

# ARTEM MALGIN

Vice-Rector of the MGIMO University, Professor of the Department of International Relations and Russia's Foreign Policy

## Steven ERLANGER

I often think that the other great phrase is, '*L'Europe qui protège*', but I always think *protège* from what exactly? I mean who, I understand, but from what is confusing. That leads me in a possibly not very nice segue to Artem Malgin, who is the Rector at MGIMO, one of Russia's great universities. Artem, the floor is yours.

## Artem MALGIN

Good afternoon and thank you. Since Russia's European identity is kind of ambivalent or split, I can give you two lists of what I consider are European uncertainties. One is how we see Europe, European, if by Europe we mean the EU, and how we see European if we mean a slightly wider Europe. It is Brexit, which you care so much about, but I guess it is a return of a tradition that already existed in history. The bilateral structure of the Euro-Atlantic West and nothing new strategic happens in this case.

Immigration flow is still an uncertainty, but I guess that you have already got used to this inflow and thank god it has stopped, and it could resume now because of what is happening in Kurdistan and Syria, with the new offensive from Turkey. Then it is Right-wing parties and politicians and traditionalists. For example, take Poland, I do not know if they are going to keep those who are still in power, but they have a good chance, they are traditionalists. Those traditionalists nowadays in Europe are really old-fashioned and are those who support greater dynamism of Europe, for the development of the European Union.

So from Russia, there are two different attitudes. One is to follow your general public and it can be challenging, something new, something outstanding, it is all that stuff. The other: some of the Russians see that they can play worse, these right-wingers and traditional that are not always traditionalists, are ready to interact with Russia, once again on this Polish case. The Balkans are not as wide as previously, such an immense field of problems, but this bunch of Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia is still there and an uncertainty. Then it is Trump's US foreign policy towards Europe that makes the US more distant from Europe, that somehow poses difficulties inside Europe. It brings additional problems when it comes to overall organisation of world trade and makes all the EU's agreements with its neighbours and traditional partners, including African or ACP partners more complicated, since the US behaves in the world trade system in an absolutely, let us say, non-WTO way.

Then another list, of let us say, Greater Europe problems. First of all, it is the Ukraine. Then it is Turkey, because it provokes European problems outside Europe, which then come to Europe, again with more migration, with unrest in the Middle East and with new sometimes very surprising unions, alliances when it comes to the states. In the Middle East it involves the Europeans and Russia itself.

## Steven ERLANGER

Do you mind if I just come back? I am just curious, why do you think Russia is so attractive to European right-wingers? How do you explain that to yourself?

## Artem MALGIN

I guess it is simply a very superficial and wrong attitude because the Western European traditionalists simply say something that is different from Western Europe. They say different things that the governments and it is an old-

fashioned game that dates back to the period in-between the wars, to find out different awkward groupings and deal with them, their potential access to power in mind. I guess that both these attitudes are wrong and next that those awkward groupings, despite the fact that they happen to be very numerous, they come at once at some periods to the Europeans saying that they are not overwhelming friend in Europe.

**Steven ERLANGER**

Спасибо.