

THE UKRAINE CONFLICT

The principle of sovereignty is based on the Westphalian Peace Treaty from 1648. The ongoing crisis over Ukraine is posing a clear and present danger to Europe's stability. Since the illegal Russian occupation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, the situation in the Eastern part of Ukraine is still in turmoil and it remains highly volatile. Russia's foreign policy relies upon the relicts of a fallen empire but the means put in place today are new and adapted to 21st century warfare. The questions how Russia's Military could occupy Crimea basically overnight and how Moscow justifies its military intervention in Eastern Ukraine will be the focus of our panel discussion. The scope of our debate will touch upon several disciplines ranging from International Relations to International Law. The discussion is a contemporary perspective of a conflict that has been forgotten in the eyes of the international media. The economic dimension of the current crisis over Ukraine plays an equally important role and hence will be presented within the framework of bilateral relations between Bern and Kiev. The economic aspect is central, as only Ukraine's ability to reform and implement a sustainable policy will provide its citizens with stability and the hope for a prosperous future.

PROGRAM

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| 16:30 - 16:35 | Welcome: Rahmi Dogan (PhD candidate, University of Basel & Chairman of MERGEN CONSULTING) |
| 16:35 - 16:45 | Introduction: Prof. Dr. Frithjof Benjamin Schenk (University of Basel) |
| 16:45 - 17:20 | Prof. Dr. iure. Denise Brühl-Moser (University of Basel) |
| 17:20 - 17:55 | Prof. Dr. Nicolas Hayoz (University of Fribourg) |
| 17:55 - 18:30 | Frau Christine Honegger Zolothukins (Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) |
| 18:30 - 18:50 | Comment: Dr. Josef Bollag (Attorney, Zug) |
| 18:50 - 20:00 | Closure & Apéro |

15TH MARCH 2018

**Peter-Merian Weg 6, 4001 Basel
WWZ Auditorium, Erdgeschoss**

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