

Analysis on Russia's Power Regarding Economy and Democracy

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Russia is an important actor, historically, and in the emerging multipolar global world. Russia has maintained relevance since the Soviet Union's fall but also took a step back, being forced to adapt and grow with the modern world. Its state relations and adjusted climate prioritization has made it a positive model in the emerging new global reality. Cooperation and development have topped displays of power and through this, Russia has shifted its economy to sustainability in ways that benefit both the environment as well as the country long-term. This paper intends to share the importance of Russia as a strong great power in terms of its economic health as well as the unnecessary element of democracy as why it isn't a must have. The West-led world order is coming to an end and it is more important now than ever for global actors to emerge as a solid unit.

Russia has maintained itself as an important global actor since the fall of the Soviet Union. Its continued success will depend on its ability to remain a dominant actor through creating and upholding strong ties with other states as well as its ability to integrate itself into the newly multipolar and cooperative world order.¹ The American unipolar world is slowly unravelling. Russia is not strong enough, independently, to challenge the American-led liberal world order² but it maintains positive ties with countries such as China that, combined, are increasingly influential. The positive Chinese-Russian relationship will greatly benefit both powers. Through cooperation they are a global superpower. No longer are the days of military dominance but instead environmental protection and citizen wellbeing come first.³ Russia has

¹ Tsygankov, Andrei P. "Russia's Power and Alliances in the 21st Century." *Politics* 30 (2010): 43-51.

² Bussani, Mauro. "Deglobalizing rule of law and democracy: Hunting down rhetoric through comparative law." *The American journal of comparative law*. 67, no. 4 (2019): 701-744.

³ "The Arctic Council." Arctic Council. Accessed November 25, 2021. <https://arctic-council.org/>.

shown its willingness to be at the forefront of this change in many ways which are evident in new Arctic developments. It repeatedly articulates its ongoing pressure and support for sustaining and developing Arctic lands, small-numbered Indigenous Peoples and the fragile Arctic climate are prioritized amongst Arctic developments.⁴ Human capital primacy ensures a strong government through cooperation for support by the population.⁵

Russia's overall influence and power is reflective of its economic wellbeing. Russia has shown its willingness to adapt to a new world order in many ways, including its economy. It has shifted from prioritizing its military strength and greatness to protecting its people and land first.⁶ Depleting natural resource pockets has led to an increased importance on sustainable extraction within the freezing Arctic climate where access and removal is much less simple.⁷ Similarly, Russia is pushing for the further development and use of the Northern Sea Route.⁸ Not only will this give Russia increased influence being in charge of a high use maritime route but it will also benefit state relations through their cooperation on its use and with decreased sanctions. Importantly, Asian states would greatly benefit from the Northern Sea Route's continued development and use through more reliable and faster transportation.⁹ The downfall of the route's success is that in order for its dependable use, there must be an increase of climate change

⁴ Laruelle, M. "Russia's Arctic Policy." *A Power Strategy and its Limits*, Russie. Nei. Visions 117.(2020).

⁵ Sergunin, Alexander. "Russia and the Arctic Council: Towards a New Agenda." *PCRC Working Paper Series* 18, no. 13 (March 5, 2020): 1–26.

⁶ Laruelle, M. (2020).

⁷ "The Arctic Council." (2021).

⁸ "The Arctic Council." (2021).

⁹ Schilbach, Aleksander Richard. "The Asian Role in the Arctic's Development." PhD diss., 2013.

significant enough to melt the ice and maintain liquid consistency in the Arctic waters. This would change the entirety of the world as we know it.

In order for democracy to flourish, the state promoting it must already be capable of maintaining law and order and protecting the rights of the citizens.¹⁰ The population must trust their government in order to feel fairly represented and desire to use that option.¹¹ Similarly, it is important to note that many countries never wanted a democracy, such as China. This governmental form came and maintained with the rise of the West and its worldwide influence.¹² Russian citizens have mostly trusted their government. And the majority do truly believe that the government is doing what is best for them, even if they do not understand it.¹³ This trust fosters positive relations and support of citizens with their governments and allows those in politics the freedom to achieve without explaining every action to the greater population.¹⁴

Russia has always been an influential global actor. These days, this means something different. It is cooperative and strong. This is seen in its economic health and its overall strength following one of the greatest state collapses in history. Adaptation and partnership hold primacy in areas that were previously characterized by military, power, and threats. A strong global Russia has an important role in the future of global politics. While a healthy economy is a must,

¹⁰ Fortin, Jessica. "Is There a Necessary Condition for Democracy? The Role of State Capacity in Postcommunist Countries." *Sage Journals*. 45, no. 7. (2012): 903-930.

¹¹ Frye, Timothy, and Ekaterina Borisova. "Elections, protest, and trust in government: A natural experiment from Russia." *The Journal of Politics* 81, no. 3 (2019): 820-832.

¹² Bussani, Mauro. "Deglobalizing rule of law and democracy: Hunting down rhetoric through comparative law." *The American journal of comparative law*. 67, no. 4 (2019): 701-744.

¹³ Frye, Timothy, et al. (2019).

¹⁴ Bahry, Donna, Mikhail Kosolapov, Polina Kozyreva, and RICK K. WILSON. "Ethnicity and Trust: Evidence from Russia." *American Political Science Review* 99, no. 4. (2005): 521-32. doi:10.1017/S0003055405051853.

democracy is not. It is up to the combined efforts of the multipolar world to dictate the priorities of the sustainable new world.