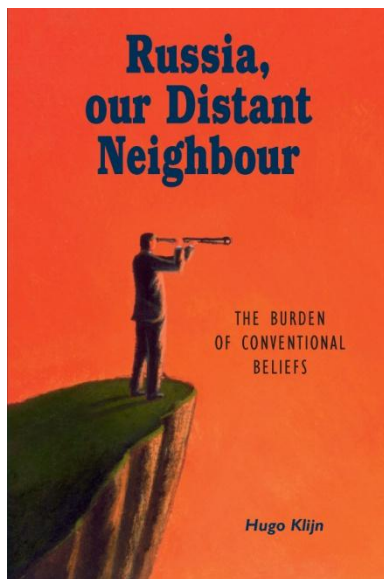


New publication



In *Russia, our Distant Neighbour* Hugo Klijn sets out to examine some Western conventional beliefs about the world's biggest country, one which has had such a profound impact on European history ever since Peter the Great supervised its rise to prominence. Klijn establishes that for considerable periods of time, most notably during the nineteenth century, the issue of Russia's "Europeanness" was beyond dispute. He also nuances the allegation that Russian radicalism forbids gradual change and, at the same time, prescribes an aggressive foreign policy. When discussing the end of the Soviet Union, Klijn stresses the importance of indigenous dynamics, and argues that Western policies in the 1990s, primarily those pertaining to

NATO enlargement, remain controversial among Russian political elites. Finally, he warns against applying Western standards in assessing today's Russia and its leadership, because this will generate myopic views of a diverse and complex country.

Hugo Klijn studied contemporary history at Utrecht University. He has been working for the Netherlands Foreign Ministry since 1990, and held foreign postings in Moscow, Belgrade and Brussels (NATO). From September 2009 till September 2011 he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'. He has written this study in a personal capacity at the invitation of the Netherlands Atlantic Association.