

# Central Europe, the European Union and the Russian Federation

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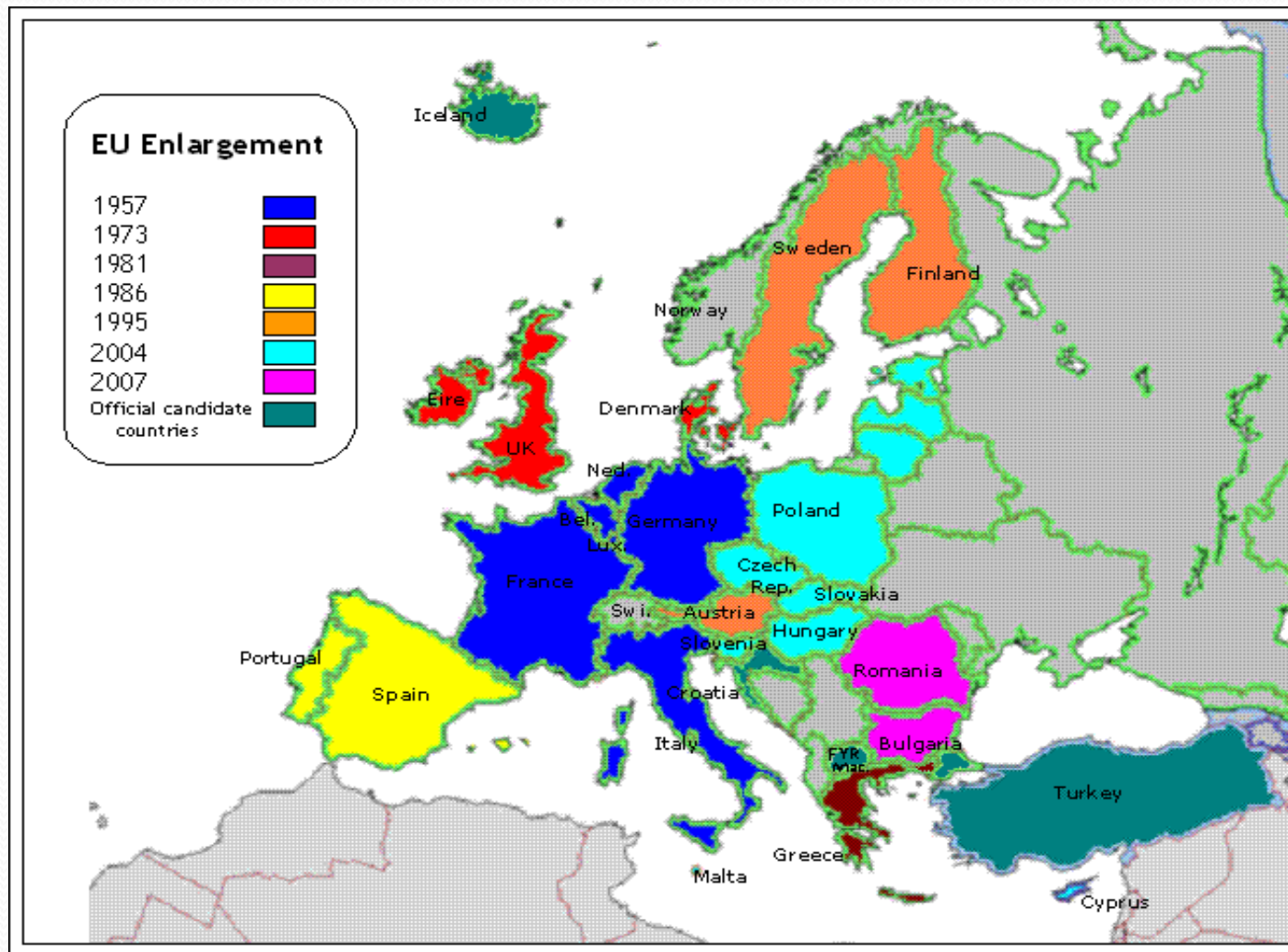
# Russia, NATO and the European Union

- East-West 'honeymoon' in early '90s
- Expectations of 'new world order'
  - Complemented by Western containment policy
- Emerging conflicts between Russia and the West
  - NATO expansion
  - Ex-Yugoslavia
  - US unilateralism – unipolarity
  - Anti-Ballistic missile system
  - Western criticism of human rights issues

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- All disputes really about Russia's status
  - In 1900s EU expansion not really an issue
    - Not seen as the challenge that NATO represented
  - Issues of the 1990s largely same as those of 2014




# EU Expansion



# Putin, EU Expansion and Growing Russian-EU Confrontation

- Putin's major goal -> reestablish Russia a dominant regional power, even global power
  - Enabled by reversing internal political collapse
  - Benefited by soaring demand and price for energy
- By middle of 2000s Russia already much more assertive
  - Attempts to impose self on near neighbors
    - Control of energy
    - Financial levers

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- EU expansion 2004 and 2007
    - Almost immediately impact on tone and content of relations with Russia
    - Challenge to authoritarian systems in East
    - Delay in negotiating renewal of the general agreement
      - Vetoed by Poland and Lithuania
  - Russian movement against color revolutions
    - Ukraine – gas wars
    - Georgia – military intervention
    - Kyrgyzstan – involvement in coup????



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- Deterioration of relations with West/EU
    - Role of new EU member states shift EU policy
    - EU/Europe more critical of human rights issues
    - Western support of 'color revolutions' in 2003-05
      - Western NGOs
      - Special role of Poland in Ukraine
    - Eastern Partnership of EU seen as challenge to Russia
      - Undercut Russia's friends
      - Possible contagion for Russia itself



# The 'Gas Wars' and the Russo-Georgian War

- Russo-Ukrainian 'gas wars' of 2006 and 2009
  - Economic issues involved; also impact of Orange Revolution
  - Also issues of status, 'honor'
  - Russia used gas weapon to punish Ukraine
  - Impact on EU, especially in 2009





- Military incursion into Georgia, 2008
  - ‘frozen conflicts’ since early ‘90s
  - Rose Revolution
  - US had pushed NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine
- Message for Georgian leadership; US and NATO; Ukraine
- Negative impact on relations with EU

# The Russo-Ukrainian Conflict and EU-Russian relations

- Ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine
  - Ensure that Ukraine not join EU/West
  - Similar pressures on Armenia, Georgia, Moldova
  - Domestic issues obviously important
  - Central issue probably fear of change that might later effect Russia
    - ‘network’ system of corrupt officials around Putin

# Russian Troops Entering Crimea

## March 2014





# Unmarked Russian Tanks Entering Ukraine, Early November 2014






# Future developments

- Not likely positive
  - Russia willing to pay high costs to assert status
  - Russia has written off the US, and probably much of Western Europe
  - Russia committing major resources to remilitarization, including upgrading nuclear weapons



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- EU lacks unified policy – on virtually anything, including relations with Russia
    - Possible move away from dependence on Russian energy
      - But Germany not likely to support
  - EU/West really lacks effective leverage and Putin et al. committed to regional dominance and authoritarian political system that permits access to massive wealth.





# Something to Read

- Maxime Henri André Larivé and Roger E. Kanet, “The *Return to Europe* and the Rise of EU-Russian Ideological Differences,” *Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations* (2013), pp. 124-38.
- Roger E. Kanet, “Russia, the EU and the United States: Intertwined Relationships” in Roger E. Kanet and Maria Raquel Freire, ed., *Russia and European Security*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Republic of Letters Publishing, 2012, pp. 147-177.