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Understanding Contemporary Russia

Michael L. Bressler, editor

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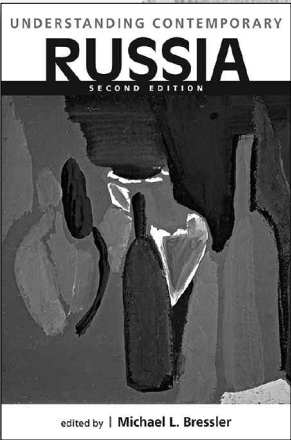
Russia today is in many ways different from the country portrayed a decade ago in the first edition of *Understanding Contemporary Russia*. With an upsurge of both national pride—despite a struggling economy—and civil society activism, with a palpable tension between the support for democratic values and the intense desire for political stability, with an increased role in world politics that puts Putin in the headlines almost daily, contradictions and complexities abound.

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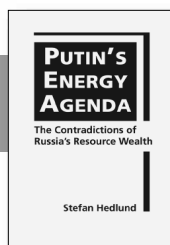
Michael L. Bressler is professor of political science at Furman University.

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 - Politics—M.L. Bressler.
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Stefan Hedlund is professor of Russian studies at Uppsala University.

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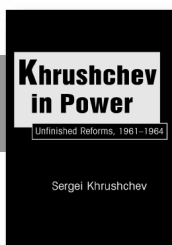
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Sergei Khrushchev has been senior fellow in international studies at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies since 1991.

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Rensselaer Lee is senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. **Artyom Lukin** is associate professor of international

relations and deputy director for research in the School of Regional and International Studies at Russia's Far Eastern Federal University.

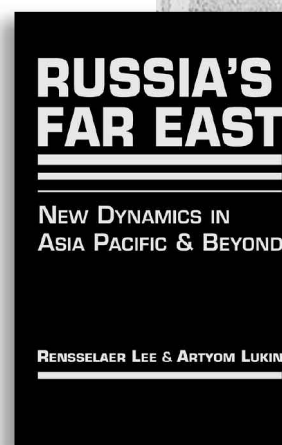
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- Setting the Stage.
- What Is the Russian Far East?
- History of the Russian Far East.
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In March 2012, at a meeting convened by the recently reelected Russian president Vladimir Putin, Minister of Defense Serdyukov informed Mr. Putin that a plan was being prepared for "the development of weapons based on new physical principles: radiation, geophysical wave, genetic, psychophysical, etc." Subsequently, in response to concerns expressed both in Russia and abroad, the Russian government deleted the statement from the public transcript of the meeting. But the question remains: Is Russia developing an offensive biological warfare program?

Raymond Zilinskas and Philippe Mauger investigate the multiple dimensions of this crucial security issue in their comprehensive, authoritative survey. Ranging from the Soviet legacy to current doctrine, from advanced weapons-development networks to civilian biotechnology research, from diplomatic initiatives to disinformation campaigns, they document and analyze the build-up and modernization of Russia's biodefense establishment under the Putin administration.

Raymond A. Zilinskas is director of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation (CBWN) Program at the Middlebury

Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS). **Philippe Mauger** completed work on this book while conducting research at MIIS.

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Stephen J. Cimbala is distinguished professor of political science at Penn State University Brandywine.

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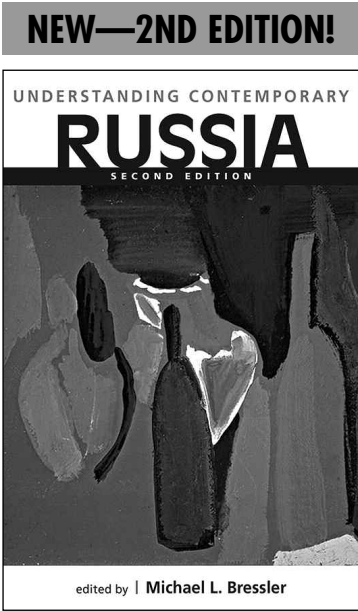
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