



Michael McFaul

Ken Olivier and Angela Nomellini Professor of International Studies, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and at the Woods Institute for the Environment

Political Science

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Michael McFaul is the Ken Olivier and Angela Nomellini Professor of International Studies in Political Science, Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, all at Stanford University. He joined the Stanford faculty in 1995 and served as FSI Director from 2015 to 2025. He is also an international affairs analyst for MSNOW.

McFaul served for five years in the Obama administration, first as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House (2009-2012), and then as U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2012-2014). McFaul has authored ten books and edited several others, including, most recently, *Autocrats vs. Democrats: China, Russia, America, and the New Global Disorder*, as well as *From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia*, (a New York Times bestseller) *Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should, How We Can*; and *Russia's Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin*.

He is a recipient of numerous awards, including an honorary PhD from Montana State University; the Order for Merits to Lithuania from President Gitanas Nausea of Lithuania; Order of Merit of Third Degree from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, and the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Stanford University. In 2015, he was the Distinguished Mingde Faculty Fellow at the Stanford Center at Peking University.

McFaul was born and raised in Montana. He received his B.A. in International Relations and Slavic Languages and his M.A. in Soviet and East European Studies from Stanford University in 1986. As a Rhodes Scholar, he completed his D. Phil. in International Relations at Oxford University in 1991.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Political Science
- Hoover Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
- Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Political Science, (2001-2004)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science, (2001-2004)

- Co-director, Iran Democracy Project, Hoover Institution, (2003-2009)
- Director, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, (2006-2009)
- Deputy Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, (2006-2009)
- Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, (2015-2025)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Rhodes Scholar, Rhodes (1986-1991)
- Russian Politics lecture course (Poli Sci 121M) selected by students as one of the ten best courses, Stanford Review (1996)
- Best Paper, Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) National Convention (2001)
- Honorable Mention, Vucinich Prize for best book in Slavic Studies for Russia's Unfinished Revolution (2002)
- Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University (2004)
- Lepgold Book Prize for best book in international relations for Power and Purpose w/ James Goldgeier, Georgetown University (2004)
- Reagan/Fascell Fellow, International Forum for Democratic Studies., National Endowment for Democracy (2004)
- Class Day Speaker, Stanford University (2007)
- The New York Times Best-Seller list, The New York Times (2018)
- Richard W. Lyman Award Winner, Stanford University (2019)
- Alum of the Year, Bozeman High School Speech and Debate, Bozeman Senior High School (2022)
- Order of Merit, Third Degree from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Government of Ukraine (August 24, 2022)
- Honorary Doctorate, Montana State University (December 12, 2015)
- Mensch Award, Mensch International Foundation (February 2025)
- Order for Merits to Lithuania from President of the Republic of Lithuania, Government of Lithuania (January 31, 2024)
- Award for leadership in Ukrainian Studies in the United States, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (July 2024)
- Weidenbaum Center Award for Excellence, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University-St. Louis (May 5, 2016)
- Silicon Valley Urban Debate League Speaker of the Year, Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (September 22, 2022)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES)
- Program in International Relations

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Oxford University , International Relations (1991)
- M.A., Stanford University , Russian and East European Studies (1986)
- B.A., Stanford University , International Relations and Slavic Languages (1986)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

American foreign policy, great power relations, comparative autocracies, and the relationship between democracy and development.

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: INTLPOL 211, POLISCI 312, REES 219 (Spr)

2024-25

- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: INTLPOL 211, POLISCI 312, REES 219 (Spr)

2023-24

- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: INTLPOL 211 (Win)
- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: OSPBEIJ 40 (Spr)
- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: POLISCI 312, REES 219 (Win)

2022-23

- A New Cold War? Great Power Relations in the 21st Century: INTLPOL 211, POLISCI 312, REES 219 (Spr)
- Defending Democracy at Home and Abroad: POLISCI 62 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral (Program)

Vladimir Novikov, Jake Yeager

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Why Putin Invaded Ukraine** *WAR IN UKRAINE*
McFaul, M., Person, R.
edited by Brands, H.
2024: 34-54
- **WHAT PUTIN FEARS MOST** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
Person, R., McFaul, M.
2022; 33 (2): 18-27
- **RUSSIA'S ROAD TO AUTOCRACY** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M.
2021; 32 (4): 11-26
- **The Power of Putin in Russian Foreign Policy** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*
Gotz, E., McFaul, M.
2021; 46 (1): 196-200
- **Pragmatic Idealism in U.S. Foreign Policy: Lessons from the Cold War for Dealing with China, Russia, and Iran Today (forthcoming)**
McFaul, M.
2021
- **Cold War Lessons and Fallacies for US-China Relations Today** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
McFaul, M.
2020; 43 (4): 7-39
- **Is Putinism the Russian Norm or an Aberration?** *CURRENT HISTORY*
McFaul, M.
2018; 117 (801): 251-57
- **Russia as It Is A Grand Strategy for Confronting Putin** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
McFaul, M.
2018; 97 (4): 82-91
- **Choosing Autocracy: Actors, Institutions, and Revolution in the Erosion of Russian Democracy** *COMPARATIVE POLITICS*

