Major shifts have taken place in American and Russian foreign policy since the events of September 11, which in many respects mark the end of what might be called the post-Cold War era. For Americans, there is now awareness that the notion of a “fortress America” is a mirage and that political developments beyond our shores can dramatically threaten our security and prosperity. Politically, the Bush administration’s one-time preference for unilateralism in foreign policy has given way to an emphasis on international cooperation in the “war on terror” as well as to greater appreciation of the importance of partnership with Moscow and the advantages of making Russia a member of the Western community. For his part, Putin has apparently made a dramatic “turn to the West,” reorienting Russian foreign policy to emphasize ties with Western Europe and the United States on a wide range of issues.

These dramatic and unforeseen changes in American and Russian policy have, in turn, altered the context for foreign relations and strategic orientations in the successor states of the Soviet Union and in East Europe. The conference will explore the implications of these changes with reference to three key issues:

1. Multilateral organizations and treaties which are currently redefine the boundaries between “East” and “West” (e.g., the relationship between Russia and NATO, the abrogation of the ABM Treaty, admission of post-communist countries into the European Union and NATO, and the major reductions in strategic offensive arms announced by Bush and Putin in the Washington-Crawford summit).

2. New dimensions of relationships between the former communist countries of Eurasia and East Europe on the one hand and the United States and its West European allies on the other (e.g., the role of Russia as an increasingly critical player in the international oil market, the U.S. military presence in Central Asia, the impact of changing concepts of East and West on Eastern Europe, and the effects of Russia’s economic recovery on its foreign policy and trade patterns).

3. The impact of the “war on terror” on the war in Chechnya, Islamic fundamentalist movements in Central Asian republics, and extremist movements in other Soviet successor states.

As in the past, we have asked our experts to focus on questions that are certain to be discussed in secondary and post-secondary classes because of their timeliness and historical implications. The 28th Annual Teacher Outreach Conference at UC Berkeley, “Reconfiguring East and West in the Bush-Putin Era,” is designed for secondary and higher education teachers, as well as for a general audience. The conference is intended to update you on the latest developments in our area of study. We also will equip you with a package of carefully selected material that can aid your teaching.

We hope very much that you can join us on April 13–14, 2002 on the UC Berkeley campus to explore the reconfiguration of relations between the United States and the post-communist states of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Victoria E. Bonnell,
Director, Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Milestones on Russia’s Road to Integration with the West

4:30 Discussion

5:00 Reception

Saturday, April 13, 2002

8:45 a.m. Registration begins. Coffee and pastries will be served.

9:15 Welcoming Remarks: Victoria E. Bonnell, Professor of Sociology and Director, Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley

9:30 George W. Breslauer, Chancellor’s Professor of Political Science and Dean of Social Sciences, UC Berkeley

Why Did Putin Join the War on Terror?

10:00 Kathleen Collins, Assistant Professor of Government and International Studies and Faculty Fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Envisioning a New Security Architecture: The Views from Moscow and Washington

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 Juliet Johnson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Loyola University Chicago; W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow for 2001–2002, Hoover Institution

New Patterns of Economic Interdependence

12:45 p.m. Lunch

2:15 Andrew C. Janos, Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley

The West and the Rest after the Cold War

3:15 Coffee break

3:30 Michael McFaul, Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University; Peter and Helen Bing Research Fellow, Hoover Institution; Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Sunday, April 14, 2002

9:30 a.m. Doors open. Coffee and pastries will be served.

10:00 Kathleen Collins, Assistant Professor of Government and International Studies and Faculty Fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Stabilizing or Destabilizing Central Asia?
The Great Powers and Central Asia After September 11

11:00 Coffee break


Challenges in Central Asia

12:15 p.m. Discussion

12:45 Lunch