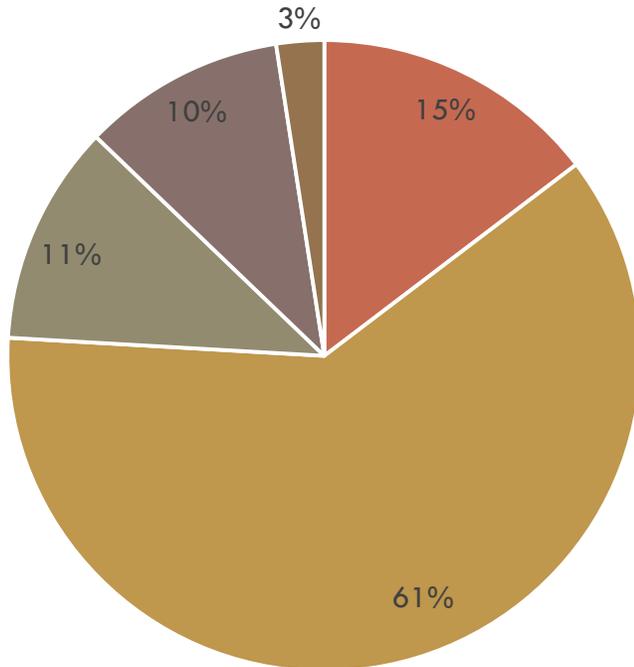
The category “Personality”, which includes 807 streets can be also divided into several sub-categories, all those sub-categories can be also divided according to different characters.



PERSONALITIES: SUBCATEGORIES

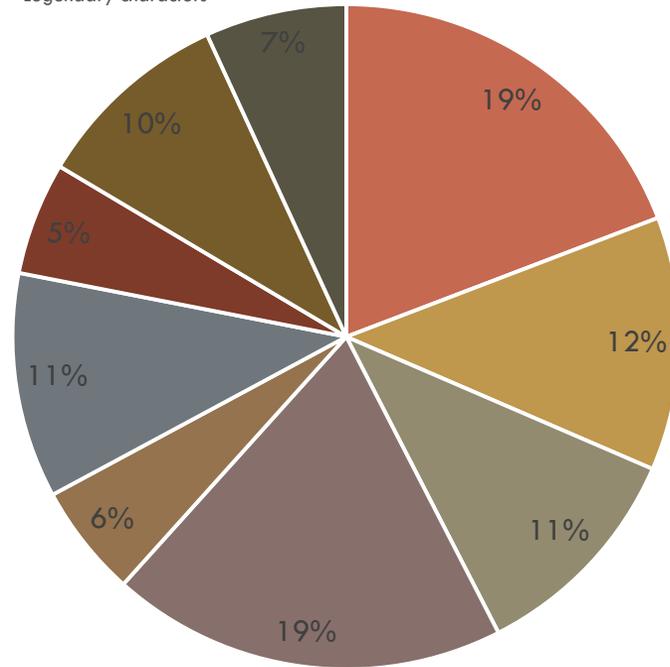
Culture and Art

■ Music ■ Literature ■ Art ■ Theater ■ Cinematography



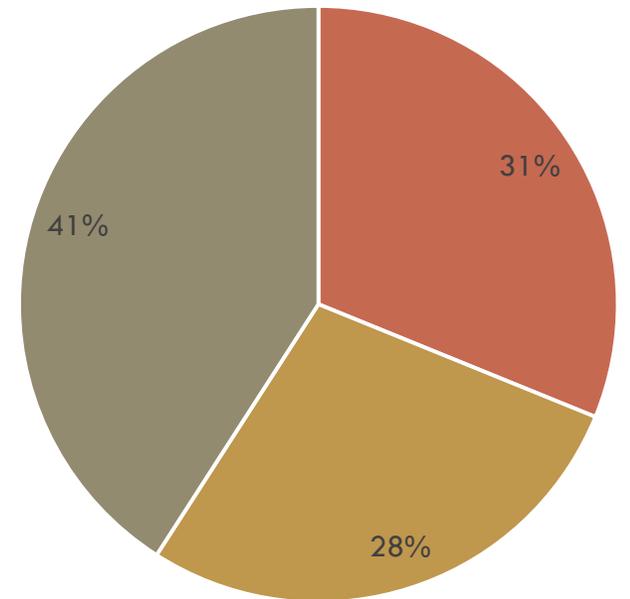
Others

■ Educators ■ Factory directors ■ Sportsmen ■ Unknown ■ Legendary characters ■ Human Rights activists ■ Householders ■ Priests ■ Businessmans & Philanthropists



Scientists

■ Humanities and social sciences ■ Technical sciences ■ Natural sciences



DIFFERENT NARRATIVES

Majorly Kyiv's street names can be also divided according to the three main narratives/ideas. However each of categories that are based on particular political narrative can be divided into different sub-categories.

