

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

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This article is well researched and gives an overview of the post Soviet Union Russia foreign policy priorities. The author names these priorities as "revivalism of Soviet Union" or to a lesser extent "Greater Russia." Major focus is on the policies of President Vladimir Putin particularly in the ex-Soviet space's security buildup. As per author, Putin eyes on territories with substantial number of Russian speaking population outside of Russia's territories. He is also concerned about the non-Russians living within Russian Federation. Author focuses on the Russian role in conflicts in the ex-Soviet space. He draws an analogy of the conflicts like in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Author also tries to explain the cooperation between Russia and the West especially initial expansion of NATO which was not opposed by Moscow because it got a chance to become member of G-8.

However, author has used the western lens to analyse the Ukraine conflict. He has also failed to explain inability or lack of capacity on the part of newly independent states to handle economic, political, ethnic and other problems. Blaming Russia for those conflicts is not academic. It seems that the author is influenced by western narrative regarding Russia. Author has used many 'unacademic' words like "threats" by Moscow to force ex-Soviet states to join Eurasian Economic Union. If author has any concrete proof to these claims, he needs to bring as reference. Research methodology and conceptual framework used in the article are missing. Realism and Constructivism may be used to testify the arguments. Author has also missed to mention Collective Treaty Security Organisation working under the umbrella of CIS for the Peace making and Peace Keeping in the member states. Russia, being the most powerful in CSTO, is bound to play a dominant role.

Nevertheless, article is a good source of information and can be improved if critical analysis while bringing objectivity is done.