

Greece & the Balkans – Birth of West and Battleground of East

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Class #4, Nov 18: **Balkans and Post Cold War World**

Topics

1. Why did Cold War end?
2. How have Balkans fared in post-Cold War world?
3. How has Europe fared in post-Cold War World?
4. What are the top take-aways for Greece and Balkans?



Oh, East is East, and West is West, will ever the twain meet?

Introduction

- Welcome and thank you for joining us again for this fourth and last class on Greece and the Balkans
- Despite these perilous COVID-19 times, I hope you all still have a Happy Thanksgiving
- Albeit, like this class, you may have to share your Thanksgiving with family and friends over zoom rather than the table
- Today, I'm going to focus on the Balkans and the post-Cold War world
- I think most of you would agree with me that the end of the Cold War, perhaps along with 9/11, and now Covid 19, have been some of the most significant global events in our lifetimes
- I'm going to explore these questions:
 - Why did the Cold War end?
 - How have the Balkans and Europe fared in this post-Cold War world?
 - What are the top takeaways from Greece and the Balkans?
 - Oh, East is East, and West is West, will ever the twain meet?

Oh, East is East, and West is West,
will ever the twain meet?



- "The Ballad of East and West" by Kipling, 1889
 - *Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet, ...*
 - *But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,*
 - *When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!*
- Often misinterpreted that East and West will never meet (reconcile) but contradicts that impression saying when two strong men (equals) meet, the differences can be overcome.
- Today, we will explore the East and West “meeting” in the Balkans and the continuing East-West strains in our post-Cold War world

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Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet

- Famous opening lines of "The Ballad of East and West" by Rudyard Kipling, published in 1889
 - *Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet, ...*
 - *But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,*
 - *When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!*
- Often misinterpreted that East and West will never reconcile, but the next 3 lines contradict that impression that when two strong men (equals) meet, the differences can be overcome.
- This is the topic today – the meeting of Eastern Europe after the Cold War with the West
- Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936) was a prolific English writer born in India
- Much honored, his ashes interred at Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey and won the Nobel Prize for Literature

Why did the Cold War stay cold?

Bush & Gorbachev
recognizing dissolution



- Balance of military power - war too costly – could turn MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)
- Arms control, exchanges and tourism eased rivalry
- Triumph of realism over idealism
 - When Soviets built Berlin Wall, US did not block or fight it
 - US condemned Soviet human rights and Soviets pointed to US segregation -but these never reached boiling point
 - Except for Cuba & Nicaragua, no direct Soviet military intervention in Latin America where US would've likely responded
 - Cuban crisis ended in missile withdrawals in Cuba and Turkey
- **Upshot:** Despite in Cold War, evolved to “peaceful coexistence”

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p36

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Why did the Cold War stay cold?

- Balance of military power - both thought war too costly – could turn MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)
- Arms control, some exchange and tourism eased the rivalry
- Triumph of realism over idealism
 - When Soviets built Berlin Wall in Berlin, US did not block it or fight it
 - US condemned Soviet human rights abuses and Soviets pointed to US segregation - but these never reached the boiling point
 - Except for Cuba and Nicaragua, no direct Soviet military intervention in Latin America where US under Monroe Doctrine would've likely responded
- Bottom line: Soviets and US, despite being in a Cold War, evolved into a state of “peaceful coexistence”

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p36

Why did the Cold War end when and how it did?



- Soviet economy was deeply and structurally flawed and brittle
- Burdens of Empire had undermined its prosperity and stability at home
- Costly Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979
- Soviet rift with China hurt Soviet prestige
- US relationship with China added to Soviet difficulties
- Gorbachev played a pivotal role when he liberalized and then lost control

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020

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Why did the Cold War end when and how it did?

