

Outline for colloquy September 23

Preamble: two ways of looking at world events

1. Ukraine and the Soviet collapse. (see Plokhy, 2-33)
2. Ukraine's evolution 1991-2004: pluralism, corruption, failing economy, regional politics. (Plokhy, 34-62)
3. Russia, Ukraine, and the West 1991-2004: Nuclear weapons and the Budapest memorandum, the 1996 Russian election, Kosovo and the Serbian bombing, Chechnya and the War on Terror. (Sarotte, Plokhy 63-80)
4. Putin: career, worldview, ambitions and resentments. (Taubman, Putin speaks)
5. Putin emerges as an autocrat and hardens toward the West. The 2007 Munich declaration. NATO expansion and color revolutions. 2004: the Orange uprising in Ukraine and its aftermath. (Mearsheimer, Dugin)
6. The 2014 Maidan revolution: Ukraine is western, not Russian. Russia invades Crimea and controls Donbas. The war begins. Russia becomes the enemy. (Kotkin interview, Plokhy, 81-134)
7. Who is Zelensky? His election as President and its significance – nationalism takes hold, no more regional politics, and join the West. Putin asserts that Russians and Ukrainians are one people and cannot be divided. In addition, he wants the Soviet empire back. (Draft treaties of December 2021)