1. Russian Imperial Narrative

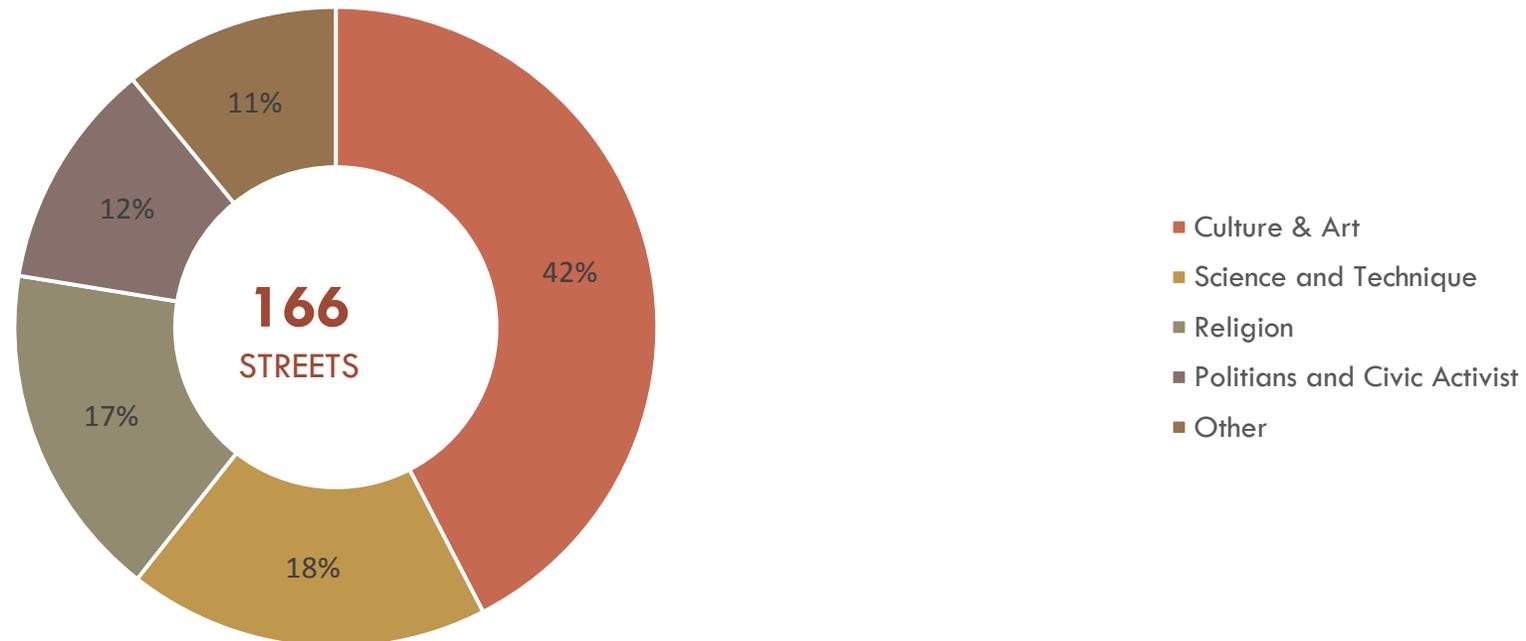
2. Soviet Narrative

- a. *The National idea of internationalism*
- b. *The idea of the Great Victory*
- c. *The idea of the Great October Revolution*
- d. *The idea of Progress and Achievements*

