The February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin shocked many people, but it should not have done so. The former KGB leader clearly had imperialist designs to rebuild the former Russian Empire that existed before 1918 and expanded during the Soviet Union. But, it became very clear that his Ukrainian allies clearly misinformed his intelligence agencies about the strength of Ukraine’s democracy, leadership, and military. The conflict continues, having a dramatic impact on the flow of food and oil and likely will not end anytime soon.

Many Americans want to understand the conflict. This presentation will explain its historical origins in the Russian Empire and continuing through the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the transition to democracy in Eastern Europe. The war appears far from over, so it remains imperative that Americans and the world continue to try to comprehend the war and its impact on many parts of the world.

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