

REECAS NORTHWEST

The 31st Annual Northwest Regional Conference for
Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies





WELCOME

The Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) is honored to host the 31st annual REECAS Northwest conference at the University of Washington. As the northwest affiliate conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), REECAS NW has become a fixture in the academic landscape of the Pacific Northwest during the past quarter century, welcoming attendees from around the country and internationally.

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues into its twelfth year, this conference continues a deepening tradition of Ukrainian studies, with papers on Ukrainian culture, history, and politics. I want to highlight the featured panel on the war's global dimensions, as well as the screening of Yevgeniya Chirikova's documentary film about abduction and deportation of Ukrainian civilians; and "Unissued Diplomas," an exhibit sponsored by the Ukrainian Students United at UW, honoring forty Ukrainian university students killed by Russia's armed forces in Ukraine. Lauri Mälksoo's Keynote Address will add historical context, tracing continuity from imperial Russian or Soviet traditions of international law, into the present. And the Plenary Session speakers, Ambassadors Mark Gitenstein and Audra Plepytė, will address the future of democracy in the region we study.

This year's conference would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Ellison Center's Managing Director, Dr. Philip Lyon. We also owe special thanks to the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for their generous support for the Ellison Center and this conference.

The conference's institutional host, the Ellison Center, is named after Dr. Herbert J. Ellison (1929-2012), preeminent American scholar of Soviet studies through the second half of the 20th century. Professor Ellison devoted his life to scholarship and service, teaching, mentoring, and researching at the UW's Jackson School of International Studies while also building and leading local and national institutions for developing the next generations of Russia experts. Seattle is a global and vibrant city, and its values represent the best of America. It is the ideal place for the open exchange of ideas and production of new knowledge. We welcome you to Seattle and we wish you a successful conference!

Sincerely,

Guntis Šmidchens

Kazickas Family Endowed Professor of Baltic Studies

Director, Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies

REECAS NW

***The 31st Annual Northwest Conference
for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies***



**ELLISON CENTER FOR
RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN
AND CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES**

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

The Henry M. Jackson
School of International Studies



April 10-12, 2025

The University of Washington, Seattle

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Thursday, April 10
6:15 - 7:30
HUB 145

Lauri Mälksoo

University of Tartu, Estonia

RUSSIA, THE SOVIET UNION, AND IMPERIAL CONTINUITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Lauri Mälksoo is Professor of International Law at the University of Tartu in Estonia and member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. During 2023-2024, he was fellow at the Institut d'études avancées (IEA) in Paris. He earned his law degree at the University of Tartu in 1998, his LL.M. at Georgetown University in 1999 and doctorate at Humboldt University Berlin in 2002. He has subsequently had fellowships at NYU School of Law, at the University of Tokyo and at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. He is an editor-in-chief of the *Baltic Yearbook of International Law* and is member of the editorial board of the *Review of Central and East European Law*. Among his publications are monographs *Illegal Annexation and State Continuity: The Incorporation of the Baltic States by the USSR* (2nd ed., 2022, Brill) and *Russian Approaches to International Law* (OUP, 2015). He has published widely on the history of international law related to Russia and the Soviet Union, as well as on current developments and cases in international law.



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WiFi is available for conference attendees. Please check the conference webpage (<https://jsis.washington.edu/ellisoncenter/reecas-nw/>) for network and login information.



Stay up to date with REECAS NW and share your stories on Facebook at **facebook.com/EllisonCenter**.



Join the conference debate and share your photos and updates on Twitter using **#REECASNW**.

