



RUSSIA & EURASIA PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

Center for Strategic and International Studies ■ Washington, D.C.

May-June 2007

The Monthly Update is also available as a .pdf document [here](#).

Press Briefing

The [Russia and Eurasia Program](#) hosted a briefing for the media on June 27, 2007 before Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to the United States. The briefing featured [Andrew C. Kuchins](#), director of the Russia and Eurasia Program; [Sarah E. Mendelson](#), director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative and senior fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Program, and [Steven Pifer](#), a senior adviser with the Russia and Eurasia Program. For audio, video, and a transcript, please click [here](#).

Recent Events

You can view the complete list of events by going to the program's [Associated Events](#) page.

The G-8 Summit and U.S.-Russia Relations



On June 14, 2007, the [Russia and Eurasia Program](#) hosted a briefing with Igor Shuvalov on the G-8 summit and the current state of U.S.-Russia relations. Mr. Shuvalov served as the principal representative of the President of the Russian Federation to the G-8. He graduated from Lomonosov State University with a degree in law and has held many appointments within the Russian government since 1993. In June 2003, Mr. Shuvalov was appointed as an aide to the President of the Russian Federation; his previous positions include the following: Deputy Minister of State Property, Chairman of the Russian Foundation of Federal Property, and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office. For audio and a transcript, please click [here](#).

Kremlin Survivor Series

Dr. Andrew Kuchins hosted a series of discussions on possible candidates and scenarios for the Russian 2008 presidential elections. Speakers included Lilia Shevtsova, a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Moscow Center; Sergei Markov, Professor of Politology at Moscow State University; Nikolay Petrov, Scholar in Residence at the Carnegie Moscow Center; and Igor Danchenko, a Research Analyst at the Brookings Institution. For a summary of the discussion with Lilia Shevtsova (June 5, 2007), please click [here](#); for a summary of the discussion with Sergei Markov (May 15, 2007), please click [here](#); for a summary of the discussion with Nikolay Petrov and Igor Danchenko (May 3, 2007), please click [here](#).

Frozen Conflicts in the Caucasus: A Dangerous Thaw?

On May 14, 2007, the [Russia and Eurasia Program's Caucasus Initiative](#) hosted a presentation by Thomas de Waal on the frozen conflicts in the Caucasus. Thomas de Waal is a journalist and expert on Russia and the Caucasus. He has worked as a journalist in London and Moscow and is currently Caucasus Editor at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), managing journalistic projects and editing IWPR's Caucasus Reporting Service. Tom is co-author with Carlotta Gall of *Chechnya, Calamity in the Caucasus*, the first full-length book about Chechnya in English (Pan, 1997 and NYU Press, 1998) and is sole author of *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War* (NYU Press, 2003), the first thorough book in English about the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. For audio, please click [here](#).

Testimony

Dr. Sarah Mendelson testified before the United States Helsinki Commission on May 24, 2007 at a hearing entitled, "Russia Today: In Transition or Intransigent?" Her testimony touched on the following subjects: how the decline of U.S. soft power and the increase in Russian influence are negatively affecting human rights in the international arena; the sources of Putin's popularity but also the potential fragility of public institutions in Russia; and recommendations for U.S. policy, including rejecting the Bush administration's current attempts to cut funding for human rights in Russia. Click [here](#) to read Dr. Mendelson's testimony.

Media

You can view the complete list of links by going to the program's [Media](#) page.

Senior Fellow Sarah E. Mendelson was quoted in a *Reuters* article on June 28 entitled, "[Post-Cold War chill hangs over Bush-Putin summit.](#)"

Deputy Director and Fellow Cory Welt was interviewed on Turkish-Armenian relations and conflicts in the South Caucasus by PanARMENIAN.net on June 21. To read the interview, click [here](#).

Director and Senior Fellow Andrew Kuchins published a June 10 article in *Newsday* entitled, "[Vlad the Surpriser](#)," on President Putin's offer to share Azerbaijan radar data.

Andrew Kuchins was quoted by *USA Today* in an article on June 7 entitled, "[Putin Suggests Azerbaijan for Missile Defense.](#)"

Andrew Kuchins was quoted by *The New York Times* in an article on June 6 entitled, "[Chastising Putin, Bush Says Russia Derails Reforms.](#)"

Sarah E. Mendelson was quoted in a *Baltimore Sun* [article](#) on June 6 discussing deteriorating diplomatic relations between Russia and the United States.

Senior Adviser Steven Pifer was quoted in a *RFE/RL* [article](#) on June 1 addressing Russia's increasing use of intimidation to crackdown on dissent both at home and abroad.

Sarah E. Mendelson was quoted in a *Washington Times* [article](#) on May 31 on U.S.-Russian relations and the upcoming meeting between President Bush and President Putin in Kennebunkport Maine.

Steven Pifer was quoted in an AP article on May 12 about the relationship between Russian and the United States during the Bush administration.

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