

CAS IR/PO 375
RUSSIAN AND POST-SOVIET FOREIGN RELATIONS

Spring, 2005

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This course deals with some of the core global political events of the twentieth century--the rise of the USSR, born in the October Revolution of 1917, from "outlaw" state before World War II, to global superpower in strategic parity with the United States by the 1970s; its rapid strategic and diplomatic decline toward unprecedented and peaceful collapse in 1991; and the emergence of a new Russia seeking its place on the international scene of the twenty-first century.

After an initial review of enduring geopolitical realities that have influenced foreign policy perceptions, opportunities and constraints in pre-Soviet Imperial Russia, the Soviet Union and the post-USSR Russian Federation, we will devote several weeks to exploring the development of Soviet foreign policy from isolation through engagement in World War II, into the post-1945 Cold War and its variations under Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev, culminating in the USSR's maximum power-projection capabilities of the late 1970's. Attention then turns to the unraveling of seemingly stable policies in the early 1980s as the Soviet Union confronted new challenges from a US (NATO, "West" in general) as the presidency shifted from Carter to Reagan, and the Soviet shift to "new thinking" in the foreign policy realm under Gorbachev--a shift, reflecting changed domestic priorities, which failed to save the USSR from collapse in 1991.

The latter half of the course engages the issues of policy formulation, interests, assets and liabilities in *Russian* foreign relations, as these emerged under Yeltsin and were re-shaped in the post 9/11 world under Putin. Attention will be devoted to relations with the ex-Soviet republics of the "near abroad," to East-West issues (Russian-American relations, NATO and EU expansion), to Russian policy toward the Pacific Rim, in contemporary context (2003 and onward) that has seen reverses in the development of democracy and the rule of law in Russian *domestic* affairs.

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BOOKS:

Three books, listed below, have been ordered for required purchase. As you will see, one relates to the Soviet period (MacKenzie) and two "tilt" more toward the post-Soviet era. The Soviet period shaped the makers of, and contenders over, the content and direction of Russia's post-1991 foreign policy. The domestic politics of Russia's political and economic adjustments, which influence--directly and indirectly--foreign policy as well, are intertwined with the legacy of 1917-1991. The "story" of Soviet foreign policy, then, is more than simply a prelude to Russia's foreign policies: it is a critical and essential key to making sense of them, as responses to new realities inconceivable in 1985.

David MacKenzie, FROM MESSIANISM TO COLLAPSE: SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, 1917-1991

Nicolai N. Petro and Alvin Z. Rubinstein, RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY: FROM EMPIRE TO NATION-STATE

Dmitri Trenin, THE END OF EURASIA: RUSSIA ON THE BORDER BETWEEN GEOPOLITICS AND GLOBALIZATION

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, in addition to regular class attendance and participation, and keeping up with the readings:

-a one-hour MIDTERM examination on **MONDAY MAR. 21`**

-a two-hour FINAL examination on **MON. MAY 9, 6-8 pm**

These may mix essay-format and objective questions: the midterm accounts for roughly one-third, the final two-thirds, of the course grade.

IR-PO 375/sp 2005/class schedule & readings:

- 1/19 Introduction
- 1/24-26 Empires Gained and Lost: Perspectives and Issues on Russian and Soviet Foreign Policy (Trenin, Introd.)
- 1/31-2/2 Revolution, Ideology and the Diplomacy of Survival: 1914-1921 (MacK, chs. 1,2)
- 2/7-9 Consolidation, Crisis, War: 1921-1941 (MacK, chs. 3-6, P&R, ch.2)
- 2/14-16 Grand Alliance to Cold War: 1941-1953 (MacK, chs. 7, 8, P&R, ch. 3)
- 2/22-23 Peaceful Coexistence and Adventurism: The Khrushchev Era, 1953-1964 (MacK, chs. 9, 10)(MON class TUES)
- 2/28-3/2 Global Power Achieved: The Brezhnev Years (MacK, ch. 11, P&R, ch. 4)
- SPRING BREAK**-----
- 3/14-16 Superpower: Strength and Stagnation, 1975-1985 (MacK, ch. 12)
- 3/21-23 **MIDTERM (Mon)**
Gorbachev: Superpower in Retreat, 1985-1991 (MacK, ch. 13)
- 3/28-30 From The Ashes: A New Russia in Search of Identity and Policy (P&R, ch. 5, Trenin, chs. 1, 2)
- 4/4-6 Moscow and the "Near Abroad": Shards of Empire (P&R, ch. 6, Trenin, chs. 3, 4)
- 4/11-13 Russia and Europe: NATO, the Late "Soviet Bloc," the West (P&R, ch. 8, Trenin, ch. 6)
- 4/20 Russia and the Far[ther] East(P&R, ch.9, Trenin, ch.5) (no class MON)
- 4/25-27 Weapons, Bankruptcy, Diplomacy: Russian-American Relations (P&R, chs. 7, 13)
- 5/2 Nostalgia vs. Pragmatism: Defining Russia Anew (Trenin, ch. 7 and Conc.; P&R, ch. 14)

