

THE CHANCE *for* RENEWAL

As the incoming U.S. administration formulates its foreign policy, it will find that no issue area could more greatly benefit from a fresh look than U.S.-Russian relations. Since 1991, Americans have projected unrealistic hopes and fears on Russia, almost guaranteeing periodic disappointment and confusion. Russians have been riding their own roller coaster of views about U.S. intentions. With new leadership in both countries, there is clearly an opportunity to build a new relationship, one based on today's realities rather than yesterday's expectations. ■ To stimulate this process of revision and rebuilding, the Russian and Eurasian Program of the Carnegie Endowment has prepared *An Agenda for Renewal*. The report reflects the deep commitment that the Endowment has made since the early 1990s to the study of Russia and the advancement of U.S.-Russian relations, a commitment rooted in the belief that a productive, cooperative relationship between the two countries is possible and geostrategically essential. The experts who make up the Washington end of the Russian and Eurasian Program are as diverse as they are distinguished, both in their areas of expertise and in their views. This report embodies that diversity; it is a set of strong opinions and strong ideas built on a deep knowledge base. ■ The theme of the report is renewal. It is not based on some feel-good optimism about Russia's future or the ability of the two countries to see eye-to-eye on every matter. It proceeds rather from a measured assessment of the terrain, pointing to significant areas of present and potential common interest. I do not expect that readers will find themselves in agreement with every recommendation herein. I do believe, however, they will find this report an invaluable framework for discussion, debate, and policy making.

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