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Today's Ukraine referendum is part of a Russian plan. We need a deal to resist it

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The reason why so many pundits were so wrong about the possibility of Russia invading Crimea is that that they underestimated President Vladimir Putin's determination to recover Russia's great power status by reasserting control in the former Soviet Union. Even now, there is a certain tendency to regard the Russian seizure of Crimea as a limited issue. In fact, Crimea may merely be a prelude to a Russian attempt to take over the Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine, if not to control the whole country.

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understanding whereby vast sections of the Ukrainian economy fell under joint control, and Ukrainian trade agreements with anyone else would require Russian approval.

- **Since the Ukrainian revn**

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