3. Ukrainian Narrative

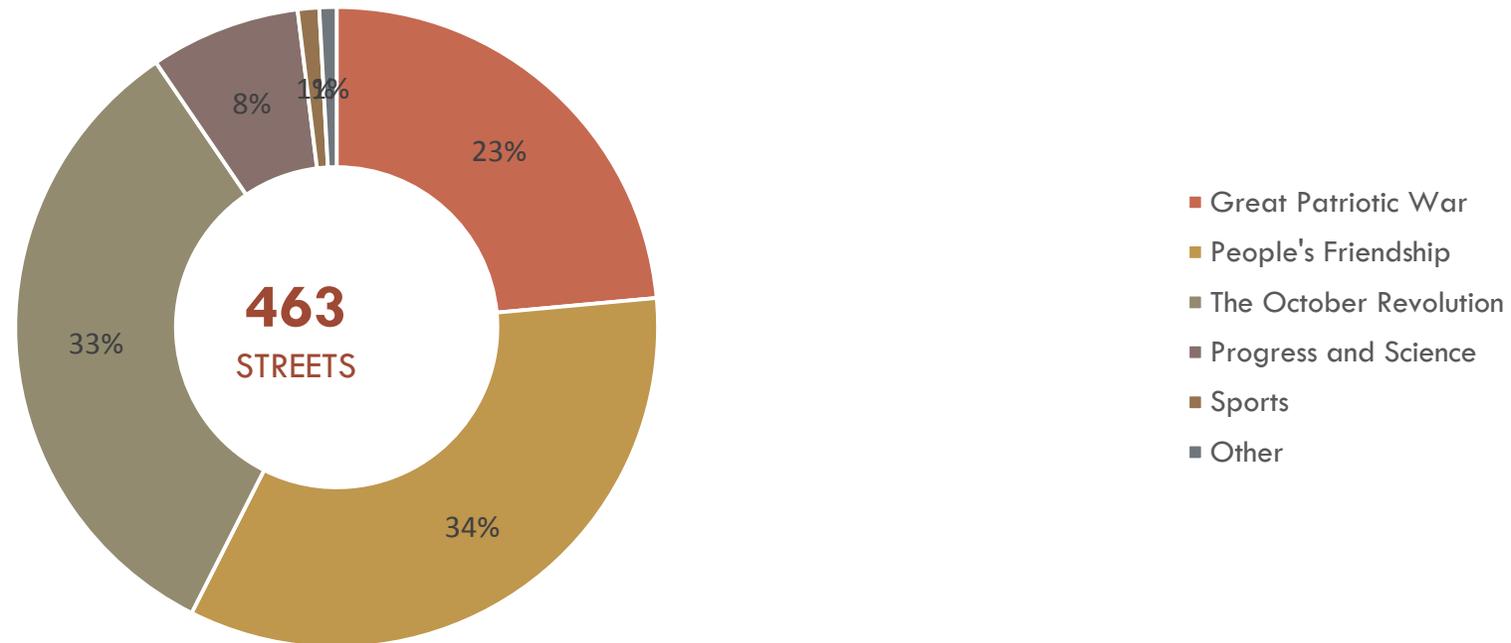
RUSSIAN IMPERIAL NARRATIVE

Imperial narrative includes Kyiv toponymes that have clear ideological or cultural connection with the Russian Empire. First of all, there are street named in honor of imperial political, public figures, scientists, figures of culture and art, religious figures.



SOVIET NARRATIVE

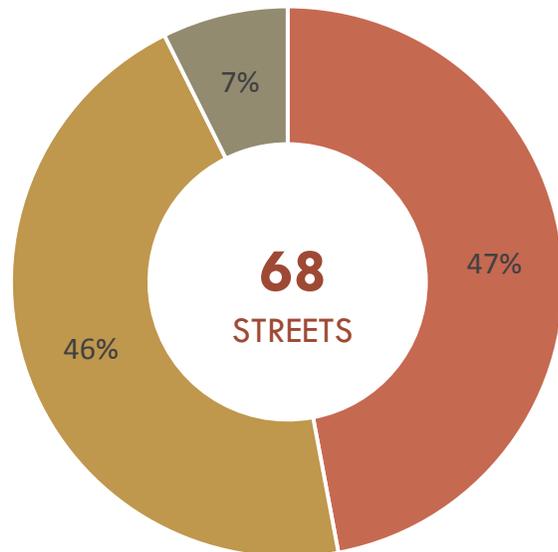
To identify the Soviet meta-narrative, we have selected several categories of Kyiv urban names, which were clearly identified with the culture or social memory of the Soviet Union.



UKRAINIAN NARRATIVE

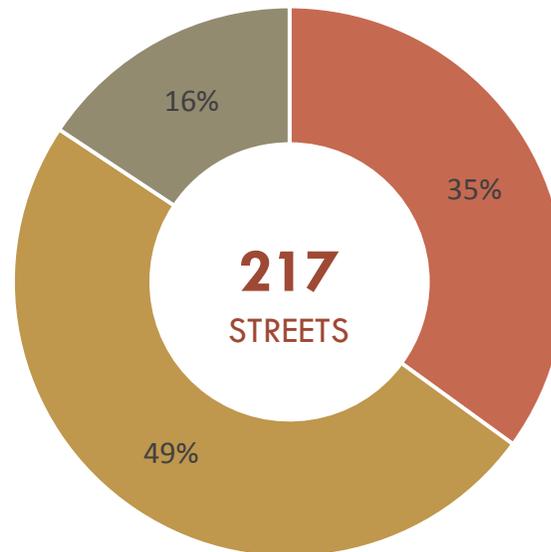
Ukrainian narrative includes Kyiv place names that have clear ideological connection with Ukrainian national ideology, Ukrainian state and all attributes of it.

