



RUSSIA & EURASIA PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

Center for Strategic and International Studies ■ Washington, D.C.

October-November 2007

Recent Events

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

The Putin Generation

Senior Fellow Sarah E. Mendelson hosted a discussion with University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Theodore P. Gerber on November 16 on the political views of Russian youth. Dr. Mendelson and Prof. Gerber reported the results of their spring 2007 survey of 1,800 young Russians (16-29 years old) regarding views of America and the West, democracy and authoritarianism, youth groups including Nashi, the legacy of Stalin, the immigrant question, and other issues.

What is Putin's Plan?

On October 18, Director and Senior Fellow Andrew Kuchins and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution Clifford Gaddy hosted a briefing on the upcoming presidential election in Russia. The event offered timely insight into the possible succession scenarios that may unfold as President Putin finishes his second term in office.

Publications

A complete list of publications can be viewed through the [Associated Publications](#) page of the program website.

Sarah E. Mendelson published an article in the Winter 2008 issue of *The American Scholar*, "[Dreaming of a Democratic Russia](#)," that looks back on her years of democracy promotion work in Russia during the mid-1990s and assesses where Russia is today.

Andrew Kuchins wrote an article titled, "The Russian Presidential Elections" as part of a volume of essays, [Global Forecast: The Top Security Challenges of 2008](#), published by CSIS on November 14.

Senior Associate Celeste Wallander co-edited a collection of essays, [Russia Watch](#), on critical trends in Russian political and economic development. The book, which was published by CSIS on November 6, is dedicated to the memory of former CIA officer and Soviet expert George Kolt.

Andrew Kuchins published an article for the October 2007 edition of *Current History*, "[Russia and China: The Ambivalent Embrace](#)," arguing that the current geostrategic environment has pushed the two countries closer together.

Recent Commentary

Sarah E. Mendelson offered a commentary, "Examining the Russian Elections and Beyond," for the CSIS Critical Questions Series on November 30. To listen, please click [here](#).

Andrew Kuchins wrote a commentary on November 30, "[The Russian Parliamentary Elections do Matter](#)."

Andrew Kuchins published a commentary for the CSIS Critical Questions Series on October 19, "[The U.S.-Russia Relationship: Fall 2007](#)," examining the key issues characterizing the countries' bilateral relationship. To listen to the audio version, please click [here](#).

Adjunct Fellow Alexandros Petersen wrote a commentary on October 2, "[Integrating Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey with the West](#)."

Media

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

Senior Adviser Steven Pifer was quoted in a November 30 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty article, "[Beyond 2008: Will These Elections Be Russia's Last?](#)"

Sarah E. Mendelson appeared on Bloomberg TV on November 30 to discuss possible outcomes for the Russian parliamentary elections on December 2.

Andrew Kuchins appeared on *The Kiojo Nnamdi Show* on November 26 to discuss the Russian government's recent crackdown on political opposition and the implications for the parliamentary elections.. An audio clip of the show is available [here](#).

Andrew Kuchins was quoted in a *Bloomberg* article, "[Putin's 'Good Czar' Reign May Stay by Popular Demand](#)" about Putin's political image as a 'good czar' and his likely victory in the parliamentary elections.

Sarah E. Mendelson appeared on BBC's *The World Today* on November 23 to discuss recent survey data on Russian youth and the upcoming Russian elections. To listen, please click [here](#).

Deputy Director and Fellow Cory Welt was quoted in a EurasiaNet.org article, "[Georgia: State of Emergency Dents Tbilisi's NATO Hopes](#)," on November 16.

Alexandros Petersen published an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on October 30, "[Combustible Countries](#)," on the security threat posed by high-risk states on the brink of crisis.

Andrew Kuchins discussed Russian efforts to defuse the Iranian nuclear crisis, and its strategic position between the U.S. and Iran, in an interview for CFR.org on October 30. A transcript of the interview can be found [here](#).

Andrew Kuchins appeared on CNN's *The Situation Room* on October 15 in a segment titled, "[Putin Vows to go Ahead with Iran Trip](#)," in which he discussed Russia's stake in Iran's nuclear aspirations.

Steven Pifer was quoted in a *Reuters* article on October 10, "[U.S., Russia Seem No Closer on Missile Defense](#)," regarding the rising tensions in U.S.-Russian relations.

Andrew Kuchins was quoted in a *Washington Post* article on October 5, "[U.S. Hopes for Democracy in Russia Fade](#)" regarding the dismal prospects for Russian democracy in the near future.