Biographical Statement
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Kimberly Marten is a professor of political science (and the department chair) at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is a faculty member of Columbia’s Harriman Institute for Russian and East-Central European Studies (where she served as the founding director of the Program on US-Russia Relations), and Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies. Marten has been conducting research on Soviet and Russian military, security, and foreign policy for 35 years. Her recent research focuses on Russia’s Wagner Group semi-state security company, as well as on Russia-NATO relations, Russia-Africa relations, Russia’s informal network political system and its effect on foreign policy, and the roles of Russian intelligence agencies. She has written four books: Warlords: Strong-Arm Brokers in Weak States (Cornell, 2012); Enforcing the Peace: Learning from the Imperial Past (Columbia, 2004); Weapons, Culture, and Self-Interest: Soviet Defense Managers in the New Russia (Columbia, 1997); and Engaging the Enemy: Organization Theory and Soviet Military Innovation (Princeton, 1993), which received the Marshall Shulman Prize from the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies. The Council on Foreign Relations published her special report, Reducing Tensions between Russia and NATO (2017). She has written 28 academic journal articles and book chapters, and her policy pieces have appeared in the Washington Quarterly, ForeignAffairs.com, War on the Rocks, Lawfare, the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage blog, the Huffington Post, the New York Times, and the New Republic, among other places. She is a frequent media commentator, and appeared on “The Daily Show” with Jon Stewart to talk about Russia’s 2014 seizure of Crimea. She earned her A.B. at Harvard and Ph.D. at Stanford. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Foreign Policy Experts Panel, and the Network 20/20 Advisory Board, and is a founding member of PONARS-Eurasia.