Russia's Foreign Policy in Historical and Current Context

The contributors to this book discuss the new conjunctions that have emerged between foreign policy events and politicized expressions of Russian nationalism since 2005. The 2008 war with Georgia, as well as conflicts with Ukraine and other East European countries over the memory of the Soviet Union, have reinforced nationalist narratives. The 2014 annexation of Crimea, which was designed to reinforce nationalist narratives, has been portrayed by aggrieved forces, in the West and CIS. This narrative has found support not only in state structures, but also within the larger public. It has been especially salient for some nationalist youth movements, including both pro-Kremlin organizations, such as “Nashi,” and extra-systemic groups, such as those of the skinheads. These various actors each have their own specific agendas; they employ different modes of public action, and receive unequal recognition from other segments of society. Yet many of them expose a reading of certain foreign policy events which is roughly similar to that of various state structures. These and related phenomena are analyzed, interpreted and contextualized in papers by Luke March, Igor Torbakov, Jussi Lassila, Marlene Laruelle, and Lukasz Jureczyszyn.

This book explores how far messianism, the conviction that Russia has a special historical destiny, is present in, and affects, Russian foreign policy. It is based on extensive original research, including analysis of public statements, policy documents and opinion polls, the book argues that a sense of mission is present in Russian foreign policy, that it is very similar in its nature to thinking about Russia’s mission in Tsarist times, that the sense of mission matters more for Russia’s elites than for Russia’s masses, and that Russia’s special mission is emphasised more when there are questions about the regime’s legitimacy as well as great power status. Overall, the book demonstrates that a sense of mission is an important factor in Russian foreign policy. A truly contemporary analysis of Moscow’s relations with its neighbors and other strategic international actors, Nikolas K. Gvosdev and Christopher Marsh use a comprehensive vectors approach, dividing the world into geopolitical and socio-cultural zones. Each volume by bilateral relations is highlighted by major topical issues—oil and energy, defense policy, economic policy, the role of International Institutions, and the impact of major interest groups or influencers—demonstrating that Russia formulates multiple, sometimes contrasting, foreign policies. Providing rich historical context as well as exposure to the scholarly literature, Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Vectors, and Sectors offers an incisive look at how and why Russia partners with some states while it counters-balances others. Baltic-Russian relations have been complicated and tense since the collapse of the USSR and the restoration of its constituent states’ sovereignty and Lithuanian-Latvian-Latvian and EU has created a new international context for interstate relations in the region. enlargement did not bring about the much hoped for improvement in Baltic-Russian relations. This case-study volume links between identity, memory politics and foreign policy. It analyzes and explains developments in Baltic-Russian relations after both NATO and EU enlargement, focusing on the incompatibility of Baltic and Russian post-Soviet national identity constructions and the underlying antipathy and broader European discourses. The book's approach by bilateral relations is a critical perspective in international relations, this volume provides a coherent and illuminating account of the dynamics of Baltic-Russian relations after NATO and EU enlargement. Combining policy-relevant analysis with theoretical insights, it will meet the needs of academics and students of foreign policy, EU external relations and international relations more generally. Aims to demythologise a field hitherto dominated by suspicion and fear, that of Russian foreign policy. Much of the research is drawn from previously unavailable Russian sources. A third edition of this book is now available.

Now fully updated and revised, this clear and comprehensive text explores the past thirty years of Soviet/Russian international relations, comparing foreign policy formation under Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Putin, and Medvedev. Challenging conventional views of Moscow’s foreign policy, Andrei P. Tsygankov shows that definitions of national interest depend on visions of national identity and is rooted both in history and domestic politics. Yet the author also highlights the role of the external environment in affecting the balance of power among competing domestic groups. Drawing on both Russian and Western sources, Tsygankov shows how ‘different leaders’ view of Russia’s national interests. He gives an overview of the ideas and pressures that motivated Russian foreign policy in five different periods: the Gorbachev era of the late 1980s, the liberal “Westernizers” era under Yeltsin in the early 1990s, the relatively hardline statist policy under Primakov, the more pragmatic statist course under Putin, and the assertive policy of the late Putin and early Medvedev era. Evaluating the successes and failures of Russia’s foreign policies, Tsygankov explains Russia’s identity and policy with reflections on the external environment. The book concludes by presenting an overview of the post-Western world and the challenges it presents to Russia’s enduring quest for great-power status along with its desire for a special relationship with Western nations. This book explores how far messianism, the conviction that Russia has a special historical destiny, is present in, and affects, Russian foreign policy. Based on extensive original research, including analysis of public statements, policy documents and opinion polls, the book argues that a sense of mission is present in Russian foreign policy, that it is very similar in its nature to thinking about Russia’s mission in Tsarist times, that the sense of mission matters more for Russia’s elites than for Russia’s masses, and that Russia’s special mission is emphasised more when there are questions about the regime’s legitimacy as well as great power status. Overall, the book demonstrates that a sense of mission is an important factor in Russian foreign policy. In this timely and pathbreaking volume, scholars in comparative politics and international relations build upon earlier theoretical work on the interaction of domestic and international systems, applying it innovatively to the study of post-Soviet Russian policy and conduct. Individual chapters focus on regime type, leadership politics, interest group politics, nationalism as ideology, international conflict and threat, and international economic opportunities and constraints. The complex interplay between domestic and international factors is highlighted.