- The Soviet economy was deeply and structurally flawed and brittle
- The burdens of Empire had undermined its prosperity and stability at home
- The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 was very costly
- The Soviet rift with communist China also hurt the Soviet prestige
- In the early 1970s the US forged a relationship with China to further add to Soviet difficulties
- Gorbachev played a pivotal role when he concluded that the Soviets could succeed only if it changed its fundamental ways at home and he made political reforms before economic restructuring
- This resulted in a loss of control
- The Cold War ended peacefully and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union, the unification of Germany, the joining of NATO of a number of the Eastern European countries

Source: Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020

Dissolution of Soviet Union (1988–1991)



- Failure of Aug 1991 Coup to overthrow Gorbachev and stop "parade of sovereignties", led to Moscow losing influence and republics independence
- Dec 25, 1991 Gorbachev quit & gave power to Yeltsin
- In aftermath, several of former republics retained close links with Russia
- However, remainder broke away and eventually joined or applied for NATO and EU



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Dissolution of the Soviet Union (1988–1991)

- Disintegration of USSR began with growing unrest in its republics and ended when leaders of three primal republics (Russia, Ukraine and Belarus) declared it no longer existed
- Resulted in Gorbachev resigning
- Failure of the 1991 August Coup to overthrow Gorbachev and stop the "parade of sovereignties", led to Moscow losing influence and republics proclaiming independence
- Baltics, first to declare independence, recognized in September 1991.
- On December 25, Gorbachev resigned and handed powers to Yeltsin
- In the aftermath, several of former republics retained close links with Russia and formed multilateral associations for economic and military cooperation
- However remainder broke away and eventually joined applied for NATO or European Union

End of Cold War greeted with overconfidence



- But in Aug 1990, Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait
- Messiness of Iraq war aftermath was a harbinger of what was to happen in the future
- Yugoslavia, fell into a violent breakup in 1991-92
- Then came 9/11 heralding a new age of global terrorism
- Next came Great Recession
 - Causing global crisis & damaging US reputation
 - Triggered increased populism & disaffection with capitalism

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p 45

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End of Cold War greeted with overconfidence

- But in August 1990, less than a year after Berlin wall was torn down, Iraq led by Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait
- US mounted a united effort and Saddam was quickly chased out of Kuwait, but he was not removed nor government changed
- Messiness of war's aftermath was a harbinger of what was to happen in the future
- Yugoslavia, a multinational country held together throughout the Cold War by authoritarian leadership and the fear of Soviet intervention, fell into a violent breakup in 1991 and 1992
- The breakup caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and required NATO military action to end
- UN developed the "responsibility to protect (R2P) in light of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 which killed 800,000
- Idea was to require sovereign governments to provide a degree of security to their own citizens and when they were unwilling or unable to do so the UN would step in
- But it's first use in Libya in 2011 has led to disorder and in eyes of Russia and China unwarranted and so nothing has been it has not been used since as it would undoubtedly be vetoed in the Security Council
- Then came 9/11 that heralded a new age of global terrorism in which people could be inspired over the Internet and sent around the world to kill thousands of innocent victims
- And then came the Great Recession which resulted in a global crisis increasing inequality and greatly damaging the US reputation
- It also triggered increased populism and a growing disaffection with capitalism

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020

Post-Cold War: Optimists vs. Pessimists



- With collapse of USSR, Balkans became independent
- **Optimists:** new era would be calm and peaceful because no longer risk of nuclear war or dominating rival superpowers
- **Pessimists:** feared without two rivals, world would lack structure and discipline and be more violent & disorderly
- Both pessimists and optimists were right
- In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait which probably Soviets would not have allowed during Cold War fearing US actions
- UN coalition demonstrated value of multilateralism
- But messiness of its aftermath proved harbinger of future

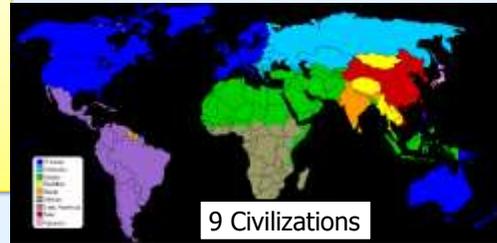
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Post-Cold War: Optimists vs. Pessimists

- With collapse of the Soviet Union, its external empire of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania, became truly independent
- At the end of the Cold War some thought the new era would be calm and peaceful because it would no longer be the risk of nuclear war or the world dominated by two rival superpowers-page 45
- Skeptics were fearful that a world without two rivals would lack structure and discipline and would as a result lack structure and discipline and be more violent and disorderly
- Both pessimists and optimists were right
- In August 1990-Iraq invaded Kuwait-which unlikely would've happened because Iraq, associated with Soviet Union would not have left it do so during the Cold War for fear of US actions
- The coalition under the United Nations was put together demonstrating the value of multilateralism
- But the messiness of its aftermath proved to be something of a harbinger of what was to unfold in the future