-
- McFaul, M.
2018; 50 (3): 305-+
- **From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia**
McFaul, M.
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.2018
 - **Reading Reagan in Tehran: A Strategy of Realistic Engagement** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
McFaul, M., Milani, A.
2016; 39 (4): 145-163
 - **Who Lost Russia (This Time)? Vladimir Putin** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
Stoner, K., McFaul, M.
2015; 38 (2): 167-187
 - **Moscow's Choice** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
McFaul, M.
2014; 93 (6): 167-71
 - **Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should and How We Can**
McFaul, M. A.
Roman & Littlefield.2009
 - **Introduction: American and European Strategies to Promote Democracy - Shared Values, Common Challenges, Divergent Tools?** *PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW: AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN STRATEGIES*
Magen, A., McFaul, M. A.
edited by Magen, A., Risse, T., McFaul, M. A.
2009: 1-33
 - **The myth of the authoritarian model - How Putin's crackdown holds Russia back** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
McFaul, M., Stoner-Weiss, K.
2008; 87 (1): 68-?
 - **The limits of limited reforms** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M., Wittes, T. C.
2008; 19 (1): 19-33
 - **Ukraine imports democracy - External influences on the orange revolutione** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*
McFaul, M.
2007; 32 (2): 45-83
 - **Electing to flight: Why emerging democracies go to war. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
2007; 18 (2): 160-167
 - **Constructing self-enforcing federalism in the early United States and modern Russia** *PUBLIUS-THE JOURNAL OF FEDERALISM*
de Figueiredo, R. J., McFaul, M., Weingast, B. R.
2007; 37 (2): 160-189
 - **Virtual politics: Faking democracy in the post-Soviet world. (Book Review)** *SLAVIC REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
2007; 66 (1): 167-168
 - **Should democracy be promoted or demoted?** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
Fukuyama, F., McFaul, M.
2007; 31 (1): 23-45
 - **Engaging autocratic allies to promote democracy** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
Adesnik, D., McFaul, M.
2006; 29 (2): 7-?

- **A win-win US strategy for dealing with Iran** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
McFaul, M., Milani, A., Diamond, L.
2006; 30 (1): 121-138
- **Russian resilience as a great power: A response to ambrosio** *POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS*
McFaul, M., Vacroux, A.
2006; 22 (1): 24-33
- **What to do about Russia** *POLICY REVIEW*
Goldgeier, J. M., McFaul, M.
2005: 45-62
- **Chinese dreams, Persian realities** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M.
2005; 16 (4): 74-82
- **Transitions from postcommunism** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M.
2005; 16 (3): 5-19
- **A transatlantic strategy to promote democratic development in the broader Middle East** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
Asmus, R. D., Diamond, L., Leonard, M., McFaul, M.
2005; 28 (2): 7-21
- **Democracy promotion as a world value** *WASHINGTON QUARTERLY*
McFaul, M.
2005; 28 (1): 147-163
- **Putin and the "delegative democracy" trap: Evidence from Russia's 2003-04 elections** *POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS*
HALE, H. E., McFaul, M., Colton, T. J.
2004; 20 (4): 285-319
- **The next Transatlantic project - Promoting democracy from North Africa to Afghanistan** *INTERNATIONALE POLITIK*
AHLIN, U., Asmus, R., Everts, S., Hybaskova, J., Leonard, M., McFaul, M., Mertes, M.
2004; 59 (4): 84-88
- **Gorbachev and Yeltsin as leaders. (Book Review)** *SLAVIC REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
2004; 63 (1): 200-201
- **The evolving social science of postcommunism - Introduction** *Conference on Ten Years Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union - Comparative Lessons and Perspective*
McFaul, M., Stoner-Weiss, K.
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.2004: 1-20
- **Russians as joiners: Realist and liberal conceptions of postcommunist europe** *Conference on Ten Years Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union - Comparative Lessons and Perspective*
Goldgeier, J. M., McFaul, M.
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.2004: 232-256
- **Between Dictatorship and Democracy: Russian Post-Communist Political Reform**
McFaul, M., Petrov, N., Ryabov, A.
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.2004
- **The fourth wave of democracy and dictatorship: Noncooperative transitions in the postcommunist world** *Conference on Ten Years Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union - Comparative Lessons and Perspective*
McFaul, M.
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.2004: 58-95
- **Russian democracy under Putin** *PROBLEMS OF POST-COMMUNISM*

