

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025-2026

DELPHI

GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTER

CROSSROADS, CORRIDORS, FRONTIERS

A first-year report on ideas, analysis, and convening for Eurasian security.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT (BOB) HAMILTON

As Delphi Global Research Center completes its first year of operations, I wanted to take a moment to review some of our activities and accomplishments, and take a quick look ahead at what we hope to accomplish in Delphi's second year. But first, and most importantly, I want to express my profound gratitude to everyone who believed in us and our vision of a focused, agile organization whose goal is to produce research on Eurasia marked by its depth of analysis, understanding of context, and policy relevance. To our donors, our board members, our scholars, and the small but incredibly dedicated team that runs the organization: thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We are excited that as our workload and our resources increased, we were able to hire an operations coordinator, a communications coordinator, and a webmaster. All three have been invaluable members of the Delphi Global team and have allowed Maia and me to delegate much of the day-to-day operation and focus on Delphi's long-term growth.

We completed our first in-person conference in Washington, DC in April. The conference was entitled "Frontline Europe: Ukraine, Russia, and the Future of NATO". Speakers and moderators came from the US, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia. On

April 21, we were on Capitol Hill, with Rep. Don Bacon as our keynote speaker and on April 22 we were at American University (AU), with Delphi Global advisory board member Ambassador John Tefft as our keynote speaker.

Our publication pipeline continues to rival those of far larger and more established think tanks. We have published 58 reports and articles since launching last July, including 45 in the first six months of this year. This has driven traffic to our website, resulting in about 20,000 unique visits per month. In terms of policy impact, one of our articles, written by Fellow Maria Avdeeva, was forwarded to the NATO Secretary General's office. Another, written by Fellow Klara Lisinski, received positive feedback from staff at NATO Headquarters. The ability to have this type of direct communication with the policy world is a major reason we launched Delphi Global and is, in our estimation, a primary role think tanks should fulfill.

We recently selected eight Ukrainian young professionals for our inaugural Statecraft and Imagination Fellowship Program. This is a seven month program that includes a two-week residency portion in Washington DC this August. We hope to renew and grow the fellowship program in subsequent years.

We are preparing to launch the fifth iteration of our International Crisis Management online course. Originally conceived as a way to offer Ukrainian students continuity in their education after Russia's invasion shut down in-person instruction at many universities, the course has now expanded to about 150 students per iteration, hailing from a dozen or more countries. We offer the course free of charge and students receive a certificate from Delphi Global and our partner institution, The George Washington University.

Delphi's research agenda is strong and growing. We are currently undertaking two research projects on behalf of the US government. The first, sponsored by US European Command, examines Russia-China relations in Africa through a series of four reports and webinars. The second is a year-long study of Ukraine's use of US military assistance to counter Russia's invasion. This research effort is sponsored by the Defense Security Cooperation University and includes field research in Ukraine, Germany, and Poland. This type of policy-relevant research is at the core of Delphi's mission to produce research informed by scholarship but accessible and actionable to policymakers.

Finally, Delphi Global staff and Fellows had an active conference schedule in our first year, speaking at events in Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Lithuania, Romania, Finland, Ukraine, and Latvia, as well as in the US. In line with our vision for Delphi to be a home for voices from the region of Eurasia, 19 of our 33 Fellows hail from the region we study, and we have established partnerships with nine research organizations from the region.

While we are proud of our first year, we look forward to an even more active and impactful second year. None of what we have accomplished so far and none of what we hope to accomplish in the future would be possible without the support of those who continue to believe in us. In closing, thank you again and stay tuned for more from Delphi Global in the future!

*Robert Hamilton, President
Delphi Global Research Center*

"None of what we have accomplished so far would be possible without the support of those who continue to believe in us."



THE YEAR IN **NUMBERS**

EDUCATION

150

Education Program Participants

- Statecraft and Imagination Fellowship Program for Emerging Ukrainian Leaders
- International Crisis Management Course (w/ IERES, George Washington University)

EVENTS

23+

Public events and discussions

WEBSITE

280,000+

Total website visitors

50+

Fellows and Contributors

33+

News and Media Appearances

60+

Publications

SUBSCRIBERS & SOCIAL MEDIA

8,000+

Monthly newsletter subscribers

LINKEDIN

34,382+

Impressions

17,457+

Users reached

FACEBOOK

50.6k+

Views

WHO WE ARE

Delphi Global Research Center is an independent, international think tank dedicated to advancing understanding of Eurasian security and regional dynamics through rigorous research and analysis.

