

Russia and the West: Belligerent opponent or newly potent peer?

Oxford Analytica Conference Call
Tuesday, 19 April, 15:00 UK Time



© Oxford Analytica 2016. All rights reserved.

No duplication of this document is permitted without written consent of Oxford Analytica.

Contact us: www.oxan.com/about/contacts or

call +44 1865 261 600 or in North America 1 800 965 766

Russia and the West: Belligerent opponent or newly potent peer?

Russia may be into its second year of recession, but President Vladimir Putin is making up for it with anti-Western rhetoric and robust military action in Syria, despite the much-publicised partial withdrawal of forces.

The United States has extended its sanctions on Moscow for another year while fissures have developed among EU members about the desirability of continuing sanctions when the decision comes up this summer. The Russian government is exercising not-so-soft power on matters from the refugee crisis to energy to cajole European states into taking a more lenient stance.

The Russian military is remaking itself as a more potent force from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and NATO is taking counter-steps to build up its deterrent capacity in Eastern Europe. Russia's frosty relations with NATO member Turkey, meanwhile, affect developments in Syria and the South Caucasus.

Is the mix of belligerence towards NATO and diplomatic and military engagement in the Middle East a sign that Russia is now a dangerous force in global affairs, or is it just an appeal to Western powers to accept Moscow and treat it as an equal?

But set aside the rhetoric on all sides, and there are fundamental issues to unpick:

2

- Does Russia present an imminent security threat to the West?
- Does it want a workable solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine or to perpetuate a 'frozen conflict'?
- After Ukraine and Syria, might there be another foreign intervention – and if so, where?
- Does the diplomatic breach with Turkey open up a new area of geopolitical risk?
- How resilient are international arms treaties given Moscow's increasing reluctance to adhere to them?
- Would the lifting of sanctions benefit Western states if there were few concessions from Moscow?
- What are the trade, energy and investment implications of a prolonged downturn in relations?

Please join us on Tuesday, **19th April 2016 at 15:00 UK Time** to discuss these issues among others with a panel of Oxford Analytica's expert advisors on Russia:

Chair

www.oxan.com

Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica

Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of Forbes.com and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site FT.com and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K. the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

Panellists will include:

Roy Allison, Professor of Russian and Eurasian International Relations, SIAS, University of Oxford

Roy joined the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) in 2011. Previously an ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham (1987-99), Head of the Russia and Eurasia programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) (1993-2005), and Reader in International Relations at the LSE (2007-11). Author of *Russia, the West and Military Intervention* (OUP, 2013). Institution;

3

George Voloshin, Advisor to Oxford Analytica on Russian and Eurasian issues

Born in Kazakhstan, George is based in Paris and has authored two books on the geopolitics of Central Asia. He advises corporate and government clients on a range of issues in the Eurasian region, and is a graduate of the French public service school ENA (École nationale d'administration) and of Sciences Po Strasbourg.

Brook Horowitz, CEO of IBLF Global

Brook Horowitz is CEO of IBLF Global, an international business leaders' forum with a special focus on collective action to promote responsible business. With a substantial track-record of business development and management in Russia and other countries, including senior roles with General Electric, he leads the Business-20 group's engagement with the G20 on anti-corruption issues.