

Review of: "Rebuilding a 'Greater Russia' and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine"

Ritsa Panagiotou¹

¹ KEPE: Centre of Planning and Economic Research

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by Roger Kanet

This article discusses a very important topic, namely the background and key milestones of Russia's aggressive / expansionist foreign policy towards states in the former Soviet territory. Using several case studies (including Chechnya, Transnistria, Georgia and others) it illustrates Putin's interventionist policy in his attempt to pursue a "Greater Russia", which culminated in the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The writing flows well and it is well written. i

Some comments which the author might want to consider:

- The abstract is far too long and contains information that should actually be part of a proper introduction.
- The paper would be greatly strengthened with a concise and focused introduction, which would present the research question, methodology and outline / structure of the paper. This would help the reader understand the focus of the paper and its structural flow.
- The 2000 Foreign Policy Concept could be discussed a bit more, as it was a crucial turning point in Russia's global outlook and marked a clear departure from the previous conciliatory foreign policy. It also developed the concept of "Russia's sphere of influence" very clearly, which is a core part of the paper.
- The number of sources in the reference list is way too long for such a short article, and it looks like many of the sources have not actually been used within the text. The reference list should be edited accordingly and limited to works cited.
- The title of the paper implies that the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine will be a major part of the discussion, but it is only a small section at the end of the paper. The paper would be strengthened if this last section was developed a bit more and discussed as the "pinnacle" of Putin's plans for a greater Russia.