OUR MISSION

Delphi Global Research Center (or Delphi) is a 501c3 non-profit think tank dedicated to generating ideas and offering solutions to current and future US foreign policy and development challenges in the Eurasia region.

OUR VISION

As an intellectual hub for Eurasia experts and scholars, we produce timely, relevant, actionable research on the major political, economic, and security issues affecting Eurasia. We aim to serve as a transmission belt between the scholarly world and the policy world, translating scholarly insights into clear and implementable recommendations for policymakers. Our objective is to advance US national security interests and security and prosperity in the broader Euro-Atlantic region.

OUR VALUES

Independence, analytical rigor, intellectual honesty, and commitment to evidence-based research guide all our work and publications.



| RESEARCH PILLARS

2026 has tested every assumption about Eurasian security. Russia's war on Ukraine entered its fifth year and a fourth winter of systematic strikes on the power grid. The West began spending Russia's own frozen billions to fund Kyiv's defense. And Moscow-Beijing dynamics echoed far beyond Eurasia. Delphi's seven research pillars exist to explain moments like these and to anticipate the next one.

Russia, Ukraine, and Modern Warfare

Explaining Russia's warfighting, civilian harm, sanctions, frozen assets, Black Sea dynamics, and the future of European security.

Russia-China Dynamics

Tracking how Moscow and Beijing compete, coordinate, and diverge across regions including Africa, the Arctic, and Latin America.

Baltic Sea

Assessing the evolving security dynamics in NATO's new northern flank and the role of the Baltic-Nordic states in the broader Euro-Atlantic Region.

Black Sea and the South Caucasus Region

Analyzing corridor politics, sovereignty, occupied territories, Georgia's crisis, Iran's influence, and regional security.

Transatlantic and NATO Strategy

Assessing NATO adaptation, defense dilemmas, escalation risks, and the practical lessons of hybrid campaigns.

Central Asia

From the Middle Corridor to the Turkic Corridor, from strategic connectivity to the often competing interests of Russia and China, Central Asia represents one of our key areas of research and analysis.

The Arctic

The High North is emerging as a region of strategic competition, where Russia and China are expanding their military presence, economic influence, and access to newly navigable sea routes and natural resources.

Scholar Spotlight



Klara Vlahčević Lisinski
Fellow

Targeting as Strategy: Civilian Harm in Ukraine as a Forward Indicator of Russian Intent

"Four years into Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the patterns of civilian harm that have emerged are not merely a record of atrocity - they are, and can be observed as a strategic intelligence product."



Eitvydas Bajarūnas
Senior Fellow

The War Has Reached Moscow, and the Russian Propaganda Machine Seems Lost

"History shows that Russia rarely changes its behavior out of goodwill. But it has repeatedly changed its calculations when confronted with sufficiently strong and persistent pressure."



Darrell Driver
Senior Fellow

What We Should Worry About When We Worry About the Arctic

"We should not worry about the Arctic because it is newly accessible. We should worry because it has always been and remains strategically central."



Andrew Berrier
Senior Fellow

Ukraine's Sea Denial Strategy: Lessons for the Persian Gulf

"And while there are important differences between the situations in the 2022 Black Sea and the 2026 Persian Gulf, Ukraine's success in playing the cards it was dealt is a cautionary tale for US and allied planners considering expanding operations against Iran in the Strait of Hormuz."



Olena Snigyr
Senior Fellow

Resilience and Fragility of Russian Domestic Order

"For the regime, war is not a temporary instrument but a mechanism of self-preservation: it provides mobilizational legitimacy, consolidates elites, and justifies repressive governance."

Scholar Spotlight



Maria Avdeeva
Senior Fellow

Why “Resilience” Became the Word No One in Ukraine Likes — And What Should Replace It

“As the war enters its fifth year, the central question is not simply how much Ukrainians can endure, but how Ukraine and its partners can adapt to ensure that endurance remains possible — and that shared security becomes more than a slogan, but a practical framework for the years ahead.”



Maximilian Hess
Senior Fellow

Geo-Economics of Russia and China in Africa

“When it comes to Western views on Africa, China and Russia are often treated similarly—as rivals and revisionist powers—but the political economies of their roles on the continent could not be more different.”



Antonia Colibasanu
Senior Fellow

Nothing Happens Until Something Moves: Infrastructure Development Priorities on NATO’s Eastern Flank

“Despite being a frontline zone, the region remains poorly interconnected: north–south transportation corridors are sparse, with limited highways and outdated railways that fail to support the heavy and coordinated movements required for modern NATO operations.”



