

COORDINATION PROBLEMS

PSC/IR 265: CIVIL WAR AND INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS

WILLIAM SPANIEL

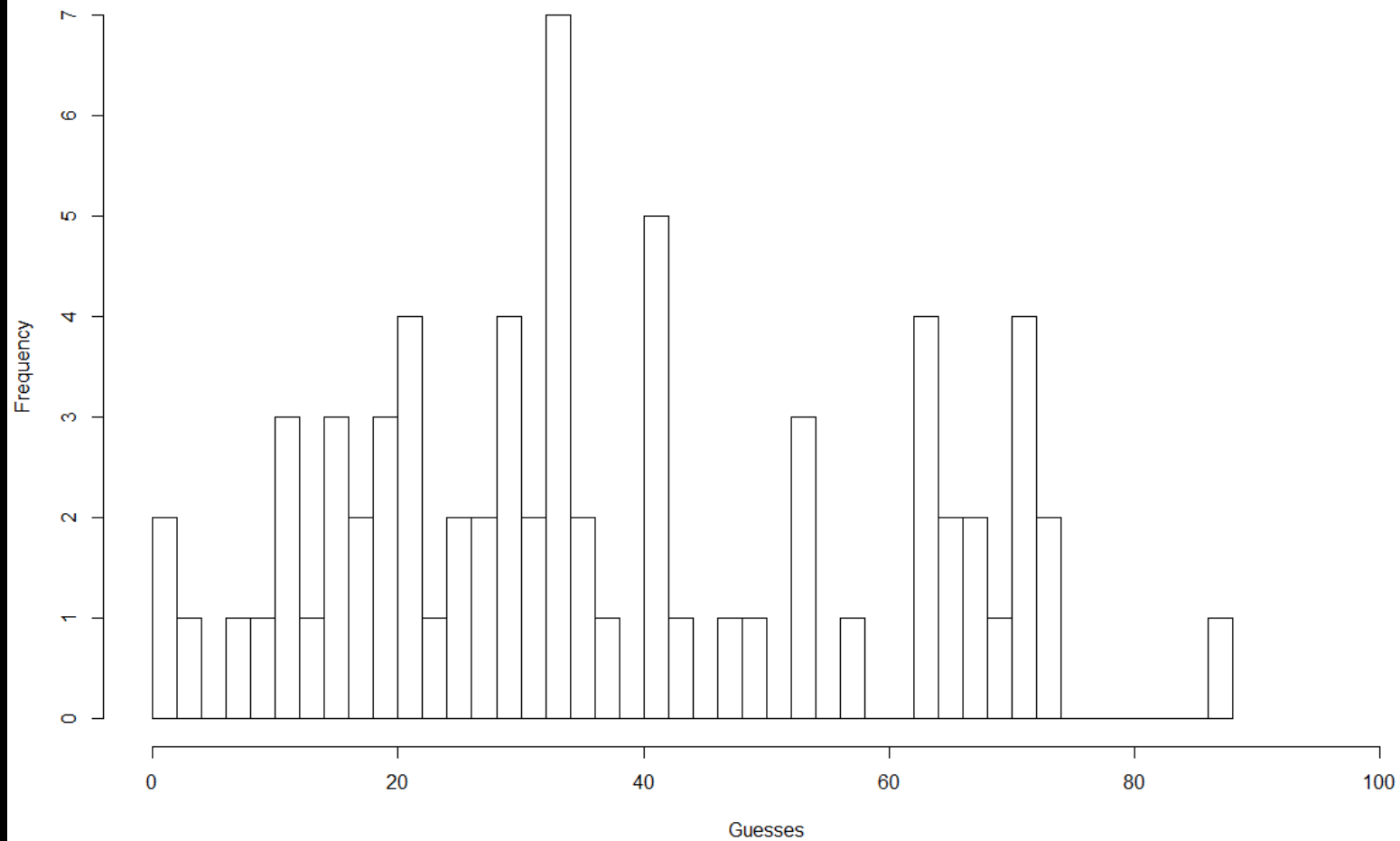
WILLIAMSPANIEL.COM/PSCIR-265-2015

