



RUSSIA & EURASIA PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

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The Russia and Eurasia Program Welcomes New Director

[Dr. Andrew Kuchins](#) began his new job as Director and Senior Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in February 2007. From 2000 to 2006, he was a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, directing its Russian and Eurasian Program in Washington, D.C., from 2000 to 2003 and again in 2006 and also serving as director of the Carnegie Moscow Center in Russia from 2003 to 2005.

Recent Events:

You can view the complete list of events by going to the program's [Associated Events](#) page.

Democratic Developments in Armenia: Challenges and Expectations



Arthur Baghdasaryan, one of Armenia's leading politicians, spoke at CSIS on February 15, 2007 about recent democratic developments and the political landscape in Armenia prior to the upcoming parliamentary election. Mr. Baghdasaryan is the founder and chairman of the Orinats Yerkir (Rule of Law) Party, established in 1998. In 2003, the Rule of Law Party doubled its vote in parliamentary elections, and Mr. Baghdasaryan was elected President (Chairman) of the National Assembly. He resigned from his position in May 2006. For audio, please click [here](#).

Religious Freedom and State Policy in Central Asia

On January 11, 2007, CSIS and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom held a briefing on religious freedom and state policy in Central Asia. Featured panelists were Igor Rotar, reporter and analyst for the Norway-based Forum 18 news service; Eric McGlinchey, Central Asia expert and Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University; and Catherine Cosman, Senior Policy Analyst for the OSCE region at USCIRF. For audio, please click [here](#).



U.S.-China-Russia Relations in Central Asia: Cautious Competitors, Reticent Partners

Russia and Eurasia Program Director Andrew Kuchins served as a panelist for a discussion on February 6, 2007, which examined the role played by Central Asia as an area of common interest in the foreign policies of three geopolitical giants: the United States, China, and Russia. The discussion was also led by Pan Guang, Director of the Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and moderated by Bates Gill, Freeman Chair in China Studies at CSIS.

Media

You can view the complete list of links by going to the program's [Media](#) page.

Director Andrew Kuchins was quoted in a February 18, 2007 *New York Times* [article](#) titled, "No Cold War, Perhaps, but Surely a Lukewarm Peace," on the U.S.-Russia relationship.

Andrew Kuchins was quoted in a February 13, 2007 *Moscow Times* article titled, "A President Looks to Shape His Legacy," which analyzes Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent speech at the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy.

Senior Adviser Steven Pifer answered questions about the recent resignation of former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk and the potential effects on Ukrainian domestic and foreign politics. The interview was conducted on February 3, 2007 by the Ukrainian daily, *Den* ("The Day"), and is available on their website in [English](#), [Ukrainian](#), and [Russian](#).

Senior Fellow Sarah E. Mendelson participated in an online debate on cfr.org, January 29, 2007, about the future of Russian politics after Putin. The transcript of the debate can be found [here](#).

