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Lost heritage: New online exhibition showcases the destruction of historical buildings in Ukraine

(Leipzig) The digital exhibition »Destroyed Ukrainian Heritage: Ukraine's Built Heritage since February 24, 2022. A Record of Destruction« has been launched to mark the third anniversary of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Drawing on 40 select examples, it documents the systematic destruction of Ukraine's built environment and showcases the enormous extent of the losses. The exhibition was curated by the Kyiv architectural historian Dr. Semen Shyrochyn in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO). The Leibniz Research Alliance »Value of the Past« supported the project.

Since the beginning of Russia's full invasion of Ukraine, numerous large cities, as well as small towns and villages throughout the country have been attacked with drones, missiles and artillery. The war of aggression has brought death and suffering to the people and destroyed vital infrastructure. At the same time, Ukraine's cultural heritage has suffered immense losses. The English-language online exhibition attempts to give an impression of the extent of the destruction and the diversity of the buildings affected. It is difficult to quantify the damage, but by now, more than 250,000 buildings are thought to have been destroyed. These include unique and valuable architectural monuments, some of which have never been researched at all.

»The exhibition deliberately presents a sober inventory of the destruction. We want to show that the Russian bombings have not only massively affected everyday life throughout Ukraine but are also aimed at destroying the country's cultural identity« says Dr. Susanne Jaeger, Exhibition Coordinator at the GWZO.

The exhibition is now online and can be viewed here: <https://ukrainian-destroyed-heritage.leibniz-gwzo.de>.

The *Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)* researches developments and processes in the history and culture of the region between the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Adriatic. The Institute has a broad temporal scope beginning with the transition from late antiquity to the early Middle Ages and extending to the present day and is highly interdisciplinary. The GWZO's basic research combines methods and concepts from the disciplines and subjects of archaeology, medieval studies, literary studies, East European studies, history, art history and architectural history as well as interdisciplinary cultural studies. Approaches from the natural sciences are also deployed. The broad range of subjects covered by the GWZO is a unique feature both in Germany but also by international comparison. It thus contributes, alongside universities, to an elaborate understanding of historical and contemporary issues in the states, societies and

cultures of Eastern Europe. The Institute has close links to Leipzig University. Professors are jointly appointed, and the two institutions cooperate with respect to research, teaching and career development. The institute also maintains many collaborative relationships with academic institutions in Eastern Europe. | <https://www.leibniz-gwzo.de>

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Images:

High-resolution images are available for download at:
<https://owncloud.gwdg.de/index.php/s/F2F1Tr8RIKnXAvC>



This measure is co-financed by tax revenue from the budget agreed on by the Landtag of Saxony.