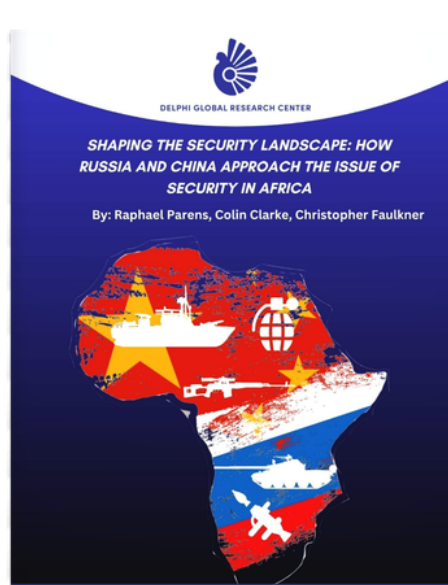
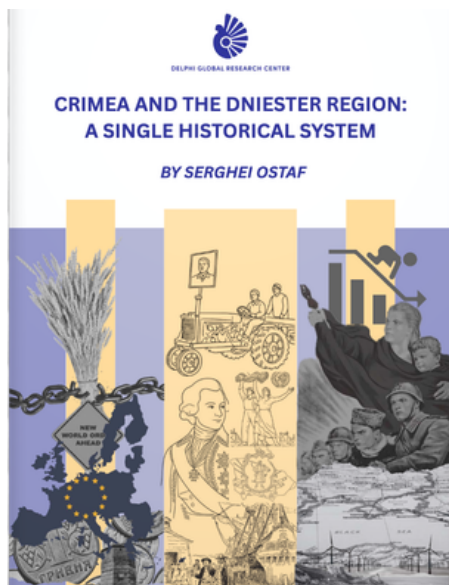
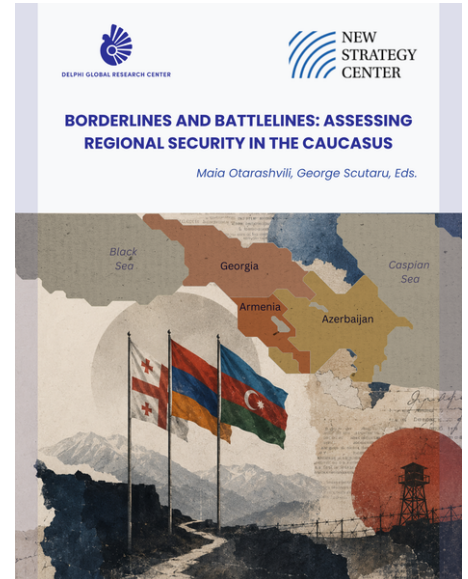
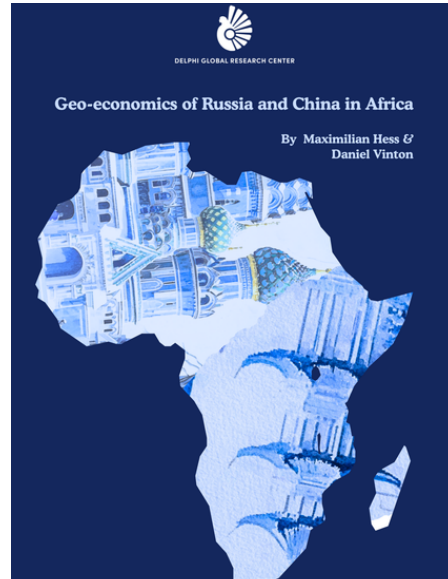
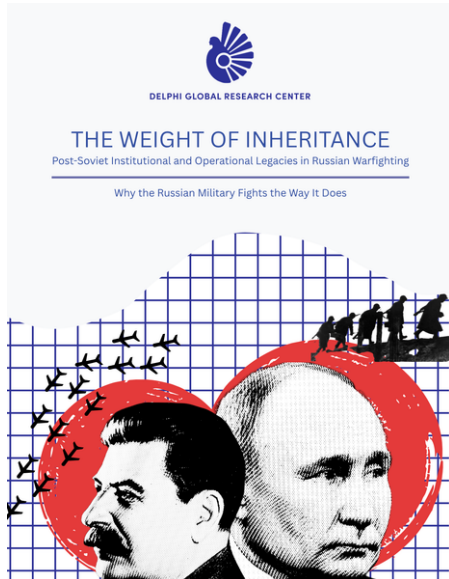
András Tóth-Czifra
Fellow

GLAVNOE: The Past Month In Russia.

