

ecosystem. Smith focuses on Vladimir Putin's third term as president, Linde on the role of patriotic youth movements, and Bodin on the importance of imperial nostalgia (both in its tsarist and Soviet forms). These three chapters work well together, synthesizing a variety of flows of propaganda and ideology into an understandable schema that explains the often-contradictory relationship between political elites, mass movements, and online media from maps to blogs to news. Consequently, the text seamlessly transitions to the fourth section with its specific focus on media. Vlad Strukov leads off with a critical biography of Margarita Simonian, director of RT (formerly Russia Today), followed by Ryhor Nizhnikau's investigation of Belarusians' contentious relationship with the Russian world and concluding with Alla Marchenko and Sergiy Kurbatov's examination of Facebook as a battlefield in the Ukrainian crisis. Taken collectively, this section substantively advances the reader's understanding of hybrid war and "enemy construction" (237), as well as the diversity of "internal discourses" (210) and the "rhetoric of geopolitical patriotism" in Eurasia's variegated media spaces. The final section shifts into the arena of popular geopolitics, thus bringing cultural production (or more accurately, *presumption*) into focus. Dirk Uffelmann delves into the tortured geolinguistic politics of Ukraine, while Greg Simons returns the reader's gaze to the new media's role in shaping the conflict in Ukraine. Suslov closes the volume with an essay on the increasingly problematic concept of the "Russian world" in the midst of an ongoing conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Leaving popular geopolitics for last is entirely appropriate for such a collection, but this editorial decision only serves to remind the reader that there is very little in the way of "real" geopolitical literature in the final product. Certainly, a number of the contributors strive to frame their analysis within the canon (Tsygankov, Uffelman and Mäkinen, in particular); however, taken as a whole, *Eurasia 2.0*'s major weakness is the shallowness of its engagement with the deep reservoir of geopolitical literature on Russia. Undoubtedly, the reader will walk away with a better understanding of how the ideas of Aleksandr Dugin, Prokhanov, and Dzhemal inform everyday understandings of place in space in the former Soviet Union, but any political geographer who finishes the book will likely be left with more questions than answers when it comes to the power dynamics of post-Soviet space. That being stated, *Eurasia 2.0* will find purchase with scholars from across the field of Russian, Slavic, and Eurasian studies, and is likely to become the text of choice for courses exploring the shifting sands of Russian geopolitics in the age of new media.

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The Russian Project of Eurasian Integration: Geopolitical Prospects. By Nataliya A. Vasilyeva and Maria L. Lagutina. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016. ix, 215 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$90.00, hard bound.

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Eurasian integration, which returned into the spotlight after the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), continues being an under-researched topic. Nataliya Vasilyeva and Maria Lagutina's book aims to remedy this phenomenon. It comprises three parts. The first looks at the predecessors of the EAEU, starting with discussing the notion of the "post-Soviet area" (Chapter 1); highlights the general trends of integration and disintegration in the post-Soviet world (Chapter 2); and lists main treaties and projects (Chapter 3). The second part reports how the discussion

on post-Soviet regionalism transformed into one on Eurasian regionalism: it outlines the concept of Eurasia (Chapter 4), its current political perception (Chapter 5), and the expert opinions about it (Chapter 6). The last part deals specifically with the EAEU: after summarizing its main features (Chapter 7) it looks at how the EAEU is perceived in individual countries (Chapter 8), how it fits the geopolitical interests of Russia (Chapter 9) and concludes with studying possible expansion of the EEU and its interaction with other regional organizations (Chapter 10).

Given the breadth of the topics touched upon in the book, it is probably important to start with what the book—contrary to its ambition—is *not* about. Readers interested in the empirical analysis of the development of Eurasian regionalism will be disappointed. The book offers only a very short and stylized summary of the main facts and not a careful tracing of the evolution of Eurasian organizations. The chapter devoted to the actual organization of the EAEU (Chapter 7) is only four pages long and provides no original analysis of how the institutions of the EAEU work or what the EAEU has achieved in reality. How does the practice of litigation in the EAEU Court or decision-making in the Eurasian Economic Commission function? How substantial is the compliance of member states with the Commission's decisions and the EAEU statute? The book does not discuss any evidence of the effects of Eurasian regionalism on trade flows, international conflicts, or economic growth, though it ascribes "historical significance" (128) to it. Furthermore, the analysis of the book is fundamentally a-theoretical and is lacking any sort of comparison to the experience of regional projects in other parts of the world, which is essential for understanding the Eurasian case.

What the book *does* is to provide an extensive account of different views, positions, and opinions on Eurasian regionalism. Thus, it is primarily an exercise in studying how Eurasian regionalism (and especially the EAEU) is perceived by epistemic communities rather than an exercise in studying Eurasian regionalism itself. This task certainly has a lot of value. Unfortunately, in terms of this objective, one should mention a number of shortcomings. First, the authors do not really differentiate between the expert opinions of researchers and policy analysts from the statements of politicians. They also seem to pay little attention to whether the claims they quote are the result of detailed scholarly analysis, practitioners' observations, or mere comments on current affairs. The underlying ideologies of the analysts are ignored as well. This results in paradoxical listings of "experts," where Hillary Clinton suddenly appears among academics and policy analysts (114). There is no information on the background of most individuals quoted in the book, nor do the authors critically examine the quotes they provide—in most cases, they simply list them without further discussion. Secondly, by analyzing political debate, the book seems to proceed from an assumption that it is always guided by a coherent set of theories—that one can find a "theoretical platform" (94) behind Putin's writing on the EAEU, for example. This assumption is questionable. A much more likely explanation, that politicians—both in making public statements and in decisions—are driven by power and rent-seeking interests or merely react to the short-term issues they face, is absent.

The book has to be commended for assembling a large array of statements and quotes on Eurasian regionalism, especially from the Russian-language sources, which will be unfamiliar to many readers. However, the value of the book in terms of both theory-driven empirical analysis of Eurasian regionalism and systematization of the existing debate on Eurasian regionalism is rather small.

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