Overview

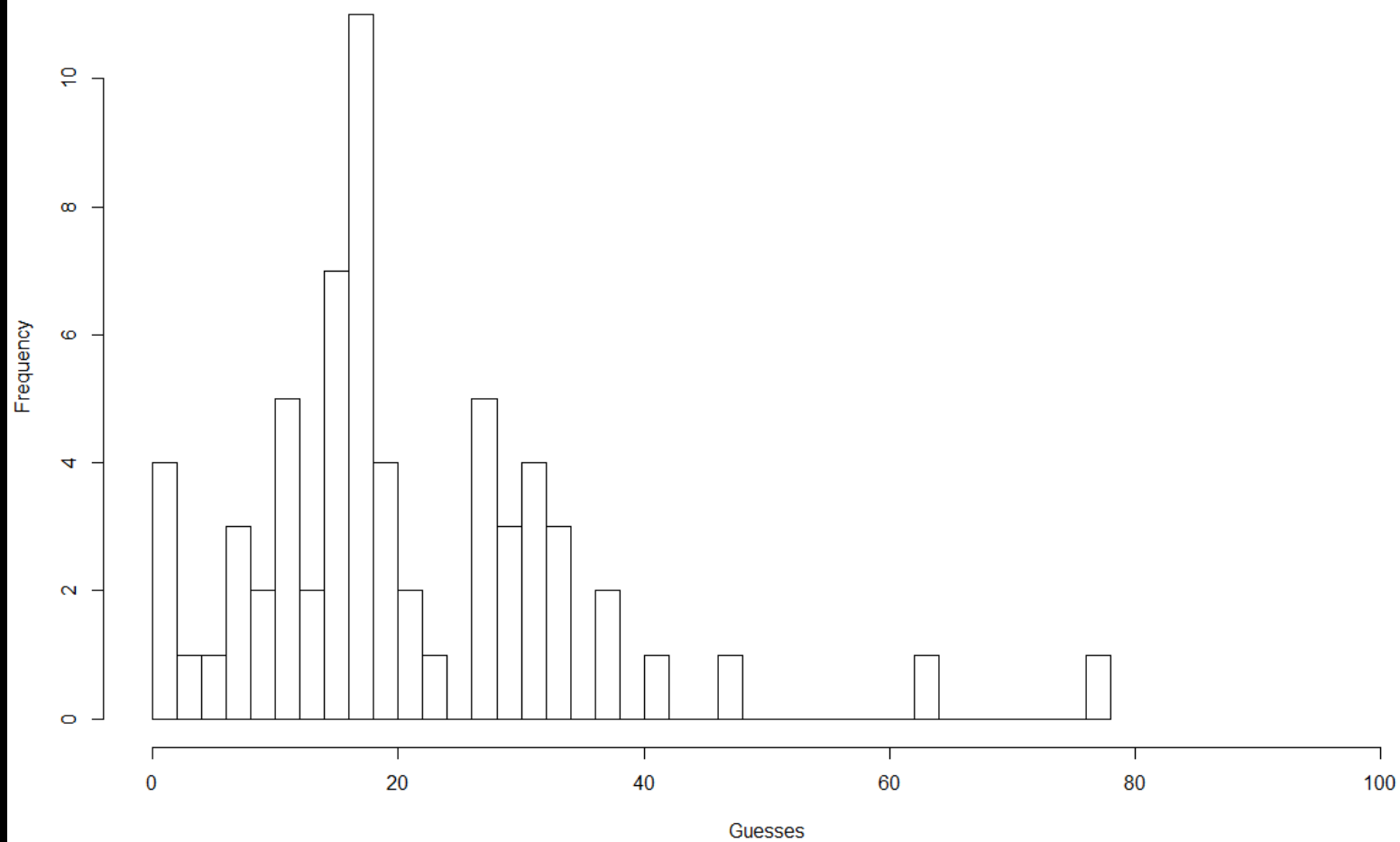
1. Coordination Problems => Commitment Problems
2. The Fall of the Berlin Wall
3. China's Internet Censorship
4. Ukraine

