

Second MGIMO-Fletcher Conference on Russian-American Relations

May 24, 2018

Conveners

Andrey Baykov and Daniel Drezner

Scope: In recent years, Russian-American relations have deteriorated dramatically to a level of animosity unseen since the end of the Cold War. Tensions between the two countries have proliferated across multiple issue areas and have led to an exchange of tit-for-tat retaliatory measures. The first MGIMO-Fletcher conference on U.S.-Russia relations in November 2017 provided an opportunity to examine both the depth and scope of disagreements between Moscow and Washington. Building upon this audit, the second conference held in May 2018 is aimed at assessing the potential for cooperation in the areas of shared interests. The analyses developed in the conference can prove useful in preventing escalation and illuminating a path toward a more cooperative bilateral relationship in the longer term.

Format: Each major issue area there will be covered in a dedicated 75-minute session. Each session will feature three presentations by Russian and American speakers, followed by discussion. In order to ensure interactive debate, the speakers will be requested to restrict their initial remarks to 7 minutes. In the agenda the title of each session is accompanied by a tentative list of questions for discussion.

MGIMO University, Hall 314

9.00 – 9.30 *Registration*

9.30 – 10.00 Welcome Session

Moderator: Andrey BAYKOV, Vice-President for Graduate and International Programs, MGIMO University

Georgy BORISENKO – Director, Department of North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation

Steven BLOCK – Academic Dean, Professor of International Economics, Director of the Program on International Development, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Thomas M. LEARY – Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Embassy of the United States, Moscow

10.00 – 11.15 Nonproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

How do Russia and the United States assess threats to the nonproliferation regime? To what extent do their assessments overlap or diverge? How much does the development of the North Korean nuclear program increase the threat of proliferation? What is the outlook for the Iran nuclear deal and prospects for its revision? How will the U.S. and Russian nuclear modernization plans affect the nonproliferation regime?

Moderator: Dmitriy STRELTSOV, Chair, Department for Oriental Studies, MGIMO University

Evgeny BUZHINSKIY – Chairman of the Executive Board, PIR Center, Lieutenant-General (Ret.)

Diana CHIGAS – Professor of Practice of International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Alexander NIKITIN – Professor, Department of Political Theory, MGIMO University

11.15 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 12.45 Counterterrorism and Non-States Threats

How similar are Russian and U.S. approaches to combating terrorism? Does ISIS still pose a significant threat to international security? How strong are the military deconfliction arrangements between Russia and the United States against the backdrop of increased tensions around Syria? What are the two sides' approaches to Afghanistan? Can radical Jihadism rise in other regions in the foreseeable future?

Moderator: Mikhail TROITSKIY, Dean, School of Government and International Affairs, MGIMO University

Irina ZVYAGELSKAYA – Professor, Chief Research Fellow, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Monica TOFT – Professor of International Politics, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Ivan SAFRANCHUK – Associate Professor, Department of World Politics, MGIMO University; Member of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy

12.45 – 14.00 Competing Interpretations of International Law

What is the Russian perspective on the major challenges to international law? What is the American perspective on the role of legal instruments in the regulation of international politics? How do the two countries understand the principles of the “sovereign equality of states” and “non-interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of states” in international law? What is the difference between Russia and the United States in understanding of the “general principles of law” and of *jus cogens*? How is international law related to national legal systems?

Moderator: Alexander VYLEGZHANIN, Chair, Department of International Law, MGIMO University

Anatoly KAPUSTIN – Professor of International Law, President, Russian Association of International Law

Joel P. TRACHTMAN – Professor of International Law, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Mikhail LYSENKO – Associate Professor, Department of International Law, MGIMO University, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

14.00 – 15.00 *Lunch*

15.00 – 16.15 Management of Common Spaces

How much do U.S. and Russian approaches to the governance of cyberspace diverge? How much management is needed for transborder information flows? What are the implications of climate change for the governance of the high seas and polar regions? How could Russia and the United States cooperate in the Arctic? What is the contribution of science diplomacy to bilateral cooperation?

Moderator: Chris MILLER, Assistant Professor of International History, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Alexey BIRYUKOV – Senior Advisor, Centre for International Information Security, Science and Technology Policy, MGIMO University

Paul Arthur BERKMAN – Professor of Practice in Science Diplomacy, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Alexander VYLEGZHANIN – Chair, Department of International Law, MGIMO University

16.15 – 17.30 Culture, Perception and Soft Power

To what extent do differences in approaches to norms contribute to the rise of tensions in the contemporary world? How is the concept of “soft power” understood in Moscow and Washington? To what extent do negative stereotypes contribute to the current tensions between Moscow and Washington? Is it possible to promote cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts between Russia and the United States despite current political differences?

Moderator: Maxim KHARKEVICH, Associate Professor, Editor-in-Chief of research journals *MGIMO Review of International Relations* and *Russian International Studies*

Mark KALININ – Head, Department for Cooperation in Education and Science, Russia’s Federal Agency for CIS Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo)

Vladimir PECHATNOV – Chair, Department of History and Politics of Europe and America, MGIMO University

Elizabeth H. PRODROMOU – Visiting Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Andranik MIGRANYAN – Professor of Political Science, MGIMO University

17.30 – 17.45 Coffee break

17.45 – 19.00 The State of the Eurasian Economy

What is the current state of the Russian economy? What are the prospects of changes (for better or for worse) in the sanctions regime established by the United States? How do the current Western sanctions and Moscow’s response affect Russia’s engagement in the global economy? To what extent does Russia remain committed to Eurasian economic integration?

Moderator: Steven BLOCK – Academic Dean, Professor of International Economics, Director of the Program on International Development, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Natalya IVANOVA – First Deputy Director, Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Daniel DREZNER – Professor of International Politics, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Ruslan GRINBERG – Academic Director, Institute of Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences

19.00 – 20.15 Easing Great Power Crises

Is the representation of the current period as a new era of great power rivalry correct? Are there realistic roadmaps to normalize Russian-American relations? What kind of concessions are required on both sides to overcome current tensions? To what extent do relations with China affect U.S. and Russian attitudes towards each other?

Moderator: Igor ISTOMIN, Associate Professor, Department of Applied International Political Analysis, MGIMO University

Vitaly NAUMKIN – Academic Director, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Tatyana SHAKLEINA – Chair, Department of Applied International Political Analysis, MGIMO University

Fyodor VOITOLOVSKY – Director, Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences

20.15 – 20.45 Wrap-up

Andrey BAYKOV, Vice-President for Graduate and International Programs, MGIMO University

Daniel DREZNER – Professor of International Politics, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

20.45 – 21:15 Closing reception