ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Euromaidan across the globe: A cross-national study of the initial news coverage of the 2014 Ukrainian political crisis

STUDENT: Olga Kocheva

DEGREE: Master of Arts in Journalism

COLLEGE: College of Communication, Information, and Media

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This cross-national study examines the initial coverage of the Ukrainian political crisis in three different countries – Great Britain, Russia, and the United States - focusing on the framing and sourcing patterns as well as any particular media slant towards or against the Kiev demonstrators. The content analysis includes news media output from the quality newspapers with an emphasis on international news: Kommersant (Russia), the New York Times (the United States), and the Daily Telegraph (the Great Britain). The timeline starts with the spontaneous demonstrations that began in Kiev on the night of November 21, 2013. The analysis ends on Jan. 29, 2014, when the government status quo was challenged with the resignation of the Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov. Differences and commonalities of the coverage are discussed in the context of the domestication theory. The findings show that all three media frame the Ukrainian crisis as a conflict. Foreign sources dominate the coverage of the international media, suggesting their globalized approach to news reporting. Cultural differences between the media outlets emerge in their attitude to protesters.