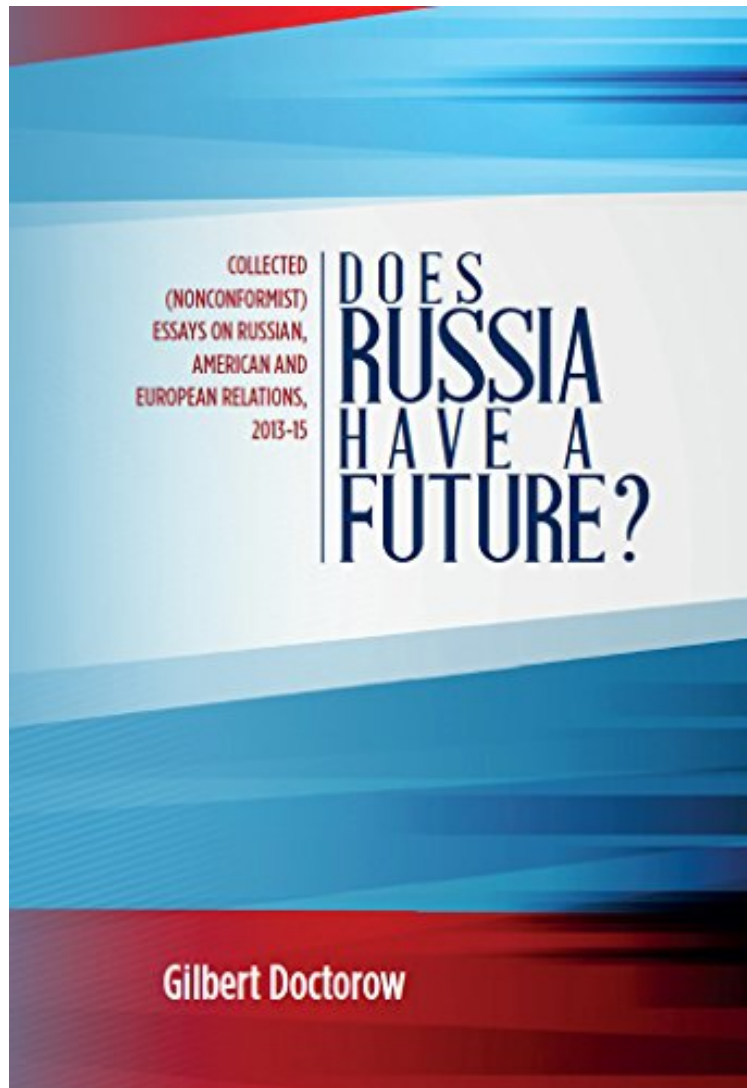


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Von Gilbert Doctorow

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Von Gilbert Doctorow : Does Russia Have a Future?: Collected (Nonconformist) Essays on Russian, American and European Relations, 2013-15 (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Does Russia Have a Future?: Collected (Nonconformist) Essays on Russian, American and European Relations, 2013-15 (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Review of Gilbert Doctorow's latest book Von Vlad Sobell This is Gilbert Doctorow's second, follow-up collection of essays and commentaries on diverse Russia-related topics. (The first collection, *Stepping Out of Line*, appeared in late 2013.) Written in his trade-mark measured style, Doctorow's book treats us to another feast of insights alongside polemics against high-profile academics and his own take on recent key issues and events. The essays are dated from between April 2013 and May 2015, a period that guarantees compelling reading: after all, it was this period that witnessed the events that led to the Ukrainian crisis, the February 2014 Washington-sponsored coup d'état in Kiev and the tragic consequences of that uprising. As in his earlier work, the common thread of Doctorow's analyses is alarm at the catastrophically low level of the policymaking discourse, whose grotesquely simplistic Neocon ideology is paralysing the Western mind. Doctorow poses the question, but is himself optimistic about Russia. Having thrown off the shackles of Marxian Communism (the poisonous fruit of the West European civilization), Russia can now confidently look ahead. Indeed, the Putin regime's unequivocal assertion of sovereignty and its calm conduct in the face of Washington's persistent provocations are telling proof that Russia does, indeed, have a future. This raises numerous weighty questions: Has Russia's need to overcome its 20th century tribulations allowed it to evolve a government that is more intelligent and more effective than those in the ideology-debilitated West? Are West European elites, contemptuously treated by Washington as its vassals, subconsciously envious of Russia's robust health and independence and the self-respect that comes with those attributes? Is this the real reason why the economically bankrupt and morally decadent West hates Russia so much? And finally, is it possible to hope that the campaign against the Russian Federation will be called off if and when the West recovers its capacity for rational thought? Reading Doctorow, it is difficult to answer this last question in the affirmative. Some of the most alarming pieces in Doctorow's compilation delve into European affairs, with an inevitably focus on Germany. The final essay, the author's reflections on the April 2015 Schlangenbad Dialogue conference, recalls an environment in which irrational hatred of Russia prevailed rather than an informed and reasoned discourse among the assembled policy wonks. Doctorow questions the articles of faith which hold sway in Germany. This political correctness argues that since Russia is an authoritarian state one that allegedly does not base its foreign policy on the universal values of democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law the West cannot do business as usual with it. And for that reason we will continue to impose sanctions and seek to isolate Russia even if we inflict huge economic and reputational damage on ourselves in the process. This conclusion is disconcerting for at least two reasons. First, it illustrates the extent to which America's neo-totalitarian political culture has spread to the Old Continent, eviscerating its capacity of independent thought and conduct that could and would allow it to pursue its own vital interests. Second, it goes some way towards explaining why Germany seems to be eagerly assisting Washington in the destruction of Europe's relationship with Russia, which, apart from posing immense security risks, threatens some 300,000 German jobs. As Doctorow explains, Angela Merkel's Berlin prefers to focus on post-Communist Central Europe as the source of relatively cheap but highly skilled labour that can supply components for German export-oriented Mittelstand and manufacturing giants, thereby supporting millions of higher value-added jobs in Germany itself. The whipped-up hysteria about a revisionist Russia comes in handy because it supplies the ideological glue for this new system of Central European satellites. That this narrow-minded, destructive strategy is utterly misconceived is neither here nor there. It is merely yet further proof that the West is no longer able to produce and implement constructive visions. The torch of Reason is now being brandished by none other than the formerly Communist superpowers Russia and China.

