

# Academy News and Projects

## Reexamining U.S.-Russia Relations



Robert Legvold

The Academy is conducting a major reexamination of U.S. foreign policy toward Russia. The goal of the new study is to develop a comprehensive, coherent, and effective policy on U.S.-Russian relations for consideration by a new U.S. administration, the incoming Congress, and important segments of the media.

“Since the fall of the Berlin Wall nearly 20 years ago, U.S. policy toward Russia and its neighbors has become fragmented, inconsistent, and fleeting. Yet, Russia and other former Soviet states are increasingly important in the international arena, particularly with respect to energy security, nuclear non-proliferation, illicit trade, and terrorism,” said Academy Fellow and project leader Robert Legvold, the Marshall Shulman Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Columbia University.

“The upcoming American presidential election provides an opportunity to rethink U.S.-Russian relations,” Legvold added. “This project offers national leadership a broad analytical strategy and concrete recommendations for an American policy toward Russia that could enhance the security and national interests of both countries.”

The study is convening a diverse group of policymakers, business leaders, policy analysts, and academics to participate in the initiative. It will develop a scholarly reassess-

ment of U.S. policy toward Russia; a new coalition of analysts drawn widely from the academic and public policy communities; reports and white papers with recommendations to various constituencies; and outreach efforts to promote the findings within the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, and the policy community. These efforts have already led to several productive meetings with leading figures in both Russia and the U.S. governments.

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The Academy is collaborating on the project with Georgetown University, the National Defense University’s Institute for National Security Studies, the Carnegie Moscow Center, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, among other organizations. At the Carnegie Moscow Center, Rose Gottemoeller, the Center Director, is leading a 12-part seminar series on the security dimension in U.S.-Russian relations, with primary emphasis on areas of real and potential nuclear cooperation. Angela Stent of Georgetown University and Eugene Rumer of the Institute for National Security Studies are leading a series of meetings devoted to the larger questions surrounding the relationship and the challenges facing U.S. policy. Recent meetings have focused on developing a framework for assessing key political and economic trends in Russia and values versus interests when dealing with Russia. Ambassador James F. Collins, now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is coordinating conversations with former

ambassadors regarding the issue of structure in the U.S.-Russia relationship. And Andrew Kuchins, Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, will head up a study group to consider the increasingly complex and important economic dimension of U.S.-Russian relations.

The project Steering Committee, which had its first formal session in July 2008, includes Robert Legvold (Columbia University), Deana Arsenian (Carnegie Corporation of New York), Coit Denis Blacker (Stanford University), James F. Collins (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Rose Gottemoeller (Carnegie Moscow Center), Thomas E. Graham (Kissinger Associates), Thomas R. Pickering (Hills & Company/The Boeing Company), Eugene Rumer (Institute for National Security Studies), Strobe Talbott (The Brookings Institution), and Angela Stent (Georgetown University).

As Academy Chief Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz noted, the Academy has long conducted cutting-edge research on international security issues, beginning with seminal work on arms control in the 1960s. Recently the Academy concluded a study, also led by Legvold, that produced a series of four books examining security challenges in the new nation-states formed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Other security projects currently underway at the Academy include *Reconsidering the Rules of Space*, led by John Steinbruner (University of Maryland) and Neal Lane (Rice University); *The Global Nuclear Future*, led by Steven E. Miller (Harvard University) and Scott Sagan (Stanford University); and *Countering Corruption in Nation-States*, led by Robert I. Rotberg (Harvard University).

For more information about the project on U.S. Policy Toward Russia, please visit the Academy’s website: <http://www.amacad.org/projects/russia.aspx>. ■