

Title: Not One Inch: America, Russia, and the Making of Post-Cold War Stalemate  
Speaker: Dr. Mary E. Sarotte, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University  
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POC: Dr. David Stone

Zoom link:

<https://usnwc.zoom.us/j/88637979856?pwd=RndVTUVORzh6RFZRO1lGT1JCaY0QT09>

Meeting ID: 886 3797 9856  
Password: 019020

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Not one inch. With these words, Secretary of State James Baker proposed a hypothetical bargain to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev after the fall of the Berlin Wall: if you give up your part of Germany, we will move NATO not one inch eastward. Controversy erupted almost immediately over this 1990 exchange—but more important was the decade to come, when the words took on new meaning. Gorbachev let his Germany go, but Washington rethought the bargain, not least after the Soviet Union's own collapse in December 1991. Washington realized it could not just win big but win bigger. Their new approach: Not one inch of territory needed to be off limits to NATO. In the decade that culminated in Vladimir Putin's rise to power, the United States and Russia undermined a potentially lasting partnership.

### **BIO:**



An expert in the history of international relations, Mary Elise Sarotte is the inaugural holder of the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Distinguished Professorship of Historical Studies. Most recently, she was the Dean's Professor of History and Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California (USC). She is also a research associate at Harvard University's Center for European Studies. Sarotte earned her AB in History and Science at Harvard and her PhD in History at Yale University. She is the author or editor of five books, including *The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall* and *1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe*, both of which were selected as *Financial Times* Books of the Year, among other distinctions and awards. Following graduate school, Sarotte served as a White House Fellow, then joined the faculty of the University of Cambridge, where she received tenure before accepting an offer to return to the United States to teach at USC. Sarotte is a former Humboldt Scholar, a former member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She also serves on the board of the Willy Brandt Foundation in Berlin.