NO MORE TALKING

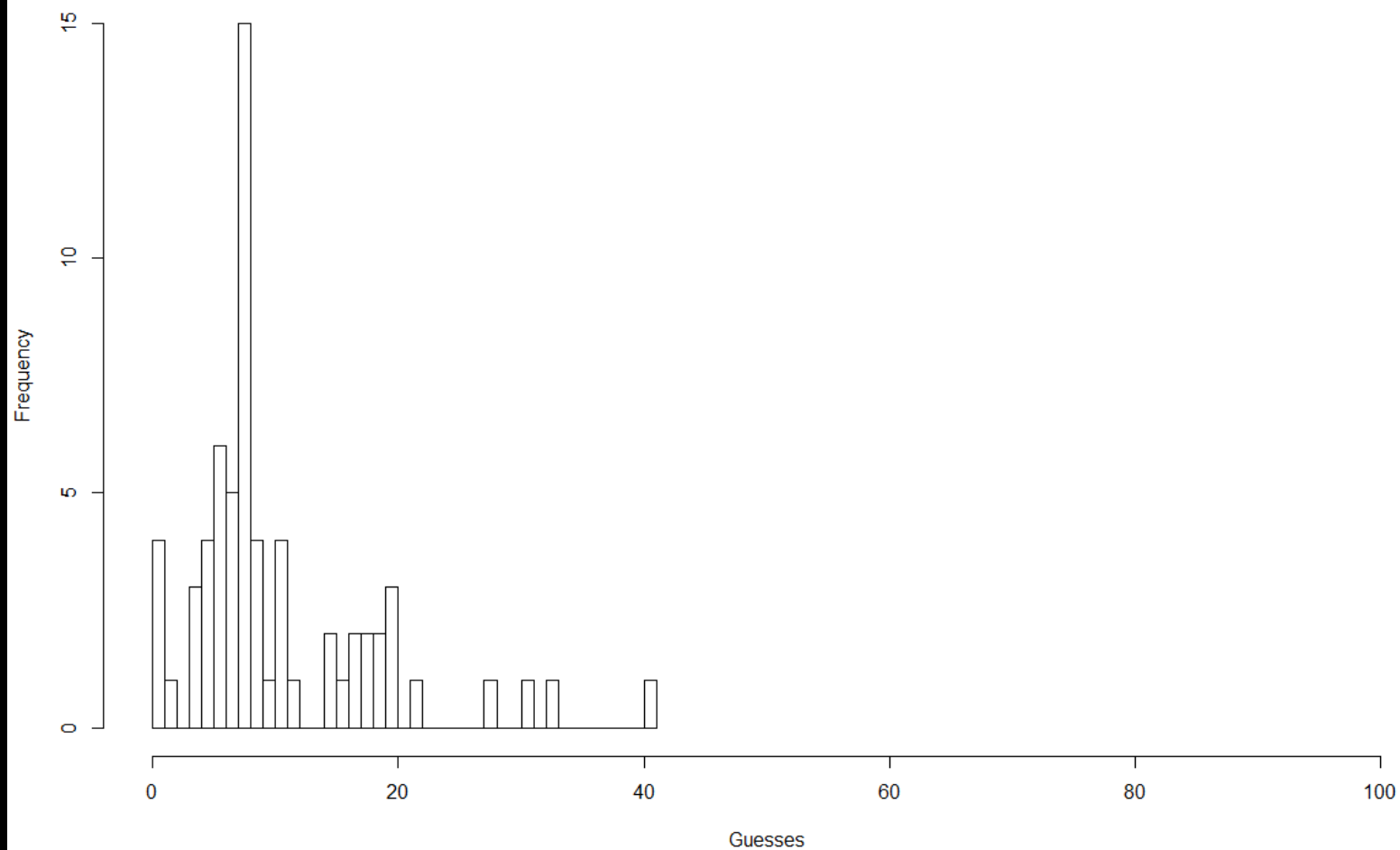
Guess 2/3rds the Average, Round 1



Guess 2/3rds the Average, Round 2



Guess 2/3rds the Average, Round 3



A Coordination Game

- You are poor, lowly ~~undergrads~~ people living under an oppressive dictator
- You would like to protest to demand concessions

A Coordination Game

- If too few of you protest, the government will have enough bullets to shoot all of you
- If enough of you protest, the government will have to negotiate with you

A Coordination Game

- The dictator has $n - 1$ bullets, where n is the number of students in this room
 - So all of you need to protest, or all protestors will die

A Coordination Game

- Dead people earn \$0
- Non-protestors earn \$4
- A successful protest yields \$5 to all protestors

A Coordination Game

- Write your name and a GIGANTIC “P” if you want to protest or a GIGANTIC “N” if you don’t
- Pass them forward when you are done

Multiple Outcomes

- Multiple outcomes are rational
- If everyone thinks everyone else will protest, protesting makes sense
- If anyone thinks a single person will not protest, not protesting makes sense

Protesting Is Hard

- High risks => incentives to stay home
- Incentives to stay home => fewer protestors
- Fewer protestors => higher risks

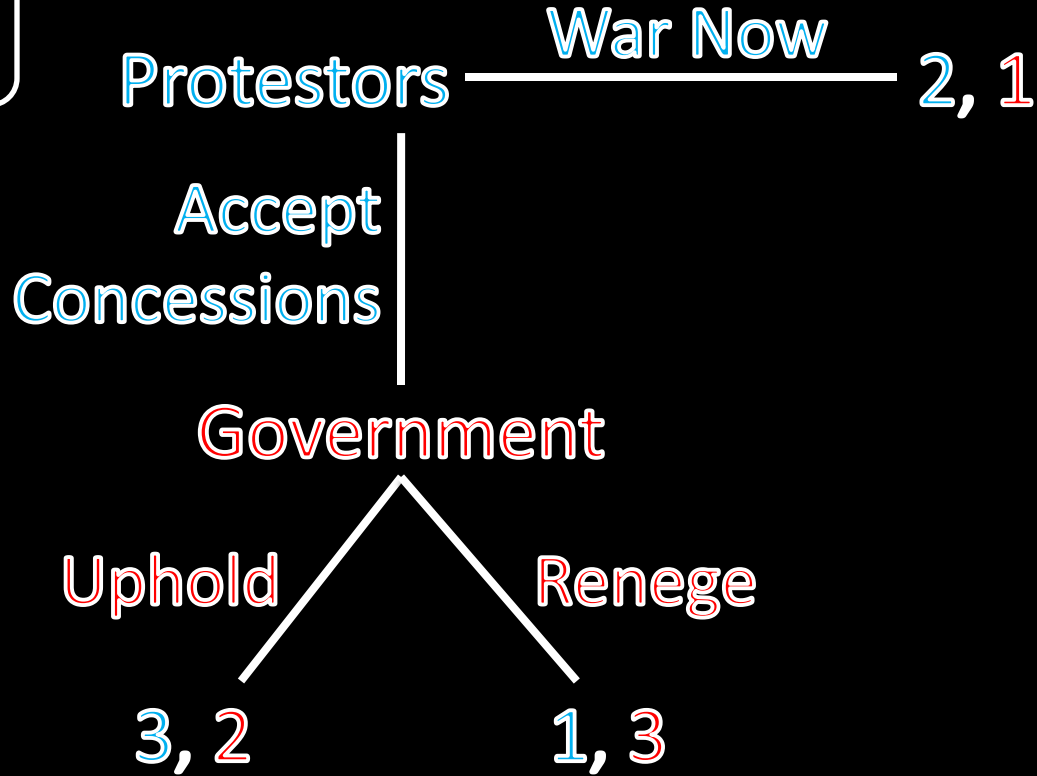
Magical Coordination

- Imagine a coordination problem. Yeah, that's a coordination problem.
- We can solve it. Yeah, that's a coordination problem. Thereafter

