

Weekly Top 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. November 15, 2019

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

**FROM: Daniel Rubin, Chairman;
Aleksander Smukler, President;
Mark B. Levin, Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO**

Dear Friend,

NCSEJ will be holding its next Board of Governors meeting on **Tuesday, December 10 from 10:00 am — 1:00 pm** at the **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** (1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington D.C.).

Among the presenters will be **Ambassador John F. Tefft** — the former Ambassador to Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Lithuania — who will be presenting an overview of the geopolitical developments surrounding Ukraine.

As well, we are pleased to share that **Ambassador George C. Maior** — the Romanian Ambassador to the United States — will be delivering an update on the current developments in his country. **Additional speakers to be announced in the coming weeks.** There will be reports on the recent NCSEJ Mission to Romania and Bulgaria and the current state of anti-Semitism in the region.

You may [RSVP here online](#) or — to register by phone — call David Pasmanik at **202-898-2500**.

Lastly, I would like to bring your attention to a recent Op-Ed penned by NCSEJ Chairman, Daniel Rubin — [Building on the future of Ukraine and its Jewish community](#).

Sincerely,



Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10
Washington, D.C. November 15, 2019

Building on the future of Ukraine and its Jewish community
Daniel Rubin
JNS | November 15, 2019

(November 13, 2019 / JNS) As Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky settles into power, hopes are high that he will be able to deliver real reform for the Ukrainian people. During the U.N. General Assembly, we had the opportunity to meet Zelensky and his team, and assess for ourselves his views on issues of concern to the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ). While we remain acutely aware that Ukraine faces many challenges, after hearing Zelensky in New York, as well as participating in May's inaugural Kyiv Jewish Forum organized by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, we are optimistic both about the country as a whole and the future of the Ukrainian-Jewish community.

First and foremost, the very fact that Ukraine elected a Jewish president in a land where so much Jewish blood has been shed represents powerful evidence that Ukrainians of all stripes have united around a national identity that transcends faith. Indeed, while the international media has dwelled extensively on Zelensky's Judaism, in Ukraine itself the new president's religion was literally a non-factor during the campaign. Ukrainians voted for him primarily because of his promise to clean house with Ukraine's corrupt establishment.

This desire for change—combined with a slick social-media campaign and an everyman persona derived from his comedic past—resulted in an almost 50 percentage point win for him over the widely disliked incumbent, Petro Poroshenko.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Ukraine's New Economic Policy Juggles Populism With Libertarianism

Konstantin Skorkin

Carnegie | November 11, 2019

Following the political blitzkrieg in Ukraine that gave President Volodymyr Zelensky's team a single-party majority in parliament, the new authorities have set about implementing their social and economic pledges. Upon assuming office, Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk promised economic growth of 5 to 8 percent a year. His optimism is not currently borne out by practice: the 2020 budget envisages a more modest 3.3 percent, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast is about the same.

In recent years, Ukraine's economy has certainly grown: in 2018, real growth in GDP accelerated from 2.5 percent to 3.3 percent, and in the second quarter of 2019, it reached 4.6 percent year on year. Yet the Ukrainian economy is still too dependent on exports and global prices for raw materials to achieve the long-term, stable growth rates that Zelensky's team has promised.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Tens of thousands join far-right Independence Day march in Poland

AFP

Times of Israel | November 11, 2019

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's far right attracted tens of thousands to a march in Warsaw on Monday to mark the country's Independence Day just weeks after making significant gains in national elections.

November 11, 1918, was not just the end of World War I but also the end of 123 years of occupation of Poland by tsarist Russia, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This year's march comes a month after Poland's Confederation, a new far-right libertarian coalition, won nine seats in the October 13 parliamentary elections.

[Read the full article here.](#)

How Ukraine's bloody 2014 revolution affected Jews

Cnnan Lipshiz

JTA | November 11, 2019

(JTA) — Ukraine is in the news now for its ties to the Trump impeachment scandal, but this year also marks the fifth anniversary of a turbulent revolution that roiled the country and ousted its then-president.

In 2014, anti-government demonstrations became violent, and clashes with police led to the deaths of dozens of protesters. Ukraine's parliament voted to oust President Viktor Yanukovich, and voters elected Petro Poroshenko — who was replaced earlier this year by Volodymyr Zelensky, the country's first Jewish president.

