

Mitchell A. Orenstein is Professor and Chair of Russian and East European Studies at University of Pennsylvania and Senior Fellow at Foreign Policy Research Institute. His books on the political economy and international affairs of Central and Eastern Europe have won numerous prizes. His most recent book, *Taking Stock of Shock* (Oxford University Press, 2021), co-authored with Prof. Kristen Ghodsee, evaluates the social consequences of the 1989 revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Orenstein is also the author of *The Lands in Between: Russia vs. The West and the New Politics of Hybrid War* (Oxford University Press, 2019), a study of how intensifying geopolitical conflict has shaped politics in the lands in between Russia and the West. It documents the “civilizational choice” faced by these countries, the resulting sharp polarization of politics, and the rise of corrupt power brokers who balance between both sides.