Ukraine is currently embroiled in a tense battle with Russia to preserve its economic and political independence. But today’s conflict is only the latest in a long history of battles over Ukraine’s existence as a separate nation. Situated between Central Europe and Russia, Ukraine was shaped by the empires that have used it as a strategic gateway between East and West—from the Romans and Ottomans to the Third Reich and the Soviet Union, all have engaged in global fights for supremacy on Ukrainian soil. Prof. Serhii Plokhii provides an insight into the current crisis by examining the main trends in Ukraine’s *longue durée* history in his new book *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*. Please join us for a discussion of his latest work, which will be available for purchase.

Serhii Plokhii is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and the director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. A leading authority on the history of Eastern Europe, he has published extensively in English, Ukrainian, and Russian. Plokhii is the author of several influential monographs, including *Yalta: The Price of Peace* (2010) and *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union* (2014), which won numerous awards, including the Lionel Gelber Prize for the best book in English on international topics, the Pushkin House (London) Russian Book Prize, and the Antonovych Foundation Ukrainian Book Prize. In 2009, Plokhii was honored with the Early Slavic Studies Association Distinguished Scholarship Award. His most recent book, *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*, was released by Basic Books in New York and Penguin in London in December 2015.

Friday, May 6, 2016
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
1957 E St. NW, Room 505
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/plokhii