Exploring both the origins and the outcomes of Russian policy and behavior, this book provides a telling measure of the direction and significance of political change since 1991. This book examines five possible U.S. strategies for Iraq. It offers recommendations for ways in which U.S. political, security, and economic policies in Iraq could be improved. It argues that the focus of policy must be the security of Iraq’s population. It also emphasizes the need for policymakers to prepare and plan not only for success, but also for failure. Russia has been a long player in the international relations arena, but only by examining the whole century can Russian foreign policy be properly understood, and the key questions as to the impact of war, of revolution, of collapse, the emergence of the Cold War and Russia’s post-Soviet development be addressed. Surveying the whole of the twentieth century in an accessible and clear manner, this book provides an overview and narrative, with analysis, that will serve as an introduction and resource for students of Russian foreign policy in the period, and those who seek to understand the development of modern Russia in an international context. The volume includes: an analysis of the major themes which surrounded Russia’s position in world affairs as one of the European Great Powers before the First World War the impact of Revolution and the emergence of Soviet foreign policy with its dual aims of normalization and world revolution the wars changed not the international order by the rise of Nazi Germany, the Second World War, and the end of the Soviet Union the Cold War and the Soviet Union’s foreign policy after 1945, how Russia has rebuilt itself as an international power in the post-Soviet era. An essential resource for students of Russian history and International policy.Almost three years after the first voluntary handover of power in Russian history, this book examines Putin’s management of this complex agenda, and considers how Moscow’s current approach to international relations resembles and differs from that under Yeltsin. Examines Putin’s management of Russia’s foreign policy two years after the first voluntary handover of power in Russian history. Considered here how Moscow’s current approach to international relations resembles and differs from that under Yeltsin. Analyses whether changes in foreign policy have been qualitative, or largely cosmetic. Explores growing talk of a “strategic partnership” with the US and the West. Assesses the realism of such hopes and considers whether we are indeed witnessing a strategic shift in the mentality and conduct of such Russian foreign policy. This book examines how religion interacts with Russian foreign policy, arguing that religion is an important and neglected factor in shaping Russia’s outlook towards international relations. It surveys the importance of religion for social life in Russia, both historically and at present, and considers a wide range of Russian attitudes which are affected by religion – such as Russian nationalism, notions of Slavic solidarity, the divine mission of Russian Orthodox civilisation, Russian
imperialism, Russia’s special approach towards Islam. The book discusses how religious organizations, especially the Russian Orthodox Church, operate in international relations, pursuing their own interests and those of the Russian state; explores how religious ideas and culture linked to religion influence foreign policy and demonstrates how Russian foreign policy in practice in a wide range of examples, including Russia’s relations with other orthodox countries, non-orthodox Western countries, Muslim countries, Israel, and the Vatican. A history of Soviet-Western relations from the Russian Revolution of 1917 to the end of World War II. The author examines in detail such things as the allied intervention in Russia in World War I, the Versailles Treaty, Lenin’s versus Stalin’s methods of advancing communism, the rise of Hitler, the German-Russian pact of 1939, and the Yalta Conference. Woven throughout are the main determinants of Russia’s foreign policy choices. Containing only the references on the topic, the study sheds light on some of the new trends that have characterized Russia’s foreign policy since the beginning of Vladimir Putin’s third presidential term.Because the turbulent trajectory of Russia’s foreign policy since the collapse of the Soviet Union echoes previous moments of social and political transformation, history offers a special vantage point from which to judge the current course of events. In this book, a mix of leading historians and political scientists examine Russia’s relations with the West and the impact of over four decades of post-Soviet history on the interweaving of domestic and foreign impulses, long-standing approaches to national security, and the effect of globalization on others. Contributors focus on the underlying patterns that have marked Russian foreign policy and that persist today. These patterns are driven by the country’s political makeup, geographical circumstances, economic strivings, unsettled position in the larger international setting, and, above all, its tortured effort to reshape its identity. The authors explain why what remains is not the bundle of historical patterns but that history allows for an assessment of how much or how little has changed in Russia’s approach to the world and creates a foundation for understanding what change is needed if Russia is to evolve. A truly unique collection, this volume utilizes history to shed crucial light on Russia’s complex, occasionally inscrutable relationship with the world. In so doing, it raises the broader issue of the relationship of history to the study of contemporary foreign policy and how these two forces might be better joined. This book examines the place of multilateralism in Russia’s foreign policy and Russia’s engagement with multilateral institutions. Throughout the post-Soviet period, both Yeltsin and Putin consistently pressed a deep attachment to the principles of multilateralism. However, multilateralism as a value, concept, strategy or general phenomenon in Russian foreign policy has hitherto been neglected by scholars, seldom assessed in its own right or from a comparative perspective. This book fills that gap, combining wider conceptual perspectives on the place of multilateralism in Russian foreign policy thought and action with detailed empirical case studies of Russia’s engagement at transnational, regional, and bilateral levels, and also in Russia’s role in multilateral institutions. The book’s original contribution to the understanding of Russia’s role and relationship with the UN, NATO, G8, EU, OSCE, Arctic Council, Eurasian Economic Community, Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Collective Security Treaty Organization, covering a wide range of issues areas including nuclear non-proliferation and trade. Throughout, it considers the political, economic and security interests that shape Russia’s foreign relations, conception of multilateralism, and role in multilateral institutions. Overall, this book provides an understanding of Russia’s role in international relations more generally.