Source: Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, 2020, p 43

Polar views of Post Cold War World: **Clash of Civilizations** vs. **End of History**



- **Clash of Civilizations:** Cultural & religious identities will be primary source of conflict in post-Cold War
 - Wars will be fought not between countries, but between cultures
 - Differs from past struggles between monarchs, nations and ideologies in Western civilization
 - After Cold War, non-Western civilizations, no longer exploited and colonized by West but joining the West to shape world history
- **End of history:** Alternative view of Fukuyama "End of History"
 - Human rights, liberal democracy, and capitalist free market economy only ideological alternative post-Cold War world

Samuel Huntington, *Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, 1996
Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man*, 1992



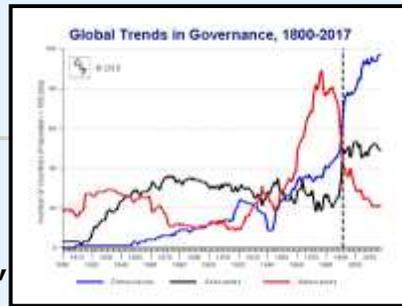
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Polar views of Post Cold War World: Clash of Civilizations vs. End of History

- Thesis that cultural and religious identities will be primary source of conflict in post-Cold War
- Wars will be fought not between countries, but between cultures
- World would revert to its normal state of affairs characterized by cultural conflict
- Differs from past history of struggles between monarchs, nations and ideologies in Western civilization
- But after Cold War, non-Western civilizations, no longer the exploited and colonized by Western civilization joining the West to shaping world history
- But opposite view of Fukuyama "End of History" - human rights, liberal democracy, and capitalist free market economy only ideological alternative post-Cold War world

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Europe in post-Cold War era



- Symbolized victory of democracy, capitalism & globalization
- However, also nationalism and populism
- Most of Europe, including Balkans, joined EU & NATO
- Almost all Europe's countries adopted capitalism and democracy – except Russia and its buffer states
- But Russia under Putinism still problematic
- Germany – Europe's nemesis in WWI & II, now engine of Europe's economy



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Europe in post-Cold War era

- Cold War truly ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991
- Symbolized a victory of democracy and capitalism and has mostly been dominated by the rise of globalization (as well as nationalism and populism in reaction) enabled by Internet and mobile phone system.
- Post-Cold War era renewed attention to matters ignored during Cold War
- US became sole superpower
- But rise of China from a relatively weak developing country to a fledgling potential superpower.
- Merger of most of Europe into one economy
- Shift of power from the G7 to G20
- But Russia under Putin and India, China, and Japan developed to challenge US hegemony
- Communism ended outside Europe in Mongolia, Congo, Afghanistan, and Angola; but remains in China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam.
- Many more countries adapted to capitalism and democracy
- Germany – Europe's nemesis in WWI & II, now engine of Europe's economy – Accounts for 1/6th Europe's GDP, \$1 trillion larger than #2 UK or #3 France and 2.4 times Russia's

NATO in post-Cold War era



- After Cold War expanded from 16 countries to 29
- Rationales of continuing NATO:
 - Hedge against future uncertainties of a Russian threat
 - Help the new members democratize and professionalize their militaries
- The downsides of keeping NATO:
 - Contributed to subsequent alienation of Russia
 - Burdened new members as they were trying to focus on rebuilding at home

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p 43

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Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*,
Penguin Press, 2020, p 43

How was it possible the Cold War ended?



The end of the Cold War gave rise to great expectations. It was a time of new beginnings in Europe. This was most obviously true of the former communist countries, where liberal economic systems and democratic government started to take shape. ...

The years of transition in the first half of the 1990s were, however, to prove more difficult than anyone amid the early euphoria had anticipated.

