

News

Keep up to date with the latest news and [events \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/events/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/events/index.aspx) from around the department and the wide-ranging projects our staff and students get involved with.

[More news throughout the School of Government and Society \(/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx).

Latest news

[Explainer: what is Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia? \(http://theconversation.com/explainer-what-is-wahhabism-in-saudi-arabia-36693\)](http://theconversation.com/explainer-what-is-wahhabism-in-saudi-arabia-36693)



Written by Dr Galina Yemelianova. The death of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has stirred debate about the future direction of the world's richest Arab state. That direction will be significantly coloured by how his brother and successor, King Salman, approaches Wahhabism – the religious sect that is at once an intrinsic part of the state and its biggest threat.

Friday 30th January 2015

[Putin's plan to fight recession in Russia also increases Kremlin's control of the economy \(http://theconversation.com/putins-plan-to-fight-recession-in-russia-also-increases-kremlins-control-of-the-economy-36655\)](http://theconversation.com/putins-plan-to-fight-recession-in-russia-also-increases-kremlins-control-of-the-economy-36655)



Written by Dr Richard Connolly. The Russian rouble started 2015 in much the same way it finished 2014: badly. After losing nearly 50% of its dollar value between July and the end of the year, the rouble lost a further 7% in January. The primary cause of this continued decline is the falling price of oil: Brent crude has dropped from US\$53 dollars per barrel at year end to just under US\$48 per barrel, a decline of nearly 10% for the year so far.

Monday 26th January 2015

[Ukraine sliding towards all-out war despite mediation efforts \(http://theconversation.com/ukraine-sliding-towards-all-out-war-despite-mediation-efforts-36608\)](http://theconversation.com/ukraine-sliding-towards-all-out-war-despite-mediation-efforts-36608)



Written by Professor Stefan Wolf. Over the past few days, Ukraine has taken a significant turn for the worse. Fighting between rebels and government forces has intensified, the civilian death toll has increased, and the war of words between Ukraine and Russia has further escalated.

Monday 26th January 2015

[Oil crisis: can short-term pain lead to economic gain for Russia? \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2015/01/oil-crisis-22-01-15.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2015/01/oil-crisis-22-01-15.aspx)



Written by Dr Richard Connolly. The recent crash in oil prices is causing much anxiety in oil-producing states. From Iran to Venezuela, many have come to rely on elevated oil prices to fuel economic growth and support government spending.

Friday 23rd January 2015

[Is Chechnya facing wave of jihadist violence? \(http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/30476381\)](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/30476381)



On 19 December 2014 BBC Europe News published an article by Dr Galina Yemelianova on recent Chechen bombing.

Tuesday 20th January 2015

[Blog: Playwright, Prisoner and President: the Life of Vaclav Havel \(http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/playwright-prisoner-and-president-life.html\)](http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/playwright-prisoner-and-president-life.html)



Written by Dr Tim Haughton, A review of Michael Zantovsky, Havel: a Life, London: Atlantic Books (2014). You only really appreciate someone when they have left. The death of Vaclav Havel in December 2011 provoked a week of mourning, warm and generous words from his political foes, and for many 'perhaps a rediscovery' of the man who had played so many different roles in his life: playwright, political prisoner and president (p. 14).

Tuesday 20th January 2015

[Research video: Dr Tim Haughton \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/research-video-tim-haughton.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/research-video-tim-haughton.aspx)



Dr Tim Haughton is a political scientist with a particular interest in electoral and party politics, the relationship between politics and government, the interaction between domestic and European sources of change, the relationship between Britain and the EU, the role of the past in the politics of the present and the domestic politics of Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.

Monday 19th January 2015

[Former Student Becomes Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/former-student-becomes-albanian-deputy-foreign-minister.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/former-student-becomes-albanian-deputy-foreign-minister.aspx)



Former PhD Student Odeta Barbullushi has been appointed Albania's new Deputy Foreign Minister.

Monday 19th January 2015

Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch adds Paris attacks to list of successes (<http://theconversation.com/al-qaedas-yemen-branch-adds-paris-attacks-to-list-of-successes-36308>)



Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. Al-Qaeda's most active and notorious branch – the Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) – has claimed responsibility for the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris. While some questions remain about the full credibility of the claim, it is not entirely implausible: it's been established that some of the attackers had been trained in Yemen, and at least one of them had met AQAP's former chief ideologue, Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born jihadist killed in a US drone strike in 2011.

Monday 19th January 2015

Ukraine steels for more unrest as Donetsk bus attack kills 12 (<http://theconversation.com/ukraine-steels-for-more-unrest-as-donetsk-bus-attack-kills-12-36266>)



Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. The deadly attack on a bus carrying civilians near Donetsk, killing at least 12 of them and wounding many more, comes in the wake of yet another round of failed talks among the foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and France. It also follows a pattern of persistent violence between rebels and government forces that has made a mockery of a ceasefire agreement brokered between the two sides back in September 2014.

Thursday 15th January 2015

Displaying 21 to 30 of 233

[Previous \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=2&stylemediatype=print\) 1 \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=1&stylemediatype=print\) 2 \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=2&stylemediatype=print\) 3 4 \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=4&stylemediatype=print\) 5 \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=5&stylemediatype=print\) ... Next \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/index.aspx?NewsListingOrig_List_GoToPage=4&stylemediatype=print\)](#)

[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#) | [Cookies and cookie policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site map](#) | [Website feedback](#) | [Charitable information](#)

© University of Birmingham 2015

