

# *The CRCE Newsletter*

**Summer 2014 No 51**

**57 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL Tel/fax: +44 (0) 20 7233 1050**

**email: [crce@trident-net.co.uk](mailto:crce@trident-net.co.uk) website: [www.crce.org.uk](http://www.crce.org.uk)**

## **A Russia and the Ukraine,**

For the worst of reasons we have been closely observing Russia and the Ukraine and the unfolding crisis unfold. In the previous Newsletter we reported the visit in February of a Ukrainian opposition leader who warned of civil war. His words appear all too prescient.

## **From the Kremlin to Kyiv**

CRCE colleagues attended a talk in June on *The Role of Russian Security and Intelligence Services* given by Professor Mark Galeotti, Professor, Center for Global Affairs, New York University.

The use of unconventional warfare during the Ukraine crisis has attracted the attention of military and security experts. Professor Galeotti discussed what the crisis has meant for the role of the Russian security and intelligence services in Russia and abroad. Galeotti described Russia as “an increasingly intelligence-driven state” following “a regressive, neo-imperialist foreign policy.” He gave as an example the [unconfirmed]report that Putin decided to annex Crimea after consultation with only half a dozen close associates, and that neither the MoD nor the MFA was consulted. Galeotti sees this as a potentially dangerous arrangement since the RIS are acting both as a source of information and advice and as an instrument of policy. This could lead to misinformed and dysfunctional decision-making. There is strong rivalry between the RIS and other agencies. The Crimean crisis halted some of the internecine strife since it saw the FSB and GRU working together rather than fighting one another. Crimea showed how effective the RIS can be when they cooperate. There had been rumours that the GRU was about to lose its autonomy and be downgraded to just another department of the General Staff, but that plan is apparently now

off the agenda. The FSKN reportedly wants its own (foreign) intelligence arm.

The Russian MVD has strong ties with its Ukrainian counterpart. Because of concerns about their loyalty, Kyiv did not use Ukrainian Interior Ministry troops in south-eastern Ukraine, relying instead on the National Guard militias.

## **Recommended Reading**

*How the Soviet Union could make a comeback* by Richard Connolly, Washington Post 29 July Richard Connolly is senior lecturer in political economy at the University of Birmingham, and a CRCE colleague.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/07/29/how-the-soviet-union-could-make-a-comeback/>

## **Farewell**

To: Hugh Lunghi who had been Churchill’s interpreter at key wartime conferences. Hugh was a great friend and supporter of the CRCE and participated in many meetings over the years.

His fascinating story can be read on:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/10705902/Hugh-Lunghi-obituary.html>

We are saddened to report the early death of John Blundell; we send our condolences to Christine and their sons. Both the IEA and Atlas have posted fine tributes:

<http://www.iea.org.uk/blog/john-blundell-rip>  
<http://atlasnetwork.org/blog/2014/07/in-memori-am-john-blundell-1952-2014/>

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## **Putin and the Oligarch**

CRCE colleagues were present in April at a talk by Professor Richard Sakwa on the publication of his new book. The arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the head of the Yukos oil company, in 2003, was a key turning point in modern Russian history. At that time Khodorkovsky was one of the world's richest and most powerful men, while Yukos had been transformed into a vast and lucrative oil company that was set to go global. On all counts, this looked like a success story, but it was precisely at this moment that the Russian authorities struck. After two controversial trials, attracting widespread international condemnation, Khodorkovsky was sentenced to fourteen years in jail. In this book, Richard Sakwa examines the rise and fall of Yukos, and the development of the Russian oil industry more generally. Sakwa analyses Russia's emergence as an energy superpower, and considers the question of the 'natural resource curse' and the use of energy rents to bolster Russia as a great power and to maintain the autonomy of the regime.

Putin and the Oligarch, I.B Tauris, 2014

## **Congratulations**

Norma Rossi: who is now Senior Lecturer in Defence and International Affairs at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Norma participated in the CRCE conference in Slovenia in 2013 when a PhD student at Reading University. She led a discussion on how organised crime infiltrates and influences the process of state building.

Congratulations to Sebastian and Katie Gorka

Sebastian v. Gorka: who has been appointed to the Major General Matthew C. Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory, at Marine Corps University and Katharine C. Gorka, co-founder and president of the Council on Global Security.

<http://councilonglobalsecurity.com/author/cogsadmin/church>

From 2009 to 2014 Katie was Executive Director of the Westminster Institute in Mclean, Virginia. She spent nearly two decades working in Central Europe and lived in Hungary with her husband Sebastian. Together they founded the Institute for Transitional Democracy and International Security (ITDIS), which focused on issues of economic and security reform in post-communist democracies. They worked closely with us and have both been published by the CRCE. In her current position at the Council on Global Security, Katie will be focusing on the threat posed by Islamic terrorism and radical ideologies

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2014