Putin vs. Civil Society
Part of IERES’s Behind the Headlines Series

with

Leon Aron, American Enterprise Institute
Miriam Lanskoy, National Endowment for Democracy
Robert Orttung, The George Washington University

Moderator: Marc F. Plattner, International Forum for Democratic Studies

The protests in Russia over corruption and electoral fraud in the 2011-12 winter revealed that civil society in the country is becoming more mature and innovative. Facing a loss of popularity and growing discontent, Russian President Vladimir Putin passed a variety of laws to suppress extremism, restrict civil society and stigmatize activism as anti-Russia, and protect “Russian values.” Based on their articles in the July 2013 Journal of Democracy, Leon Aron and Miriam Lanskoy will explore the characteristics of the opposition movement in Russia and the challenges it faces in light of Putin’s repressive legislation. Robert Orttung will discuss the role of civil society as it relates to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Leon Aron is resident scholar and director of Russian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author of three books and has contributed numerous essays and articles to a number of academic journals, newspapers, and magazines. Miriam Lanskoy is director of the Russia and Eurasia program at the National Endowment for Democracy. Before coming to the NED in 2003, she received a doctorate from Boston University in international affairs for her work on the Russian-Chechen conflict. Robert Orttung is associate research professor of international affairs and assistant director of the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at The George Washington University. He is also the managing editor of Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization.

Monday, September 30, 2013
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
National Endowment for Democracy
1025 F Street NW, Suite 800

Please RSVP by September 26 at http://putinvscivilsociety.eventbrite.com

A light lunch will be served 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.
This event is on the record.