



The View From Putin's Head

Presenter: Louise Branson

Date: May 31

Time: 9:30 -11:00 AM on Zoom

Fee: 200 THB

Louise Branson, veteran (London) Sunday Times journalist, author and war correspondent, spent 11 years reporting from the former Soviet Union, Russia, and Eastern Europe. She gives a very personal account of how those experiences inform her view of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, of what has shaped Putin, and of what is going on in his head. "History," an old Soviet joke says, "is very difficult to predict," a reference to the Soviet era's changing accounts of history used to justify leadership decisions. It could not be more apt today as Putin fits himself and his ruthless actions into a vision that has disturbing implications for the whole world. Here is a link to her article about Putin's war, written early in the Ukraine invasion <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2022/02/26/putin-thinks-he-cant-lose-dictator-russia/6952972001/>. She is also a biographer of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a former US correspondent for The Scotsman, and a former USA Today foreign policy editorial writer. Her latest co-authored book is *The Inconvenient Journalist*.