



ADVANCE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVE JOURNAL

Available Online: <https://assajournal.com>
Vol. 03 No. 02. Apr-Jun 2025. Page#.1610-1621
Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)
Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)



The Reemergence of Russia: The Role and Strategies in the Middle East

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Abstract

This paper attempts to analyze the reemergence of Russia at the global level and the role and strategies of Russia in the Middle East. Middle East is a conflict hub where major power institutionalized its role and strategies. Russian engagement in The Middle East project its interests in the region vis a vis other major power. The study concludes that while reestablishing itself the Russia facing major challenges both at domestic as well as at the international level. From the historical perspective hard power is not an option instead, kremlin is focusing on furthering its power and position through hard and soft power projection in Middle East.

Keywords: Reemergence of Russia, Role and Strategies, Middle East, Hard and Soft Power

Introduction

World politics is in transition, and the history of world politics witnessed the rise and fall of great powers. As the power is dynamic and fluid, and in retrospect it observed that the power capability of great power determined the rise and then decline. Russia throughout history remain a major power in world politics, the Russians had expanded the geographical frontiers of its empire, by extending its influence to China, Afghanistan and further up to the pacific Coast (Kennedy, 1989).

To reform Soviet's external and internal policies, Gorbachev, (the then president of Russia from 1985-1991) attempted the policies of Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (Restructuring). As a result of these polices, on 25 December 1991, the Soviet Union total official collapse occurred. Therefore, in the present scenario, the changing security dynamics and international environment has compelled Russia to look beyond its traditional security realm and safeguard its political and economic interests and expand its role in the global politics (Ijaz, 2016).

Ukrainian politician who remarked very cleverly that "those who do not regret the passing of the Soviet Union have no heart; but those who want to bring it back, he

added, have no brains” (Khalid, 2012). Russian president is the only factor in reemergence of Russia domestically, Nationally, and Internationally. This paper is about the Role and strategies of Russia in the Middle East. Russia involvement in the Middle East proposes the external dynamics of Russian foreign policy. The role of Russian Military advancement, and the export of weapons and technology to the Middle eastern states boosts the Russian reemergence. Russia have objective to be achieved around the world in general and particularly in the Middle East. The role and strategies of Russia in Syria, Yemen, Iran and other states in Middle East to be addressed in this paper.

The Military Resurgence of Russia

The importance of a strong military to a principal global power is an agreeable fact. The status of powerful military as the element of international relations is not diminished. Russian military is currently coming up as a smaller, more mobile and balanced force with capabilities of carrying out the entire spectrum of modern warfare. It is an army capable of intervening in states on the Russian periphery or even in such distant regions as the Middle East. The new Russian military is an instrument that can be applied in upholding the given Moscow wishes of a top power in a multipolar world. Russia has emerged as a major global player because of its formidable military know-hows, Eurasian geographical positioning, astute leadership, conservative nationalism and revival of its old cold war affairs (Adelman, 2016). In a speech given by Vladimir Putin weeks after he became the 4th president of Russia at the Central Manezh Exhibition Hall, he conclusively defines in his speech the new weapon that would alter the strategic balance of the world. As he concluded his speech he said that Nobody has been listening to us. Now, you hear us So”. Putin also announced other 6th weapons system, which he claimed Russia would plan to use in the near future. They included the Cruise Missile, nuclear-tipped hypersonic boost-glide vehicle named A vanguard, nuclear armed unmanned undersea drone since named Poseidon, dual-purpose nuclear and conventional air-launched hypersonic cruise missile called Kinzhal and short-range directed-energy weapon since called Peres vet. They are a wish list of the sort of offensive capabilities that Russia would like to have.

The increase in defense spending driven by the ruthless program of rearming by Moscow. The SAP program to rearm the defense forces from 2011 to 2020. The SAP through the state defense force (SDO) is executed each year. Moscow’s purchase and investment in weapons and in new weaponry, and spending on the existing weaponry repair and modernization and funding for a ten years program was profoundly back-loaded in a position that total of it 31% was spent on in the first 5 years from 2011 to 2015 and the remaining next will spent on the upcoming five years (Gorenburg, 2010).