The war in Yugoslavia... that lasted from 1991 to 1995 was a major shock to the new Europe

Source: Ian Kershaw, *The Global Age: Europe 1950-2017*, p.398-9

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How was it possible the Cold War ended?

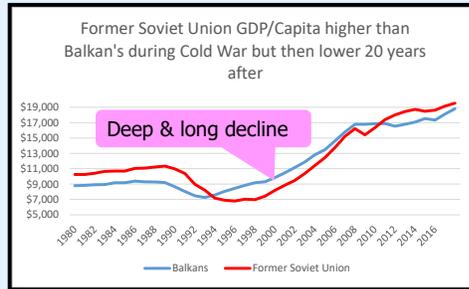
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What's been afterlife of totalitarianism in Eastern Europe?



Americans too often assume that once a tyranny has collapsed and elections follow — ... whatever comes next will be far better. Things are more complicated, of course.... [Surprisingly, those] who had bravely spoken out for freedom before 1989, ... had never thought much about the practicalities of life after Communism. ... Every dictatorship creates thousands of smaller dictators, who live on for decades.

By Adam Hochschild, *NYTimes*, April 28, 2013, on page BR14 of the Sunday Book 12

What's been afterlife of totalitarianism in Eastern Europe?

Far more than peoples who've weathered revolutions and counterrevolutions, Americans too often assume that once a tyranny has collapsed and elections follow — whether in the Soviet Union, Iraq or Egypt — whatever comes next will be far better. Things are more complicated, of course....

[Surprisingly, those] who had bravely spoken out for freedom before 1989, ... had never thought much about the practicalities of life after Communism. Even Vaclav Havel, his country's president, continued to give "speeches about authenticity and Being and the irreducibility of subjective human experience." Another unexpected discovery was that the former dissidents had considerable contempt for "the people."...

Before the Soviets arrived, of course, Eastern Europe was under the Nazis, and before then much of it was under regimes with a fascist tinge. The aftermath of all that lingers on: in Romania, ... sympathy for the prewar Iron Guard; in Poland, ... anti-Semitic literature on sale, Jews concealing their ethnicity....

Every dictatorship creates thousands of smaller dictators, who live on for decades.

By Adam Hochschild, *NYTimes*, April 28, 2013

How have the Balkans fared?

Per Capita GDP in Balkans during and after Cold War (2011 US\$)

Country or Region	1950	1989-90	2018	% Annual Increase 1950-1990	Years to Exceed 1989-90	% Annual Increase 1990-2018
Albania	1,596	3,966	11,104	2.3%	6	3.7%
Bulgaria	2,632	9,415	18,444	3.2%	12	2.4%
Greece	3,052	16,041	23,451	4.2%	1	1.4%
Romania	824	5,769	20,126	5.0%	5	4.6%
Moldova	na	10,062	6,747	na	28+	-1.4%
Former Yugoslav	2,276	9,444	16,558	3.6%	13	2.0%
All BalkansTotal	1,946	8,922	18,815	3.9%	8	2.7%
Russia	4,249	12,583	24,669	2.8%	13	2.4%
W Europe	7,263	25,440	39,790	3.2%	na	1.6%
US	15,240	36,850	55,335	2.2%	na	1.5%
World	3,351	8,222	15,212	2.3%	na	2.2%

Source: Maddison Project Database, version 2020. Bolt, Jutta and Jan Luiten van Zanden (2020), "A new 2020 update".

Grown rapidly from small base but took a decade to transition

How have the Balkans fared?

- The Balkans per capita GDP grew at a rapid 3.9% pace during the Cold War-much faster than the rest of Europe or the world or the US
- This growth was from a very small base of less than \$2000 per capita-way below the world average
- Russia also grew rapidly during this period and its per capita GDP was higher than any of the Balkan countries including Greece but much lower than Western Europe
- During the post Cold War., Balkan GDP per capita also grew rapidly except in Moldova
- After the end of the Cold War in 1989-90, many countries took a decade or more to reach their per capita GDP levels.
- The countries in the former Yugoslavia, and Russia took more than a decade and Moldova still lags below its 1989-90 per capita GDP

How has Europe fared?

