

# IVAN IVANOVICH KURILLA

Doctor of Sciences (History), Professor  
Web of Science Researcher ID F-4725-2013  
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The major fields of my research include the history of U.S.–Russian relations, the history of the United States and American foreign relations, the international dimensions of the American Civil War, issues of historical memory, the (mis)use of history, and the role of historians in contemporary Russia.

My book *Americans and All the Rest: Origin and Meaning of the U.S. Foreign Policy* (Alpina, 2024) won a *Prosvetitel* award as the best non-fiction book in Russian published in 2024.

**Born** March 22, 1967, Volgograd, USSR

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E-mail (work): [kurilla.3@osu.edu](mailto:kurilla.3@osu.edu)

Immigration status as of January 2026:

Employment Authorization Document holder. Pending petition for the permanent residence status (green card).

## PRESENT POSITION

**Visiting Professor of History**, The Ohio State University (August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2026)

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

**(on the publication stage)**

*Echoes of the American Civil War Abroad*: (coedited with Victoria Zhuravleva), Bloomsbury (forthcoming September 2026). <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/echoes-of-the-american-civil-war-abroad-9781666920314/>

*Americans and All the Rest: Identity and Foreign Policy in U.S. History* (Translation of my Russian award-winning book, Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming June 2026)

**(on the research stage):**

*Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Russian History* – co-editor with Vladimir Gel'man and Sari Autio-Sarasmo (both Helsinki University, Finland), contract with Routledge.

*Russia and American Civil War*: book-length project.

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

<b>2025, Summer</b>	Professor of History, Summer Russian Language School, <b>Middlebury College</b> , Middlebury, Vermont
<b>2025, Spring</b>	International Scholar in Residence, <b>Wellesley College</b> , Wellesley, Massachusetts
<b>2024, Fall</b>	Visiting Tallman Scholar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, <b>Bowdoin College</b> , Brunswick, Maine.
<b>2024, Spring</b>	Mary L. Cornille Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, <b>Wellesley College</b> , Wellesley, Massachusetts.
<b>2015 - 2024</b>	Professor, <b>European University at St.Petersburg</b>
<b>2015, Spring</b>	Professor, Smolny Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, <b>St.Petersburg State University</b>
<b>2006 - 2015</b>	Professor, Head of the Department of International Relations and Area Studies, <b>Volgograd State University</b>
<b>2012 - 2013</b>	Visiting Scholar, Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, <b>George Washington University</b> , Washington, D.C.
<b>1995 - 2006</b>	Associate Professor, Full Professor, <b>Volgograd State University</b>
<b>2004 - 2005</b>	Research Fellow. Center for North American Studies, <b>Institute of Universal History, Russian Academy of Sciences</b> , Moscow
<b>2001 - 2002</b>	Fulbright Visiting Scholar, History Department, <b>Dartmouth College</b> , Hanover, NH
<b>1994, Spring</b>	Research Fellow, <b>Moscow State University</b> , Department of Modern and Contemporary History
<b>1991 - 1995</b>	Assistant Professor, <b>Volgograd State University</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYMENT

<b>2015 - 2022</b>	European University at St.Petersburg, Director of the Program of Regional Cooperation
<b>2016 - 2022</b>	Academic Director of IMARES Program (International Master of Arts in Russian and Eurasian Studies)
<b>2006 - 2015</b>	Head, Department of International Relations and Area Studies, Volgograd State University
<b>2002 - 2003</b>	Vice Rector for International Programs, Volgograd State University
<b>1995 - 1998</b>	Deputy Dean, Department of History and Philosophy, Volgograd State University

2008 – 2015            Head, Center for North American Studies *Americana*, Volgograd State University

## EDUCATION

2011, December. **Professor** (academic rank assigned by Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation).

2005, December. **Doktorskaya** Dissertation (Habilitation, Full professorship). [Institute of Universal History, Russian Academy of Sciences](#). Moscow, Russia.

1996, February. **Kandidatskaya** Dissertation (Ph.D. Equivalent). [Institute of Universal History, Russian Academy of Sciences](#), Russia.

