

The Revolution of Dignity Through the Lens of Diverse Experiences

Appendix 1

Role card 1. *Berkut* riot police officer

- **Profile:** A man who is a professional military or law enforcement officer. He is trained to act strictly in accordance with orders and military statutes.
- **Primary motivation:** Public order, national security, prevention of anarchy on the streets, and military allegiance.
- **Attitude to the events:** He is convinced that the state rests on the rule of law and the authority of law enforcement. He treats protesters as aggressive troublemakers and radicals who, at the orders of foreign powers, are destabilizing the country from within. He believes he was defending the constitutional order and fulfilling his duty to the state.

Role card 2. Successor to anti-Soviet dissidents / human rights activist

- **Profile:** A young woman who grew up on stories about her family's struggle for freedom of speech and human rights against the totalitarian Soviet regime.
- **Primary motivation:** Individual freedom, the rule of law, and the protection of human dignity against arbitrary exercise of power.
- **Attitude to the events:** She is convinced that a corrupt state's laws lose their legitimacy when they violate fundamental human rights. For her, the Revolution of Dignity is a natural continuation of Ukrainians' struggle for freedom against the oppressive regime. She regards the right to revolt as a natural right of every free individual.

Role card 3. A factory worker from Eastern Ukraine

- **Profile:** A person aged 50 or over who has spent their entire career working at a large machine-building factory that primarily exports its products to the CIS, particularly Russia.
- **Primary motivation:** Economic stability, job security, family well-being, and safety.
- **Attitude to the events:** He/she fears that a breakdown in economic ties with Russia could lead to the factory's closure and widespread job losses. He/she sees little value in European integration if it comes at the cost of closing manufacturing companies. To him/her, the protests in Kyiv represent a threat to his/her peaceful life, bringing chaos and undermining stability.

Role card 4. A female student, a Euromaidan activist

- **Profile:** A 19-year-old girl who is studying at a university, is an active social media user, and dreams of traveling and studying in Europe.
- **Primary motivation:** Ukraine's civilizational choice, European living standards, and the fight against corruption and nepotism.
- **Attitude to the events:** She felt betrayed and disappointed by the authorities' refusal to sign the Association Agreement with the EU. For her, the Maidan is a chance to break free from the Soviet past and build a modern, democratic state. She is prepared to endure the cold on the streets and volunteer for the sake of freedom.

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Role card 5. A Ukrainian MP with moderate centrist views

- **Profile:** An experienced politician accustomed to behind-the-scenes work in the Ukrainian parliament and to negotiating compromises among various financial and political interest groups.
- **Primary motivation:** Preservation of state control, prevention of open military conflict, and maintenance of their own political influence.
- **Attitude to the events:** He believes that any conflict should be resolved exclusively through negotiations and a parliamentary vote. He is convinced that the radicalization of public sentiment is obstructing the political process and that the compromise reached on February 21, 2014—regarding early elections—was the ideal solution for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Role card 6. A Maidan volunteer and community activist

- **Profile:** A woman who, from the very first days of the protests, helped organize daily life at the protest camp, arranged medical supplies, and coordinated aid for wounded protesters.
- **Primary motivation:** Solidarity, mutual support, a strong civil society, and a lack of trust in the old political elites.
- **Attitude to the events:** She believes that Ukraine's true strength lies in its people and their ability to organize themselves without direction from above. She is deeply skeptical of opposition politicians who tried to lead the Maidan. She believes that civil society must hold any government accountable.

Role card 7. The mother of a conscript soldier in the military police

- **Profile:** A small-town woman whose 19-year-old son serves in the military police and is stationed at a police barricade on a main protest street.
- **Primary motivation:** To protect her son's life and health and to ensure that he returns home unharmed.
- **Attitude to the events:** She doesn't care about geopolitics, the EU, or customs unions. Every day, she goes through hell watching TV as conscripts (who have no right to quit or leave the barricades) are targeted with rocks and "Molotov cocktails." She blames both the irresponsible government and the radical protest leaders for turning these young men into hostages.

