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Conflict In Ukraine: The Unwinding Of The Post--Cold War Order (Boston Review Originals)



Synopsis

The current conflict in Ukraine has spawned the most serious crisis between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War. It has undermined European security, raised questions about NATO's future, and put an end to one of the most ambitious projects of U.S. foreign policy -- building a partnership with Russia. It also threatens to undermine U.S. diplomatic efforts on issues ranging from terrorism to nuclear proliferation. And in the absence of direct negotiations, each side is betting that political and economic pressure will force the other to blink first. Caught in this dangerous game of chicken, the West cannot afford to lose sight of the importance of stable relations with Russia. This book puts the conflict in historical perspective by examining the evolution of the crisis and assessing its implications both for the Crimean peninsula and for Russia's relations with the West more generally. Experts in the international relations of post-Soviet states, political scientists Rajan Menon and Eugene Rumer clearly show what is at stake in Ukraine, explaining the key economic, political, and security challenges and prospects for overcoming them. They also discuss historical precedents, sketch likely outcomes, and propose policies for safeguarding U.S.-Russia relations in the future. In doing so, they provide a comprehensive and accessible study of a conflict whose consequences will be felt for many years to come.

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Customer Reviews

Ukraine "the second most populous former Soviet state with the second largest economy after

Russiaâ€™ was by far the most important target of Putinâ€™s integration policy. With Russiaâ€™s emphasis on hard power and territorial control, Europeâ€™s pursuit of an AA with Ukraine, across whose territory Russia sends 15 percent of Europeâ€™s gas supply, no doubt looked like yet another threatening geopolitical step in a series intended to undercut Russian leverage. Aside from its size, its location between Russia and Europe and its infrastructureâ€™ so important to Russiaâ€™s gas trade with Europeâ€™ made Ukraine absolutely critical to Putinâ€™s plans for Eurasian integration and to Russiaâ€™s sense of security.â€•â€• “ page 75

Recently, I read Garry Kasparovâ€™s outstanding â€œWinter Is Coming: Why Vladimir Putin and the Enemies of the Free World Must Be Stopped.â€• That book proved to be real eye-opener for me and I longed to learn more about exactly what is transpiring in that potentially explosive area of the world. A few days ago I came across Rajan Menon and Eugene Rumerâ€™s brilliant new book â€œConflict in Ukraine: The Unwinding of the Post-Cold War Order.â€• I am pleased to report that a careful reading of this volume has succeeded in taking my understanding of what is at stake in Ukraine and the surrounding region to a whole other level. I now know who all of the major players are and have come to understand the geopolitical justification for the many of the actions taken by the leaders in Ukraine, the European Union and by Vladimir Putin himself. This is certainly a complicated situation and it seems that devising strategies and making key moves is in fact something akin to a game of chess.

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