1991. **Diploma with Honors** (MA level). Department of History, [Volgograd State University](#). History Major. Volgograd, Russia.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS:**

#### **(in English):**

- *Distant Friends and Intimate Enemies: A History of American-Russian Relations* coauthored with David S. Foglesong and Victoria Zhuravleva. Cambridge University Press, 2025.
- *Battle for the Past: How Politics Rewrites History*, transl. of Russian book, Palgrave Macmillan, 2025.
- *Echoes of the American Civil War Abroad: Perceptions, Identities, and Historical Memory*, coedited with Victoria Zhuravleva, Bloomsbury, forthcoming September 2026.
- *Americans and All the Rest: Identity and Foreign Policy in U.S. History*, transl. of Russian book, Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming June 2026.
- Carl W. Ackerman, *Trailing the Bolsheviki: Twelve Thousand Miles with the Allies in Siberia* / Edited and annotated by Ivan Kurilla. Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica, 2020 (Edited and annotated book by a *New York Times* correspondent Carl W. Ackerman who traveled across Siberia during Russian Civil War in 1918). New edition, Anthem press, 2025.
- *Russian/Soviet Studies in the United States, Amerikanistika in Russia: Mutual Representations in Academic Projects*. (Ivan Kurilla and Victoria I. Zhuravleva, eds.). Lexington Books, 2016.

#### **(in Russian):**

- *Amerikantsy i vse ostalnye: Istoki i smysl vneshney politiki SShA* (Americans and all the rest: Origin and meaning of the U.S. foreign policy). Alpina publisher, 2024; (Prosvetitel' award for the best non-fiction book of 2024).

- *Bitva za proshloe: Kak politika menyaet istoriyu* (Battle for the Past: How Politics Changes History), Alpina publisher, 2022 (shortlisted for the Politprosvet award in 2022).
- *Zaklyatye druzia: Istoriya mneniy, fantazii, kontaktov, vzaimo(ne)ponimania Rossii i SShA* (Frenemies: History of opinions, phantasies, contacts, mutual (mis)understanding of Russia and the USA), NLO books, 2018. (longlisted for the Prosvetitel' award in 2018).
- *Istoriya, ili Proshloe v nastoyashchem* (History, or the Past in Present), EU press, 2017 (shortlisted for the Prosvetitel' award in 2017).
- *Zaokeanskie partnery: Amerika i Rossiya v 1830-1850-e gody* (Transoceanic partners: America and Russia in 1830-1850s), Volgograd University Press, 2005.
- *"Voyti v krug velikikh derzhav...": Deniel Vebster i vneshnyaya politika SShA v seredine XIX veka* ("Enter the Circle" of Great Powers: Daniel Webster and U.S. Foreign Policy in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century). Volgograd State University Press, 1997.

#### **SELECT EDITED VOLUMES, in Russian:**

- *Mezhdunarodnaya intergatsiya rossiyskikh regionov* (International Integration of the Russian Regions). I.I.Kurilla (editor). Moscow: Logos, 2007.
- *Rossiya dvukhtsyachnykh: stereoskopicheskiy vzglyad* (Russia of the 2000s: Stereoscopic View). Henry Hale and Ivan Kurilla (eds.) Moscow: Planeta, 2011.
- *AMERICANA*: Annual collection of articles on American history, politics, and culture (*bilingual*). Ivan Kurilla, Editor of vols. 10-16 (2008-2021).
- *Volgogradskiy istoricheskiy seminar* (Volgograd History Workshop). Ivan Kurilla, editor:
  - *Istoriya kraya kak pole konstruirovaniya regionalnoy identichnosti* (Local History as the Field of Regional Identity Construction), 2008.
  - *Sudba istoricheskoy nauki v sovremennoy Vostochnoy Evrope* (Fate of Historical Profession in Contemporary Eastern Europe), 2009.
  - *Pamyat i pamyatniki* (Memory and Memroials), 2012.
  - *Kto boitsa uchebnika istorii?* (Who is Afraid of History Textbook?), 2013
  - *Istoricheskaya razmetka prostranstva i vremeni* (Historical Layout of Space and Time), 2014.
- *Rossiya i SShA na stranitsakh uchebnikov: opyt vzaimnykh reprezentatsiy* (Russia and the USA on the Pages of Textbooks: Study of Mutual Representations) (Ivan Kurilla, Victoriya Zhuravleva, eds.), Volgograd University Press, 2009
- *Demokratiya ili avtoritarizm? Stanovlenie novykh politicheskikh rezhimov v Evrope v XIX – XX vekakh* (Democracy or Authoritarianism? Emergence of New Political Regimes in Europe in the 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> centruties), Ivan Kurilla, ed. Volgograd University Press, 2008.

