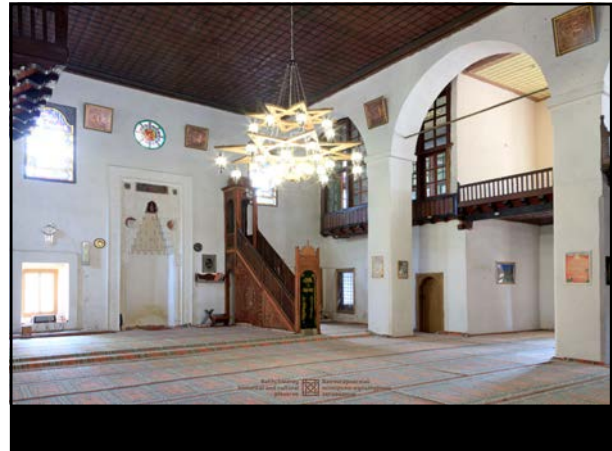


Russia and Central Asian Politics
March 11, 2019



Bakchiserai, home of the
Crimean Khanate (1478 to 1774)



From last class...

Post-Soviet Cooperation

- NATO Partnership for Peace: Russia joined in 1994.
 - Less than membership.
- Russia invited to join the G-7 → G-8.
- Cooperation in fighting terrorism.



Russian Grievances

- The 1990s transition: followed US and European advice. The result: disaster.
 - Hyperinflation, economic decline, impoverishment, political instability, breakdown of public order, rapid rise of inequality, near disintegration of the state.



Russian Grievances

- Promise of cooperation and partnership in international relations was empty.
 - Example: negotiations over Serbian/Kosovo war.
- This after Russia took responsibility for Soviet debt and nuclear weapons.

Russian Grievances

- Expansion of NATO despite perceived promise not to.
- Withdrawal from Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty (2001).
- Installation of missile shield in Europe.



Russian Grievances

- US-led invasion of Iraq (2003).
- NATO intervention in Libya (2011).



Russian Grievances

- Support for regime change in neighboring countries (Georgia 2003, Ukraine 2004, Kyrgyzstan 2005).



Orange Revolution
Ukraine 2004

Russian Grievances

- US support for Russian protestors 2011-12.



US Grievances

- Scaling back of democratic institutions (2000s).
- Opposition to Iraq War.
- Russian-Georgian War (2008).
- Annexation of Crimea (2014).



US Grievances

- Involvement in Ukrainian Civil War (2014-present).
- Support for Syrian government in its civil war (2016-17).
- Claims of election interference (2016).



Where Do We Stand?

- High levels of mutual distrust.
- Media and politicians on both sides regularly demonize the other side.
- Russia wants to see less dominance by the US in international affairs (so do many other countries).
 - Why? The Iraq War, the 2008 financial crisis, the ongoing crisis in Libya, and more.
- We are not cooperating on important issues such as nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

Where Do We Stand?

- We still cooperate in space.

The moon

Russia and US will cooperate to build moon's first space station

