

## **Russian foreign policy**

The revisionist school believes that Russia maintains a zero-sum view of the world, aiming for absolute security, which could lead to absolute insecurity for everyone else. Russia has focused on rebuilding its military capability in the last decade, using force against smaller neighbors and illegal annexation. The revisionist school rejects any wrongdoings on the part of the West, such as the NATO campaign in Kosovo in 1999, the U.S. missile defense program in Eastern Europe, efforts to promote democracy and good governance in post-Soviet nations, and the eastward expansion of NATO.

Russia has concentrated its regional influence-building in its immediate periphery, particularly Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, where it leverages historical linkages, military cooperation, and energy dependency to solidify control. Through entities such as the Eurasian Economic Union and CSTO, Moscow seeks to re-establish its dominance over its traditional sphere of influence and deter Western encroachment

Russia does not accept the dominance of one or group of states but favors a multipolar world model where Russia can find its legitimate place. Soft power instruments are preferred, while military power is a last resort. Russia has a broad cooperative agenda with the U.S., EU, and NATO, including non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms control, conflict prevention, fighting international terrorism, environment protection, civil protection, outer space research, humanitarian cooperation, and more.

The coexistence concept is mostly designed for Russia's relations with the West and developed countries, while relations with the CIS, BRICS, and developing countries are based on other theoretical principles. Although the concept is not yet part of Russia's active political vocabulary, it has been implicitly returned to the Russian foreign policy discourse.

In view of the long-term trends in the world development, the national interests of the Russian Federation in the foreign policy domain are as follows:

1) to protect the constitutional system, sovereignty, independence, state and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation against any destructive external influence;

2) to maintain strategic stability, strengthen international peace and security;

3) to strengthen the legal foundations of international relations;

4) to protect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of Russian citizens, and to protect Russian entities against foreign illegal encroachment;

5) to develop safe information space, protect Russian society against destructive informational and psychological influence;

6) to preserve the Russian nation, build human capital, and improve the quality of life and well-being of citizens;

7) to promote sustainable development of Russian economy on a new technological basis;

8) to promote traditional Russian moral and spiritual values, preserve cultural and historical heritage of the multi-ethnic people of the Russian Federation;

9) to ensure environmental protection, conservation of natural resources and environmental management, and adapt to climate change.