Russia is developing its long-range precision-guide conventional weapon system and continues to modernize its extensive weapon system. The global information environment is controlled, and far outside its border the expeditionary force deployment, and military power projection and employing tools of indirect actions against the countries on its peripheries. The ultimate deterrence is a robust nuclear force that can conduct a massed nuclear strike on targets within minutes in U.S. within years to come a more confident Russian might be able to be reemerged. About seventeen hundred approximately nuclear warheads and almost 500 ICBs spread

across. During the peak of cold war Soviet Union had almost 45000 amassed stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Despite the vulnerability, the country was stressing on showcasing hypersonic weapon systems like the boost-glide delivery vehicle, the hypersonic cruise missile, or the flight programmable nuclear powered cruise missiles. The purpose of all these weapons is designed to overcome the anti-missile shield by employing weapons with unpredictable, programmable flight paths or weapons capable of outrunning any anti-missile defenses by operating at a high speed (Adelman, 2014).

The Russian Military Doctrine of 2014 is also focused on the military side more. These components include, military force integrated use, the economic, political and informational and other measures of non-military, forced to implemented with widespread use of the protest potential of the population and special operations forces ("Embassy of the Russian Federation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland", 2014).

The actions of Russia in Ukraine and elsewhere projected strong evidence that Moscow emulated these strategies and developed this unified NGW doctrine with the post-Soviet space and, NATO member states in a lesser degree.

Russian Strategic Objectives Around the World

Russia pursues strategic objectives motivated by the deep-seated sense of geopolitical insecurity to establish in the post-Soviet region in uncontested sphere of influence. Of the same coin deterrence and corpulence are the two sides according to the Russia strategic thought. Russia still looks at the world power system as a great power balance of power system with distinct sphere of influence for each great power. To guide and inform its policies Russia still retain strategic interests. Russia intervention in Syria in attaining some sort of geostrategic Mediterranean foothold speaks a century long interest. In Venezuela, the support for the flagging socialist government, in term of small-scale investment could be understood pink tide that provide a valuable distraction in Latin America for the U.S right in their traditional back yard (Charap, Treyger, & Geist, 2019).

Since the disintegration of Soviet Union, in the global community Russia is trying to find out its place, to regain its power and influence that it once had left the leadership with lingering desire. Over Soviet Union Russia seeks to regain its influence which Russia claim its rightful sphere of influence (Mearsheimer, 2014).

The NATO and EU eastward expansion, which the leadership of Russia often perceived as both harbinger that Russia will once lose its sphere of influence and as a threat of potential security seen from Moscow. Step by step NATO is moving toward the Russian sphere of influence (Lavrov, 2005).

Russia was trying to keep the former republics sliding towards westward, for that reason it was doing everything possible below the level of open military hostility to keep NATO even thinking about providing membership to those countries which were republics of former Soviet Union.

Toward former Soviet Republics Russia has developed a strategy to keep western institution out Russia in and down the former Soviet republics. The Russia primary strategic goal is to bring into a single nation-state all the Russian speaking people. This happened into the forced incorporation of Crimea a former province of Ukraine under the rule of international Law in 2014, Putin the Russian president elaborated that million people went to bed in one country and awoke in different country after

the collapse of USSR, becoming ethnic minorities in the former republics. Russian nation is one of the biggest if not the biggest ethnic group in the world to be divided by borders. He further elaborated that “what is at stake is not Transnistria or Crimea or eastern Ukraine, but the communities of Russian speaking in Central Asia and in Baltics (Smith, 2013).

The 2nd objective of Russia is to restore the former Soviet Union, a Eurasian community, into one geopolitical entity if not one state with Russia being first among equals. To a great extent, this has been attained in Russia. The majority of the post-Soviet counties except the Baltic ones that are members of both EU and NATO and Ukraine that is doing the same have returned to the Russian sphere of influence. China has so far been the only power countervailing in Central Asia at least. The 3rd objective of Russia is to remove or diminish any other power in Europe; this can be the NATO and US, its military wing, or the EU, at least it has intimate relations with US. The fourth is to reviving of the support of the former Soviet client regains the world power position, such as the Baathist Syria or Cuba or forging new strategic relationships with rising power such as Iran (Gurfinkiel, 2013). Russia has demonstrated its revival in the Middle East in particular in Syria, Libya and Egypt. It has been busy cooperating effectively with the aggressive regional powers in the Middle East such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey, the Gulfs and the Kurds. Between 2005 and 2007 Russia increased its activity in the Middle East, Vladimir Putin visited the countries of Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and also managed to obtain the observer status in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The military intervention in Syria proved very vital for Russia in many aspects. Russia reinstated itself in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea politically and militarily in a way which was not been there for over a generation. The forces of Russia showed many new capabilities it has attained and reinstated themselves as a mighty force to be reckon by many observer states and made a market of its weapons again in the region and beyond it.