Program Design and Layout: Philip Lyon

LEARN MORE

ABOUT THE ELLISON CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES

AT

JSIS.WASHINGTON.EDU/ELLISONCENTER

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

- 3:15 Registration Opens
- 4:00 – 5:45 Session 1
- 5:45 – 6:00 Break
- 6:15 – 7:30 Keynote Speech

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

- 8:00 Registration Opens
- 8:45 – 10:30 Session 2
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:30 Session 3
- 12:30 – 2:00 Lunch Break
- 2:00 – 3:45 Session 4
- 3:45 – 4:00 Break
- 4:00 – 5:30 Plenary
- 5:30 – 6:30 Reception

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

- 8:00 Registration Opens
- 8:45 – 10:30 Session 5
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:30 Session 6

ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HUB.

PANEL SESSIONS

SESSION 1

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

4:00 - 5:45

Panel 1A, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | HUB 334

Central Asia Today

Chair: Sara O'Connor, California State University, Long Beach

Masaaki Higashijima, University of Tokyo / University of Washington. "Do Elections Change Political Attitudes in Autocracies? Identification through the Staggered Introduction of Local Elections in Kazakhstan"

Anara Jeenbekova, University of Washington. "The Integration of Central Asian Region via an Organization of Turkic States: The Case of 11th Summit"

Ainura Kenzhetayeva, Bluefield State University. "Shifting Perspectives: the Impact of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict on the Perception of the Eurasian Economic Union Membership in Kazakhstan"

Panel 1B, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | HUB 332

Russian Literature, Past to Future

Chair: Barbara Henry, University of Washington
Evgenii Bershtein, Reed College. "Popular Biographies of Sergei Eisenstein in Russia and the West"

Aaron Lener, Syracuse University. "Mayakovsky and Jakobson: Exploring the influences of Russian Futurism on Formalist theory"

Anantaa Ghosh, University of Oregon. "Pninian portable worlds: World literature(s) for the future?"

Rachel Quiles, University of Washington. "Divine Degeneracy: Socioreligious Themes in Sorokin's Day of the Oprichnik"

Panel 1C, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | HUB 337

Balkan and Russian Imperial Biographies

Chair: Michael Biggins, University of Washington

Joan Dusa, Independent Scholar. "King Milutin of Serbia's Conflict with the Papacy in the Early Fourteenth Century"

Susan Baker, Independent Scholar. "'Dinaric Man': A Comparison between Michael Ljubibratic and Gavrilo Princip"

Lejla Veskovic, Ohio State University. "The Similarities and Differences Between Ideological Concepts of the So-Called Russian and Serbian World and Their Manifestations in Popular Culture"

Elena Watson, Independent Scholar. "Forgotten Names: Jane McGill, a British Woman Philanthropist in Imperial Moscow"

Panel 1D, 4:00 pm - 5:45 pm | HUB 214

Central European History Revisited

Chair: Karina Horeni, Polish Academy of Sciences

Sylvia Sztern, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "Cultural Development Index and Spatial Economics of Survival Lublin Jewish Community 1863-1945"

Aldis Purs, Seattle University/University of Washington. "Returning to Riga: Episodes from Riga Municipal Government, 1919-1940"

SESSION 2

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

8:45 - 10:30

Panel 2A, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 334

Virtual Cohesion and Disruption

Chair: Robert Evanson, University of Missouri

Oksana Pochapska, Kamianets-Podilskyi Ivan Ohienko National University. "Media, Elections, Populism: Russian Narratives in Polish Pre-Election Communications"

Nataliia Goshylyk, UC Berkeley. "Constructing Diasporic Ukrainian Identity Online at the Times of Turbulence"

Elira Turdubaeva, Fulbright Scholar, University of Miami, Florida. "Social Media's Role in Social Cohesion and Civic Engagement in Central Asia: Pilot Study in Kyrgyzstan"

Scott Radnitz, University of Washington. "What is Russia Tweeting About?"

