

## Corruption and Crime in the East: Organized Crime and Human Trafficking in Russia and Ukraine

By Danielle Mossbarger

### Introduction

Russian culture and life are uniquely fascinating. Rarely has such magnificence, potential, and wonder been so dramatically juxtaposed to such tremendous terror, poverty, and struggle. The state has an almost mystical aura about it, simultaneously intriguing and repellent. Sharing more in Russia's failures than in its successes, Ukraine is deeply bound to its former communist overlord in history and in modernity. As the world's leading exporters of women, these two former Soviet strongholds have perfected the merge between organized crime and human trafficking, severely hindering national efforts to fully emerge from the shadows of the Soviet era. As the *modus operandi* of regional crime syndicates continues to evolve, Russian and Ukrainian governments find themselves either unable, or simply unwilling, to put a stop to the growing crisis.

### Human Trafficking and Organized Crime

International criminal organizations dealing in human trafficking, according to the United Nations, have an estimated profit margin of US\$7 billion annually (Natashas and Turkish Men). Russian transnational organizations, in particular, have a strictly hierarchal and protected connection to the industry of trafficking in humans. As a result, human trafficking to, from, and through the region goes largely unchecked. The issue has escalated to the degree that the United Nations entered into force the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as a supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The long-winded definition provided by the drafters is an attempt to incorporate the specifics of organized crime, but the sophistication and effectiveness of Russian crime syndicates are hard to capture in political rhetoric.

Common conceptions rarely acknowledge the very real connection between the murky world of organized crime and human trafficking. Instead, a pop-culture representation of trafficked victims as young, attractive Eastern European females who are sold into sexual servitude tends to prevail. The global community oftentimes fails to comprehend the gritty reality and utter breadth of the human trafficking industry. In 2001, from Ukraine alone, the International Organization for Migration estimates that 400,000 women were trafficked for exploitation, whether sexual or otherwise. In Russia, up to seventy percent of women graduating from university cannot find employment because organized crime groups control so much of the economy. As a result, those same educated women, an asset to Russia's continued development, oftentimes find themselves misled and forced into prostitution.

The highly structured activity that characterizes crime as it is seen in Russia can be adequately thought of as crime that is committed by criminal organizations that persist over time, and which use systematic violence and corruption to facilitate their criminal activities. These organizations have varying capacities to inflict economic, physical, psychological, and societal harm. Perhaps the most important aspect of this conceptualization of organized crime is the connection drawn between the organizations and the society in which they thrive. Further study casts greater

light on the parasitic bond between organized crime in Ukraine and Russia, and greater society as a whole—the syndicates drain the region of vital human resources as they traffic tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of women into exploitative service. Human trafficking, then, is an ambition, a financial incentive of transnational organized crime, not merely a functional byproduct of such crime.

### **Attempting to Legislate Organized Crime and Human Trafficking**

Russia and Ukraine both play several roles in the continued operation of the global industry of human trafficking. Serving not only as sources for many of the millions of individuals trafficked annually, the states also act as transit locations, a place for traffickers to bring their stock before moving them on to a final destination. For example, Israel has singled out Russia for its role as a transit location. Israel openly encourages the Russian government to stop individuals trafficked from nations such as Egypt from continuing on to Israel. In recent years, publicly documented efforts have been made to legislate the national crisis of human trafficking in an attempt to create a legal framework in which victims can be helped and offenders punished.

Creating a legal platform from which to prosecute human trafficking in Russia and Ukraine is a complex and potentially dangerous task. The overwhelming corruption and widespread criminal activity that perpetuate trafficking create obstacles for combating the problem—although the law forbids trafficking of individuals, the practice continues on what can be described as an epic scale. The International Labour Organization estimates that one million of the workers living within Russia are victims of forced labor. Yet despite the barriers and dangers, it is argued that some improvements have been made through the work of the State Duma. Most notably, in 2004, government authorities reported only twenty-six cases of human trafficking, a number that rose to eighty in 2005. Out of these eighty cases, twenty concerned forced labor while the remainder entered into the world of sex trafficking.

