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The Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) would like to invite you to a conversation on

State Capture Through Economic Dependence: The Kremlin's Balkan Strategy

Featuring:

Janusz Bugajski, Senior Fellow, CEPA
Ruslan Stefanov, Director, Economic Program, CSD
Martin Vladimirov, Analyst, Economic Program, CSD
Brian Whitmore, Russia Program Director, CEPA

Moderated by:

Corina Rebegea, Fellow-in-Residence, CEPA

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

CEPA Offices 1275 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20004

Russia's presence in the Balkan region is nothing new: the Kremlin has tried to influence politics since before the fall of the Soviet Union. However, its tactics are changing, using what the Kremlin has learned in waging non-kinetic "hybrid" warfare to develop economic tools to influence governments in the region. Through investments in Balkan infrastructure, the energy sector, communication fields, finance, and retail, the Russian government is increasing its control over decision-making, also known as state capture.

A recent brief produced by the Center for the Study of Democracy dives into the Kremlin's tactics to influence policymakers in the Balkan region through private sector investments. During the roundtable discussion, CSD and CEPA experts will consider: is Russia using its own version of the "debt-trap" to commit governments to long-term economic projects that have significant political ramifications; what sectors are the most vulnerable for state capture in the Balkan region; what must the West do to prevent further Russian economic influence in domestic affairs; and how can the United States and the European Union assist the Balkan governments to prevent further state capture by the Kremlin?

This event is held with support from the National Endowment for Democracy.

To RSVP for this event, please contact **Christina Brown** at christina.brown@cepa.org or (202) 601-4148.

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