

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

**Political Science 130AA**  
Soviet Successor States

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Winter Quarter 2007

Political Science 130AA is an introduction to the politics and policies of the successor states that emerged from the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. The focus throughout the course will be on explaining problems in the successor states that have become major policy concerns for the United States. *This course assumes no previous study of either politics or this region.*

I. THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES: WHY DO WE CARE?

- A. The Competition for Geopolitical Position in Central Eurasia.
- B. The Politics of Central Eurasian Energy.
- C. Weak States and Weak Democracies.
- D. Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy.
- E. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids.
- F. Controlling Arms: The Threat of Proliferation and the Arms Trade.
- G. The War on Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

II. UNITED STATES POLICIES: WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

III. EURASIAN CONSTRAINTS ON US POLICY: WHY IS SUCCESS SO DIFFICULT?

- A. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy.
- B. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon.
- C. Answer #3: Bureaucratic Politics and Too Little Democratization.
- D. Answer #4: Institutional Choices Made During the Transition.



## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

### I. THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES: WHY DO WE CARE?

Tu Jan 9. Introductory Meeting: A Brief Overview of Eurasia.  
Th Jan 11. The Competition for Geopolitical Position in Central Eurasia.

Read for this week:

William D. Jackson. "Encircled Again: Russia's Military Assesses Threats in a Post-Soviet World." *Political Science Quarterly* 117 (Fall 2002), 373-400.

Dmitri Trenin. "Southern Watch: Russia's Policy in Central Asia." *Journal of International Affairs* 56 (Spring 2003), 119-131.

Gregory Gleason. "The Uzbek Expulsion of U. S. Forces and Realignment in Central Eurasia." *Problems of Post-Communism* 53 (March-April 2006), 49-60.

Stephen Blank. "The Future of Caspian Security." *Problems of Post-Communism* 50 (January-February 2003), 8-21.

Rajan Menon. "The New Great Game in Central Asia." *Survival* 45 (Summer 2003), 187-204.

Mark N. Katz. "Exploiting Rivalries for Prestige and Profit: An Assessment of Putin's Foreign Policy Approach." *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (May-June 2005), 25-36.

Tu Jan 16. The Politics of Central Eurasian Energy.  
Th Jan 18. Weak States and Weak Democracies, I.

Read for this week:

David G. Victor and Nadejda M. Victor. "Axis of Oil?" *Foreign Affairs* 82 (March-April 2003), 47-61.

Rasma Karklins. "Typology of Post-Communist Corruption." *Problems of Post-Communism* 49 (July-August 2002), 22-32.

William A. Clark. "Russia at the Polls: Potemkin Democracy." *Problems of Post-Communism* 51 (March-April 2004), 22-29.

Eric A. Miller. "Smelling the Roses: Eduard Shevardnadze's End and Georgia's Future." *Problems of Post-Communism* 51 (March-April 2004), 12-21.

Taras Kuzio. "From Kuchma to Yushchenko: Ukraine's 2004 Presidential Elections and the Orange Revolution." *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (March-April 2005), 29-44.

Paul D'Anieri. "What Has Changed in Ukrainian Politics? Assessing the Implications of the Orange Revolution." *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (September-October 2005), 82-91.

Tu Jan 23. Weak States and Weak Democracies, II.  
Th Jan 25. Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy, I.

Read for this week:

Bhavna Dave. "Kazakhstan's 2004 Parliamentary Elections: Managing Loyalty and Support for the Regime." *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (January-February 2005), 3-14.

David R. Marples and Lyubov Pervushina. "Belarus: Lukashenko's Red October." *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (March-April 2005), 19-28.

Anar M. Valiyev. "Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan: A Failed Revolution." *Problems of Post-Communism* 53 (May-June 2006), 17-35.

Steven Sabol. "Turkmenbashi: Going It Alone." *Problems of Post-Communism* 50 (September-October 2003), 48-57.

Graeme P. Herd. "Colorful Revolutions and the CIS: 'Manufactured' Versus 'Managed' Democracy?" *Problems of Post-Communism* 52 (March-April 2005), 3-18.

Tu Jan 30. Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy, II.  
Th Feb 1. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids, I.

