



We decided in Fall 2020, after thinking deeply about racism and discrimination in our own country, to examine these issues as they relate to our region of interest. The experiences of minorities and vulnerable communities living in Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe are often overlooked; in response, we launched the speaker series *Minority Inclusion and Exclusion in Soviet and Post-Soviet Societies*, organized by our postdoctoral research scholar Svetlana Borodina, which examines some of the latest academic research on issues of discrimination, representation, identity, and inequality in the USSR and postsocialist societies.

We are excited to feature as our cover story an essay by Borodina that examines how the principle of inclusion has evolved in Russia—from when it entered the public space in the 2010s to where it is today.

I am also thrilled to include a profile of our recent alumna Tinatin Japaridze, whose forthcoming book, *The Tale of Three Stalins*, emerged from a paper she wrote in my *Legacies of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union* course a few years ago.

We also have an article about kleptocracy and its corrosive effects on Western democracies coauthored by Tom Mayne, who has been investigating the topic since the mid-aughts, and alumnus Peter Zalmayev. The Harriman Institute has been a leader in kleptocracy-related research for some years, and I am glad to be covering this important issue in the magazine.

My colleague Padma Desai contributed a memoir essay about her trip to the USSR in 1964; the internationally acclaimed Russian writer Maria Stepanova, who will be in residence at Columbia's Department of Slavic Languages this fall, contributed an excerpt from her book *In Memory of Memory (A Romance)*. In addition, we have a profile of our alumnus Sanjay Sethi, who put together the first-ever human rights report on artistic repression in Central and Eastern Europe; an article on the legacy of Alexei Navalny by former postdoctoral research fellow Yana Gorokhovskaia; and a spotlight on the Harriman Institute's mentorship program.

Last year we were deeply saddened by the loss of two very important friends and colleagues: Stephen Cohen, scholar of Russian politics, Russian Institute alumnus, and longtime friend; and Jamey Gambrell, prize-winning translator, alumna, and former visiting scholar. Both made remarkable contributions to their fields and to our community and are sorely missed. You can read about them in the *In Memoriam* section.

As always, enjoy the issue, and please be in touch with any comments or ideas. We love to hear from you!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Cooley', written in a cursive style.

Alexander Cooley  
 Director, Harriman Institute