Russia and the Middle East

The Middle East shares its borders with Africa and on the cantered of western Asia, the region is not that simple compared to other regions of the world, turbulent waves occurred in this region can spread in the rest of the world's regions and effects can be felt in other countries as well, the region has been remained a hub of great powers including western powers (Sanjida, 2016). There are twenty-two countries in this region which has experienced many conflicts, which consists more than fifty years old Palestinian-Israeli conflict the most enduring among them, the region also experienced two wars with the participation of international actors the Iraq wars of 1991 and 2003, and a bloodiest Iran-Iraq war of 1980-1988 (Mirjam, E. S., etal, 2005). That were not the last wars or conflicts, the region still has many ethnic conflicts and civil wars after the Arab Spring where many international powers playing their roles, Russia is one of the most influential contestants. The country has been assertive in conflicts like civil war in Syria, and Yemen civil war, Russia has also played an important role in Iran nuclear deal which indicates the challenging existence of Russia in world politics.

Civil War in Syria

The conflict in Syria was began in 2011 following the Arab Spring, the main reason behind the conflict was oppression of decades, many students and civilian were inspired by the uprising in Egypt and Libya the protestants stood against Assad regime, the government in response use lethal power and violence which was resulted in a huge conflict in Syria many children and innocent people were killed the infrastructure was destroyed.

The Syrian conflict converted into a catastrophic civil war. The situation of the country become deteriorated and every aspect of life was affected by the civil war. There were many international and regional actors who played a role to involve their selves to stop the genocide against civil population, the actors were Iraqis and Iranian Shia, the Hezbollah which supported Assad regime and countries which have Sunni majority like Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia supported rebels against Assad government. Hezbollah and pro-Assad fighters were reportedly targeted by Israeli air strikes. The Islamic state of Syria and Levant ISIL were fighting for Islamic Caliphate and was supported by some wealth individual and groups from Gulf (Stephens, 2013).

Russia has engaged itself both militarily and diplomatically abroad to expand its power, the country was continuously used its modern military power to prove itself a greater power abroad. Russia adopted realpolitik approach to international affairs, which was remained very effective for the country in the Middle Eastern region. Russia has been successfully deterring its opponent USA in the region, it posed many challenges for the US in the battlefield, managing its allies in political relations, and protected own interests (Popescu, & Secieru, 2013).

Kremlin always has the goal of protecting Russian effects beyond Syrian crisis in the Middle East, Russia has always perceived the crisis as tool that can display Russian assertive ambitions of global power. US neglect of Syrian victory has always been perceived by Russia as opportunity for its political interest, Moscow could also get access to European states specially France and Germany and their foreign policy makers by influencing them to hold their own sort of political settlement that can benefit them (Frolovskiy, 2014).

Russian presence in the region was based on the balancing of power with United States and its allies, US-led coalition invasion in Iraq, conflicts in Middle East, tension between America, Syria, and Iran made Russia more active in this region, and the Moscow presence could deter US from violating its interests (Kudors & Pabrks, 2014).

The unipolar movement was started just after the end of cold war where US and its allies were enjoying the dominant position in the world politics, but after some years other states were also growing and sharing economic and political power in global arena e.g. China and India, similarly Russia also had the idea of multipolar world and to defend its position as a great power in the fields of politics and economic, Russian foreign policy clearly projects this worldview about power sharing and consider itself as a great power. Russia has adopted the foreign policy concepts in 2000 which labels that the unipolar power structure is weakening and demoralizes the decision making of United Nations and its role in world peace. Keeping this view in mind Russia should sort out to achieve a world system based on multipolar power structure that can replicates diverse world and its interests.

Another concepts of foreign policy that approved by President Dmitry Medvedev and Vladimir Putin in 2008 and 2013 respectively which an addition of new dimension in the foreign policy about the view of multipolarity, Russia did intervene in Syria mainly

to brace her economic and political power and exploit natural resources of Middle East, but that was not a single aim behind intervention, Russia also wanted to equalize its power with US and make sure Russian great power status in Syrian conflict.

Russia and Yemen Civil War

President Abdullah Saleh ruled Yemen for decades which started to loosen after Arab spring in 2011, where political protest started against ruler in all over the Arab world. Initially elites in Yemen started political unrest to replace the president Saleh which resulted in internal strife between different political powers in Yemen for power struggle to capture the capital. The chaotic situation made a room for non-state actors as well and increased insecurity of the country, states like Saudi Arabia, America, and other international community members endeavored to negotiate a political settlement (Sharp, & Brudnick, 2013).