Panel 2B, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 332

Post-Imperial Political Activism Today

Chair: Eric Johnson, University of Washington

Rusudan Kuntchulia, University of Washington. "Elite vs. Elites: The Role of President in Georgia's 2024-2025 Anti-Government Protests"

Rina Cakrani, Simon Fraser University/Independent Scholar. "Youth and Political Engagement in the Balkans: Between Disillusionment and Activism"

Grigory Grigoryev, Stanford University. "Ethno-chronology and Collective Memory in Dagestan: Resisting and Accepting the Russian Rule"

Sara O'Connor, California State University, Long Beach. "Civic Activism in Authoritarian Space: Urban Development Interventions in Kazakhstan"

Panel 2C, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 337

Violent Trauma, Lived and Remembered

Chair: Aldis Purs, Seattle University/University of Washington

Dariya McEwen, University of British Columbia. "Ukrainian Prisoners of Auschwitz"

Alexandra Noi, University of California, Santa Barbara. "(Re)Making a Homo Pavlovius: Labor Therapy, Pavlovian Conditioning, and the Stalinist Gulag"

Karina Horeni, Polish Academy of Sciences. "Gustav and Adolf- Confiscation and Resistance in Post-War Czechoslovakia"

Cynthia Horne, Western Washington University. "Transitional Justice in Latvia: Competing, Coexisting, and Complementary Pasts"

HUB 145 will be open as a lounge with coffee for registered conference attendees throughout the day on Friday and Saturday.

SESSION 3

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

10:45 - 12:30

Panel 3A, 10:45 am - 12:30 pm | HUB 334

The Cold War Revisited

Chair: Ilmari Kähkö, University of Helsinki

Glennys Young, University of Washington, "Soviet Reactions to the 1966 Palomares Nuclear 'Incident' in Spain"

Christopher Jones, University of Washington. "In Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, May 14, 2025: Soviet Nuclear Weapons and the Disintegration of the Warsaw Pact"

Helena Eglit, University of Washington. "The Baltic Litmus Test of 1994: the Withdrawal of Russian Troops and the End of the Second World War in Estonia"

Mate Gyorgy Vigoczki, The Institute of World Politics. "The Russian Nation-Building Project from the Perspective of the Russian-Ukrainian War"

Panel 3B, 10:45 am - 12:30 pm | HUB 332

New Book Roundtable | Marina Sapritsky-Nahum *Jewish Odesa: Negotiating Identities and Traditions in Contemporary Ukraine*

Chair: Nataliia Goshlyk, University of California, Berkeley

Author: Marina Sapritsky-Nahum, London School of Economics and University College London

Discussant: Laada Bilaniuk, University of Washington

Discussant: Sasha Senderovich, University of Washington

Panel 3C, 10:45 am - 12:30 pm | HUB 337

Less-Commonly Taught Languages in University Curricula: The Baltic Case

Chair: Russell Hugo, University of Washington

Līga Miklaševiča, University of Washington. "Promoting Latvian Language Learning: Challenges and Opportunities"

Gina Kavaliūnaitė-Holvoet, University of Washington. "Promoting the Language and Culture of Small Countries Abroad"

Fred Gregor Rahuoja, University of Washington. "Teaching LCTL Vocabulary: Utilizing Morphological Modularity to Introduce New Lemmas as Form-Meaning Bundles"

Discussant: Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington

Please join us for the
**REECAS Northwest
Conference Reception**
on April 11 from
5:30 - 6:30 pm
in HUB 145.

SESSION 4

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

2:00 - 3:45

Panel 4A, 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm | HUB 334

Art, Literature, and Life

Chair: Agnieszka Jezyk, University of Washington

Ian Gwin, University of Washington. "The Travels of the Happy Prince: Fairy Tales, Aestheticism and the Formation of National Literatures in the Baltics"

Stella Webster, Stanford University. "Transcending Mickiewicz: Mykola Kostomarov's Political Philosophy in 'The books of the genesis of the Ukrainian people'"

Bozena Karwowska, University of British Columbia. "Polish Woman in American University"

Panel 4B, 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm | HUB 332

The Belarusian Language: Challenges, Perspectives, and Future Directions

Chair: Bojan Belic, University of Washington

Tatsiana Amosava, Carleton University. "My Experience of Studying Belarusian in the Soviet and Post-Soviet School"