#### **RECENT ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS IN ENGLISH:**

- History as a Political Language, in: *Education and the Politics of Memory in Russia and Eastern Europe: Infested with History* / Ed. by Sergey Rumyantsev. Routledge, 2025.

- Understanding the Immortal Regiment: Memory Dualism in a Social Movement, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 2023, 75:8, 1266–1285.
- Evaluating the Demise of the Soviet Union. *Journal of Cold War Studies* 2023; 25 (3): 142–187. (with Archie Brown, Thomas W. Simons, Andrea Graziosi, Louis D. Sell, Vladislav Zubok).
- Russia and the US in the Mirrors of Academic Research, *Arei: Journal for Central and Eastern European History and Politics*. 2022. V.1. # 1. P.68–91.
- Presentism, Politicization of History, and the New Role of the Historian in Russia, *The Future of the Soviet Past: The Politics of History in Putin’s Russia* / Ed. by Anton Weiss-Wendt and Nanci Adler. Bloomington, IN.: Indiana University Press, 2021. P.29–47.
- Debates about Russia, America, and new world order: four books from the 1850s, *Вестник Волгоградского государственного университета. Серия 4, История. Регионоведение. Международные отношения*. – 2021. – Т. 26, № 5. – С. 225–231
- Reusing Soviet History Books: The Role of World War II in Russian Domestic Politics and Academia, *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, 2020. Vol. 33, # 4, p. 502-507
- Allied Intervention From Russia’s Perspective: Modern-Day Interpretations, *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, 2019. Vol. 32, # 4, p. 570-573
- George Frost Kennan and Russian-American Relations, *A Kennan for Our Times: Revisiting America’s Greatest 20<sup>th</sup> Century Diplomat in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* / Edited by Michael Kimmage and Matthew Rojansky. Washington, D.C.: Wilson Center, Kennan Institute, 2019. P. 151–163.
- Russia, Trump, and the United States: The Uses of the Other in a Political Crisis, Chapter 6 in *The New World Disorder: Challenges and Threats in an Uncertain World* / Edited by J.L. Black, Michael Johns, and Alanda D. Theriault. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019. P.129 – 136
- Russia’s View on Obama’s Presidency: From Hope to Disappointment, Chapter 7 in: *The World Views of the Obama Era: From Hope to Disillusionment*. Editor Matthias Maass. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018. P. 113–139 (with Victoria I. Zhuravleva);

## TRANSLATION PROJECTS

- Editor of the Russian translation of Bertrand Patenaude’s *Big Show in Bololand (Bolshoe Shou v strane bolshevikov)*, European University Press, 2024).
- Translator into Russian of Perry Anderson’s *Lineages of the Absolutist State (Rodoslovnaya absolutistskogo gosudarstva)*, Territoria Budushchego, 2010)

## Op-eds

Published by *The Washington Post*, *The National Interest*, *Novaya Gazeta*, *The Moscow Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Riddle*, *Russia Matters*, *Troitsky variant*, *polit.ru*, *republic.ru*, *gefter.ru*, *theconversation.com*, *inliberty.ru*, and others.

**Commentaries:**

BBC, NPR, Sky TV, Südwestrundfunk, Kommersant-FM, Business-FM Radio-KP, TV Dozd, RTVi, Voice of Russia, Voice of America, RBC-TV, OTR and others.

**Quoted and interviewed** by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *US News and World Report*, *al Jazeera*, *la Repubblica*, *El Pais*, *Maclean's*, *Moscow News*, *The Moscow Times*, *The Village*, *Agence France Presse*, and many others.

**Select Policy Memos for PONARS Eurasia (Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia):**

- Do Russians Support the War? How the Answer Reflects Biases, Uncertainty, and Old Divisions (November 2022)
- Nationalizing Russian (War) Memory Since 2014 (July 2020)
- Toward the Possibility of a New U.S.-Russian “Reset”: Does Their Hot & Cold Past Foretell Their Future? (May 2019)
- The Anti-Russia Surge in U.S. Politics: Finding Context (April 2018)
- History and Memory in Russia During the 100-Year Anniversary of the Great Revolution (January 2018)
- The “Return of Stalin”: Understanding the Surge of Historical Politics in Russia (May 2016)
- The Implications of Russia’s Law against the “Rehabilitation of Nazism” (August 2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

**In English:**

*Civil War and Reconstruction: Global Perspectives.* (2026, Spring semester, The Ohio State University, BA)

*History of U.S. – Russian Relations,* (2026, Spring semester, The Ohio State University, BA)

*Uses & Misuses of History: History, Memory, & Politics in Contemporary World* (2025, Autumn semester, The Ohio State University, BA)

*How Distant Friends Became Intimate Enemies: Russian–American Relations in Past and Present* (2025, Spring semester, Wellesley College, BA level).