Region	Metric	1900	1920	1940	1950	1990	2000	2018
E Europe/W Europe	GDP/Capita	57%	27%	45%	56%	41%	28%	52%
E Europe/ World	GDP/Capita	122%	60%	102%	122%	126%	91%	136%
W Europe/World	GDP/Capita	214%	218%	229%	217%	309%	328%	262%
E Europe/ World	GDP	6%	3%	6%	8%	7%	5%	7%
W Europe/ World	GDP	28%	24%	26%	23%	20%	20%	14%

Source: Maddison Project Database, version 2020. Bolt, Jutta and Jan Luiten van Zanden (2020), "A new 2020 update".

- E Europe GDP/Capita much lower than W Europe – especially in 1990s transition after end Cold War
- E Europe GDP and GDP/capita small share of world GDP
- W Europe world share GDP peaked around 1900 - now half of 1900

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How has Europe fared?

- Western Europe reached its pinnacle around 1900 when its colonization of the world peaked
- In 1900, Western Europe accounted for 28% of global GDP which dwindled to 14% by 2018
- Eastern Europe, GDP per capita has been around half or less of Western GDP and accounted for only 3% after World War I in 1920 and has kept pace with the world economy maintaining a 7% share of global GDP in 1990 and both 2018.
- But during the early post-cold war era, Eastern Europe's GDP dropped to only 5%
- E Europe GDP/Capita much lower than W Europe – especially in 1990s transition after end Cold War

Post-Cold War Global Reactions



- Revival of friction between US and both Russia & China
- Putin saw US liberal world order as a threat and angry about lack of US aid and enlarging NATO
- China, unlike Russia embraced globalization not liberalism
- Europe appeared to be successful with peace, democracy and economic advance
- EU & NATO expanded amid euro optimism
- But Europe also suffered financial crisis, especially Greece Italy, then Russia annexed the Crimea and Brexit

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020

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Post-Cold War Global Reactions

- There was a revival of friction between the US and both Russia and China
- Russia under Putin's leadership, did not want to be part of the US liberal world and saw it as a threat to his own rule and to Russia's position in the world he also was concerned about the lack of US economic assistance for Russia and the decision to enlarge the NATO with the former Soviet satellites
- China, unlike Russia embraced globalization but US hopes that China's participation in globalization would lead to a more market oriented Democratic and restrained China were not realized and friction has continued to mount
- Europe, after the end of the Cold War appeared to be successful with Pete's, democracy and economic advice
- The European Union expanded from a dozen to double that number and there was considerable euro optimism
- But the region also suffered financial crisis, especially Greece Italy and others and then Russia annexed the Crimea following also was a British Brexit-page 54

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020

Post-Cold War Global Legacies



- Increased rivalry between US & both Russia & China
- Putin wanted no part of US-led liberal world which he saw as a threat to his rule and Russia's world position
- Worsening of US-Russian relations, resulted in sanctions on Russia, mutual expulsions of diplomats, breakdowns of Cold War arms agreements, & military competition
- China, took a different path, and unlike Russia, embraced globalization and trade with US
- US hoped that China's participation in global economy would lead to a more market oriented, democratic and restrained China – unfortunately, that did not happen

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p49

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Post-Cold War challenges

- Increased rivalry between US and both Russia and China
- Deterioration with Russia is attributed to lack of US economic assistance for Russia early in its years as an independent country and decision to enlarge NATO
- But early on Putin seemed to conclude that he wanted no part of the US-led liberal world as he saw it as a threat to his rule and Russia's position in the world
- Result was imposition of economic sanctions, mutual expulsions of diplomats, breakdowns of Cold War arms agreements, and renewed military competition
- China, took a different path, and unlike Russia, embraced integration in global economy and with its state led economic model expanded trade with United States
- Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, China sought a peaceful rise and emphasized it was a developing country
- US hope was that China's participation in global economy would lead to a more market oriented, democratic and restrained China - unfortunately it didn't

Richard Haass, *The World – A Brief Introduction*, Penguin Press, 2020, p49

What's Next? Russia, Biden & Balkans



- Russia still major force in Europe: Putinism & Petro
- Russia expects Biden to be tougher
- Biden will pay closer attention to post-Soviets Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Belarus in buffer zone where Russia wants to restore influence
- Biden likely will support Ukraine and pressure Russia
- **Question:** *How much mischief will Putin make before Biden settles in?*

