

Abstract

The main objective of this thesis is to examine the relation between Russia and the NATO from 1991 till 2008, and its impact on the future of the World System. This study tackles the type of relation with its deferent dimensions, highlighting the most critical changes, historical stations, and the world events in this period. It attempts to describe forms of relations in the different stages, based on Russia and the NATO policies and strategic aims. It describes the historical and the current relation, and the predicted future, in addition to identifying challenges and the complicated relations. It examined the major changes and considerations of the different parties and its direct and indirect impact on the positions of the different parties in internal, regional, and world events and crisis. Add to that, the study will identify the most important issues that will shape the relation on one side, and its impact on the future of the national security on the other side.

The study examines the relation of federal Russia with the NATO in five chapters including the introduction will discussion of previous studies, study questions, hypothesis, findings, conclusion and the discussion of previous studies.

The first chapter handles the most important theories, pivots, theoretical bases, hypotheses and the attributions that stem various theories in its analysis towards the concept of national security. This is considered the central point the study depends on by which it attempts to understand and describe the nature of the relation between Russia Council and the NATO and its different dimensions. The study displays the discussion and dispute of the different ideological schools concerning the concept of national security.

Chapter two describes theories and theoretical framework and the study hypothesis and the theories behind the national security concept, being the focal point on which this study was based in examining the relation between federal Russia and the NATO with its different dimensions.

Chapter three tackles the relation between the Soviet Union and the NATO starting from the cold war till 1991, and its impact on its relation with Federal Russia from 1991-1999.

Chapter four discusses the concept of National Security and Russia's new strategy by examining President Putin's holistic reform policies and its impact on Russia foreign policy and its role in the world. This chapter also examines Russia in respect to NATO goals and policies and its new role and the impact of the United States strategy following September 2001, and Russia position in relation the global issues at that stage. It also focuses on the effects of such reform policies on the Russian foreign political attitudes and its status and role worldwide, that was first topic.

Chapter five attempts to predict the future of the relation between Russia and the NATO; partnership or confrontation? The study showed Russia fear towards its relation with the West, due to differences in political positions, and the disturbance in the balance of military and strategic forces between Russia and the United States and Europe, where the main issue is the increase power of the NATO under the leadership of the United States. This chapter also discusses Georgia crisis and the position of Russia, which is considered a turning point in the relation between Russia and the NATO which is considered an indicator of potential tension in Russia relations with the NATO.

This study showed that the increased power of the NATO forms a geopolitical and geostrategic threat to Russia, and is considered the most significant threat on National Security of Russia and its future and its role among political powers, as Russia is having a crisis with the NATO, but this will not end up in war.

The study has come out that the relation of Russia with the NATO is highly complicated and interlaced in interests and priorities. In addition, all shapes of mutual approach, cooperation and partnership are just a transitional stage before the numerous world systems. In this world, each side tries to put its conditions before the completion of the transition conditions. Moreover, the frames and institutions of dialogue and cooperation existing between the two sides like the NATO – Russia Council couldn't create a partnership of strategic dimensions or significance. Therefore, these frames are just tools for managing the conflict and crises through dividing power and domination in the National Security.

Although this study attempted to analyze the current situation in the world, being a transition state before a expected new cold war as discussed in this study being a transition state in Russia and NATO to facilitate the transition to a new world system where all parties tend to impose their conditions with the least losses. However, this transition entails high risk and tension and may ends up with confrontations. How challenging the transmission will be will depends on various objectives factors of the different parties, add to that the regional balance of powers, positions and preferences of political leaders, political, social and the different parties' power in Russia, the United States and the coalition of European countries. All these factors will impact the nature of relation between Russia and NATO and the West on one side, and the nature, form and attributes of the world system on the other hand, where the gap is expected in increase despite what sometimes seems to be cooperation. Many political positions and crisis will form the nature of the relation in all its dimensions and attributes which will result in new types and forms of balance of global powers, and this balance will be shaped by this relation for at least up to the five decades.