*Frenemies: History of Russian-American Relations* (2024, Fall semester, Bowdoin College, BA level).

*History of US – Russian Relations from a Constructivist Perspective* (2015–2022, EUSP, English, MA level for international students, IMARES program)

*Historical Memory and Historical Politics* (2015, Spring semester, Smolny (St.Petersburg State University – Bard College program, BA level)

*Introduction into Russian History* (1993–2010, Volgograd State university, U.S. Exchange students program, BA level).

### **In Russian:**

*Russian-U.S. Relations throughout History and to the Present* (2025, Fall Semester, Ohio State University, MA in Russian)

*History of Russian-American Relations*, (2025, Summer Language School, Middlebury College, MA level)

*Battle for the Past: Use and Misuse of History*, (2025, Summer Language School, Middlebury College, MA level)

*History and Politics* (2015–2023, EUSP, MA level for Political Science students)

*Introduction into American Studies* (2015 – 2023, EUSP, Political Science students).

*U.S. History* (1999–2014, Volgograd State University, BA level, American studies major)

*History of Historical Knowledge* (1993–2014, Volgograd State University, BA level, History major)

*Modern History of Europe and America* (Volgograd State University, 1992–1999).

Advised students' MA (both in Russian and English) and Kandidatskaya (PhD equivalent) dissertations.

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICE:

**Vol'noe Istoricheskoe Obshchestvo** (Free Historical Society), founding member, member of the Council, 2014 – 2022 (in 2022 Society froze its activities).

**Russian Society of the Historians of the U.S.A.**, member of the council (since 2012).

**ASEEES (Association for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies)**, member since 2012.

**PONARS Eurasia** (Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia), international network of scholars. Member since 1999, in 2003-2005 member of Executive Committee.

**Kennan Institute Russian Alumni Association**, Head of the Council, 2008–2015.

### EDITORIAL BOARDS:

**2008–present.** Annual collection of scholarly articles *Americana*. (Volgograd State University). Vols. 10-16. Editor-in-Chief. **1997–2007.** *Americana*, Vols.1–9. Member of the Editorial Board, Deputy Chief Editor.

**2008–present.** *Amerikanskii ezhegodnik* (American Yearbook). (Moscow, Russian Academy of Science). Member of Editorial Board.

**2017–present.** The [\*Journal of Russian American Studies\*](#), member of the Editorial Board.

**2020 – present.** [\*REGION: Regional Studies Of Russia, Eastern Europe, And Central Asia\*](#), member of the Editorial board.

**2022 – present.** [\*Filosofia. Zhurnal Vysshey Shkoly Ekonomiki\*](#) (Philosophy. Journal of the Higher School of Economics), member of the Editorial Board.

**2009–September 2015.** [\*Journal Vestnik Volgogradskogo Universiteta. Seria 4: Istorica. Regionovedenie. Mezhdunarodnye otnoshenia.\*](#) (*Science Journal of Volgograd State University. History. Area Studies. International Relations*). Volgograd, Russia. Editor-in-Chief (**September 2015 – July 2024**, - member of Editorial Board)

#### NON-ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT:

2017 – 2022. Russian Foundation of Presidential Grants, NGO projects in public history assessment.

2006, 2007, 2008, 2013. European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture. TEMPUS-III-Tacis, TEMPUS-IV, Marie Curie programme academic expert: assessment of joint European projects of university cooperation.

1999–2001. Lower Volga region. Open Society Institute (George Soros Foundation) coordinator (grant evaluation and monitoring).

