



Imperial Gamble: Putin, Ukraine, and the New Cold War

Marvin Kalb

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Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea in March 2014 stunned the world. Shortly thereafter, the Russians threw their support behind secessionist rebels in neighboring Ukraine, pitching the country into a brutal and continuing civil war. An ominous and sharp deterioration in East-West relations followed.

In *Imperial Gamble: Putin, Ukraine, and the New Cold War*, Marvin Kalb brings to life the geography, power politics, and history of Ukraine—once known as Kievan Rus', or the "First Russia." He takes a critical look at the tortured history of post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine, and journeys deep into the Russian past to uncover the roots of Russian and Ukrainian nationalism.

Kalb maintains that world order hangs on a resolution of the Ukraine crisis, and he makes the provocative argument that the only sensible solution lies in both Russia and Ukraine recognizing that their futures are irrevocably intertwined. Any realistic solution must take into account the national interests of both nations. The West can approve or disapprove, but the two countries must reach their own *modus vivendi*. This is a time for *realpolitik*; and if the West continues to intrude into this delicate game of diplomatic shadow-boxing, the effort will very likely collapse.

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