This account of historical politics in Ukraine, framed in a broader European context, shows how social, political, and cultural groups have used and misused the past from the final years of the Soviet Union to 2020. Georgiy Kasianov details practices relating to history and memory by a variety of actors, including state institutions, non-governmental organizations, political parties, historians, and local governments. He identifies the main political purposes of these practices in the construction of nation and identity, struggles for power, warfare, and international relations.

Kasianov considers the Ukrainian case in the context of a global increase in the politics of history and memory, with particular emphasis on a distinctive East-European variety. He pays special attention to the use and abuse of history in relations between Ukraine, Russia, and Poland.

"What happens when imperial narratives fall, and new national ones try to take their place? Memory Crash provides answers to this and many related questions in a way that combines analysis of a historian with the sensibilities of one of the key participants in the historical debates. A reflection and a report from the trenches of the historical wars at the same time, this book is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand today's Ukraine and the battles it is involved in."

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About the Author

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