What is Vladimir Putin up to? This book shows how the mentality of Putin and his team - the code of Putinin - has shaped Russian politics over the past two decades. It explains not only the thoughts and ideas that motivate Putin’s decisions, but also the set of emotions and habits that influence Putin and his close allies view the world. The code of Putinin has powerfully shaped the nature of Russian foreign policy in recent years, and its impact is reflected in the speeches of Putin, the foreign policy, and Russia’s media to analyze the mentality of Team Putin. Key features of Russian politics today -- such as authoritarianism, Putin’s reliance on a small group of loyal friends and associates, state domination of the economy, and an assertive foreign policy - are traced to the code of Putinin. Key ideas of the code include conservatism, anti-Americanism, and the importance of a state that is powerful both at home and abroad.

Dominant habits of Putin and his associates include control, order, and loyalty. Important feelings driving Russia’s rulers include the need for respect, resentment about lost status and mistreatment by the West, and vulnerability. While some observers portray Putin as either a cold-blooded pragmatist or a strident Russian nationalist, Taylor provides a more nuanced and compelling interpretation of Putin’s motives and actions. The code of Putinin also shows how Putin’s choices, guided by this mentality, have led to a Russia that is isolated at home and has long had a weight abroad. This book investigates the options, the debates and the ensuing policies of the fledgling Russian government. It examines the evolution of policy from the collapse of the Czarist state in 1917 to the 1996. Analysing the complex set of contemporary Russian foreign policy, Nicole J. Jackson focuses on the contrasts and conflicts that have shaped the evolution of Russian foreign policy, and the key players that have dominated the foreign policy decision making process. The book argues that this is the case because Russia and Russia’s leaders have been driven by the need for respect and the need to be admired by both foreign and domestic audiences. The book also discusses the role of the West and the importance of the West in shaping Russian foreign policy. It also examines the role of Russia in the post-Cold War world and the challenges that it faces in shaping its foreign policy in the 21st century.

The book provides a comprehensive and accessible introduction to Russian foreign policy. It is an essential guide for students and researchers interested in understanding the complexities of Russian foreign policy and the role of the West in shaping it.
communist European state with a vast store of nuclear arms--raises many complex questions. What kind of foreign and defense policies will Russian pursue into the 21st century? What will be the impact of the loss of the former empire? And what are the implications for western policymakers? This volume attempts to answer those questions by examining Russia’s relations with the Near Abroad (the newly independent states on its borders), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and its Pacific neighbors, as well as its peacekeeping role in the former Soviet states. In addition, the book explores the historic patterns of Russian foreign policy (issues of internationalism, accommodation, “Soviet Russia”), the Soviet legacy, institutional mechanisms for policymaking, and the effects of domestic policy. The Emergence of Russian Foreign Policy concludes with a discussion of the contemporary perceptions of Russia’s evolving national security doctrine and the future of Russian-American strategic relations. This thoughtful and balanced text examines the development of Russian foreign policy and offers the reader a scenario of the end of the Cold War. Jeffrey Mankel argues that Russia's more assertive behavior since Vladimir Putin became president in 2000 has resulted from both a deep-seated consensus among its elite about Russia's identity and interests as well as a favorable convergence of events--including the persistence of high energy prices and the check on U.S. power resulting from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because these factors are the result of long-term trends, the author argues that there is little reason to believe that the policy and cultural contradictions of the 1990s will suddenly disappear and that Russia's foreign policy will necessarily become more cooperative and engaging. In this comprehensive, readable, and engaging narrative of Russian foreign policy, Jeffrey Mankel begins by reviewing the historical development of the field of International Relations, and then discusses in detail Russia's relations with the United States, Europe, and the members of the former Soviet Union. The book includes comprehensive background and current maps, as well as useful, current, and thought-provoking exercises after each chapter. The Emergence of Russian Foreign Policy is an invaluable resource to students and scholars of Russian Politics and International Relations, as well as World Politics more generally. Through a compilation of foreign policy documents and statements, harnessed together by a section of analytic works, this book seeks to highlight the significant events and players in Russian foreign policy at the beginning of the twenty-first century.