Maryna Antaniuk-Prouteau, Stanford University. "Belarusian Language in the Face of Political Struggles: Challenges and Revival"

Nya Feinstein, Independent Scholar. "Belarusian Paremias: Analysis of Unique Features and Influences from Linguistic Contact"

Radoslaw Kaleta, University of Warsaw. "Belarusian Language Protection and Development Strategies"

Panel 4C, 2:00 pm - 3:45 pm | HUB 337

Baltic Music, local and global

Chair: Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington

Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, University of Washington. "The Kids Are All Right: An Exploration of After Post-Soviet Composers in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania"

Egija Claire, University of Washington. "Conducting Across Borders: Navigating Political Sensitivities and Community Building in a Latvian Diaspora Choir"

Discussant: Dainius Vaičekonis, Seattle Pacific University

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PLENARY SESSION

Friday, April 11

4:00 - 5:30

HUB 334

The Future of Democracy and Free Markets in Central and Eastern Europe

featuring

The Honorable Mark Gitenstein

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, 2021-2025

The Honorable Audra Plepytė

Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States & Mexico

Moderator: Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington

Reception to follow in HUB 145

SESSION 5

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:45 - 10:30

Panel 5A, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 334

Russian Diaspora Activism and Identities

Chair: Valentina Zaitseva, University of Washington

Sasha Orlova, University of Washington.
"Mobilized Music: How Russian Protest Songs Shape Perception and Identity Post-2022"

Alexey Kuznetsov, University of Washington.
"Public Policy and Governance in The Discourse of the Russian Opposition: Topics of Equity and Social Justice"

Alexander Shamarin, Independent Scholar.
"Poetry in Exile. Yesterday and Today"

Discussant: Evgeniia Chirikova

Panel 5B, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 332

A Global War

Chair: Chris Jones, University of Washington

Ilmari Kähkö, University of Helsinki, "The Foreign Legion in Ukraine"

Eitvydas Bajarūnas, Center for European Policy Analysis. "International Security Hybrid Threats and EU/NATO Response"

CS Henry, University of Washington Seattle.
"Axis of Isolation: North Korea and Russia's Strategic Partnership in Ukraine"

Robert Evanson, University of Missouri Kansas City. "The Czech Response to the Russia Invasion of Ukraine"

Panel 5C, 8:45 am - 10:30 am | HUB 337

New Directions in the Colonial History of Central Asia and Caucuses

Chair: Masaaki Higashijima, University of Tokyo

Dilrabo Tursunova, University of Washington,
From India to Iran: Early Modern Slave Trade in Central Asia

Margulan Shamgali, Nazarbayev Intellectual School in Astana, Independent Scholar. The national features in the residential buildings' architecture of Kazakh people in XIX century

Temirlan Tileubek, UC Davis. The Nature of the Russian Empire: Hunting, Animal Conservation and Preservation in Central Asia

Diego Benning Wang, Kean University.
Lightning-Sword and Blazing Steed under the Hammer and Sickle: The Rebirth of David of Sassoun in Soviet Armenia

Please support Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies

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Free coffee and pastries will be available on Saturday at 8:00 am in HUB 145.

SESSION 6

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

10:45 - 12:30

Panel 6A, 10:45 am - 12:30 pm | HUB 334

***Prisoners* - A film by Evgeniya Chirikova**

Ms. Chirikova will introduce her film and take audience questions.

Prisoners explores the fates of Ukrainian civilian prisoners captured by Russian security forces in occupied Ukrainian territories. The reasons for detention can be anything – from a photo of Russian equipment or a Ukrainian flag on a phone to speaking the Ukrainian language. According to Ukrainian human rights organizations, at least 7,000 Ukrainian civilian prisoners are currently held in Russian prisons, five times more than the number of recognized political prisoners in Russia. The number of civilian Ukrainian prisoners left in torture prisons in the occupied territories remains unknown.

