



THE INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)

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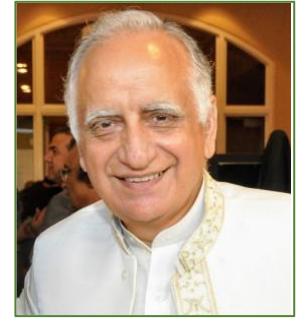
# The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: How Did This Happen?



Benjamin Rifkin  
Presenter,  
Board member  
Interfaith Institute of LI  
and Prof. of Russian  
at Hofstra University



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Host,  
Prof. Faroque A. Khan  
Intensivist,  
Chair Interfaith Institute  
of Long Island (IFI)

- Dr. Benjamin Rifkin, a professor of Russian at Hofstra University and a member of the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Institute of Long Island, will share with us background on the history of relations between Russians and Ukrainians. In his talk, he will take up the explanations offered by Russian President Vladimir Putin to justify the invasion of Ukraine:
- Are Russia and Ukraine distinct nations? Putin says they are not, but Dr. Rifkin will explain that they are.
- Is the Ukrainian government fascist? Putin says it is, but Dr. Rifkin will explain how it is not.
- Are the Ukrainian people committing a genocide against native speakers of Russian who are citizens of Ukraine? Putin says they are, but Dr. Rifkin will explain how they are not.
- After his presentation, Dr. Rifkin will answer questions from those attending.

**Date: Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Time: 8pm, Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Registration by: Email: [faroquekhan@outlook.com](mailto:faroquekhan@outlook.com)**

**Zoom invite will be sent to all registrant**