Read for this week:

Anders Åslund. "Sizing Up the Central Asian Economies." *Journal of International Affairs* 56 (Spring 2003), 75-87.

Gail W. Lapidus. "Contested Sovereignty: The Tragedy of Chechnya." *International Security* 23 (Summer 1998), 5-49.

Charles King. "The Benefits of Ethnic War: Understanding Eurasia's Unrecognized States." *World Politics* 53 (July 2001), 524-552.

Julie Wilhelmsen. "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Islamisation of the Chechen Separatist Movement." *Europe-Asia Studies* 57 (January 2005), 35-59.

Tu Feb 6. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids, II.  
Th Feb 8. Controlling Arms: The Threat of Proliferation and the Arms Trade.

Read for this week:

Oleh Protsyk. "Moldova's Dilemmas in Democratizing and Reintegrating Transnistria." *Problems of Post-Communism* 53 (July-August 2006), 29-41.

Sharon K. Weiner. "Preventing Nuclear Entrepreneurship in Russia's Nuclear Cities." *International Security* 27 (Fall 2002), 126-158.

Deborah Yarsike Ball and Theodore P. Gerber. "Russian Scientists and Rogue States: Does Western Assistance Reduce the Proliferation Threat?" *International Security* 29 (Spring 2005), 50-77.

Robert O. Freedman. "Putin, Iran, and the Nuclear Weapons Issue." *Problems of Post-Communism* 53 (March-April 2006), 39-48.

Tu Feb 13. The War on Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Read for this week:

Gail W. Lapidus. "Putin's War on Terrorism: Lessons From Chechnya." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 18 (January-March 2002), 41-48.

Gregory Gleason. "The Politics of Counterinsurgency in Central Asia." *Problems of Post-Communism* 49 (March-April 2002), 3-14.

Edward W. Walker. "Islam, Islamism, and Political Order in Central Asia." *Journal of International Affairs* 56 (Spring 2003), 21-41.

Svante E. Cornell and Niklas L. P. Swanström. "The Eurasian Drug Trade: A Challenge to Regional Security." *Problems of Post-Communism* 53 (July-August 2006), 10-28.

## II. WHAT HAS THE UNITED STATES DONE SO FAR?

Th Feb 15. US Programs in the Soviet Successor States.

Read for this part of the course:

Katherina W. Gonzales. "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors: Ukrainian Border Security and Western Assistance." *Problems of Post-Communism* 51 (January-February 2004), 43-54.

Jim Nichol. "Central Asia: Regional Developments and Implications for U. S. Interests." Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, June 29, 2006.

Jim Nichol. "Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia: Political Developments and Implications for U. S. Interests." Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, August 31, 2006.

Steven Woehrel. "Ukraine: Current Issues and U. S. Policy." Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, August 23, 2006.

Stuart D. Goldman. "Russian Political, Economic, and Security Issues and U. S. Interests." Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, October 19, 2006.

## III. CONSTRAINTS ON US POLICY: WHY IS SUCCESS SO DIFFICULT?

Tu Feb 20. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, I.

Th Feb 22. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, II.

Tu Feb 27. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, III.

Th Mar 1. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, IV.

Tu Mar 6. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon, I.

Th Mar 8. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon, II.

Tu Mar 13. Answer #3: Bureaucratic Politics and Too Little Democratization.

Th Mar 15. Answer #4: Early Institutional Choices.

Read for this part of the course:

Timothy Frye. "The Perils of Polarization: Economic Performance in the Postcommunist World." 54 (April 2002), 308-337.

Vera Tolz. "Conflicting 'Homeland Myths' and Nation-State Building in Postcommunist Russia." *Slavic Review* 57 (Summer 1998), 267-294.

Amy Knight. "The Enduring Legacy of the KGB in Russian Politics." *Problems of Post-Communism* 47 (July-August 2000), 3-15.

Alexander M. Golts and Tonya L. Putnam. "State Militarism and Its Legacies: Why Military Reform Has Failed in Russia." *International Security* 29 (Fall 2004), 121-158.

Joel Hellman. "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions." *World Politics* 50 (January 1998), 203-234.