What the Western Media Won't Tell You: Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians Also Voted to Join Russia

"On the 16th of March We Choose" neo-Nazi Ukraine "Or" Russia

By Prof Michel Chossudovsky
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Region: Russia and FSU
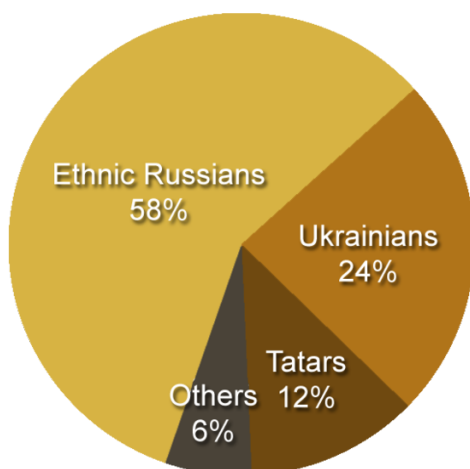Theme: Law and Justice

16 марта мы выбираем

или

Image: "On the 16th of March We Choose": neo-Nazi Ukraine "Or" Russia?

Media reports acknowledge that 83.1 percent of eligible Crimean voters cast their ballot in the March 16th referendum.

The final tally of the vote was 96.77 percent in favor of joining the Russian Federation, and 2.51 percent against.

Distribution of ethnic groups in Crimea (2001)

The Western media has underscored that both the Crimean Tatars as well as the Ukrainian population of Crimea were against joining the Russian Federation. The Non-Russian population constitutes 41.7 percent of the Crimean population.

According to official data, Russians constitute 58.32% of the population of Crimea, 24.32% are Ukrainians and 12.10% are Crimean Tatars.

The Guardian, in a slither of media disinformation intimated that the Tatars feared a wave of repression if Crimea were to join the Russian Federation:

> Now, as Crimea faces a referendum that is likely to seal its fate as a province or satellite of Russia, ethnic tensions are reaching boiling point. In a chilling echo of history, Tatar houses in the Crimean city of Bakhchisarai have been

marked with an ominous X, just as they were before the Soviet-era deportations. On Monday two Tatar businesses were firebombed.

.... The prospect of a return to living under Moscow's rule is disturbing. "People are in panic. "We are trying to keep people calm but they are scared of the Russian soldiers and Cossacks that come here," he said." ([Crimea's Tatars fear the worst as it prepares for referendum | World news | theguardian.com](#)

Contrary to the reports of 135 international observers from 23 countries, the Western media in chorus has suggested without a shred of evidence that the elections were rigged and that Crimea was under Russian military occupation.

The observer mission reports which include members of theEuropean Parliament have been casually ignored by the mainstream Western media:

Mateus Piskorkski, the leader of the European observers' mission and Polish MP: *"Our observers have not registered any violations of voting rules."*

Ewald Stadler, member of the European Parliament, dispelled the *"referendum at gunpoint"* myth: *"I haven't seen anything even resembling pressure... People themselves want to have their say."*

Pavel Chernev: Bulgarian member of parliament: *"Organization and procedures are 100 percent in line with the European standards,"* he added.

A woman is reflected in a mirror as she casts her ballot during voting in a referendum at a polling station in Simferopol March 16, 2014.(Reuters / Thomas Peter)

Johann Gudenus, member of the Vienna Municipal Council: *"Our opinion is – if people*

want to decide their future, they should have the right to do that and the international community should respect that. There is a goal of people in Crimea to vote about their own future. Of course, Kiev is not happy about that, but still they have to accept and to respect the vote of people in Crimea".

Serbian observer Milenko Baborats *"People freely expressed their will in the most democratic way, wherever we were... During the day we didn't see a single serious violation of legitimacy of the process,"*

Srdja Trifkovic, prominent and observer *from Serbia: "The presence of troops on the streets is virtually non-existent and the only thing resembling any such thing is the unarmed middle-aged Cossacks who are positioned outside the parliament building in Simferopol. But if you look at the people both at the voting stations and in the streets, like on Yalta's sea front yesterday afternoon, frankly I think you would feel more tense in south Chicago or in New York's Harlem than anywhere round here,"* he said.   (For more details see [Crimean 'Referendum at Gunpoint' is a Myth – International Observers](#) By [Global Research News](#), March 17, 2014)

Yet according to Time Magazine, without acknowledging the reports of the international observers, *the ballot had to have been rigged* and the vote was held under the gun of the Russian military:

> "95 percent voted in favor of becoming a part of Russia. That may seem like an impossible result, the mark of a rigged election. And in some ways it was. The vote was held during a Russian military occupation of Crimea and the ballot did not offer voters the option of keeping their current status in Ukraine. (Time, March 17, 2014)

In chorus, Western media reports have stated that both Ukrainians and Tatars were firmly against seceding from Ukraine. They also intimated that the Tatar community had decided not to vote.

According to the Washington Post, "a vote in favor of seceding" was inevitable because "ethnic Russians make up 60 percent of Crimea's population". But the result was not 60 percent in favor, it was 97 percent in favor, indicating that all major ethnic groups in the Crimea voted in favor of seceding from Ukraine.

The figures do not add up: The Russians constitute 58 percent of Crimea's population, yet 97 percent of the vote was in favor of joining Russia. If Ukrainians and Tatars had refused to participate in the referendum, voter participation would have been substantially less that 83.1.

The referendum was also a vote against the US-EU sponsored Coup d'etat.

The results confirm that the Tatars and Ukrainians who did cast their ballot, also voted overwhelmingly in favor of joining Russia.

What this 97 percent vote also indicates is a rejection of the illegal Neo-Nazi government in Kiev. The Election poster (image above) reads:

16 марта мы выбираем или

"On the 16 of March we choose": neo-Nazi Ukraine "Or" the Russian Federation?

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