Typically, such people disappear after their arrest and even close relatives may not know their fate for years. Sometimes, they appear in Russian propaganda stories – broken, showing signs of torture, and forced to confess to absurd accusations. But over time, the truth comes to light, and it is shocking.

Prisoners is based on three stories told by the relatives of Ukrainian civilian prisoners: a mother whose son was taken by the FSB, a wife whose husband was taken away, and a young woman left without both parents due to the Russian occupation.

Evgeniya Chirikova first rose to prominence as the organizer of one of the first grassroots environmental groups dedicated to protecting the Khimki Forest near Moscow. She is one of the leaders of the Russian opposition, having served on the Coordinating Council of the opposition alongside Alexei Navalny and Boris Nemtsov in the fight for fair elections and democratic change in Russia. Chirikova is also the founder of the media project Activatica, which spreads information about civic activism. After Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine, Chirikova became actively involved in human rights work, assisting Ukrainian refugees. Currently, she is investigating terror in the occupied territories of Ukraine and what is happening to Ukrainian prisoners in Russian concentration camps. In Russia, Putin's regime has fabricated five criminal cases against Chirikova on terrorism charges, arrested her in absentia, and added her to the list of terrorists and extremists.





ABOUT THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Dan Lundberg

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies is located at the University of Washington in Seattle, one of the most dynamic and innovative cities in the United States.

The School is named for the late Senator Henry M. Jackson, in recognition of his interest and support for the School and the field of international affairs. Alumni have graduated to work in a range of fields, including the U.S. government; The White House; major corporations such as Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and CNN; international agencies including The World Bank, United Nations, and the biggest foundation in the world, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; think tanks; universities, and diplomatic missions of foreign governments.

Jackson School faculty represent a broad spectrum of social science disciplines. They are also associated with other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and other schools and colleges at UW, including the College of the Environment, School of Law, and the Michael G. Foster School of Business.

The Jackson School offers leading-edge research in global and area studies. Our internationally prominent faculty represent a range of fields in the social sciences and humanities, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, religion, sociology, and gender, women & sexuality studies. Some notable research projects include: the effects of free-trade agreements on human rights; public health and environmental security; nuclear non-proliferation in Asia; civil society in Asia; Latin America and Europe; defense industrialization in China; the relationship between religion and violence; U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East; history of U.S. foreign policy; the Mexican Revolution; political economy of India, post-Soviet politics; and, politics of indigenous communities. The Jackson School also hosts a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence funded by the European Union.



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GLOBAL STUDIES
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Oliver Bacquet

ABOUT THE ELLISON CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES

The Ellison Center is a leading U.S. center for the study of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Housed in the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies, the center works to advance scholarship and educate students about Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia through historical understanding, innovative teaching, and interdisciplinary research. This mission flows out of Professor Herbert Ellison's commitment to building connections with the diverse peoples of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Long known only as the REECAS Center, the Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies was christened as such in 2004 to honor Dr. Ellison's legacy with the generous financial support of the Ellison family and other program supporters.

As its long name indicates, the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies region is expansive and diverse, counting 29 countries. REECAS countries include the following: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The Ellison Center offers a Master's Degree in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies as well as an undergraduate minor. We also offer an Accelerated REECAS MA to US Military Foreign Area Officers (FAOs). We sponsor lectures, conferences and exchanges covering the entirety of Eastern Europe and Eurasia; and we sustain a dynamic program of outreach to local schools, colleges and community organizations interested in our region. With over 60 participating UW faculty, the Ellison Center represents a unique intellectual resource for faculty, students, and professionals living in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Professor Ellison served as a mentor to thousands of undergraduate and graduate students over 40 years. Instilling in them a love for the people and regions of the former Soviet Union and communist Europe, he devoted his career to the belief that educational exchange programs open doors and minds for all citizens of the world, and especially for those who long suffered behind the Iron Curtain.