Sam Sokol, a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent based in Israel, published a book this summer about the revolution titled "Putin's Hybrid War and the Jews: Antisemitism, Propaganda, and the Displacement of Ukrainian Jewry."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia: Israel okaying hacker's extradition to US harms ties between us

Editorial Board

Times of Israel

Russia's embassy in Israel on Monday slammed a High Court of Justice ruling rejecting the appeal of a Russian hacker jailed in Israel against extradition to the United States, calling the decision "a breach of his rights" and saying it does not help relations between Jerusalem and Moscow.

"We regret the decision of Israeli's High Court of Justice to turn down Mr. Burkov's appeal on his extradition to [the United States]," the embassy's statement said. "This decision constitutes a breach of his rights as well as Israel's international obligations. This step does not contribute to the

development of [Russia-Israel] relations.”

[Read the full article here.](#)

Ex-Kazakhstan leader proposes Russia-Ukraine presidents meet in bid to ease conflict **Reuters | November 12, 2019**

NUR-SULTAN, Kazakhstan (Reuters) - Kazakhstan's former president Nursultan Nazarbayev is trying to arrange a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy, whose countries are at odds over the war between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

“Zelenskiy has already agreed to a tete-a-tete, and (I have) informed the president of Russia about that. We shall see now (if Putin agrees),” Nazarbayev told a conference on international politics in the Kazakh capital Nur-Sultan on Tuesday.

Russia, however, gave a guarded response. Any such meeting must be well prepared and “meeting for the sake of meeting would serve little purpose,” the Kremlin said.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Moldovan parliament approves Ion Chicu as new prime minister **Reuters | November 14, 2019**

CHISINAU (Reuters) - Moldova's parliament on Thursday approved former finance minister Ion Chicu as prime minister along with a new government composed mainly of ministers who support Moscow-backed President Igor Dodon.

The move came two days after a no-confidence vote felled the previous government of pro-Western prime minister Maia Sandu just five months after it took power promising to fight corruption.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Ukrainian Israeli Innovation Summit Held in Kyiv **UNIAN | November 4, 2019**

On 30 October, the second international technological conference Ukrainian Israeli Innovation Summit 2019: The Industries of the Future was held at UNIT.City Innovation Park. The event was held within the framework of the first Israeli Innovation Week in Ukraine and attended by more than 600 representatives of the tech companies, top managers of the corporations, investors and start-ups from Ukraine and Israel. “The mission of the Israeli Innovation Week in Ukraine is to unite the leaders of the tech industry of two countries, to demonstrate the business potential of Ukraine to the Israeli investors and companies, and to accelerate implementation of the advanced Israeli technologies and innovations in Ukraine,” said Alyona Novgorodskaya, the Founder & Executive Producer at the Israeli Innovation Week and the Ukrainian Israeli Innovation Summit and CEO & Founder at the Global Israeli Initiative.

[Read the full article here.](#)

What do the USA Israel and Ukraine have in common? **Alexey Chalimov** **The Times of Israel | November 10, 2019**

Despite being geographically and culturally remote, the USA, China and Ukraine have formed some of the most advantageous partnerships of the last decade. How come that Ukraine became a “skills pool” of the second Silicon Valley and what is the impact Israeli businesses have had on the Ukrainian IT industry.

Israel and Ukraine have always been closely interrelated due to a number of historical and ethnic factors. A number of major Israeli companies have chosen Ukraine as their preferred location for R&D activities. Some prominent examples of the latter include Wix, which was among the pioneers opening its first R&D center in Ukraine 10 years ago; as well as Plarium and Playtika, both having over 50% of their engineering workforce located in Ukraine. Look at the story of SimilarWeb: they managed to solve their HR problem within a month by outsourcing development to Ukrainian engineers.

[Read the full article here.](#)

[Read full articles here](#)

1120 20th Street NW, Ste. 300N Washington, DC 20036-3413
Telephone: +1 202 898 2500 | ncsejinfo@ncsej.org

About NCSEJ

Founded in 1971, the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

 [JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST](#)

 [FORWARD THIS EMAIL](#)