### **Conclusion**

Human trafficking as a global phenomenon continues to receive increasing attention from the international community. It is steadily gaining legitimacy as a cause for which to fight, although the international legal system has yet to catch up to the desires of global activism. Trafficking of individuals affects some regions more pervasively than others, a fact is often dependent on the economic and social infrastructure of the troubled area. As two of the primary economic centers of the former Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine have both suffered their share of economic, political, and social hardship since the collapse of communism. Incidentally, both nations have witnessed a subsequent rise in organized crime, with powerful syndicates exerting considerable power over various aspects of national life. In particular, the relationship between human trafficking and organized crime presents a problem for international groups trying to fight both, as one seems to perpetuate the other. In Russia and Ukraine, organized crime and human trafficking have a deeply involved connection, a darker world that has repeatedly proven to be highly dangerous, equally lucrative, and almost impossible to infiltrate.

## Annotated Bibliography

Aldis, Anne and Graeme Herd, eds. 2005. Soft Security Threats and European Security. London: Routledge.

Annotation: The editors have compiled a broad study of issues surrounding European security. Included are various pieces on the global trade in human individuals and how that multibillion-dollar industry has evolved into a very real threat to European security. Not considered a hard security threat as terrorism or imminent war would be, human trafficking concerns government officials in the unobtrusive manner by which it crosses international borders and influences organized crime. As a whole, the question of human trafficking as a security threat brings to the reader's attention the crisis' existence as an issue not just in relation to the immediate victims, but also to the domestic and international safety of the countries deeply affected.

Bhagwati, Jagdish. 2004. In Defense of Globalization. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: Voted the best business book of 2004 by *BusinessWeek*, Bhagwati's study on the overall effects of globalization offers the reader both oppositional and supportive views of globalization. An entire section of the book is devoted to the specific effect globalization has on women, and even more precisely on its relationship to trafficking. Bhagwati recognizes that trafficking is unequivocally evil, and notes the connection between a rise in international tourism and the subsequent increase in individuals trafficked for sexual purposes. The author points out the economic distress that has accompanied Russia's attempted transition to democracy, and largely blames this distress for the rise in women trafficked from the region. The book notes the unique problem faced by women in the international arena, and offers some hints as to what may be some of the worst causes of these problems.

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. 2007. "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Russia." Ed. U.S. Department of State. Website: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78835.htm>.

Annotation: The report includes a discussion of human trafficking in a section with discrimination and societal abuses; this combination of topics immediately reduces the unique significance of trafficking. The report does, however, include substantial information on human trafficking as it relates to the Russian Federation, in addition to addressing the ways in which the Russian Government has attempted to combat the industry. The report also details allegations of governmental cooperation with human trafficking rings, paralleled with the increasing number of cases opened from year to year. From a legal perspective, the report provides ample information on the many aspects of human trafficking.

Doezema, Jo. 2001. "Ouch! 'Western Feminists' 'Wounded Attachment' to the 'Third World Prostitute'." *Feminist Review* (67).

Annotation: While not as useful as originally anticipated, Doezema's article does offer some interesting insight into the connection between human trafficking and prostitution. The author makes the point that some in the international community view prostitution as a legitimate industry, while the feminist camp tends to view prostitution as a gross violation of women's rights. The article does not focus specifically on the case of women trafficked out of Russia or Ukraine, but it does highlight the fascination that sometimes borders on obsession that the Western world seems to have with the sexual servitude facet of human trafficking.

Eglash, Ruth. 2006. "Russia and Israel Asked to Stop Human Trafficking." Jerusalem, HumanTrafficking.org. May 7 2008. Website:  
<http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/461><http://>

Annotation: The article establishes Russia as a prominent transit country in the human trafficking industry. Many victims of trafficking in Israel were first sent to Moscow, then to Egypt, and finally to Jerusalem and other Israeli cities. The geographic diversity proves the far-reaching effects of trafficking and its global implications. The article also describes efforts within the Russian Federation to establish a legal framework from which to prosecute traffickers and aid the trafficked.

Farr, Kathryn. 2005. Sex Trafficking: The Global Market in Women and Children. New York: Worth Publishers.

Annotation: Kathryn Farr writes a very thorough and well-organized narrative detailing the contemporary nature of the sex trade industry. She looks at its causes, how it functions, and the structures that exist within it. She notes the connection between human trafficking, particularly in its capacity as a market for sexual services, and its relationship to organized crime. The work is extensively useful in understanding the existence of human trafficking and its multi-layered nature, providing insight into a prolific and lucrative industry that has time and again proven itself almost outside the bounds of legal reprehension.

