Understanding the Ukraine Crisis: Resources for Educators

Discussion Questions

• What similarities and differences do you see between the Ukraine crisis and the Cold War? Are Russia and the West headed toward a new Cold War?

• What role did international organizations, such as the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations (UN) play in trying to end/mediate this crisis? Which organizations have been effective? Which have not? Why?

• How did the U.S. respond to the crisis? Why? Has it been effective?

• What is Russia’s role in the Ukraine crisis? Does it try to end/mediate/escalate this crisis?

• Should Ukraine become a member of the EU? Why or why not?

• Should Ukraine become a member of the Russia-led Customs Union? Why or why not?

• What’s so important about Ukraine anyway? Why has the U.S. invested so much, both monetarily and diplomatically, in this country?

• What problems/challenges does this crisis present for U.S.-Russia relations? EU-Russia relations? Transatlantic relations (U.S.-EU/Europe)?

• What role does Russia’s gas/oil wealth play in this crisis or in Russia’s relations with other countries more generally?

• Does Russia’s annexation of Crimea violate international law? Why?

• What role does the legacy of the collapse of the Soviet Union play in this crisis?

• What does Ukraine need to do in order to stop destabilization of the eastern part of Ukraine by pro-Russian separatists?

• What non-violent approach(es) could be undertaken by the Ukrainian government to stop the violence?