

QUESTIONS ON RUSSIA

- 1. What is the impact of Trump's relationship with Russia, both domestically and internationally.**
- 2. How do we control the past and future impact of Russian hacking on our democracy.**
- 3. What is the impact of loss and regaining of Russian pride over 25 years. How does national psychology shape interpretation of events, perceptions of possible roles in the world and politics.**
- 4. What are the long term plans for Putin-in Syria-Ukraine.**
- 5. Have we allowed the confiscation of Crimea.**
- 6. What is the role of the US in relationship to Russia. Is this important and what do our actions signal to the world.**
- 7. What is the proper role of the US as policeperson or leader of the world. Are we still the "Leader of the Free World?"**
- 8. What is our policy toward the Ukraine and Crimea.**
- 9. How does the growth of Russian nationalism affect both internal and external policies and politics.**
- 10. What impacts do Eastern Ukrainian dependence upon the Russian budget and governmental decisions.**
- 11. What impact is the lessening of democracy in Russia have upon events and choices.**
- 12. How is the use of information affecting actions in Russia, the EU and US.**
- 13. What impact does energy policy and pricing have upon Russian choices. How do commodity prices impact upon international relationships.**
- 14. What is the potential impact of the Chinese One Belt ,One Road for Russia and the West.**
- 15. Is Russia experiencing a pivot to Asia more than the US.**
- 16. Where do Russian and American national interests coincide and where do they conflict.**
- 17. What is the psychological impact of escalation in events and when do events move beyond control of the major actors.**
- 18. Is it possible to have serious negotiations and discussions with Russians under current attitudes of mistrust and suspicion.**
- 19. Does international law matter any longer or is it simply power politics between Russia and the US...i.e. is the future completely the approach of realism without any idealism.**

- 20. What are Russia's legitimate concerns for the "Near Abroad" and is this different than the American "Monroe Doctrine."**
- 21. What impact have sanctions had upon Russia and what have been the real costs of sanction on both Russia and the US. When do sanctions work economically.**
- 22. Is the US entering a period of neo-isolationism, and if so, what does this mean for Russian and Chinese and world policies.**
- 23. How does the US deal with nations such as Russia, that do not follow international agreements and invade or threaten others.**
- 24. What impact is Russia having upon European elections.**
- 25. Is the Russian model of State Capitalism working. Is the concept of capitalism and growing inequality worldwide increasing the challenge to the American economic model.**
- 26. How are challenges to globalization affecting both Russia and the US.**
- 27. Does Russia face a multi-year economic downturn. What will this do to Russian economic, political and military decisions.**
- 28. What impact has Vladimir Putin had upon Russia and the world. What does it mean if he remains President until at least 2024.**
- 29. Are Russia and the US in a new Cold War?**
- 30. What are the role of non-state actors, such as terrorists, NGO's, churches, political movements upon Russian politics.**
- 31. What is the impact of attempts at growth of a Russian-Chinese anti-American partnership. What do the Russians and Chinese think of each other.**
- 32. What events could produce the collapse of a Putin regime.**
- 33. Can the Putin government retain support if economic conditions continue to deteriorate.**
- 34. How do the strength and actions of NATO impact Russia.**
- 35. How is growing economic inequality affecting both Russia and the US. What are similarities and differences.**
- 36. How does one control the expansion of "fake news" in shaping decisions between countries. Does everyone shape information to match their perceived needs.**
- 37. What impact does the Russian Orthodox Church have upon governmental policy and the growing social conservatism.**
- 38. How do we maintain relationships between individuals and businesses, when their governments increasingly disagree**