Finckenauer, James O. 2001. "The Threat of Russian Organized Crime." *Issues in International Crime*. Washington: National Institute of Justice.

Annotation: In his research, Finckenauer brings notice to Russia's ever-strong connections to the world of organized crime. Specifically, for the purpose of this essay, his work looks at the connection between Russian organized crime and the proliferation of the international trafficking in human beings, particularly for sexual purposes. While the direct analysis of that connection is admittedly limited, the details and statistics helps one understand the connection of Russian organized crime to a darker underworld of trafficking in many different mediums.

Fisher, Martin. 2005. "From Orange to Red Light." *Transitions Online*. Website:  
<http://eng.maidanua.org/node/379>.

Annotation: Ukraine exists as one of the world's most prolific exporters of humans, and so serves as an important study into the more detailed nuances of the global trade in individual persons. Martin Fisher's article looks into the ways and means of human trafficking, trying to understand how individuals are tricked so easily into servitude, sexual or otherwise. He acknowledges the existence of anti-trafficking organizations but questions their validity and ability to put a stop to the global slave trade.

Flowers, R. Barri. 2001. "The Sex Trade Industry's Worldwide Exploitation of Children." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 575(1): 147-157.

Annotation: Under the broader heading of human trafficking is the subset of the sex industry. Even more specific is the sale of children for sexual purposes. Flowers notes the correlation between the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of organized crime in Russia, which has, in turn, leaned towards the explosion of children on the market for sexual servitude. The article emphasizes the difficulty in controlling the trafficking of children for such purposes because of support from corrupt governments, or in the case of Russia, powerful organized crime syndicates, and is unique in its placement of Russia alongside such infamous nations as Thailand and Taiwan.

Frisby, Tanya. 1998. "The Rise of Organized Crime in Russia: Its Roots and Social Significance." *Europe-Asia Studies* 50 (1).

Annotation: Though ten years old, Frisby's article offers a detailed look at the rise of crime in the Russian Federation following the end of the Cold War. Noting the rise in the crime rate in the early 1990s, and tracing its reasons through the last several years, Frisby details the way organized crime has manifested itself in Russian culture, largely blaming the lack of civil society for how well crime has imbedded itself in the region. The article is not specifically tailored to the issue of human trafficking, but it aids in understanding organized crime as a whole throughout the Russian Federation.

Gill, Amardeep Kaur. 2007. "Today's Slavery." *Canadian Dimension* 41(3):4.

Annotation: To understand the specifics of trafficking from particular regions, an understanding of human trafficking and contemporary slavery as it exists in the twenty-first century is important. Its source in politics, society, and the economy help to explain how it becomes so prevalent in regions like Russia and Ukraine, and less so in others. The authors offer a broad overview of the existence of contemporary slavery, emphasizing its very organized and deeply entrenched economic status. Trafficked individuals are solid global commodities, and the authors present the varying ways in which those individuals are put to work, from red light districts to domestic servitude.

Granville, Johanna. 2004. "From Russia Without Love: The 'Fourth Wave' of Global Human Trafficking." *Demokratizatsiya* (12).

Annotation: This particular article focuses absolutely on the trafficking of women from areas that make up what was once the Soviet Union. Offering solid statistics, the article illustrates what an ongoing crisis human trafficking, particularly that of women into sexual servitude, poses to the contemporary world order. As an article, the beginning tends a bit towards the fictionally sensationalist, but the information contained throughout the piece offers a more comprehensive understanding of this heinous facet of the global trend in human trafficking.

Hughes, Donna M., and Tatiana A. Denisova. 2004. "The Transnational Political Criminal Nexus of Trafficking in Women from Ukraine." The Prediction and Control of Organized Crime: The Experience of Post-Soviet Ukraine. Eds. James O. Finckenauer and Jennifer L. Schrock. vols: Transaction Publishers.

