

April 2017



## **Marvin Kalb**

### **Award-winning Reporter for CBS News and NBC News**

Marvin Kalb is perhaps best known for the 30 years he spent as an award-winning reporter for CBS News and NBC News. His work at CBS landed him on Richard Nixon's "enemies list". At NBC, he served as Chief Diplomatic Correspondent and host of *Meet the Press*.

Kalb was the founding director of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy and Edward R. Murrow Professor of Press and Public Policy at the Kennedy School at Harvard from 1987 to 1999.

He is currently a James Clark Welling Fellow at George Washington University and a member of the Atlantic Community Advisory Board. He is a guest scholar in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution.

### **Subject Area/Topic: Putin's Imperial Gamble: Ukraine and the New Cold War**

**Highlights:** He began his academic and reporting life focused on the Soviet Union. Russia and its leaders remain a preoccupation as reflected in his recent book, *Imperial Gamble, Putin, Ukraine and the New Cold War*.

A key concept for Kalb is that democratic values, and therefore, democratic institutions are not easily implanted in East European cultures with centuries of autocratic history. He notes that "...Ukraine has always been in a dependent status". He believes that neither the Ukrainians nor the Russians understood the terms of independence. In part, this is because those who declared independence were trained in Russia and Russian oriented.

Putin has effectively been in control of Russia since 2000 and, as a result of the taking of Crimea, his popularity with the Russian people is extremely high. While he cares to a limited extent about what westerners think, his primary concern is the national security interest of Russia.

"If there is going to be a Trump/Putin negotiation, Putin will win." But, he has to decide how he will win. It may be in his interest to lose on Ukraine and let "...Russia and the US decide on the boundaries of the old Soviet Union."