#### **Select lectures, presentations, and podcasts in English:**

2024. Wellesley College, The Cornille Lecture: Ivan Kurilla. Political Use and Misuse of the Past in Russia, America, and Elsewhere. 4/30/2024

<https://www1.wellesley.edu/newhouse/events/node/206941>

2024. Wellesley College and Harvard Davis Center: What the Russian People Think About the War and Its Mastermind, Thursday, February 15, 2024

<https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/about/people/ivan-kurilla>

2024. Dartmouth College, Public Lecture on Russian Society during the war, May 8, 2024

<https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2024/05/historian-ivan-kurilla-discusses-russian-society-during-russia-ukraine-war>

2023. Yerevan (Armenia), Yerevan Center for International Education. November 22, 2023. American Identity and World Politics. Ivan Kurilla Lecture

[https://youtu.be/\\_EEgu0exs9w?si=w3RiAY-84MaZnNqI](https://youtu.be/_EEgu0exs9w?si=w3RiAY-84MaZnNqI)

2022. Wellesley College and Davis Center, Harvard: Kathryn W. Davis Memorial Lecture: Speaker, Ivan Kurilla, April 2022.

<https://youtu.be/mKyCFCVUXsI?si=pDTcTJHz5eDm4VIE>

2022. Center for Russian Studies, Konrad Adenauer South Caucasus Foundation. Ivan Kurilla - Political Use of History in Russia and its Neighbours.

<https://youtu.be/37Vq4HChsJk?si=Bjb2HiWpEOrl2ZgZ>

2022. The University of Texas at Austin Podcast. The Other: Russian-American Relations Through the Centuries with Ivan Kurilla

The Slavic Connexion <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-other-russian-american-relations-through/id1455852324?i=1000591722047>

2021. Indiana University podcast, January 2021,

<https://indianapublicmedia.org/profiles/historian-ivan-kurilla.php>

2021. Kansas University: Cold War in the Heartland Speaker Series: Ivan Kurilla European University at St Petersburg, Russia 4/27/21

<https://youtu.be/XfA4-BTt4Nw?si=M8QXm2GhaxLta-it>

2020. St. Petersburg Public Lecture (in English). Ivan Kurilla: «Use of History in Russian Politics».

<https://youtu.be/5F55XbEg84A?si=yqb5mytcXnQTO08n>

2019. Claremont McKenna College. Ivan Kurilla. Can Russian-American Relations Be Fixed? Lessons from History.

<https://www.cmc.edu/athenaeum/can-russian-american-relations-be-fixed-lessons-from-history>

2019 Indiana University Interview with Ivan Kurilla, historian of Russian-American relations. Russian Studies Workshop Podcast:

[https://soundcloud.com/user-111537872/rsw-podcast\\_serdiukov\\_kurilla](https://soundcloud.com/user-111537872/rsw-podcast_serdiukov_kurilla)

2013. Eisenhower Library records visiting scholar's talk on Battle of Stalingrad (Abilene, KS) <https://www.kansas.com/news/article1111006.html>

2013. Kansas University, Brownbag: "The Use and Misuse of History in Contemporary Russia" - Ivan Kurilla (3/12/13)

<https://youtu.be/A4Hm8H-wbPk?si=vzLjxEp0GSumuSsB>

#### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED (select)

(Chair of Organization Committee):

- International Conference "Americans in Revolutionary Petrograd", (St. Petersburg, October 2017).

- All-Russian Conference “Russia and American Civil War” (Volgograd, October 2011),
- International Academic Conference “Russian/Soviet Studies in the United States, American Studies in Russia: Mutual Representations” (co-chair with Victoria Zhuravleva, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, February 2011),
- International conference “Concept of Human Security in Canada and Russia” (2009);
- International academic conference "Russia and countries of American continent: the Experience of Historical Relationships" (2007);
- International conference “10 Years of the Commonwealth of Independent States” (Volgograd State University and Russian International Studies Association, September 2001);
- Annual conference of the Kennan Institute Russian Alumni Association (2001).

## ACADEMIC PERSECUTION AND CURRENT STATUS

In March 2024, I was dismissed from the European University at St. Petersburg after publicly opposing Russia’s war against Ukraine and signing an anti-war petition. The dismissal was formally justified as “absenteeism,” despite an approved sabbatical to work at a U.S. institution.

In January 2026, I was designated a “foreign agent” by the Russian Ministry of Justice. This status imposes severe legal and professional restrictions, including a ban on teaching and public educational activity, significant financial reporting requirements, and limitations on receiving income from intellectual work.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/03/05/anti-war-historian-fired-from-st-petersburgs-european-university-a84342>

<https://t-invariant.org/2026/01/rasa-statement-in-support-of-professor-ivan-kurilla/>