



Crimea

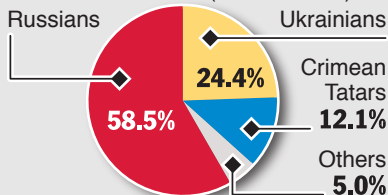
Self-governing region of Ukraine, currently under Russian occupation

Full name: **Autonomous Republic of Crimea**

Area: **26,100 sq km** (slightly smaller than Belgium)

Population: **2.01 million**

Ethnic breakdown (2001 census)



Crimean Tatars: *Native Muslim group deported en masse during World War II by Soviet leader **Joseph Stalin** for alleged collaboration with Nazis. Allowed to return in 1990s*

Background: Crimea annexed by Russia in 1783. Peninsula becomes part of Soviet Union from 1921 until 1954, when **Nikita Khrushchev** transfers control to Soviet Republic of Ukraine. Region votes to join independent Ukraine in 1992

Military importance



Russian naval base at Sevastopol gives access to Mediterranean Sea. Facility leased from Ukraine until 2042 in exchange for discounts on Russian gas supplies



Crimea economy

GDP: **\$4.3 billion (2012)**

GNI per capita: **\$5,400 (2012)**

Key industries: **Tourism, agriculture, ore, mining, chemicals**

Mainland Ukraine supplies 80 percent of Crimea's water and electricity, and 65 percent of its gas. Kiev funds estimated \$800m of \$1.2bn annual regional public budget

Recent events:

Kremlin-backed troops seize control of Crimea after ousting in Kiev of Ukraine's pro-Russian president,

Viktor Yanukovich. New Kiev authorities refuse to cede region to Russia. Crimea's pro-Moscow council under **Sergei Aksyonov** (above) planning referendum on joining with Russia on March 16