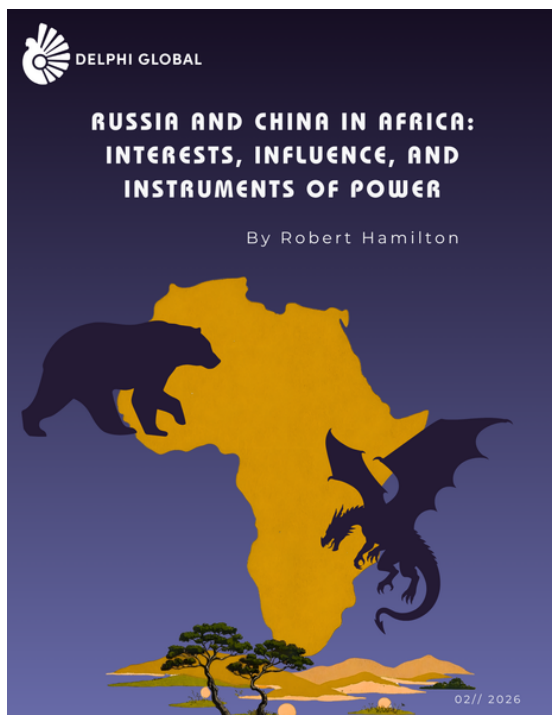
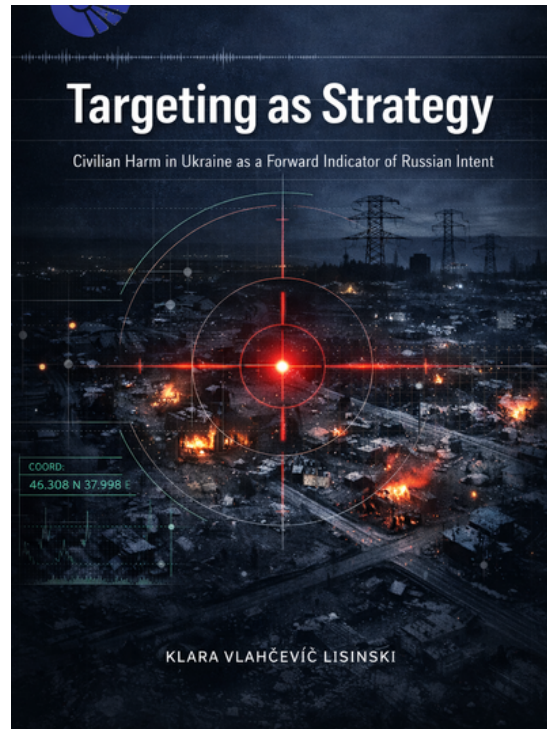
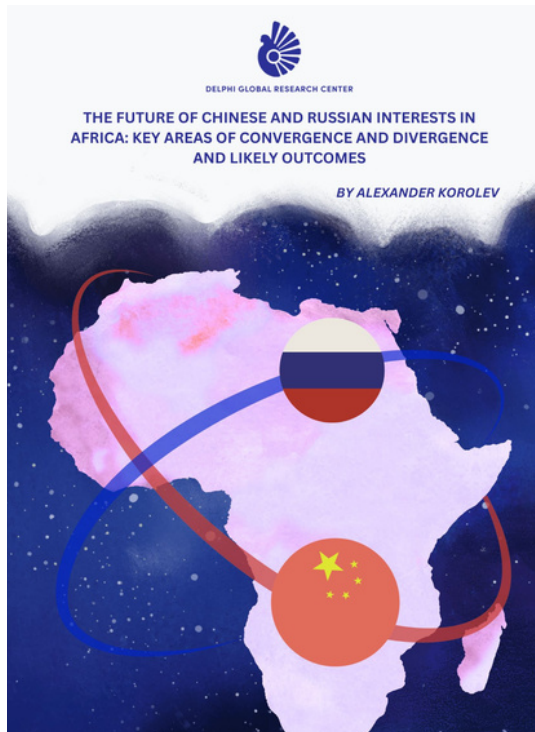
Your monthly overview of major recent developments in Russian politics, economy, and society.

“In recent years, with Russia’s growing international isolation and the strain that the war put on the economy the St. Petersburg International Economic forum has become a shadow of its former self, but the organizers had kept up appearances”

Special Reports



Special Reports



Events: Turning research into public conversation

Report Launch and Discussion: The Future of Chinese and Russian Interests in Africa

Speakers

Chris Alden Alexander Korolev Bob Hamilton

Moderator

Bob Hamilton

When? Where?

Tuesday, July 14, 10 am ET. Via Zoom

The \$50bn ERA Loan to Ukraine: How Russia's Frozen Assets Were Turned into Ukraine's Financial Bedrock

POLICY WEBINAR

South Caucasus in Focus

Shifts in Power, Connectivity, and US and EU Strategy

Wednesday, July 1, 10am ET Via Zoom

REGISTRATION OPEN
Reserve your spot today!