Ukrainian National Idea



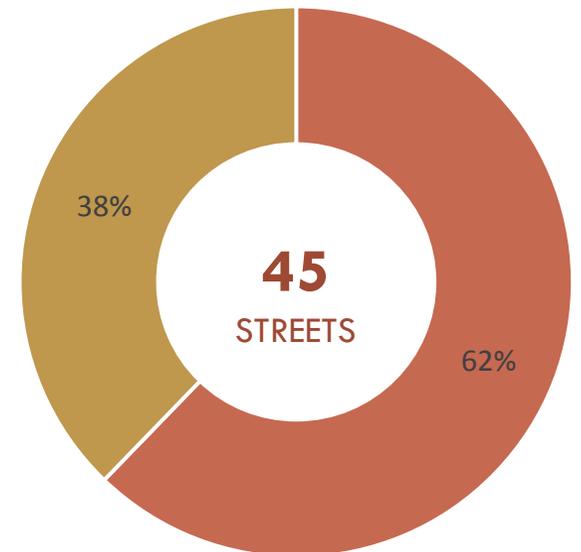
■ Military ■ Politicians and Civic Activists ■ Other

Ukrainian Culture



■ Musicians and Artists
■ Writers and Poets
■ Humanities and social scientists

Others



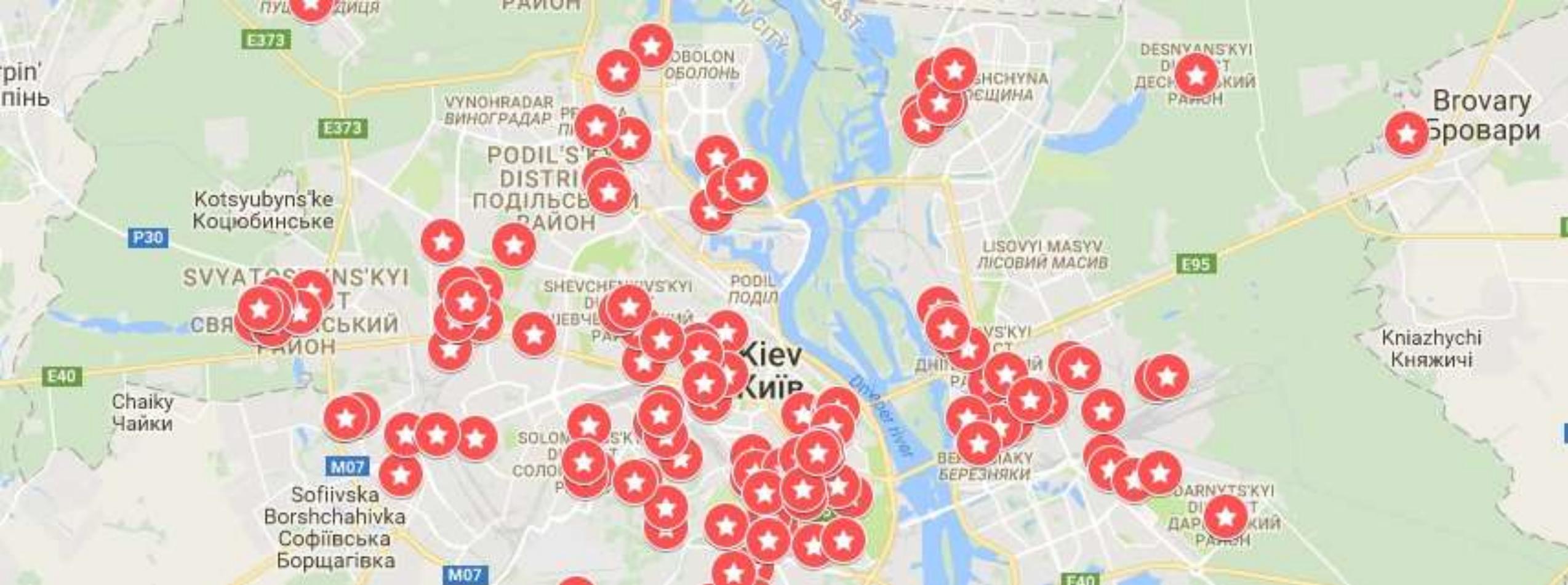
■ Technical and Natural scientists
■ Sportsmen, Local activists, Philantropists

DECOMMUNIZATION PROCESS

The decommunization process officially started two years ago after the *Decommunization Laws* were signed. One of the important components of the Laws was the prohibition to use Soviet symbols and names in public spaces that meant the necessity to rename urban names. By June 2017 in Kyiv as a result of implementation of the Decommunization Laws 167 streets have been renamed.

According to the Laws urban names associated with Soviet communist totalitarian regime had to be changed. The criteria was quite vague that left huge room for interpretation.

We calculated that out of 167 streets which were selected for renaming 10 shall not be the subject of decommunization.



DECOMMUNIZATION IN KYIV CITY SPACE MAP

Map marking streets renaming in 2015-2017, includes old and new names of the street and when it was renamed

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Auswärtiges Amt

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