Role card 8. A small business owner from Kyiv

- **Profile:** A man who owns a small business (a store or an auto repair shop) faced extortion and pressure from corrupt tax officials and the justice system for years.
- **Primary motivation:** Fair rules, the elimination of oligarchic monopolies, the rule of law, and the protection of private property.
- **Attitude to the events:** He financially supported the Maidan by bringing food and warm clothes. He is convinced that the system built by Yanukovich and his "family" was suffocating the middle class and stifling economic development. Likewise, he is willing to endure temporary financial hardship to help dismantle the oligarchic-clan system.

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Role card 9. Army chaplain / Religious leader

- **Profile:** A priest who stood behind the barricades during the clashes, praying for peace and an end to the violence on both sides.
- **Primary motivation:** The preservation of human life, as God's highest value, along with forgiveness, social reconciliation, and spiritual purification.
- **Attitude to the events:** He considers the Revolution of Dignity a spiritual awakening of the nation, yet he firmly rejects hatred, revenge, and physical violence. He urges people to see both the activist on the barricades and the conscript standing across from him as fellow human beings and brothers. He emphasizes that victory over evil is possible only through truth and love for one's neighbor.

Role card 10. A woman from the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada

- **Profile:** A woman whose family emigrated from Ukraine after World War II. She is actively involved in promoting Ukrainian culture abroad.
- **Primary motivation:** Ukraine's geopolitical independence from Russia and the assertion of national identity.
- **Attitude to the events:** She sees the Maidan as Ukraine's existential struggle for the right to be an independent nation, free from Moscow's influence. She organized solidarity rallies abroad, lobbied for sanctions against the Yanukovich regime, and raised funds. She believes that independence must be defended at all costs.

Role card 11. A Crimean Tatar activist during the events of 2014

- **Profile:** An ethnic Crimean Tatar whose family survived the Stalinist deportation of 1944 and, after enormous hardship, returned to their homeland in Crimea in the 1990s.
- **Primary motivation:** The security and rights of Crimea's Indigenous people, Ukraine's territorial integrity, and European integration as a safeguard against Russian authoritarianism.
- **Attitude to the events:** He fully supports the Euromaidan. He is convinced that only a democratic, pro-European Ukraine can guarantee the rights of the Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people. He sees the former Ukrainian leadership's alignment with the Kremlin as a direct threat to his homeland and fears it could lead to its loss once again and to renewed repression of his people.

Role card 12. Doctor-volunteer (field hospital doctor)

- **Profile:** A surgeon or medical student who volunteered to provide medical care to wounded protesters at makeshift field hospitals in Kyiv.
- **Primary motivation:** The Hippocratic Oath, saving lives, humanism, and helping anyone in need, regardless of political affiliation.
- **Attitude to the events:** He sees Maidan as a human tragedy and witnessed death and serious injuries firsthand. He believes that everyone is equal in the face of suffering. He treated both protesters with gunshot wounds and burned security forces. He also condemns violence and the use of weapons

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against unarmed people on both sides.

Role card 13. A history teacher from Odesa (a Russian-speaking intellectual)

- **Profile:** A middle-aged person who genuinely loves his region and respects Ukraine's national symbols but who grew up in the Russian-speaking cultural environment in the south of Ukraine.
- **Primary motivation:** Social reconciliation, preserving Ukraine's cultural and linguistic diversity, and preventing radicalization and division along ethnic lines and language differences.
- **Attitude to the events:** She supports public efforts to fight corruption and police abuse of power. At the same time, she is deeply alarmed by radical nationalist slogans and the rapid dismantling of Soviet monuments. She fears that the Maidan events will prompt her region's withdrawal and alienation from Kyiv and that the new Ukrainian identity will be built without taking into account the interests of Russian-speaking citizens.

Role card 14. A person living in the center of Kyiv

- **Profile:** A man or woman who lives near the government district and the protesters' barricades, right in the middle of the protest area.
- **Primary motivation:** The safety of their family (especially children and elderly parents), the right to a peaceful daily life, and the protection of private property from destruction.
- **Attitude to the events:** He is stressed from the constant smell of burnt tires, the rumble of cobblestones, the explosions of flash-bang grenades, and the sirens. He shares the public's dissatisfaction with the current government but believes the three-month blockade of the city center has paralyzed the daily lives of thousands of Kyiv residents. Every day, he fears a fire in his own home, looting, and stray bullets flying past his windows.

