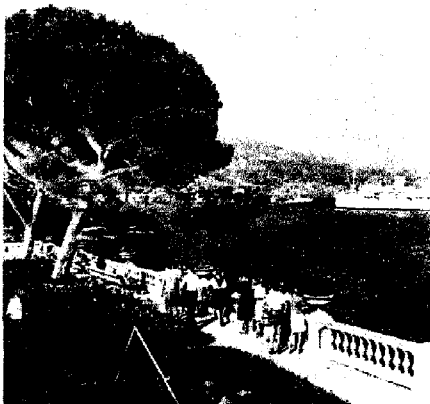


Crimea, Russian KRYM, *oblast* (administrative region), Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, has an area of 10,400 sq mi (27,000



Park and harbour, Yalta, Crimea
Novosti Press Agency

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Tauri, earliest known inhabitants of the mountainous south coast of the modern Crimea, called after them in ancient times the Tauric Chersonese. They were famous in the ancient world for their virgin goddess, to whom they sacrificed shipwrecked strangers. She was identified by the Greeks with Artemis Tauropolos or with Iphigeneia. The Tauri often pirated on the Black Sea, and toward the end of the 2nd century BC they were dependent allies of the Scythian king Scilurus, who from their harbour of Symbolon (Balaklava) harassed the Chersonese. Their later history is unknown.

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Chersonese, Tauric, in ancient geography, the Crimea and the city of Chersonesus (Heracliotic Chersonese), located on the peninsula three miles west of modern Sevastopol. The city, founded by Ionian Greeks in the 6th century BC, probably as a trading factory, was refounded in the 5th century by Megarian Greeks from Heraclea Pontica and became a Dorian city. Prosperous from the 4th century BC, it maintained a free constitution of the Greek type and fought for its continued independence against the Scythians of southern Russia, against the native Tauri of the southern Crimea, and against the kings of Bosphorus. It traded with Athens and cities on the Pontic coast in the early period and with Delos, Rhodes, and Delphi in the Hellenistic Age. About 110 BC it turned to Pontus for protection against the Scythians and was subsequently incorporated into the Pontic Empire of Mithradates VI. Under the Roman Empire, Chersonese was treated as a free city protected by the Bosporan client king; a Roman military station guarded its considerable grain trade. The city continued to flourish in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, in the early Hellenistic Age, and again under the Byzantine Empire. Uninhabited since the 14th century, the site of the city contains the remains of a wall from the 4th century BC, also a wall and many churches of Byzantine times.

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sq km) and is coterminous with the Crimean Peninsula. In 1921 the Crimea was formed into the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which was populated primarily by Tatars, until they were dispersed in 1945 for alleged collaboration with the Germans. The area passed to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and in 1954 was transferred to the Ukraine. The northern part of the *oblast*, a level steppe region, is under intensive agriculture. Winter wheat, corn (maize), and sunflowers are the main crops. The climate is dry, and additional water supplies are brought by canal from the Dnpr River at Kakhovka. On the lower mountain slopes of the south are many vineyards; there tobacco is important, as are flowers for perfume. Most towns are engaged in processing farm produce, especially wine making. Heavier industry is concentrated in Kerch (*q.v.*), a centre of large-scale iron-ore mining; the ore, which has a high phosphorus content, is sent by sea to Zhdanov and the Donets Basin. Simferopol (*q.v.*), the *oblast* headquarters, has diversified industry and is a cultural centre. There are a number of stone quarries, especially for limestone and diorite. Along the southern coast, the tourist industry is extremely important, with Yalta (*q.v.*), Gurzuf, Alushta, and Alupka the main centres. Pop. (1970) 1,814,000.

Crimea (ancient geography): *see* Chersonese, Tauric.

Crimea, Khanate of the, Tatar state of the Crimean peninsula centred at Bakhchisarai; emerged in the 15th century as a remnant of the Kipchak Golden Horde, and was nominally subject to the Ottoman sultan. It was annexed by Russia in 1783.

·Mongol states' contact with Russia 16:43d

Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, near Partizanskoye in the central Crimea, Soviet Union, at 2,100 feet (640 metres) above sea level, noted for studies of the Sun. Its 102-inch (2.6-metre) telescope, completed in 1960, is the largest reflector in Europe. The observatory also has a 50-inch reflecting telescope at Simeiz in the southern Crimea, the observatory's main site before its destruction during World War II and subsequent rebuilding.