Speakers:

Yunis Gurbanov Azerbaijan
Sergey Minasyan Armenia
Khatia Kikalishvili Georgia
Vakhtang Kapanadze Georgia
Maia Otashvili Moderator

Report Launch:

"SHAPING THE SECURITY LANDSCAPE: HOW RUSSIA AND CHINA APPROACH THE ISSUE OF SECURITY IN AFRICA"

Apr 8, 2026

10:00 AM (ET)

Online: Zoom

Report Launch and Discussion: Geo-Economics of Russia and China in Africa

Registration is Now Open

Speakers

Maximilian Hess Daniel Vinton Bob Hamilton

Moderator

Bob Hamilton

DISCUSSION: UKRAINE, RUSSIA, AND THE SEARCH FOR A JUST ENDGAME IN 2026

Join us via Zoom on Tuesday, May 19, at 10 AM ET.

Speakers

Maria Avdeeva Bob Hamilton

Moderator

Maia Otashvili

Frontline Europe: Ukraine, Russia, and the Future of NATO

REPORT LAUNCH:

"RUSSIA AND CHINA IN AFRICA: INTERESTS, INFLUENCE, AND INSTRUMENTS OF POWER"

20 FEBRUARY, 2026

10:00 AM ET

REGISTER

Speaker:

ROBERT HAMILTON
President, Delphi Global

Education

International Crisis Management Course

In partnership with the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), George Washington University



*The course is led by Dan Whitman
Director, International Crisis Management Course*

Not all disasters present clear solutions. Effective planning requires a precise definition of the challenge and a clear vision of the desired outcome, referred to as the “End State.” In conflict situations, it is essential to understand the motives of opposing forces, even when their actions are unlawful.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the nature and recent history of international politics and conflict.
- Gain an overview of the theory and practice of foreign policy formulation and implementation.
- Develop analytical skills needed to assess major global and regional foreign policy challenges.
- Practice international legal advocacy in the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Conduct simulations drawn from recent crisis management approaches by the US, UN, and other policymakers.

“This wasn’t a typical online course. Through live sessions with experienced diplomats, crisis simulations, and deep dives into public diplomacy, disinformation, and embassy operations, I gained practical insights into how international crises are managed.”
— Course participant reflection

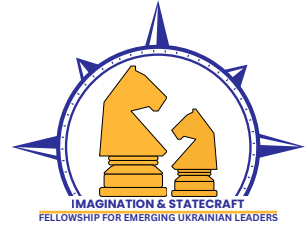
“The depth of insight and practical understanding I gained from this program felt even more valuable than much of my formal university training.”
— Yash Singh Sisodiya

The course employs simulated task force operations modeled on real-life scenarios. Participants collaborate in groups to analyze and address crises, with active engagement required.

Delphi Global hosted several hundred students in the inaugural cohort of this course. The next cohort will commence in September 2026.

Education

Statecraft and Imagination



Fellowship Program for Emerging Ukrainian Leaders



The course is led by Delphi Global Senior Fellow and Imagination in Statecraft Program Director Mr. Sean Murray

In an era of unprecedented global volatility, the need for clear-eyed, realistic, and rigorous geopolitical vision has never been more vital. This six-month fellowship program is designed to move beyond the "waves of despair and hope" that often characterize wartime discourse and instead ground the emerging Ukrainian leaders in analytical and imaginative rigor.

The fellowship program ultimately aims to help Ukraine build a “deep bench” of professionals capable of navigating complex geopolitical dynamics. By exposing Fellows to new modes of argumentation and critical thinking, and by familiarizing them with English-speaking audience expectations, the program seeks to lay a foundation of rigorous analytic techniques and best practices. Further, the program’s unique focus on the role of imagination in statecraft and strategic analysis will expose Fellows to novel modes of engaging the world’s most intractable geopolitical problems.

The fellowship consists of a three-part curriculum. This includes two months of online meetings and guided readings in fiction, literary criticism, history and policy analysis intended to kick-start Fellows’ thinking about strategic imagination. The fellowship is anchored by a two-week intensive residency in Washington, DC, featuring daily instruction in analytic techniques and creative statecraft from US government experts, academics, and NGO leaders. **The residency will be co-hosted by the ASU Barrett and O’Connor Center in Washington, DC.** The final part of the fellowship will span four months and consist of a post-residency mentorship period - structured individual mentorship and group calls to implement follow-on projects within home institutions.



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The Delphi Global Research Center is a 501c3 nonprofit research organization.