

**UKRAINE**

# Girding for War

In the face of foreign intervention, Ukraine has united. Over the past few months Ukrainian society has changed dramatically: Ukrainians have realized their own strength and potential, and are marshalling it to confront a clear external enemy. And Ukrainian authorities command even less respect than they did before the invasion. In sum, Ukraine isn't sluggish or passive any more.

This change in public attitude is, paradoxically, both good and bad news. On the one hand, we see thousands of activists working day and night to create a new country, with strong institutions. The Cabinet has also declared its intention to institute the fundamental changes needed to generate sustainable growth. On the other hand, we see almost complete public mistrust in the nation's police, judicial system and representatives of the authorities. In other words, all segments of Ukrainian society have been set in motion, and we do not have clear picture of how things will end.

Even disregarding the multiple internal problems, a potential Russian intervention is now the main risk to Ukraine. Certainly, we cannot predict whether or not Putin will carry his ambitions beyond Crimea. However, a growing concentration of Russian forces on the Ukrainian border (disregard continued Putin's promises to withdraw), and continued attempts to destabilize situation in the southeast, don't offer many grounds for optimism. In any case, Ukrainians are preparing for all-out war.>>>

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