Annotation: The chapter immediately notes the tens of thousands of women trafficked from Ukraine and the billions of dollars made by their traffickers. The authors also bring attention to the widespread public condemnation of human trafficking and the disproportionately weak success in bringing the industry to a halt. Hughes and Denisova process through the facts and methods of human trafficking before coming to the main point of their argument: the prevalence of transnational political crime. Given the chaos that endured following the collapse of the Soviet Union, organized crime was able to work its way firmly into the infrastructure of former Soviet satellites such as Ukraine. The authors do not offer solutions, but merely detail the ways in which organized crime has exacerbated the crisis of human trafficking, particularly with regard towards women and sexual servitude. The chapter provides the reader with a solid and profound look at the criminal connections that make human traffickers hard to locate and punish.

Hyde, Lily. 2004. "Green Light, Red Light." *New Internationalist* (374).

Annotation: Lily Hyde's article studies the differing messages found in the world of Ukrainian human trafficking. She begins her article with contradicting images of trafficking and what she sees as the hypocrisy inherent in the anti-trafficking system. An important aspect of the article is the distinction Hyde makes between human trafficking and the smuggling of people. She notes the difficulty in distinguishing the two, but emphasizes the overall cruelty and bleakness found out at the end of a trafficking ring. She goes on to analyze the role of organizations, particularly NGOs, in the anti-trafficking movement, determining whether or not they may serve more harm than good.

Jahic, Galma, and James O. Finckenauer. 2005. "Representations and Misrepresentations of Human Trafficking." *Trends in Organized Crime* 8 (3).

Annotation: As a general overview on the long-lived and enduring problem of human trafficking, the article written by Jahic and Finckenauer provides factual information. It is useful in its application to further understanding the overall complexities of the human trafficking cycle. However, despite its usefulness, the article also has a downfall in being almost too general (for example, no one supports human trafficking). Their conclusion is

important, though, in its recognition of the complexity of human trafficking and the difficulties that emerge in forming a comprehensive plan to work against it. It also notes the need to acknowledge all forms of trafficking, not just those forms used in tandem with sexual servitude.

Jordan, Ann D. 2002. "Human Rights or Wrongs? The Struggle for a Rights-Based Response to Trafficking in Human Beings." *Gender and Development* 10 (1).

Annotation: Identifying several "push, pull, and facilitating factors," Jordan writes an article that, rather than focusing on trafficking from any particular region, studies the explosive growth of trafficking in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Jordan looks at the reasons for trafficking and the forces surrounding it, as well as why women and girls are so disproportionately affected. She then looks at government unwillingness to first acknowledge the crisis, and then identify victims and their unique needs in the realm of human rights. The article is a highly comprehensive analysis on the industry of human trafficking, and it provides the reader with a solid framework from which to view the crisis and consider possible solutions.

Koslowski, R. and D. Kyle. Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Annotation: The use of the term "human smuggling" in the title rather than "human trafficking" gives this particular book less bearing on the topic of trafficking than other sources may have. However, as a source on the varying perspectives of the trade in human beings, the book offers a generally comprehensive study on the transition of human trafficking from a haphazard criminal act to a multi-billion dollar black market industry. The author brings the reader's attention to the strong organization of trafficking and smuggling rings, as well as to the very deep social and economic roots that the crime has. As it pertains specifically to the case of Ukraine and Russia, a considerable portion of the book is devoted to the study of trafficking from the former Soviet Union, providing the reader with a greater understanding of why that region fuels the problem so forcefully.

Kovalev, Vladimir. 2007. "Traffic Control." *Transitions Online*.

Annotation: Though very brief, Kovalev's article serves as a strong piece in understanding the basics of human trafficking from Eastern Europe. He does not focus specifically on either Russia or Ukraine, but he does single out both as being among the top ten offenders in the industry of human trafficking. In focusing on Russia, Kovalev notes the economic disparities within the country as a whole and the major cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Novgorod, looking at how the wage differences affect the growth of the trafficking industry. For a very short piece on the complex world of human trafficking, Kovalev's article offers the reader a solid understanding of some of the crisis' sources, but he also offers little hope in counteracting the industry.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2007. "EU Presses Russia on Human Trafficking." *Business Week*. February 23.

