# Cold War Coda: Ukrainian Denuclearization and Central European Security, 1991–2000

**Simon Miles** (Duke University)

**Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Náměstí Jana Palacha 1/2, Praha 1, room 209**
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How did newly independent Ukraine come to give up the nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union? This talk uses newly declassified British, Canadian, French, German, and US archival evidence to reconstruct the diplomacy of Ukraine's denuclearization not just as a trilateral story about Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. A much wider range of Western actors, including the United States but also Canada and Western Europe, shaped outcomes along with their Ukrainian and Russian counterparts. A focus on nuclear security on the part of Western policymakers dominated relations with Ukraine, hindering the newly independent state's integration into the emerging post–Cold War security order as well as its desperately needed economic development and reform process. Today, with questions about whether having held onto the Soviet-era nuclear arsenal still echoing in the wake of Russia's expanded invasion of Ukraine in 2024, this article sheds new historical light on how Ukraine came to find itself occupying such a place in European security.

**Simon Miles** is associate professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of *Engaging the Evil Empire: Washington, Moscow, and the Beginning of the End of the Cold War*, published by Cornell University Press in October 2020; of articles in *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Diplomatic History*, *International Security*, the *Journal of Cold War Studies*, and *Slavic Review*; and commentary in a wide range of international outlets. Simon's current project, *On Guard for Peace and Socialism*, is an international history of the Warsaw Pact, forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

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