- 39. What impact is the international conflict between forces representing historical traditions and those desiring change have upon Russian and international affairs.**
- 40. How has the concept of privacy affected Russian, American and international affairs. How does this shapes current conflicts on internet control and use.**
- 41. What is the impact of cybersecurity on Russian hackers and upon Russian actions to protect themselves from cyber criminals.**
- 42. How does the Russian government react to decisions of the World Court and other international bodies.**
- 43. How do we limit Black Swans in Russian-US relationships.**
- 44. What is the future of new weaponry upon US-Russian military actions and choices.**
- 45. Is there an American Responsibility to Protect, and how will thus impact American political and military decisions. Should and does morality play a role in international relations.**
- 46. What are the proper national boundaries relative to ethnic populations. Does a nation have the right to join similar ethnic populations within their own border, and if so, under what conditions.**
- 47. If Russia retains control of the Donbass, are they responsible for reconstruction of infrastructure and pensions. To what degree should Russia strengthen Crimea with many other pressing economic issues.**
- 48. If the US supplies increased weaponry to Ukraine to fight the Russian, what impact will this have upon other issues.**
- 49. Is Russia an Eastern or Western culture, or as many Russians believe, is it a special Eurasian civilization.**
- 50. What impact will Russian demographic changes produce.**
- 51. Does Russia reflect an attitude of "victimhood" which affects their attitudes and idea of their role in the world.**
- 52. What impact does overdependence on natural resources have upon the Russian economy.**
- 53. How much capital flight exists in Russia.**
- 54. What is the impact of corruption upon business and government in Russia.**
- 55. What protections exist for investors and business people with a low level of judicial and legal protection in Russia.**

- 56. How does the increasing governmental control of the press and media in Russia affect attitudes and public policy.**
- 57. What has been the impact of Moscow's clamping down on many non-governmental organizations.**
- 58. How have the actions of the Russian Central Bank supported the economy when many other forces exist to destabilize spending.**
- 59. How have a strong dollar and weak ruble affected business decisions and investment.**
- 60. How has alcoholism and public health affected Russia.**
- 61. What has been the impact of centralization of power under Putin upon Russian politics and economics.**
- 62. What impact does US foreign policy have upon Russia.**
- 63. What impact does the level of Russian foreign reserves have upon investment and governmental actions.**
- 64. How have public attitudes in both Russia and the US about the other nation changed over the years.**
- 65. What impact did the loss of Russian Empire and the end of the Soviet Union have upon current attitudes .**
- 66. How has the Russian desire for 'frozen conflicts' shaped decisions and actions.**
- 67. How have Russian and foreign perceptions of Washington political paralysis shaped the actions of others.**
- 68. How is "power" defined in both Moscow and Washington.**
- 69. What impact has the Middle East had upon the US and Russia.**
- 70. What is Putin's goal in destabilizing Western elections.**
- 71. How has the concept of the "Good Tsar" affected Putin.**
- 72. How much power does Putin have to fully control the separatists in Ukraine.**
- 73. Has there always been a love-hate relationship with the US and how is this changing.**
- 74. How has domestic terrorism affected Russian society.**
- 75. What are the differences between Moscow and the rest of Russia .**
- 76. How have Russian movies shaped a perception of America and conversely, how has Russia and Russian society been portrayed in America.**

POSSIBLE CHANGES SINCE COLD WAR

- 1. Possible changes on MAD-Mutually Assured Destruction-some concepts now of limited nuclear war.
We assumed rational people would limit use. Now many potential terrorists and growing threat of US-Russian confrontation.**
- 2. There were formerly ideological differences. Now it is issue of power.**
- 3. Election of Trump. Both Trump and Putin seeking approach of flexible policies and transactional approaches**
- 4. Now there is 24/7 communication-news and role of internet.**
- 5. Now feeling that Russia is resurgent , as opposed to former loss of pride that Russians could overtake the US, or possibly disappear as international force.**
- 6. Both sides previously fought through proxies around the world-
Now Russia has few supporters and many question US leadership.**
- 7. Previously US economy as model and Russia as failing. Now decline in Russia and US growing slowly.**
- 8. Role of cyber-warfare is new factor.**
- 9. China now a major actor-was not in previous period.**
- 10. Russian military actions in Georgia, Ukraine and Crimea.**
- 11. US no longer single superpower-loss of respect toward US as model for development and growth. Movement by many toward state capitalism model.**
- 12. Fight between Washington versus Beijing Consensus-on role of state and private sectors.**
- 13. Growth of US energy independence-development of shale-role of OPEC and growth of alternative energies**
- 14. Fights over stability and future of EU-both as economic and political model and as partner for US.-Impact of Brexit**
- 15. Increased level of concern over impact and role of globalization.**
- 16. Russia increasing returning to authoritarian roots.**
- 17. Rise of India, China and other nations as forces.**
- 18. Growth of international terroristic organizations-Al Qaeda, ISIS**
- 19. Psychology of September 11th attacks-feeling of US vulnerability**
- 20. Increased role of Southeast Asia and Africa in world affairs.**
- 21. Increase international concern over economic inequality.**