



Understanding the Russia-Ukraine Conflict



Dr Alexander Bukh will address this very relevant and worrying issue on **Thursday, 21 July**. He will explore the centuries-old relationship between Russia and Ukraine and the likely outcome of the current war.

He was born in Moscow, grew up in Israel and spent over 20 years living in Asia (mainly Japan but also Thailand and Korea) before moving to New Zealand in 2012.

Dr Bukh is an associate professor/reader in international relations at Victoria University of Wellington. Prior to this, he was an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsukuba University, Japan. He has a PhD in international relations from the London School of Economics and an LLM in international public law and politics from the University of Tokyo.



In his talk, Dr Bukh will retrace mid-European history back to the Kievan Rus principalities of the 11th century to the post-1918 Russian Empire, the formation of the Soviet Union in 1921 after the Revolution and Civil War, the transfer of Crimea from Russia to Ukraine in 1954, and still within the USSR, to the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Dr Bukh says: "There were rocky relations between the Ukraine and Russia between 1992 and 2014 – gas and aspects of foreign policy being particular issues – with the eastern part of Ukraine pro-Russian and the central and western part of the country Western-nationalistic and pro-European."

Dr Bukh will expand on possible future scenarios. While Russia's complete retreat from all Ukrainian territories, including Crimea, or Ukraine's complete defeat and occupation by Russia are equally unlikely, the likely outcome is much murkier. A negotiated peace agreement appears very difficult to achieve, but Russia's retreat to pre-February 24th borders, or a moving back and forth in a protracted low-level conflict are more likely outcomes.

All are welcome to attend - Thursday, 21 July 2022

Venue: Rosewood, 417 Queen Street, Masterton at 8.00 pm

Tea and coffee from 7.30 pm

Non-members: \$5.00 door charge

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