Annotation: Kovalev attempts to explain how otherwise bright and hopeful young women from Russia find themselves trapped in the human trafficking industry—usually for sexual enslavement. The E.U. recently urged Russia to tighten its borders and try to restrict the flow, both in and out, of trafficked individuals for any form of exploitation. With its far-reaching criminal network, Russia has for several years been in the top ten source countries for trafficked human beings, and Kovalev brings note to fact that wages in industrialized countries are between thirty and fifty times higher than in Russia, which is a driving force behind trafficking. Kovalev's article provides statistical information, as well as criticism of the methods used so far to combat trafficking.

Lee, M. 2007. Human Trafficking. William Publishing.

Annotation: One of the more useful works in the arena of human trafficking, this book first looks at a comprehensive overview of the existence of human trafficking in the contemporary world. Its usefulness primarily comes in the chapter breakdowns of different sub-topics within the broader theme. Specifically, one chapter is devoted entirely to the problem of human trafficking from the region of Eastern Europe. As Russia and Ukraine stand as two of the globe's worst offenders, direct information on the various manifestations trafficking in humans may take offers deeper insight into the regional problem as a whole.

Orlova, Alexandra V. 2005. "Trafficking of Women and Children for Exploitation in the Commercial Sex Trade: The Case of the Russian Federation." *Georgetown Journal of Gender & the Law* 6 (2).

Annotation: The relationship between human trafficking and the international commercial sex industry is arguably the most visible facet of the human trafficking phenomenon. In her article, Orlova studies the shifting nature of this facet, detailing its transition from predominantly Southeast Asia to the former Soviet Union. She looks at the failure of governing bodies to adequately define trafficking and their subsequent inability to counteract the crisis. The article is a highly involved piece on the many aspects of the sex trade and the trafficking of women and girls from Russia. Its scope is limited to just that, however, ignoring the case of men and boys trafficked from the region as well.

\_\_\_\_\_. "From Social Dislocation to Human Trafficking." *Problems of Post-Communism* (51).

Annotation: In her article, Orlova looks at the reasons behind trafficking in human beings, rather than the existence of trafficking itself. Given the tumultuous sociopolitical history of the former Soviet Union, the plight of trafficking victims from Ukraine and Russia may shed light on a deeper root of the crisis. The article forces the reader to consider historical context, rather than just assume that contemporary issues have a monopoly on the development of human trafficking as a multibillion dollar industry. The article's usefulness and application is in its almost holistic approach to the issue. Orlova does not assume one cause, but rather understands, and therefore forces, the reader to consider the true complexity of the global human slave trade.

Overbeek, Hank. 2002. "Neoliberalism and the Regulation of Global Labor Mobility." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 581.

Annotation: Overbeek's article studies the effects of globalization on the international labor community. It takes into account the growing interconnectedness of global regions and the equal growth of labor mobility. His article does not go into enough detail to be particularly useful in a comprehensive study of human trafficking, but it does draw a direct connection between the expansion of organized crime and the world of human smuggling. As commentary on how globalization affects the overall nature of international relations, the article is descriptive, and the reader may infer useful information from it about the precise issue of trafficking in individuals.

Parfitt, Tom. 2004. "Anti-Trafficking Law Stalls in Russian Parliament." *Lancet* 363(9414):1.

Annotation: Parfitt discusses the stalling efforts of Russia's State Duma to counter the crisis as ministries and agencies fight over the right to lead the effort. An estimated 50,000 women and girls are trafficked out of Russia every year, and Parfitt also notes the prevalence of domestic trafficking; about ninety percent of Moscow's prostitutes are from Russia's many provinces. The article is a factual and solid piece that offers statistics and concrete information on the dangers of human trafficking. It also studies the legal efforts to counteract the industry and how Russia is falling back in an area in which it needs to move forward.

Pearson, Elaine. 2002. "Half-Hearted Protection: What Does Victim Protection Really Mean for Victims of Trafficking in Europe?" *Gender and Development* 10(1).

Annotation: Important for its broader focus on human trafficking, Pearson's article does not merely look at facts and statistics. Her article examines the reality of a trafficked individual, from the moment of induction into the trafficking ring to so-called liberation from slavery. Pearson notes the difficulty that faces freed victims as they are given two options: return to their home country or give information on the trafficker. Particularly for women, both options pose some level of danger. Pearson specifically mentions corruption in Ukraine with freed trafficking victims being exploited by police who threaten to reveal their work as prostitutes. The article is more holistic, studying varying aspects of human trafficking, rather than just one point.