Now, with public interest in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia higher than any time since the Soviet Union's demise, the Ellison Center supports innovative research, student programs and community outreach to promote learning about this region of the world and carry on Herbert Ellison's legacy.

TIMETABLE ♦ PANEL GRID

THURSDAY	Session	HUB 145	HUB 214	HUB 332	HUB 334	HUB 337
	Session 1 4:00 - 5:45		Panel 1D	Panel 1B	Panel 1A	Panel 1C
	Break					
	Keynote 6:15 - 7:30	Keynote				
FRIDAY	Session 2 8:45 - 10:30			Panel 2B	Panel 2A	Panel 2C
	Break					
	Session 3 10:45 - 12:30			Panel 3B	Panel 3A	Panel 3C
	Lunch 12-30 - 2:00					
	Session 4 2:00 - 3:45			Panel 4B	Panel 4A	Panel 4C
	Break					
	Plenary 4:00 - 5:30				Plenary	
	Reception 5:30 - 6:30	Reception				
SATURDAY	Session 5 8:45 - 10:30			Panel 5B	Panel 5A	Panel 5C
	Break					
	Session 6 10:45 - 12:30				Film	

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32ND ANNUAL REECAS

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

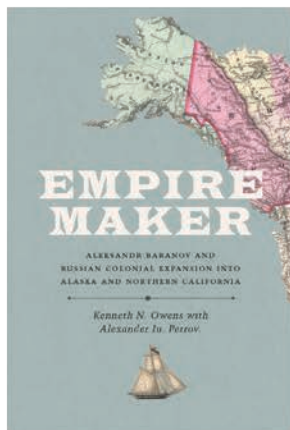
EXHIBIT | UNISSUED DIPLOMAS

As Ukraine approaches 3 years of full-scale war after an unprovoked invasion, "Unissued Diplomas" honors the memory of Ukrainian students who will never graduate because their lives were taken by the Russian invasion. The "Unissued Diplomas" exhibition uncovers the stories of 40 Ukrainian students killed in the war.

Location: Allen Library North Lobby (across the lawn from the Husky Union Building)
Hours: Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Closed on Saturday.



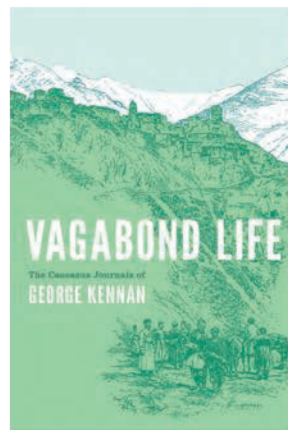
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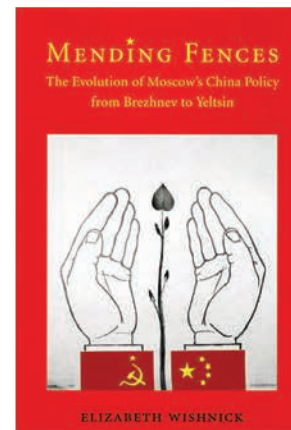
Empire Maker
Aleksandr Baranov and Russian Colonial Expansion into Alaska and Northern California
 Kenneth N. Owens
 with Alexander Yu. Petrov
 \$30.00 PB



Days of Defeat and Victory
 Yegor Gaidar
 Translated by Jane Ann Miller
 \$30.00 PB



Vagabond Life
The Caucasus Journals of George Kennan
 George Kennan
 Edited by Frith Maier
 \$32.00 PB



Mending Fences
The Evolution of Moscow's China Policy from Brezhnev to Yeltsin
 Elizabeth Wishnick
 \$35.00 PB



Red Autobiographies
Initiating the Bolshevik Self
 Igal Halfin
 \$30.00 PB

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Virtual Convention
October 23-24, 2025

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