

Review of: "The Russian Invasion of Ukraine in the United States National Security Strategy: A Geopolitical Approach From Neoclassical Realism"

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The article does raise some very interesting questions and uses an appropriate theoretical and methodological framework to address the research question and hypothesis. While the logic is easy to follow and in places makes perfectly good theoretical and practical sense, there is a significant problem. This problem is related to a number of false assumptions and assertions. For example, Russia was a declining power in the lead-up to the Ukraine War, which is utterly false; Russia has recovered significantly in terms of its relative political, economic, and military power. It is clearly the US that is in a state of relative decline, something that is increasingly being agreed upon across the board. It is also surprising that the author seems to assume all of the aggression is on the side of Russia. No mention of the 2019 RAND report on strategies for weakening and overextending Russia (including in Ukraine). Further, Nuland and others said even before the first shots of the war were fired that Ukraine will become a new Afghanistan for Russia, resulting in a geopolitical defeat. In other words, the Neo-con war hawks not only underestimated Russia's resolve and capability/capacity in Ukraine but grossly overestimated their own. One last point of criticism: There are very few sources from Russian authors quoted here; there are plenty to choose from in order to generate a much more accurate understanding of the operational environment.