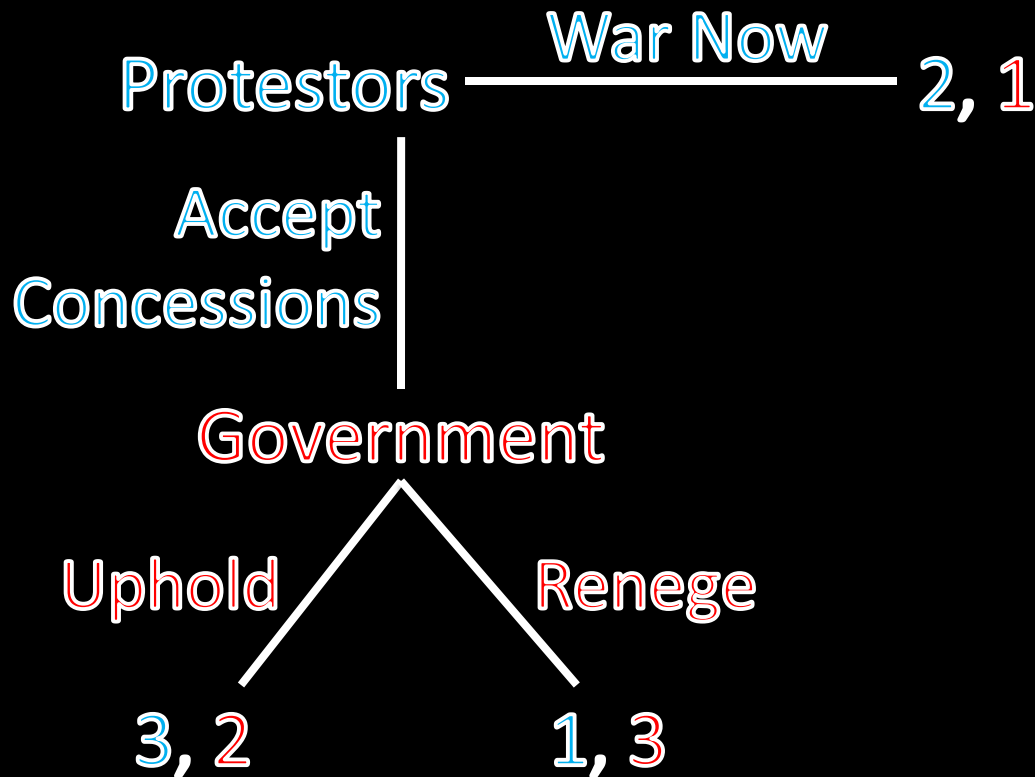




Yeah, that's a
commitment
problem.



