

Albuquerque International Association

The Coolest Killer: Putin's Use of Lies, Corruption and *Ressentiment* for Total Power and War, 2000-2022

Dr. Byron Lindsey

*Professor Emeritus of the University of New Mexico
in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Friday, August 19, 2022 3:00 p.m.

Botts Hall, Albuquerque Special Collections Library

423 Central NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (Central & Edith)

The lecture traces the history of Vladimir Putin's rule of Russia from 2000 to the present, with attention to the evolution of his political methods and the state tools he has employed in establishing a stable regime with or without the Russian electorate. The parallel changes in Russian society and its economic machinery offer material for understanding the largely silent consent given to Putin's violent and totalitarian methods in restraining, even destroying all opposition and dissent. His emerging scorn for western democracy especially when practiced by bordering former Soviet states is set in a context of the philosophical-psychological concept of *ressentiment*, first articulated by Frederick Nietzsche and developed by 20th century philosopher Max Scheler. Professor Lindsey will draw from his scholarly work on 20th century Russian literature and society as well as his long experience living in the USSR and Russia as a scholar and teacher.

Byron Lindsey is UNM Professor Emeritus in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. He taught a wide range of courses in Russian language and literature from 1971 to 2007. He was awarded numerous grants for research in the former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, including two Fulbrights in 1989-90, when he taught at Moscow State University and at the Pedagogical University of Kazakhstan in Almaty, and in 2005 when he conducted research on the literature of Dagestan. He is the author of various studies of Russian literature, as well as many translations, notably Vladimir Makanin's works collected in *The Loss* (Northwestern University Press, 1998). A native of Las Cruces, he and his wife reside in the Albuquerque North Valley.

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