



Conflict in Ukraine: The Unwinding of the Post--Cold War Order (Boston Review Originals)

By Rajan Menon, Eugene B. Rumer

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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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Editorial Review

Review

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is the most dangerous one in the world: it has the potential to draw the United States into another great European war. In this book, two widely recognized authorities on the two countries involved provide a clear, compelling, and eminently readable account of the origins, the nature, and the possible futures of the conflict, and of the implications for Europe and America.

(Michael Mandelbaum, Christian A. Herter Professor of American Foreign Policy, The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and author of *The Road to Global Prosperity*)

Conflict in Ukraine provides a timely assessment of one of several recent strategic developments that mark the passing of the 'post--Cold War' world. The careful attention to the subtle interplay of domestic and international politics, and of history and current events, is all too rare in foreign policy analysis. Though the book places the bulk of responsibility for the military escalation of the dispute over Ukraine's future on Russia, the authors scrupulously assess the roles of Ukraine itself, the U.S., and Europe in setting the stage for the ultimate crisis. The authors are modest about their ability to predict, but they lay out a set of plausible hypotheses about the likely course of the dispute, which we can employ to order new facts as they emerge.

(Barry R. Posen, Ford International Professor of Political Science and Director of the Security Studies Program, MIT, and author of *Restraint: A New Foundation for U.S. Grand Strategy*)

Despite its swift and timely appearance, *Conflict in Ukraine* is not your usual instant book rushed out to capitalize on a current crisis. Drawing on impeccable expertise built up over decades, Menon and Rumer provide an elegantly described context for understanding the history, politics, and economics of the showdown over Ukraine. They convincingly argue that Ukraine's crisis is a symptom of larger geopolitical trends that require hard-headed planning for a new security architecture for Europe.

(Jack Snyder, Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Relations, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University)

A short and insightful primer that concentrates on the current crisis to give readers a brief but useful introduction to the history of the country.

(Tim Judah *New York Review of Books*)

Rajon Menon and Eugene Rumer complicate the conventional story by providing a thoughtful analysis of the key political, economic, and historical factors that eventually led to the current rupture in Russian-Ukrainian relations.

(*The New Rambler*)

Here is a calm, clear alternative to the many emotional efforts to place blame for the crisis in Ukraine on one side alone.....Menon and Rumer leave no doubt about the boundaries Russia crossed in seizing Crimea and fueling the war in eastern Ukraine, but they do not settle for the common one-dimensional explanation that attributes Russian actions to President Vladimir Putin's alleged imperial fantasies.... The modest length of the book and its crisp prose complement the efficiency and restraint of the analysis.

(*Foreign Affairs*)

... as a piece of desk research, bringing together the hundreds of reports and references that combine to describe the position as it was when the manuscript was finalised, and how that situation came about, the book is nothing short of exemplary.

(*East-West Review: Journal of the Great Britain-Russia Society*)

About the Author

Rajan Menon is Spitzer Professor of Political Science at the City College of New York/City University of New York and the author of *The End of Alliances*. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *Financial Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, and the *Huffington Post*, and other publications. Eugene Rumer is a Senior Associate and Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

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