The Arab Spring Game



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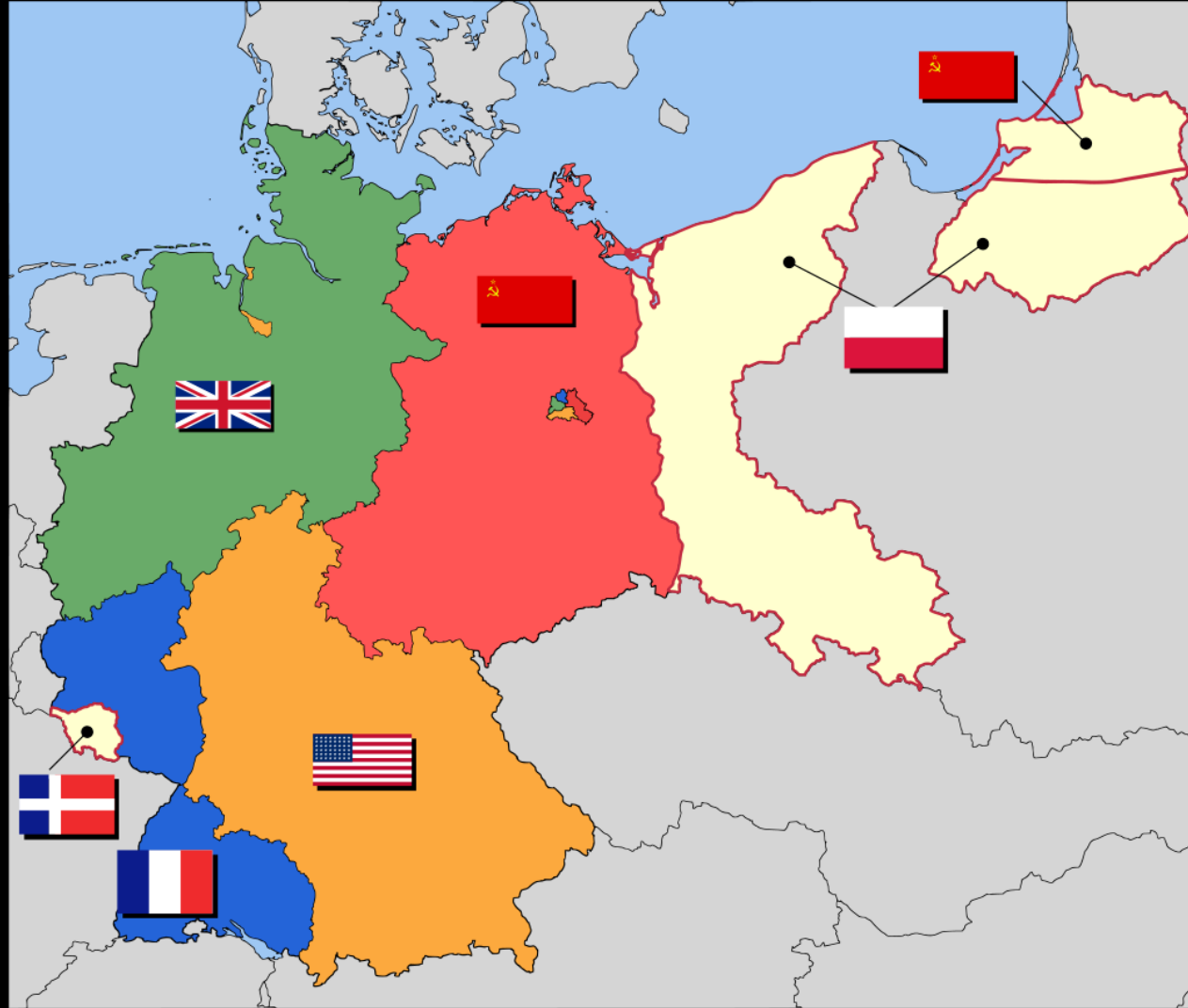






What You Probably Know

- Allies split Germany into East and West after World War II
- Berlin entirely in East Germany but split



What You Probably Know

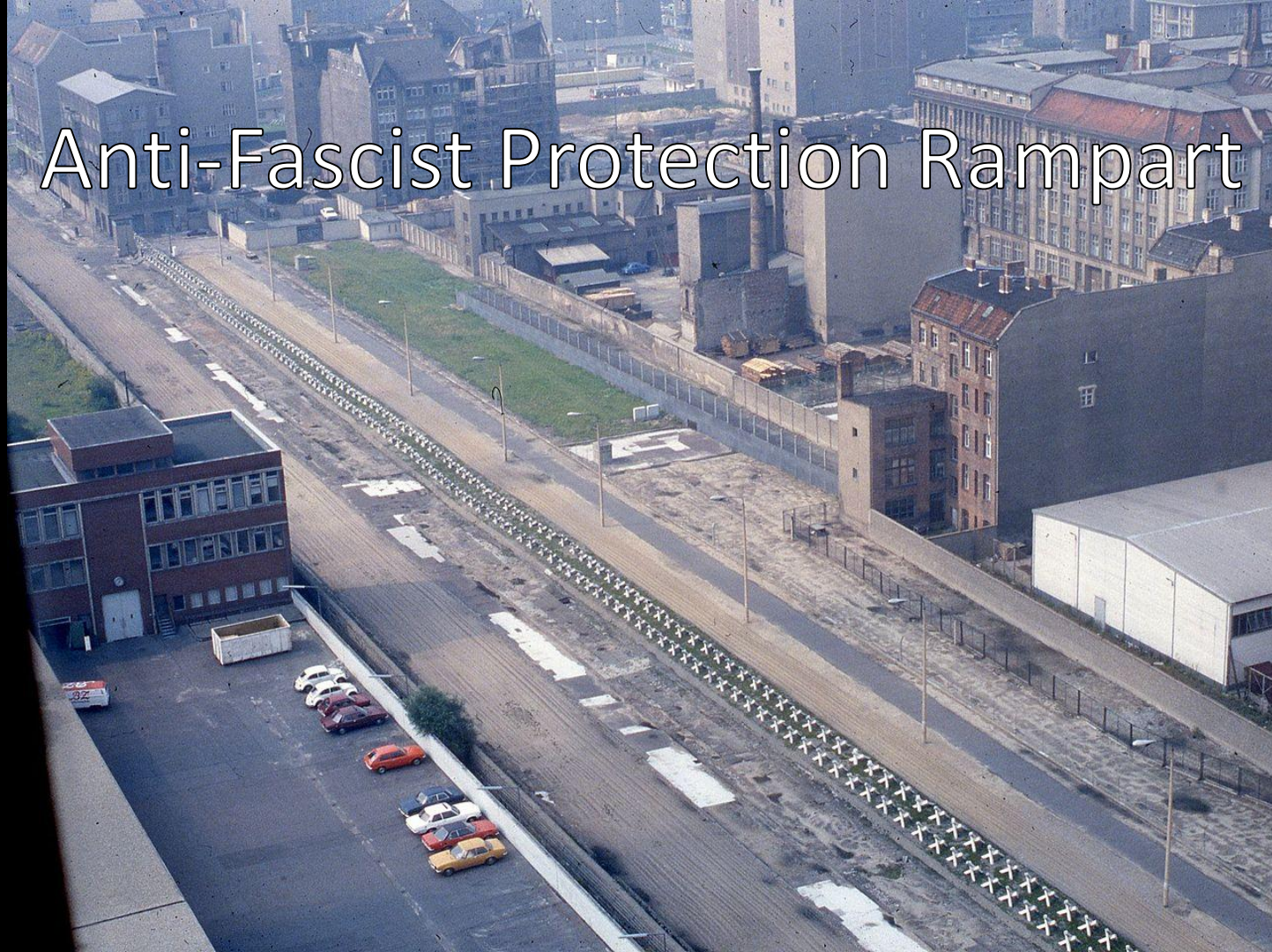
- Soviet Union tears up East Germany, installs a satellite regime
- West Germany a much better place to live

