

Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists

(*Orhanizatsyia Ukrainskykh Natsionalistiv*, OUN), a nationalist Ukrainian organization established in 1929. During the 1930s the OUN came under the influence of Nazi ideology, and even moved its headquarters to Berlin.

After World War II broke out in September 1939, the OUN coordinated underground activities in the Soviet-occupied western Ukraine, and operated openly in German-occupied Poland. In 1940 the group split into two; the majority wanted to organize an uprising in the Soviet-occupied Ukraine, while the other group wanted to keep cooperating with the Germans for the time being.

During the German invasion of the Soviet Union in mid-1941, OUN members formed two Ukrainian battalions within the German army, acted as interpreters, and attacked retreating Soviet troops. They then set up a Ukrainian civil administration and police in now German-occupied Ukraine. After the Germans invaded the city of Lvov, OUN members proclaimed the establishment of a national Ukrainian government. However, the Nazis quickly foiled their plans by arresting the members of the so-called government. OUN leaders were forced to hide, but its members still collaborated with the Germans.

The OUN hoped to establish an independent Ukrainian state after the war, but the group was destroyed by the Soviet police in the 1950s.