Source: Geopolitical Futures, Nov 16, 2020. What Russia Expects From the Next US President - The current uncertainty benefits the Kremlin. By: Ekaterina Zolotova

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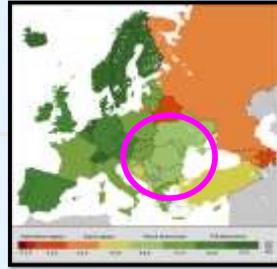
What's Next? Russia, Biden & Balkans

- Russia has long been paranoid about protecting its western flank-it's near abroad
- It also has long sought access to warm waters of the Mediterranean
- Thus it strongly seeks to maintain its buffers of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and is why it annexed Crimea
- Russia expects Biden to be tougher
- Biden may increase US presence in Eastern Europe
- Biden may add sanctions for poisoning Alexei Navalny
- But Russia still prime source of energy for Europe
- Biden will pay closer attention to post-Soviet countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Belarus – all in buffer zone where Russia wants to restore influence
- Biden likely will continue to support Ukraine and pressure Russia
- But while US is busy in transfer of power, Russia has time for maneuver.
- Question: How much Russia is willing to risk until Biden Administration takes power

Source: Geopolitical Futures, Nov 16, 2020. What Russia Expects From the Next US President - The current uncertainty benefits the Kremlin. By: Ekaterina Zolotova

Summary & Conclusions

Balkans and post-Cold War World



- Long a cauldron of conflict
- Invaded and occupied under WW I & II
- During Cold War under communist dictatorships
- After Cold War, Yugoslav break-up culminated in Kosovo War, ended by NATO bombing
- Transitions to capitalism and democracy took a decade but largely successful so far
- **Good news:** 12 Balkan nations, after centuries of conflict and reincarnations, now independent & democratic



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Summary & Conclusions

Balkans and post-Cold War World

- Long a battleground of empires & cauldron of conflict
- Diverse ethnicities, languages, and religions
- Invaded and occupied under WW I & II
- During Cold War under communist dictatorships
- After Cold War, Yugoslav break-up culminated in Kosovo War, ended by NATO bombing
- Transitions to capitalism and democracy took a decade but largely successful so far
- Good news: 12 Balkan nations, after centuries of conflict and reincarnations, now independent & democratic but only 1.4% of Europe's GDP

Take-aways of Greece & the Balkans

WW I created, WW II devastated, & Cold War Stalinized Balkans



- US & UK, played major roles in all 3 wars
- Not wanting to fight again & allowed Stalin to take Balkans
- Truman Doctrine contained USSR & protected Greece
- In 1953 Stalin dies & Soviet grip eased somewhat
- Yugoslavia & Albania stay outside Iron Curtain & Romania exit Warsaw Pact
- W Europe prospers & unifies under capitalism while E Europe languishes under communism
- Gorbachev liberalizes and parlays with US as USSR continues to lag, leading to its dissolution

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Top take-aways from Greece & Balkans
Path after Cold War strewn with many thorns



- Berlin Wall falls – marking end of Cold War
- Yeltsin heads Russia, Gorbachev resigns, USSR dissolved
- Soviet satellites declare independence and align with West
- Russia & Balkans suffer a decade of transition trauma
- Yugoslavia explodes into worst war in 50 years
- NATO & EU expand and take in most former satellites
- Putinism begins and Balkans recover some
- Great Recession – grips Europe, almost a GREXIT
- Crisis eases and returns to normal

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Top take-aways from Greece & Balkans
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Interested in what policies have worked in world?

