Memory Crash

Kasianov, Georgiy

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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.”

Serhii Plokhy, Harvard University, author of The Frontline: Essays on Ukraine’s Past and Present

“This is an excellent book about the power of discourse, the discourse of power, and the extraordinary complex ways in which they mingle, fight and intertwine. Focusing on Ukraine while maintaining European and comparative perspectives, Georgiy Kasianov has produced an exemplary work in the contested but increasingly central field of East European memory studies.”

Alexander Etkind, European University Institute, Florence

“This is a fascinating analysis of history politics in Ukraine over the last forty years written by one of the best experts in the field. Kasianov tells an intriguing story about the way in which both governments and civil society actors have functionalized history in order to promote various versions of Ukrainian national identity. He explores the links of this mnemonic war to the Soviet era and also contextualizes it lucidly within a wider European and Russian history politics. This is a book that will be read with great benefit by anyone interested in the complex interactions between history and politics.”

Stefan Berger, Ruhr University Bochum, author of The Past as History: National Identity and Historical Consciousness in Modern Europe

The most comprehensive, critical-minded, and witty analysis of Ukrainian memory politics today, Kasianov’s new book will surprise everyone who is interested in Eastern Europe’s politics and future.”

Vladislav M. Zubok, London School of Economics and Politics

About the Author

Georgiy Kasianov is Head of the Laboratory of International Memory Studies, Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland. He is an author, co-author, and co-editor of more than twenty books on the history of Ukraine from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries.

On the cover: Ilya Repin, Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks (1891)

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