Role Play

- You live in East Berlin
- What do you do?



Anti-Fascist Protection Rampart



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СМЕРТНОЙ

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BAST

U.S.A.

CALY
SYDNEY



SECTION



Fast Forwarding...

- Soviet empire is crumbling in 1989
- East Germany collapses, opens the Wall in 1989, reunifies with West Germany shortly thereafter

To Preface...

- All of what I am about to say would have happened eventually
 - But November 9, 1989 was a weird day
 - And it was all about solving a coordination problem

The Original Plan

- Facing pressure, the Socialist Unity Party decided to relax travel restrictions
 - Initial restrictions were supposed to be minimal
 - Start date was supposed to be November 10



~~Brian Williams~~ Tom Brokaw Reports

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIzkwrh4gYQ>

Aftermath

- Clip plays on loop on East German TV
- Everyone comes out to the Wall to figure out what's going on
- Guards count their bullets and give up



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**TALK ALL YOU
WANT.**

A Coordination Game

- We're playing the same game coordination game from before
- ...EXCEPT everyone will make their decision one at a time
- Decisions are public

China

- Everyone knows that China censors their Internet
- They don't like negative comments about their government

China

- Everyone knows that China censors their Internet
- As many as 350,000 employees
- Censors aren't shy

Watching You Watching Me
JingJing & Cha Cha China's Internet Cops



ChaCha
察察

警察



JingJing
警警

China

- What are they censoring?



You think I'm
stupid?



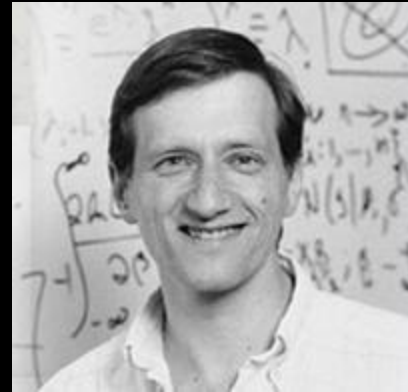
Honey Badger



Don't Care

k I'm
d?

It's about
collective
action.



Back Story





- King and company were working on computer language processing
- Used Chinese social media posts as hard test
- Unable to verify some posts...

Strategy

- Record social media posts
- Monitor them in real time
- Check what stays versus what is removed

Collective Action

Gov't Criticism

	Yes	No
Yes		
No		

**I DON'T ALWAYS CENSOR
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**



**BUT WHEN I DO, IT'S TO
CURB COLLECTIVE ACTION.**

Reasoning

- Censoring criticism makes it hard for the government to know citizen preferences
- Censoring collective action quashes threat to the government



What two other
things do they censor?

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The Typical Story

- Popular protests removed corrupt, undemocratic leader who wanted to tie the country to Russia

The Typical Story

- Popular protests removed **corrupt**, undemocratic leader who wanted to tie the country to Russia
 - This part seems true

The Typical Story

- Popular protests removed corrupt, **undemocratic** leader who wanted to tie the country to Russia
 - He was democratically elected, though he recently passed anti-free speech legislation

The Typical Story

- Popular protests removed corrupt, undemocratic leader who wanted to tie the country to Russia
 - This is where things get tricky

A Lightning Quick History

- 1991: Ukraine declares independence.
 - Russia/United States vie for influence
 - No clear winner