Pickup, Francine. 1998. "More Words but No Action? Forced Migration and Trafficking of Women." *Gender and Development* 6(1).

Annotation: Though a decade since publication, the facts presented in Pickup's article remain mostly relevant in a contemporary framework. She presents the then-current status of human trafficking, particularly trafficking of women, to and from Russia, and the situation remains fairly static today. Her article looks briefly at the relationship between trafficking

and organized crime, specifically at the tendency of forced prostitutes to seek the protection of organized criminal gangs in Russian cities, primarily Moscow. The piece analyzes the state of human trafficking ten years ago, so the numbers are now different, but the situation remains more or less similar, as the two industries, organized crime and human trafficking, continue to thrive throughout Russia.

Pyshchulina, Olga. 2003. "An Evaluation of Ukrainian Legislation to Counter and Criminalize Human Trafficking." *Demokratizatsiya* 11(3):403-11.

Annotation: The former Soviet Union, particularly Ukraine, serves as one of the world's most notorious exporters of trafficking individuals. Olga Pyshchulina studies recent legislation considered by the Ukrainian government that would ultimately criminalize human trafficking and possibly counter its impact. Building on statistics detailing the number of individuals trafficked, specifically females, the author provides a description of the various types of work victims for which victims may migrate. Given the necessity of traffickers in the face of strict migration laws abroad, Pyshchulina looks at the developing criminal code of Ukraine, both its strengths and weaknesses. The article is detailed and careful in its analysis, wholly supportive of the move to halt human trafficking, but also aware of the difficulties that come with legislating its criminality.

Rudinsky, F.M. 2008. Civil Human Rights in Russia: Modern Problems of Theory and Practice. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

Annotation: Rudinsky's book is a comprehensive look at the status of civil rights in present-day Russia. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the development of a civil society in Russia was severely delayed. Rudinsky looks at the trouble the nation has had in creating a framework by which to monitor and enforce human rights in the context of a civil society, and he brings attention specifically to several areas (human right to dignity, the freedom of movement and residence, the right to freedom from torture and other kinds of inhumane treatment and punishment) that somehow relate to the issue of human trafficking. It is a book that helps the reader look at the human trafficking industry as it relates to international issues as a whole, rather than its isolated effects.

Shevtsova, Lilia. 2003. Putin's Russia. Translated by A. W. Bouis. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for National Peace.

Annotation: Russia is one of the principle players in the human trafficking industry. Understanding Russia's unique history, as well as its modern society, aids in gaining full awareness of what causes and perpetuates the crisis. Shevtsova looks at contemporary Russia from the last of Boris Yeltsin's days and into the reign of Vladimir Putin. The book is a comprehensive analysis of the current political and social environment that characterizes the Russian Federation of today. It does not focus specifically on the case of human trafficking to, from, and through the region, but it does offer insight on how the region became such a likely place for the industry's explosive growth.

Stoecker, Sally, and Louise Shelley, eds. 2005. Human Traffic and Transnational Crime: Eurasian and American Perspectives. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Annotation: As a compilation of varying international perspectives, the book offers a comprehensive look at the nature of human trafficking as a cross-border crisis. The editors present pieces that detail the burden on several nations, not just the source nation. Also, they challenge the general misconception that men, women, and children trafficked from Russia come only from the populous cities in the western region of the country by offering a look at the trafficking of women from the Russian far east. As a whole, the book serves as a solid source from which to build information on the problem of human trafficking from Ukraine and Eastern Europe in its multilayered approach and factual presentation.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2000. "The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." Ed. United Nations General Assembly. Vienna: The United Nations. Website: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>

Annotation: A General Assembly resolution entered into force the convention in September 2003. As a legal document, the convention has three supplemental protocols, one of which is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. As a function of research, the convention demonstrates the connection between organized crime and human trafficking, creating an international legal framework from which to eventually prosecute.

Tiurukanova, E.V. 2006. "Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation." *Trends in Organized Crime* 10 (1).