Role card 15. A foreign diplomat / An EU representative in Ukraine

- **Profile:** An experienced diplomat from a Western European country who participated in negotiations between opposition leaders, representatives of the presidential administration, and Maidan activists
- **Primary motivation:** Geopolitical stability in Eastern Europe, respect for international law, and the prevention of a humanitarian crisis and a large-scale armed conflict.
- **Attitude to the events:** He/she sympathizes with Ukrainians' desire to build a European democracy, but is compelled to act pragmatically and with restraint. He/she believes that pressure from the streets should be translated into legitimate political decisions. He/she fears that overly radical actions by protesters could give Russia a pretext for direct military intervention, so he advocates compromise and negotiated peace agreements.

Role card 16: Ukrainian journalist-activist (livestreamer / citizen journalist)

- **Motivation and values:** Freedom of speech, transparency, citizen responsibility, and documenting the truth here and now.
- **Role description:** He/she doesn't just document events but feels like an integral part of the

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Maidan. Their main tools are a smartphone, a power bank, and a 24/7 live stream—uncensored and unedited. For this person, journalism is a form of peaceful resistance and a means to break through the information blockade or counter the manipulation by pro-government media. They're convinced that a camera lens broadcasting in real time protects the people on the barricades from security forces' brutality better than any political statement. He/she is willing to risk his/her life, health, and equipment by being exposed to rubber bullets or tear gas so that the world can see the true picture of events.

- **Attitude to the events:** He/she strongly supports the idea that streamers and civil society played a decisive role in the protest's success. He/she opposes journalistic neutrality when a corrupt government uses force against its own citizens.

Role card 17: A journalist from Western Europe/ Correspondent for an international media company

- **Motivation and values:** Professional impartiality, balanced coverage, emotional detachment, and the promotion of peace and geopolitical stability in Europe.
- **Role description:** He/she is an experienced reporter accustomed to the strict standards of Western journalism, where emotions are considered a professional failing, but is not particularly familiar with Ukrainian history, regional differences, or language issues. He assesses events in Kyiv through the lens of global security. What concerns him/her most is the escalation of violence, the emergence of radical slogans on the barricades, and the risk that the conflict could trigger a large-scale armed confrontation with Russia, destabilizing Europe's fragile balance of power. He/she strives to give equal coverage to protesters and government officials or security forces, even if this provokes outrage in Ukrainian society
- **Attitude to the events:** He/she believes that involving international diplomats and reaching compromise agreements with the government were the only reasonable way out of the crisis. He/she views the actions of radical organizations on the Maidan with apprehension and believes that they damage the image of the democratic protest in the West.

Role card 18: Large-business owner / minor oligarch

- **Motivation and values:** Economic stability, asset preservation, predictable rules and regulations, and protection of private property.
- **Role description:** He owns a large manufacturing plant, a network of businesses, or an agricultural holding company. His greatest fear is chaos, production halts, logistical disruptions, and lawlessness. On the one hand, his business suffered greatly from corruption, racketeering, and attempts at "raider takeovers" by representatives of the current government, so he favors European courts and transparent rules. On the other hand, the street revolution frightens him because he fears anarchy, radicalism, and property destruction. His strategy is one of survival and compromise: he may secretly fund the purchase of medicine or firewood for the Maidan but at the same time publicly demonstrate loyalty to the government to avoid losing his licenses or contracts.
- **Attitude to the events:** He shares the view that the Maidan led to a deep economic crisis and the collapse of the hryvnia. At the same time, he would agree that the oligarchic-clan system needed to

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be changed, as corruption was destroying the economy. He would support any compromise agreements aimed at preventing further escalation.