Understanding the Best Countries of the World

Start:	December 03, 2020
End:	December 17, 2020
Schedule:	3 sessions
#1:	December 03, 2020, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (EST)
#2:	December 10, 2020, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (EST)
#3:	December 17, 2020, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (EST)
Location:	Online

Registration:
• 7.50 - \$7.50

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Understanding the Best Countries of the World

- Joe Coffey
- Thursday
- 12/3/20, 12/10/20, 12/17/20
- 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- \$7.50

There are some 200 countries in our modern world of diverse geographic, politics, economics, cultures, and geopolitical influence. But an elite few stand out for the past several decades as consistently serving their citizens in a superior way. While it is true that the world is dynamic and the best countries today may not necessarily remain on top forever, nevertheless there are three groups of advanced countries which are widely recognized as among the best. These three groups are scattered on 4 different continents, relatively small in population (5 to 90 million), though not necessarily in area and none is considered a world power. These three groups are Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland), the Asian Tigers (Hong Kong, S. Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore) and the British offshoots (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand).

This zoom class will focus one class on each of these groups and explore why they are considered among the best and compare and contrast their secrets to success. Lectures will be presented live via Zoom with time reserved for discussion. Presentations will be emailed in advance and posted on coffeynotes.com.

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Prosperity Rankings in Balkans have mostly improved since 2009

- Ironically, Russia, the former ruler, now ranks lower than all but Moldova
- Slovenia ranks highest
- More improved rank than declined
- All had gains in the index absolute score, but Greece the least gain

Legatum Prosperity Ranking Balkans, of 167 countries
Please say that again

Country	2009	2019	Score Change
Slovenia	24	27	1.3%
Greece	39	42	0.8%
Croatia	41	45	1.7%
Romania	48	47	3.2%
Bulgaria	50	49	3.4%
Montenegro	52	50	5.0%
Serbia	61	52	7.1%
North Macedonia	55	54	2.8%
Albania	71	65	7.4%
Bosnia and Herzeg	69	70	3.8%
Moldova	92	81	7.7%
Russia	82	74	6.5%

Source: The Legatum Prosperity Index™ assesses countries on the promotion of their residents' flourishing, reflecting both economic and social wellbeing in 12 major categories such as health, income, education, freedom, etc.
www.Prosperty.com

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Appendix

Interested in Future US Foreign Policy Challenges?

Great Decisions 2021 - 1

Start January 20, 2021
End February 10, 2021
Schedule 4 sessions
 #1. January 20, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #2. January 27, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #3. February 03, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #4. February 10, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
Location Online

Registration
 • 15 - \$15.00

Register

Great Decisions 2021 - 1

- Joe Coffey
- Wednesday
- 1/20/21, 1/27/21, 2/3/21, 2/10/21
- 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
- \$15

Great Decisions is a nonpartisan education program on the 8 major foreign policy challenges currently facing Americans. We will consider the following challenges in this course: 1) Global supply chains and national security; 2) Persian Gulf security; 3) Brexit and the European Union; and 4) Struggles over the melting Arctic. The remaining challenges will be considered in the next course. Each Zoom class will overview the topic and have class discussion and view 1/2 hour video on each topic. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to purchase the Great Decisions 2021 book (about \$35) at the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org) or Amazon.com. Lecture notes will be emailed in advance and posted on coffeynotes.com.

Please do not contact CF personnel about any Senior Learners, Inc. courses. Senior Learners, Inc. is independent of CF. We have the use of a classroom and support the CF Foundation with donations. If you have any questions about our courses or operations, please contact us: info@SeniorLearners.org, (352) 239-8780.

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Appendix

Interested in Future US Foreign Policy Challenges?

Great Decisions 2021 - 2

Start February 17, 2021
End March 10, 2021
Schedule 4 sessions
 #1. February 17, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #2. February 24, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #3. March 03, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
 #4. March 10, 2021, 10:30 AM 12:00 PM (EST)
Location Online

Registration
 • 15 - \$15.00

Register

Great Decisions 2021 - 2

- Joe Coffey
- Wednesday
- 2/17/21, 2/24/21, 3/3/21, 3/10/21
- 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
- \$15.00

Great Decisions is a nonpartisan education program on the remaining 4 major foreign policy challenges currently facing Americans: 5) China's role in Africa; 6) The Korean Peninsula; 7) Roles of International organizations in a global pandemic; 8) The End of Globalization? Each Zoom class will overview the topic and have class discussion and view 1/2 hour video on each topic. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to purchase the Great Decisions 2021 book (about \$35) at the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org) or Amazon.com. Lecture notes will be emailed in advance and posted on coffeynotes.com.

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