Kurzbeschreibung This is a collection of journalistic observations, book reviews, polemics and speeches dealing with the deterioration of relations between Russia and the West, with particular attention to the confrontation over Ukraine and the onset of the New Cold War. Professional reviewers have written the following about this book: 1. Professor John Mearsheimer, University of Chicago "This collection of smart and erudite essays is a welcome antidote to the steady stream of anti-Russian stories that fill the Western media these days. Doctorow, a seasoned expert on Russia, provides an abundance of smart insights about how relations between Russia and the West have deteriorated over the past three years. At the same time, he makes compelling arguments against some of the most popular anti-Putin tropes. One only wishes there were more Doctorows in the public debate on Russia." 2. Charles Bausman, Editor, *Russia-Insider.com* "If you want to cut through the misinformation surrounding Russia, Gil Doctorow is simply one of the best guides out there. His insights are original and important. An invaluable collection." 3. James Carden, contributing writer at *The Nation* "Those trying to make sense of the precipitous decline in US-Russian relations over the past several years could hardly do better than Gilbert Doctorow's 'Does Russia Have a Future?' Dr. Doctorow has written a learned, eloquent and, what is more, necessary, corrective to the reigning neoconservative and neoliberal pieties that so distort and undermine understanding between the former Cold War rivals. Doctorow has put a lifetime of learning and first hand experience in Russia into producing an erudite collection that is frequently punctuated with razor sharp asides and droll humor. Caveat emptor: Doctorow does not dim his headlights; but those looking for illumination will

be amply rewarded."4. Tatjana Zdanoka, Member of the European Parliament, Latvia"For those who are sure that everything is correctly done by the West concerning Russia, the very title of the book by Gilbert Doctorow devoted to Russian, American and European relations during the last two years seems to be extremely defiant. The answer to the question "Does Russia have a future? is available to them in advance. But the author suddenly, already in the subtitle, honestly and openly declares: his approach to the subject is nonconformist. Therefore from the persons who opened the book and decided to examine this other position, a capacity for self-criticism and refusal of stereotypes will be required. I am convinced that Gilbert Doctorow addressed the book first of all to such readers. The collection of essays in this book cover, it would seem, a small time period: two years. However, getting acquainted with the essays, you become convinced how extremely dense was historical time from April 2013 to June 2015. and it is surprising how steady in these waves of events our author held his position - always profound, logical, objective, honest. All these unique qualities of the author make his book very necessary and valuable."5. Professor Richard Sakwa, University of Kent"The author, one of the most perceptive analysts of the current crisis in European international politics, is remarkably well informed. Every piece provides insight and analysis that is always compelling and challenging. Together the fragments create a powerful mosaic where each element contributes to a convincing picture. The collection represents a fresh perspective that will be of interest to a wide readership - everyone will learn from them."KurzbeschreibungThis is a collection of journalistic observations, book reviews, polemics and speeches dealing with the deterioration of relations between Russia and the West, with particular attention to the confrontation over Ukraine and the onset of the New Cold War. Professional reviewers have written the following about this book:1. Professor John Mearsheimer, University of Chicago"This collection of smart and erudite essays is a welcome antidote to the steady stream of anti-Russian stories that fill the Western media these days. Doctorow, a seasoned expert on Russia, provides an abundance of smart insights about how relations between Russia and the West have deteriorated over the past three years. At the same time, he makes compelling arguments against some of the most popular anti-Putin tropes. 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He is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College (1967) and holder of a Ph.D. with honors in history from Columbia University (1975). After completing his studies, Mr. Doctorow pursued a business career focused on the USSR and Eastern Europe. For 25 years he worked for US and European multinationals in marketing and general management with regional responsibility. From 1998-2002, Doctorow served as the Chairman of the Russian Booker Literary Prize in Moscow. He is a today co-founder and European Coordinator of the American Committee for East West Accord Ltd. based in Brussels. Doctorow's previous books are "Great Post-Cold War American Thinkers on International Relations" (2010) and "Steering Out of Line, Collected (Nonconformist) Essays on Russian-American Relations, 2008-12" (2013),