Annotation: Working with the Institute for Urban Economics and their focus group within Moscow, Tiurukanova notes the general emphasis placed upon the image of the typical victim of human trafficking. In this particular article, the author attempts to bring more attention to the concrete causes of human trafficking, rather than to the generalized idea of the 'victim.' Specifically, Tiurukanova describes in detail the discrepancies between the economy of the Russian Federation and the economies of other leading global markets. Identifying economic weakness and instability as a leading cause of human trafficking, Tiurukanova allows for more discussion on methods by which trafficking may be averted, rather than discussion solely on the face of the trafficked.

"Ukraine Leads in Number of Human Trafficking Victims in Eastern Europe, Group Says." 2007. *International Herald Tribune* February 19, 2007. Website: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/02/19/europe/EU-GEN-Ukraine-Human-Trafficking.php>.

Annotation: The Associated Press published a succinct article from Kiev, offering more contemporary statistics on the status of human trafficking from Ukraine. Beneficial for its concise delivery and concentrated facts, the article presents Ukraine as the most prolific

human trafficker of any Eastern European nation since the collapse of the USSR. Using statistics from the International Organization for Migration, the article provides the reader with a solid numerical foundation and possibilities for Ukraine's active participation in the human trafficking industry.

Vandenberg, Martina. 2002. "Hopes Betrayed: Trafficking of Women and Girls to Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina for Forced Prostitution." New York: Human Rights Watch.

Annotation: For the purposes of this essay, the HRW report on trafficking and Bosnia and Herzegovina does not actively focus on the separate case of Russia and Ukraine. However, the report highlights the ability of human trafficking as an industry to cross borders easily and quickly. The report documents cases of Russian and Ukrainian women being trafficked to brothels and nightclubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the express purpose of sexual exploitation. The primary importance of the report as it relates to this research is in its acknowledgement that human trafficking is not self-contained within separate regional spheres. Rather, it has the tendency to spread rapidly and to unstable regions of which there are several surrounding Russia and Ukraine.

Website: 2008. [http://www.angelcoalition.org/epjs/e\\_trafficking.html](http://www.angelcoalition.org/epjs/e_trafficking.html).

Annotation: The Angel Coalition is a leading organization based in Moscow that works against the continuing trend of human trafficking. This particular webpage offers the reader historical and current information on the trafficking industry, focusing on Russia as a sending, receiving, and midway country. As a basic outline of the crisis, the page contains statistical information about the number of women and children trafficked every year to, from, and through the region, as well as monetary estimates on the worth of the industry as a whole. Most beneficial is the recognition that, as difficult as human trafficking is to locate and legislate, there are groups working to try and stem the growing trend.

Website: 2006. <http://www.commonvoice.com/article.asp?colid=6047>.

Annotation: In this brief article, Jim Kouri examines the relationship between Russian organized crime and the industry of human trafficking. He acknowledges the disproportionate number of women and children that are trafficked for sexual and domestic exploitation, and going so far as to label the increasing rates of trafficking as "epidemic." With regard to Russian organized crime and human trafficking, Kouri draws attention to the concern that what happens in the Russian Federation will eventually spill over into neighboring countries still struggling to stabilize after the collapse of the Soviet Union over a decade ago.

"World Faces Deluge of Human Trafficking." 2000. Website:  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/europe/08/31/slavery.world.reut/>.

Annotation: The 2000 CNN article examines the connection between organized crime and the industry of human trafficking. Specifically, it connects the drug trade controlled by organized crime syndicates and the need to find new commodities in the face of an international crackdown on the drug trade. It also looks at the role the fall of the Soviet Union has played both in the increase of organized crime and the subsequent rise in trafficking of individuals. As a study on the growing human trafficking industry, the article is very useful in the connections it draws between trafficking itself and other aspects of political and civil society. It forces the reader to acknowledge that trafficking is not a problem isolated from all others--it shares sources and often results.

Yekelchik, Serhy. 2007. Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation. New York: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: Similar to studying the case of Russia, understanding Ukraine's current existence and its history may help in fully realizing the scope of human trafficking as it relates to the region. Yekelchik's recent book highlights how Ukraine has come to be as it is today, tracing its roots through Stalinism and the Soviet collapse, up to the current place in the twenty-first century. Human trafficking is not pinpointed as a specific issue within the context of the study, but the book serves as a solid overview of the Ukrainian political atmosphere and how it may lend towards the perpetuation of the industry.