

Russian and Central Asian Politics
February 27, 2019

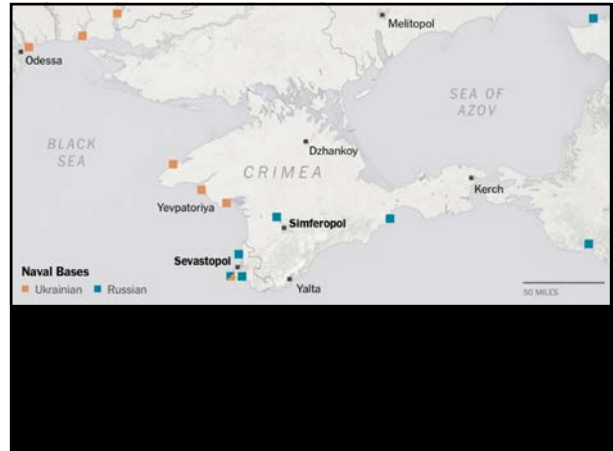


The new Kerch bridge connecting Russia to Crimea (19 km)



A few notes about Crimea...

- Historically not a part of Ukraine: "gifted" to the Ukrainian SSR in the fifties by Khrushchev.
- Major naval base: Black Sea Fleet
- Ethnicity:
 - Russian: 59%
 - Ukrainian: 24%
 - Tatar: 10%
- Languages:
 - Russian: 77%
 - Tatar: 11%
 - Ukrainian: 10%



2014 Timeline: Crimea

- February 23: pro-Russian demonstrations.
- February 27: Russian troops occupy.
- March 16: referendum on future of Crimea.
- March 18: annexation formally approved by Russia.



Svoboda
(Ukrainian
nationalist party)



2014-15 Timeline: Eastern Ukraine

- March 2014: first sanctions by EU and US announced.
 - Sanctions increased incrementally from April to present.
- Late spring-summer 2014: civil war breaks out.

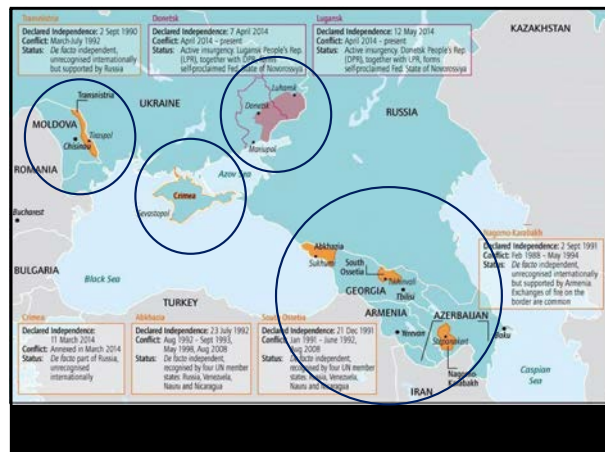
2014-15 Timeline: Eastern Ukraine

- July 17: Malaysian Airlines #17 shot down.
- September 5: first Minsk Protocol (negotiated ceasefire).
- February 12, 2015: second Minsk Protocol (ditto).



Observations

- Among all five actors (Ukraine, separatists, Russia, EU, US): tendentious reporting, misrepresentation of events.
- News media has largely repeated dominant political discourses.
- HRW (Human Rights Watch) and UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees): both Ukrainian government and separatists likely have committed war crimes.

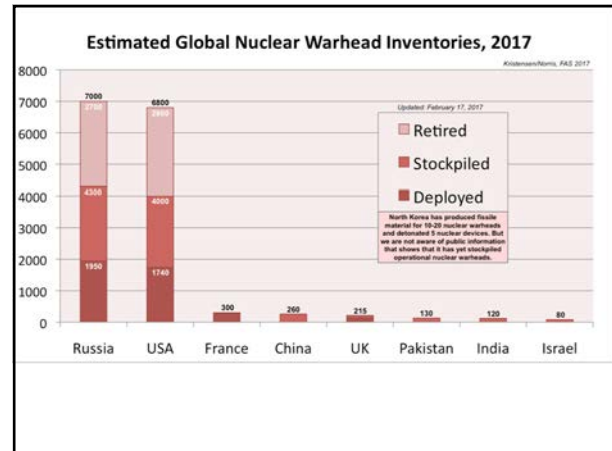
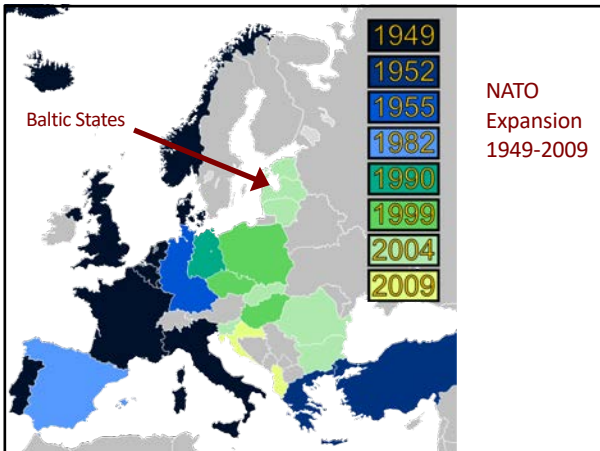


Diplomatic Forum Actors

1. Moldova
2. Transnistria
3. Georgia
4. Abkhazia
5. South Ossetia
6. Azerbaijan
7. Armenia
8. Ukraine
9. Eastern Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk)
10. Russia
11. The European Union
12. The USA

US and Russia

- Cooperation on economic and political reform in the 1990s.
- Cooperation in the "War on Terror" during much of the Bush administration.
- Deteriorating relations over NATO, etc.



Post-Soviet Cooperation

- Russian reforms: political (democratization) and economic (marketization).
- Nuclear de-escalation: de-commissioning of weapons on both sides (thousands).
 - Plus: the important news that never became news.

Nuclear Security

- Three challenges:
 1. Four new nuclear powers after Soviet collapse.
 2. The security of nuclear grade fuel.
 3. The loyalty of nuclear scientists.
- The response:
 1. Negotiations to move all nukes to Russia.
 2. US assistance in protecting fuel.
 3. US assistance in adequately paying scientists.

Exam Grading Scale

- A	93-100
- BA	88-92
- B	83-87
- CB	78-82
- C	73-77
- DC	68-72
- D	60-67
- E	<60