Role card 19: An MP representing the Party of Regions, which supported President Yanukovich

- **Motivation and values:** National stability, the preservation of political and economic power, the prevention of a “coup d’état,” and a rigid vertical structure of power.
- **Role description:** An experienced politician who represents the interests of a large industrial region in eastern or southern Ukraine. He is genuinely convinced that the country's stability and order depend on strict enforcement of the law and respect for hierarchy and that any street protests constitute an illegal attempt by the opposition, backed by Western countries, to seize power. For him, dispersing rallies is not a crime but an effort to restore law and order and defend the Constitution against radicals. At the same time, in February 2014, he is gripped by intense fear, torn between party discipline (pressure from above) and the realization that the situation is spiraling toward civil war—something he genuinely does not want.
- **Attitude to the events:** He strongly disagrees with arguments concerning the moral right to civil disobedience and decommunization. He considers the events of February 2014 to constitute a constitutional crisis and a coup. He is convinced that the Maidan provoked a territorial split and provided a pretext for foreign aggression.

Role card 20: A paid Anti-Maidan participant (“titushka”)

- **Motivation and values:** Easy money, physical strength as the main advantage, protecting “our people” against “outsiders,” and rejection of the Western lifestyle.
- **Role description:** A young man from a provincial town, an athletic fighter or perhaps a member of a fight club. He came to Kyiv because someone offered him good money to “maintain public order” or “protect government buildings from extremists from out of town.” But money is not his only motivation; he also has his own biases. He sees the Maidan protesters as “unemployed slackers” being paid by the West to destroy the country’s stable way of life. He regards protesters in European-style clothing, as well as students and intellectuals, as outsiders and enemies. For him, physical force is a familiar and straightforward way of resolving conflicts. He has little interest in high politics, but he feels the excitement of the struggle and a strong sense of solidarity with his group.
- **Attitude toward the events:** He fully supports the police action to suppress the protests by force. He regards blocking the streets as a crime that disrupts the lives of ordinary people. He is strongly opposed to granting amnesty to Maidan participants, seeing it as a sign of state weakness and a failure to hold them accountable.

Role card 21: A politically disengaged woman (man) from central Ukraine who is influenced by pro-Russian media.

- **Motivation and values:** A peaceful everyday life, financial stability, family welfare, and a fear of radical change and chaos.
- **Role description:** This person has never considered herself politically active. She goes to

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work, manages her household, and strives for a simple, stable life. Because she does not speak any foreign languages, does not seek out alternative sources of information, and does not know how to verify facts online, her main window to the outside world is television—primarily Russian TV channels and pro-Russian Ukrainian media. Years of exposure to aggressive propaganda have shaped a deeply troubling worldview: to her, the Maidan is an “uprising paid for by America,” “dangerous extremists” are active on the streets of Kyiv, and the country’s stability is being destroyed in pursuit of foreign geopolitical interests. She sincerely fears that a change of government will bring poverty to her home and disrupt

- **Attitude toward the events:** She agrees with those who claim that the Maidan sparked a deep economic crisis and that its leaders were merely puppets of the West. She is convinced that students should focus exclusively on their studies, not on demonstrating. She views the removal of Soviet monuments and the renaming of streets as acts of vandalism and an attack on her own history and memory.

Role card 21: A Ukrainian whose children and close relatives live in Russia

- **Motivation and values:** Family unity, maintaining family ties, humanism, peaceful conflict resolution, and the fear of isolation and physical separation from their children.

- **Role description:** This person is highly critical-minded and is not influenced by Russian propaganda. She assesses the situation in Ukraine objectively, recognizes the current government's corruption, and generally sympathizes with young people's desire to live in a European country. However, she views the events of the Revolution of Dignity through the painful prism of her personal experience: her children, grandchildren, or other close relatives live, study, or work in Russia. Her greatest fear is not the change in geopolitical course itself but the inevitable, radical breakdown of relations between the two countries. She is terrified of border closures, the introduction of visa requirements, and the suspension of transport links, which would create a wall between her and her children. She perceives every outbreak of violence on the Maidan as a step toward a major catastrophe that could tear her family apart forever. She feels like a hostage to high-level politics, with her family's happiness at stake.

- **Attitude toward the events:** She strongly supports the view that peaceful political compromise, such as the February 21 agreement, and the involvement of international mediators are necessary to prevent war. She views with great concern any arguments that justify escalating the protests or resorting to violent confrontation. She fears drastic, uncompromising steps in foreign policy, knowing that ordinary people whose lives and families span national borders will be the first victims of a geopolitical conflict.