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MON & WEDS

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SMITH 404

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Russia in the International System



The **Russian Federation** of 2017 is at the epicenter of several conflicts: the Ukrainian-Russia crises over Crimea and Eastern Ukraine; the enlargement of NATO and the security of its Baltic members; the civil war in Syria and the challenges posed by ISIS; the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal of 2015 and related global issues of nuclear security. Russia is a major player in the world energy market and in future developments within the Arctic Circle. All these issues are linked with tumultuous

changes within Russia since the collapse of the USSR and the rise of the enigmatic regime of Vladimir Putin. A vociferous debate is beginning in Washington, D.C. as to whether Russia is friend, foe or failed state.

This course draws on recent analyses written inside and outside of Russia, including the work of Svetlana Alexievich, winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize of Literature plus the best-selling history of the Putin regime, *The New Tsar* by Stephen Lee Myers, Moscow correspondent of The New York Times.