A Lightning Quick History

- 2004: Disputed election



Viktor Yushchenko



Viktor Yanukovich

**2004 DISPUTED
UKRAINIAN ELECTION**



**BOTH CLAIMED TO BE
THE VIKTOR**

Viktor Y

ukovych

A Lightning Quick History

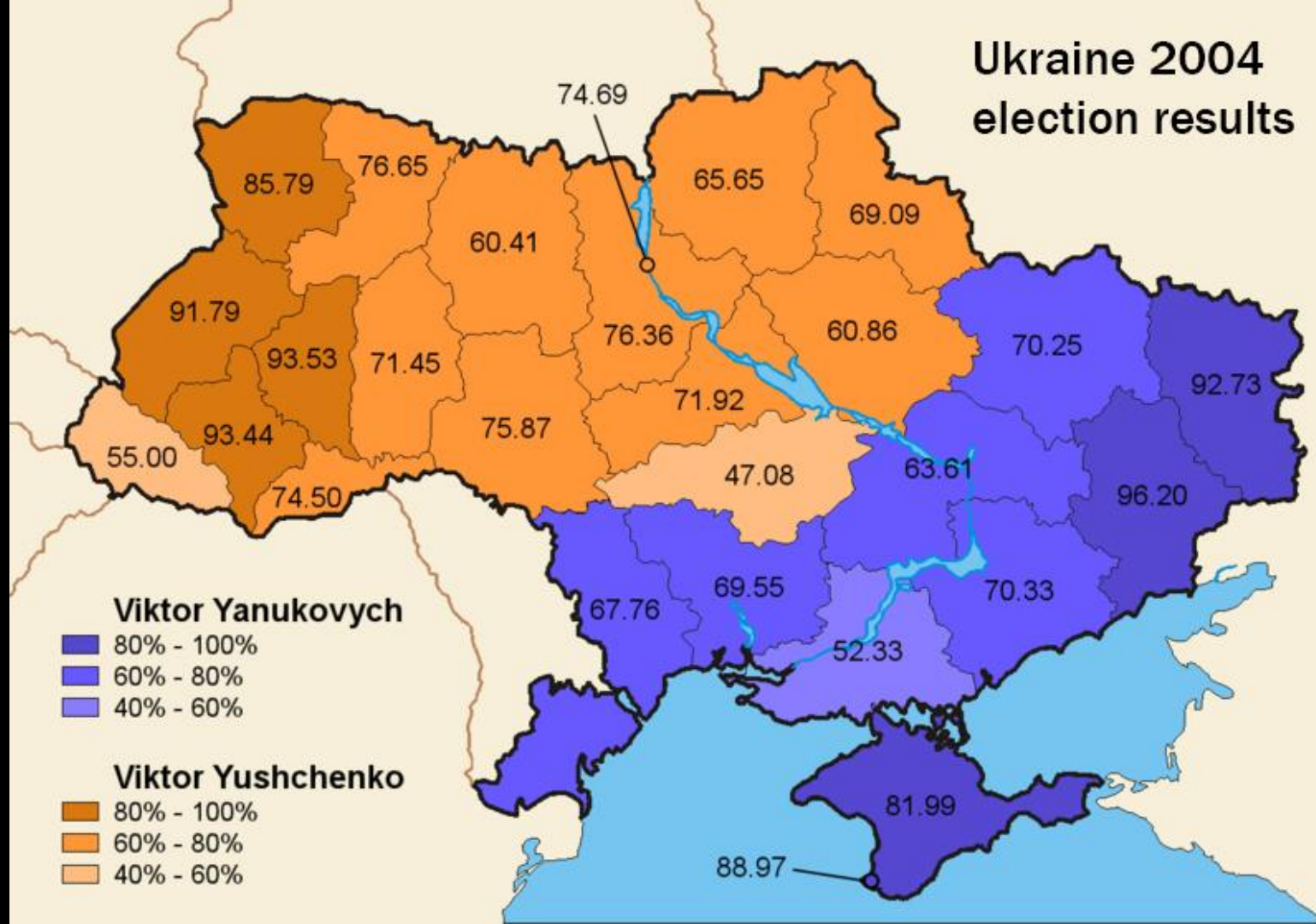
- 2004: Disputed election
- Orange Revolution



A Lightning Quick History

- 2004: Disputed election
- Orange Revolution
- Court orders a second runoff
- Yushchenko wins

Ukraine 2004 election results





A Lightning Quick History

- 2010: Yanukovych runs again and beats Tymoshenko
- Arrests Tymoshenko on corruption charges

A Lightning Quick History

- November 2013: Yanukovych rejects EU trade deal and signs deal with Russia
- Protests begin

A Lightning Quick History

- But only 43% of the country supported the EU trade deal
 - 30% supported the Russian deal
- More support for West, but not an overwhelming majority



Ukraine Faces EU Sanctions After Deadly Day of Protests

By Ian Wishart and Jonathan Stearns | Feb 20, 2014 10:41 PM ET | [7 Comments](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

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European Union governments imposed sanctions on Ukrainian officials, and the country's parliament rejected President **Viktor Yanukovich**'s crackdown following the deadliest day of protests in the capital Kiev.

Ukrainian authorities reported 75 protesters were killed and 363 hospitalized in the violence that began Feb. 18 as diplomatic efforts in Kiev and Brussels to end three months of anti-government demonstrations left Yanukovich to consider mounting calls to step aside. Ukrainian markets rebounded as investors anticipated an endgame was at hand.



