

Putin's change of approach in New Russian foreign policy

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Abstract

As Putin regained the power in Russia, the situation gave a second chance to this country to avoid both the West and the benefits of convergence with its foreign policy and regional and trans-regional equations. This can take advantages from other side. Approach of Russia to divergence and independence with the West will increase level of Russian hegemony on international arena. The main question of this paper is whether Russian foreign policy in Putin new term in office could be continuation of past policies or that it has adopted a policy of continuity and change? With descriptive and analytical methodology, it can be stated that Russian foreign policy in its approaches has changed from the past and the country's foreign policy is more oriented towards Eurasia foundation. However, the balance was known as West axis at once the foundation Atlantic-oriented (West wing) and exchange-based East was executive based on theoretical foundations. Thus, the hypothesis that the changes occurred due to the new international environment adopt a pragmatic approach by Putin in Russia's new foreign policy principles and past and new approaches must be considered.

Keywords: Atlantic-oriented approach, Eurasia-oriented approach, foreign policy, Putin, Russia.

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Analysis of relations between Iran and Armenia in the framework of defensive realism

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Abstract

Iran and Armenia as the countries with great religious, language and cultural differences have close and extensive ties in various fields. To understand the reason of these close and extensive ties, in addition to common interest of the two countries from this relationship, it is necessary to notice an external factor that is republic of Azerbaijan and their common threat perception of them. In fact, Iran and Armenia think of republic of Azerbaijan as a threat to themselves. Perception of this common threat caused them to shape extensive political-economic relations. This is the main question of the study; why in spite of cultural, religious and language differences there are extension ties between the two countries of Iran and Armenia? To answer this question the authors use defensive realism theory. The authors believe that Iran and Armenia based on a common understanding of the interest and concern of the common threat from republic of Azerbaijan extend their ties to create a balance of power against it.

Keywords: Armenia, common threat, defensive realism, Iran, republic of Azerbaijan.

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The role of Caucasian women in relations and socio-political changes in Safavid court

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Abstract

Women were one of the main groups in the royal harem and influence on political and social issues. The women were entered to the Safavid court at the first as a prisoner of war, peace ambassador or the intercession from different regions of the Caucasus. This study seeks to examine how and why the Caucasian women admitted to the royal court and to achieve influence in the court. We have attempted to answer this question that which role was played in court and political changes by the Caucasian women, how the course of historical development were changed in favor of them, and finally how their actions led to the fall of the Safavid majesty? The researchers believes that the women have played many roles including ambassador for peace, wife of the king, and the prince's mother could intervene diplomatic relations and important decisions of the country by coalition ministers. They could also affect the course of political events, succession issues and government relations. The results of their performance were their personal interests to make intimacy to the king to prevent the repeated attacks on its territory to replace kings. Their actions would lead to peace and political stability and sometimes chaos and weakened governance structure.

Keywords: Caucasus, court changes, Safavid, socio-political relations, Caucasian women (the Georgians, Circassians and Armenians).

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Turkey energy security policy and its role on energy transportation to Europe

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Abstract

Turkey as a country located between the main energy resources and the European Union can play the role of a natural bridge in energy transportation. The EU countries have always tried to find some alternative routes for Russian energy pipelines and Turkey could be one of the best options. Although Turkey is poor in oil and natural gas resources, however, this country can play a strategic role in the field of international energy transportation. The main purpose of this paper is to analyze Turkey energy policy between the neighboring countries in West and Central Asia and Caucasus in one hand and the European countries on the other hand. The Authors believe that this country can play an intra-continental role in the field of energy transportation in future.

Keywords: energy transportation, EU, natural gas, oil, Turkey.

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NGOs and political transformation in Central Asia (Case study: Color revolution in Republic of Kyrgyzstan)

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Abstract

Colored or velvet revolution as a change in the political arena was initiated in the final decades of the twentieth century in the countries of Eastern Europe such as Czechoslovakia and Romania and developed in the independent Soviet republics such as Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. The effective factors in the occurrence of such an event are the great powers that use anything to utilize the poor conditions in these countries to achieve their goals. The main question with the help of correlation method is that NGOs have influenced how the Tulip Revolution was occurred in Kyrgyz Republic? In response, it is hypothesized that non-governmental organizations through awareness to the youth of the Kyrgyz Republic have the direct effect on the color revolution. This study collected information through library, documents and the internet. The results indicated that non-governmental organizations in the country have to take the pulse of public opinion over the media and try to represent everything larger than usual and to achieve their interests.

Keywords: color revolution, Kyrgyzstan, non-governmental organizations.

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Prospect of India membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: opportunities and challenges

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Abstract

Regional organizations are established to achieve to strategic interests of the member countries based on common interests and goals. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is considered as a regional organization. SCO was formed in 2001 with the participation of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This study attempts to analyze the reasons of India for trying to consider itself as an ideal candidate for SCO membership, while the member countries stipulated that they can admit no plans to accept new members in the near future. Nevertheless, India should continue to pursue its case for membership, as it will benefit both India and the SCO members. In order to understand and analyze this condition, the research discusses the origin and growth of SCO and its emergence as a regional international organization. It identifies the potential benefits that India can gain by becoming the full member of SCO. The research has indicated that the present concerns and challenges that India would have to confront after obtaining the full membership.

Keywords: Central Asia, challenges, full membership, India, opportunities, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

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Impacts of economic liberalization on the growth of civil society in Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Kazakhstan was the last Soviet republic to declare independence. But after the Soviet collapse, the country seeks to rebuild its national identity and make economic reforms. Changing political and economic structures in these countries due to its high dependence on Moscow was not easy. In the early years of independence due to the Asian financial crisis the country was faced with severe economic reforms, but the government has aggressively pursued these programs. Banking reform, tax reform, privatization, development, and current efforts to attract foreign investment was economic plan of Kazakhstan. In 2001, Western countries introduced Kazakhstan as a successful example of the transition to a market economy and this suggests the success of economic development. This research is trying to answer whether these reforms have had an impact on improvement of human development indicators and led to the expansion of civil society in these countries. What is certain is that this country suffers from corruption and political structures to concentrate power in the hands of a few. However, entering a range of trade and international economics has effects on the behavior of its officials in some cases and has led to the human development indicators.

Keywords: civil society, economic development, economic liberalism, human development, Kazakhstan, Soviet Union.

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Geopolitics and balance of power in Caspian Sea

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Abstract

The Caspian Sea region, because of the proximity of two permanent powers - Russia and Iran- and the emergence of newly independent republics, is one of the most dynamic places in the world. In addition, the continuity of interests of other global actors, including the United States and Europe, with the coastal countries has added to the complexity and dynamics. In this regard, the region energy reserves according to the region status as well as trade and transport corridors have followed implications for regional and trans-regional actors in the field of independence, stability and security. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to discuss the effects of the dynamic component of political, economic and military conditions of regional and trans-regional actors on the balance of power in Caspian Sea region. This study assumes that competition between countries in the region on strategic issues and energy has caused the policy alignment between them and the balance of power in the Caspian Sea.

Keywords: balance of power, Caspian Sea region, energy economy, military powers.

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