

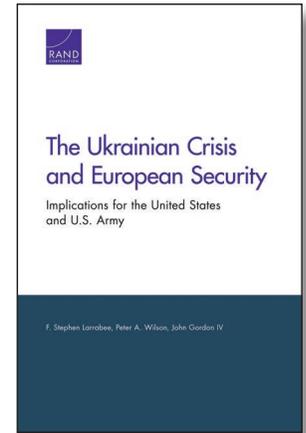


The Ukrainian Crisis and European Security

Implications for the United States and U.S. Army

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RAND Arroyo researchers examined the basic premises of U.S. European policy in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea and attempt to destabilize eastern Ukraine. They concluded that a more robust deterrence and defense posture in Eastern Europe may be needed, which would require the Army and Air Force to revisit planning assumptions that have minimized U.S. military commitments to the region since the end of the Cold War.



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What implications do Russia's annexation of Crimea and attempt to destabilize eastern Ukraine have for European security and the United States, particularly the U.S. Army?



KEY FINDINGS

- The assumption that Europe had become a strategically stable continent has been overturned.
- If the Department of Defense is tasked to help NATO build a much more robust deterrence and defense posture in Eastern Europe, the Army and Air Force will need to revisit planning assumptions that have minimized U.S. military commitments to that region since the end of the Cold War.
- Russia's military actions in Crimea and in the Ukrainian crisis demonstrated a new model of Russian military thinking, combining traditional instruments of Russian military thought with a new emphasis on surprise, deception, and strategic ambiguity.
- The possibility of overt Russian military action against East European members of NATO cannot be excluded.
- When added to the steady or growing demands for U.S. deployments and activities elsewhere (e.g., East Asia, the Middle East, Africa), the more stressful security environment argues for a reappraisal of the balance between the requirements of the defense strategy and resources available to support it.



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