- Colton, T. J., McFaul, M.
2003; 50 (4): 12-21
- **Popular Choice and Managed Democracy: The Russian Elections of 1999 and 2000**
Colton, T., McFaul Michael
2003
 - **Power and Purpose: American Policy toward Russia after the Cold War**
Goldgeier, J., McFaul, M.
Brookings Institution Press.2003
 - **Are Russians undemocratic? POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS**
Colton, T. J., McFaul, M.
2002; 18 (2): 91-121
 - **The liberty doctrine - Reclaiming the purpose of American power POLICY REVIEW**
McFaul, M.
2002: 3-22
 - **The fourth wave of democracy and dictatorship - Noncooperative transitions in the postcommunist world WORLD POLITICS**
McFaul, M.
2002; 54 (2): 212-?
 - **Taliban: Militant Islam, oil, and fundamentalism in central Asia. (Book Review) JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY**
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
2002; 13 (1): 170-175
 - **Explaining party formation and nonformation in Russia - Actors, institutions, and chance COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES**
McFaul, M.
2001; 34 (10): 1159-1187
 - **America's real Russian allies FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
Colton, T. J., McFaul, M.
2001; 80 (6): 46-58
 - **Realistic engagement: A new approach to American-Russian relations CURRENT HISTORY**
McFaul, M.
2001; 100 (648): 313-321
 - **Elections and voters in post-Communist Russia (Book Review) SLAVIC REVIEW**
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
2001; 60 (1): 191-192
 - **Putin in power CURRENT HISTORY**
McFaul, M.
2000; 99 (639): 307-314
 - **Reinventing Russia's party of power: "Unity" and the 1999 Duma election POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS**
Colton, T. J., McFaul, M.
2000; 16 (3): 201-224
 - **One step forward, two steps back JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY**
McFaul, M.
2000; 11 (3): 19-?
 - **Russian democracy: Still not a lost cause WASHINGTON QUARTERLY**
McFaul, M.
2000; 23 (1): 161-172
 - **Authoritarian and democratic responses to the financial meltdown in Russia PROBLEMS OF POST-COMMUNISM**
McFaul, M.

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- 1999; 46 (4): 22-32
- **The perils of a protracted transition** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M.
1999; 10 (2): 4-18
 - **The rebirth of politics in Russia. (Book Review)** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY*
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
1999; 104 (5): 1587-1589
 - **Getting Russia right** *FOREIGN POLICY*
McFaul, M.
1999: 58-73
 - **Russia's summer of discontent** *CURRENT HISTORY*
McFaul, M.
1998; 97 (621): 307-312
 - **Russia's 'Privatized' state as an impediment to democratic consolidation - Part II** *SECURITY DIALOGUE*
McFaul, M.
1998; 29 (3): 315-332
 - **Russia's 'privatized' state as an impediment to democratic consolidation part I** *SECURITY DIALOGUE*
McFaul, M.
1998; 29 (2): 191-199
 - **Transition to democracy in Eastern Europe (Book Review)** *SLAVIC REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: McFaul, M.
1998; 57 (1): 174-175
 - **A precarious peace - Domestic politics in the making of Russian foreign policy** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*
McFaul, M.
1998; 22 (3): 5-35
 - **Russian electoral politics after transition: Regional and national assessments** *POST-SOVIET GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS*
McFaul, M., Petrov, N.
1997; 38 (9): 507-549
 - **Russia's 1996 presidential elections** *POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS*
McFaul, M.
1996; 12 (4): 318-350
 - **The allocation of property rights in Russia: The first round** *COMMUNIST AND POST-COMMUNIST STUDIES*
McFaul, M.
1996; 29 (3): 287-308
 - **Russia between elections .1. The vanishing center** *JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY*
McFaul, M.
1996; 7 (2): 90-104
 - **Revolutionary ideas, state interests, and Russian foreign policy** *Workshop on Political Cultural and Civil Society in Russia*
McFaul, M.
M E SHARPE INC. 1995: 27-52
 - **STATE POWER, INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, AND THE POLITICS OF PRIVATIZATION IN RUSSIA** *WORLD POLITICS*
McFaul, M.
1995; 47 (2): 210-243
 - **WHY ZHIRINOVSKY CAN WIN - NUT N HONEY** *NEW REPUBLIC*
McFaul, M.

1994; 210 (7): 23-?

● **RUSSIAN CENTRISM AND REVOLUTIONARY TRANSITIONS** *POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS*

McFaul, M.

1993; 9 (3): 192-222

● **A TALE OF 2 WORLDS - CORE AND PERIPHERY IN THE POST-COLD-WAR ERA** *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*

Goldgeier, J. M., McFaul, M.

1992; 46 (2): 467-491

● **THE DEMISE OF THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS - SOVIET-ANGOLAN RELATIONS UNDER GORBACHEV** *JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES*

McFaul, M.

1990; 16 (1): 165-189

● **RETHINKING THE REAGAN DOCTRINE IN ANGOLA** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*

McFaul, M.

1990; 14 (3): 99-135