

# Review of: "Russian Military Renaissance: An Unnecessary War"

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The author seems to have strong understanding of Dugin's ideology and could contribute to understanding "Eurasianism" in contemporary Russian politics and the invasion of Ukraine. There are several weaknesses that should be addressed before publication or included for the second version. The author sometimes seems to adopt arguments from the Kremlin by mentioning the invasion of Ukraine as rational "self-defense against the enlargement of NATO", although his article seems to argue the other way. It'd be wise to reflect on the decision to deny NATO-membership to Ukraine in 2008 and the outbreak of Russia's hybrid and open warfare from 2014 onwards as a reaction to Kiev's EU aspirations. It often is very difficult to follow the aim of this paper: the author attempts to include too many topics - China, hybrid warfare, Eurasianism, future developments in Russia and more - into one article and risks coherence.

I'd advise not base the article on too many assumptions, especially in the introduction. Rather start out with known facts or theoretical groundwork on Dugin's ideas. Sentences like "However, it is folly to assume that Russia will change even if we witness the downfall of Putin's rule" or "To assume that Neo-Eurasianism constitutes the fundamental pillar of Russian politics is to state a fact" or "To assume that Beijing will take the world's leadership in four or five decades is to state a reality" convey the perception that the article is more an opinion piece than a scholarly discussion, while at some instances one can see the author's familiarity with relevant studies (Dragas/Makowski/McFaul).

I'd recommend to 1) rethink the myriad topics in the article and cut to the chase and state one clear line of inquiry: it seems the strongest line of thought is Dugin's Eurasianism; 2) whether or not to write an opinion piece or a in depth discussion of realpolitik vs. ideology which would structure the article and/or cut the opinion paragraphs from the paper; 3) rethink the title: so far the title is too far away from the content and one could argue that if Putin really adheres to Dugin's ideology than the invasion is a "necessary" war for his ambition of a resurgent fascist and imperial project. Also, my mentors always advised me to let a native or professional English speaker proof read my works and I'll pass that advice on to the author if he decides to work on a second version of the article.