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The initial planning stage for this book began in late February 2022. Just as I was considering its overall scope and structure, Russia's military launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian women, men, and children, including my friends and relatives, found themselves in harm's way. Their suffering, resolve, sacrifice, and infinite bravery will undoubtedly fill many a work of future historians. This book, while not explicitly about the Russo-Ukrainian War, developed in its shadow. *Medievalism and Russia* is an attempt to explain (to myself, first of all), the hold medieval past has on Russia's politics and ideologies. The Middle Ages shaped the words, thoughts, and actions of not only Vladimir Putin and his circle, but of his predecessors for centuries. I hope that this volume—brief and by no means exhaustive—will help provide a deeper historical context for Russia's actions past and present, including its current criminal war.

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