Photographer: Vincent Mundy/Bloomberg

Anti-government protesters hold weapons while they rest following recent clashes in... [Read More](#)

A Lightning Quick History

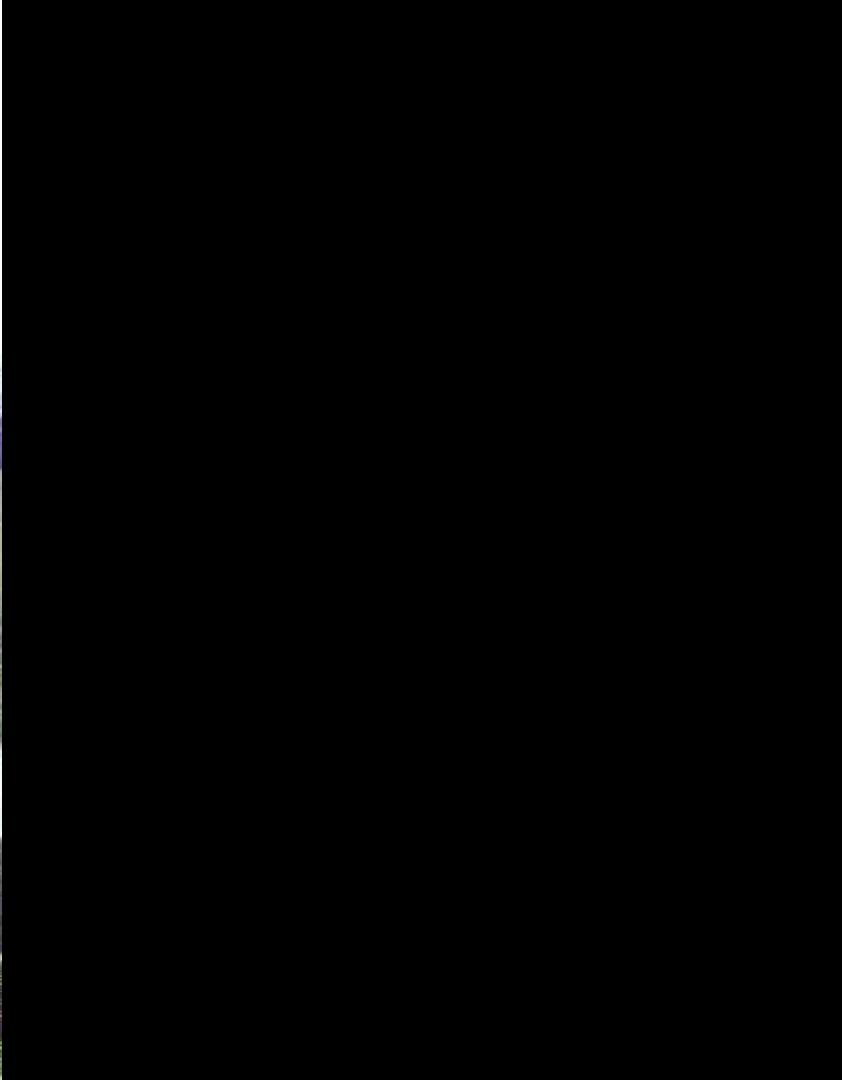
- Yanukovych in an unwinnable situation
 - Protestors know he cannot credibly commit to upholding concessions
 - Also can't disperse protestors without losing moderates' support

**HEARS I AM TEACHING ABOUT
COORDINATION PROBLEMS**



**CREATES REAL WORLD
EXAMPLE ONE WEEK LATER**







The peak of journalism by the masses was 2011—after the invention of HD cell phone cameras but before Instagram.

Meanwhile in Russia...

**HEARS WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT
RISK-RETURN TRADEOFFS**

**ENGAGES IN REAL RISK-
RETURN TRADEOFF**



**HEARS WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT
RISK-RETURN TRADEOFFS**

**ENGAGES IN REAL RISK-
RETURN TRADEOFF**



**HEARS WE ARE
LEARNING ABOUT RISK-
RETURN TRADEOFFS**

**ENGAGES IN A REAL
RISK-RETURN
TRADEOFF**



<3 Warm Water Ports

- Russia uses Crimean Peninsula to stage its Black Sea fleet
- Putin didn't like where this was going and annexed it while Ukraine was a mess

RUSSIA

Kiev

UKRAINE

Kharkiv

Krasnyi Lyman

Sloviansk

Kramatorsk

Luhansk

Horlivka



Donetsk

Enakievo

Odessa

Mariupol

Crimea

-  Recent clashes
-  Contested area



Risk-Return Tradeoff

- Clear that Russia can supply *some* of the East with arms to prop up regional autonomy
 - But how much?
 - More is better if Ukraine will put up with it, but more also means Ukraine more likely to fight

Convergence

- Now: bargaining and fighting while learning
- This should eventually resolve itself
- Some Eastern autonomy likely
 - But how much autonomy?
 - And where is the internal border?

Meanwhile in Kiev

- Remaining government abandons Russian trade deal
- Releases Tymoshenko from jail, charges dropped
- Signs EU trade deal



Yulia Tymoshenko



Petro Poroshenko



ПО РОШЕНКО



**OH, SO YOU WANT TO WIN
A WAR AGAINST RUSSIA?**



**TWO WORDS: OOMPA
LOOMPAS**