

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

Jens Perret¹

¹ International School of Management ISM Dortmund

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The topic of the article is interesting and very current. Its importance is only increased by the fact that very little robust publications on this topic exist. It provides readers with a decent introduction to the historical background of the development of Russian politics since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, there are some critical aspects that need to be mentioned which lead to a rather negative perception of the publication:

- The article misses classical parts of a research article. In particular it provides neither an introduction nor a conclusion. Therefore, it is very hard to see what the objective of the article is and whether it actually follows a distinct research objective or wants to answer a particular research question. It does not show whether the article actually provides research input that goes beyond the mere descriptive scope. The second paragraph introduces very briefly the descriptive objective of the article but does not go beyond that.
- The abstract is rather long compared to the average requirements of abstracts. The more critical point, however, is that it does not fulfill the requirements of an abstract which is the summary of the article with a focus on its provisions to research. This abstract rather reads like an introduction to the article. Regarding the structure and content of the abstract it can be noted that the quote by Putin is mentioned in two succeeding paragraph which seems a bit much. Also the first paragraph mentions the start of the "Russian wars" in 2014 which should be corrected to 2008 referring to the war in Georgia and with a focus on virtual wars it should even be 1991 as mentioned in the later article itself.
- While the article provides an interesting description of the developments it does not provide really new insights. In particular relevant questions about what motivated the Russian aggression aside from a geopolitical destabilization objective are not even mentioned in passing, i.e. gaining domestic traction, international - self-imposed isolationist developments etc..
- The literature basis of the article is rather weak regarding scientific articles from established research outlets. The list of reference also implements differing citations styles or rather the implemented style is not consistently retained.

Summarizing, the following points should definitely be fixed:

- Distinctly state the scientific contribution of the article.
- Add a more in-depth discussion of the points mentioned in the article and interpret them on a multi-dimensional level.
- More closely follow established structures for research articles (abstract as well as different chapters).

- Add to the literature basis by provision of a decent review of the existing scientific literature on the topic.
- Use a consistent format for the list of references.