

Abstract

This study examines the Russian strategy in a light of a unipolar system. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has suffered from several problems, and Russia has sought for the last decade to restore some balance in the international arena. Moreover, Russia has become more assertive and determined to revive its past and prestige to maintain its security and sovereignty. So Russia has adopted multiple strategies to promote its reconstruction.

This study consists of five chapters; the first chapter is the theoretical framework. The first part of this chapter deals with the concept of strategy and its general features. The concept of strategy is surrounded with much of mystery which makes it difficult to figure out all its aspects which surround the concept of strategy. To add more, the view to that concept has varied due to the multiplicity and diversity of researchers interested in strategic affairs. The second part discusses the impact of the internal and external environment in states' strategies, and in this part, a detailed explanation is presented quoted from Snayder on the mechanism of decision-making in the international politics. The third part presents some of the theories and political thoughts related to the subject of this study, that there is no way to examine the international system without the use of those theories that have dealt with the issue of power and its distribution in the international system.

The general features of the Russian strategy are examined in the second chapter. Obviously after the collapse of the Soviet Union, many changes has occurred in the dominant strategy at the time, and that was due to the objective and subjective factors that have passed and still pass by the Russian Federation. Several factors, internal or external, have contributed to forming the present Russian strategy. And this strategy wasn't in a large degree of stability. So all parts of this chapter examine the internal and external variables which contributed to the domestic and foreign Russian policy.

The third chapter discusses Russia's strategic goals and what it seeks for, and the means it employs to achieve those goals. Each strategy seeks to achieve political goals which serve its own interests and that is by developing plans that invest all possible means and possibilities. In this chapter there's a discussion dealing with Russian political culture from the followings points of view: identity crisis and the search for a new role for Russia. Russians, over successive generations, didn't know but living under a great empire that controlled Russia and its neighbors.

The Russian strategy and the foreign policy is the subject of the fourth chapter in three parts. The first part discusses policy making and its structures in Russian Federation and the relationship between the different Russian authorities. The second part deals with structures of Russian foreign policy- making. In this part, those structures are analyzed through the study of the top Russian political pyramid. And that's by analyzing their beliefs and their awareness as decision-makers, from the vision that the proclaimed words of a political leader form the framework for understanding his political beliefs as it creates certain obligations and establishes expectations in the outside world for the conduct of a political leader. In addition, we find that the relations between a political leader and the outside world are framed through his words to a large extent. In the third part, this study reviews the Russian strategy on the domestic, regional level as well as towards European, Asian powers, USA and the Middle East. Russian relations with the world had entered a critical period after the collapse of the Soviet Union, characterized by an ongoing debate in areas of security, economy and common values.

In the fifth chapter, the researcher examines the theoretical framework on the Russian present and future based on what she presents in the different chapters in order to predict the future of the Russian Federation.

This study ends with a conclusion inconsistent with the hypothesis adopted in the beginning of this study which expected that Russian Federation might, in the coming phase, become a major competitor to the United States of America and it might become capable of playing a role or larger roles in the international system in case the world becomes a multi-polar world, especially with the availability of a range of factors that qualify its ability to play that role, now and future, in spite of the big challenges imposed on it, internally, regionally and internationally at the economic, political and strategic levels.