

Review of: "The Strategy of Russia in the Trans-Eurasian Connectivity"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

An assessment of the article reveals both strengths and areas for improvement.

Strengths:

Comprehensive Coverage: The article thoroughly explores the geopolitical and economic implications of the INSTC, highlighting its potential impact on member countries, especially against the backdrop of sanctions on Russia and Iran.

Strategic Analysis: The strategic importance of the INSTC as an alternative route to traditional maritime paths is well articulated, emphasizing the potential reduction in transit times and costs.

Geopolitical Context: The article adeptly situates the INSTC within the broader geopolitical tensions between the West and member states like Russia and Iran, offering insightful analysis on the alignment of interests with Asian economies.

Weaknesses and Areas for Improvement:

Lack of Critical Analysis: While the article outlines the potential of the INSTC, it could benefit from a more critical examination of the challenges and realistic assessments of the corridor's viability and timeline given the current geopolitical climate.

Insufficient Detail on Investment and Infrastructure: The discussion on the required investments and infrastructural developments is somewhat superficial. A more detailed analysis of specific projects, their costs, and the expected impact on the corridor's operational capacity would enhance the article.

Need for Updated Data and Projections: Some of the data and projections may need to be updated to reflect the latest developments, especially considering the dynamic nature of geopolitical relations and economic sanctions.

Recommendations for Improvement:

Incorporation of Scholarly References: To enhance credibility and depth, the article should reference current scholarly works.

Quantitative Analysis: Introduce a quantitative analysis section that uses statistical models or forecasts to predict the economic impact of the INSTC, referencing recent economic studies on regional connectivity and trade.

Comparative Analysis: Compare the INSTC with other similar global initiatives, like China's Belt and Road Initiative, to highlight unique challenges and opportunities, using comparative studies from the existing literature.

Stakeholder Analysis: Include perspectives from various stakeholders, including political entities, logistics companies, and

regional experts, to provide a more nuanced view of the operational and political challenges facing the INSTC.

Policy Implications: Discuss the policy implications for member states and how they could navigate the complex sanctions landscape, referencing work on international sanctions and their impact on global trade.

Risk Analysis: A detailed risk analysis section could be added to the paper, outlining potential economic, political, and environmental risks associated with the INSTC.