

Preface and Acknowledgements

Dramatic developments across Europe's east are testing fundamental assumptions that have guided Western policies over the past quarter century. At the same time, the United States, western and central Europe have been distracted by a range of home-grown challenges and dangers from other parts of the world, and have been divided over proper approaches to the vast and turbulent space of Europe that is not integrated into the EU and NATO. With this in mind, our two institutions, together with our partner, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, are engaged in an ongoing effort to bring together leading analysts and decision-makers from the United States, Russia, eastern and western Europe to address these new dynamics.

In the first phase of our project we sought to build Western awareness, understanding and, where possible, renewed Western consensus on Eastern policy. We engaged senior officials, regional experts, scholars, foreign policy strategists and other opinion leaders in a Transatlantic Strategy Group as well as in a series of consultations in Kyiv, Moscow, Berlin and Washington, DC. Eminent authors were asked to contribute their perspectives, which resulted in our book *The Eastern Question: Russia, the West, and Europe's Grey Zone*.

Having focused on Western policy, we have now turned to east European scholars and opinion leaders for their perspectives on challenges facing their countries and the region as a whole, including their views on the role of the United States, the EU and NATO, and their expectations of western and central European countries in this part of the world. We feature their views in this volume, appropriately entitled *Eastern Voices*.

In the third phase of our effort we asked a diverse range of Russian interlocutors for their perspectives, which we feature in a companion volume entitled *The Russia File: Russia and the West in an Unordered World*.

We are particularly grateful to the Robert Bosch Stiftung for its support of our efforts, its continued commitment to transatlantic partnership, and its sustained engagement with eastern Europe and with Russia.

We would also like to thank the International Renaissance Foundation in Kyiv, and our own colleagues Britta Gade, Juulia Barthel, Heidi Obermeyer, Timo Haivala, Hans Binnendijk, Michael Haltzel, Andras Simonyi, Vladislav Inozemtsev, David Cadier, and Benedikt Harzl.

The views expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of any institution or government.

Daniel S. Hamilton
Stefan Meister