In 2014 civil war broke out in Yemen which also gave way for proxy's activities in the country, a coalition made by Saudi Arabia was fighting against Houthis backed by Iran which controlled larger western part of Yemen, the situation left the country in a geopolitical uproar which further impacts on other states as well and pulling regional and international actors into crisis. Beside other actors Russia has played an active role in Yemen conflict, Russia expanded its footmark in the country as she did in Syria. Russia had closed interaction with almost all sides of conflict, Moscow has also presented some of its assistances to resolve the Yemen crisis even she follows her economic and political interests (Aharonson & Mansharof, 2013).

France, America, UK and Saudi Arabia were unable to resolved conflict in Yemen which gave way for Russian engagement and presumed its role in mediating between different groups in Yemen like Houthis and Hadi. Officials from Russia and Yemen in Moscow in 2018 where the host country offered its assistances to politically resolve the conflict in Yemen. Initially Houthi has support from Russia but the stance was shifted after the death of President Saleh in December 2017, Houthi was accused from Russia that the group is becoming a factor of destabilization for the security of Yemen (Batati, 2012).

Russia was not just involved for the diplomatic purpose and to mediate the ongoing conflict in the country but some strategic interests were also there in the Gulf region, which included the shipment and naval access for the Russian fleets in the port of Aden, Russia formerly had its eyes on the regional naval routs access to its ports, canals and straights, and to have a foothold which have benefits for Russia (Ramani, 2013).

Efforts of Russia in the Yemen was included its national interests and to expand its influence in the country for that Moscow was using its private military companies that phenomenon was started in the year of 2014. Russia was recruiting contractors and retired military officers for these private military services, recently the private military companies also used in other conflict areas, the activities of these companies mostly remain secret, most scholars says that Russia use this approach to avoid deaths reports, private military companies consist intelligence officers' security advisers as well (Sukhankin, 2014).

Russia tried not to breach international law, not to violate the sovereignty of other states and to build a reputation as a country which follows the rules and principles of international law and has no tolerance for non-state groups who escalate war like

situations and destabilizes the security of Yemen, Russia brought some prospects for the stability of Yemen, for its security, and made connections with almost all the groups in the country.

The Role of Russia in Iran Nuclear Program

Iran and Russia always had trading partnership in building and developing Iranian nuclear program, Russia has always considered its collaboration with Iran in her nuclear program as a legal and legitimate help and amenable with IAEA, while western states consider this partnership as concealed program for nuclear weapons. After Iranian revolution and disintegration of Soviet Union we can see a boost in Russia Iran relations in some major areas, from politics to economics, and military weapons to nuclear collaboration. Russia has assessed Iran to acquire the capability of full nuclear fuel cycle. Formerly Russia had threats from Iran nuclear program but in 1990s the geopolitical interests were changed, and Moscow became Iranian partner in its development of nuclear program. The two countries formed a research center called Persepolis that provide some experts and their opinion for Iranian nuclear progra (Tabarani, 2008).

Bushehr a 1000 MW power plant in Iran started by Germany in 1975 was unrestrained just after the Iranian revolution of 1979, after this revolution Russia came ahead in an agreement with Iran to complete the power plant, the agreement was opposed by US in the very beginning but Russian president Putin convinced that Iran has no attention to build nuclear weapons (Singh, 2005). Russia and Iran agreed in 2005 that the remaining of used nuclear fuel would be returned to Russia, the supply was started in December 2007 and end in January 2008.

However, officials from both the countries stated that the Bushehr reactor would start functioning in the end of 2009, but due to some technical issues energy minister of Russia said that the reactor would not start in the end of this year. Some believed that it was not the technical issue but pressure from US and UNSC resolution that Russia is delaying the function of nuclear reactor in Iran. The reactor finally started working on August 2010 with the assistance from Moscow, with a statement from Iran nuclear chief Ali Akbar, he stated that "with all the pressures and sanctions from western states we finally started the peaceful Iranian nuclear program" (Islam, 2013).

The agreement between Iran and Russia was based on then terms that were approved by that IAEA, which says that Russia has the responsibility to operate the plant, supply fuel for the plant, and to manage the fuel being spent in the process (Katz, 2010). On the time when plat was inaugurated the capacity was 40% and expected to be increase to its full capacity in 2012, while US from the very first day forcing Russia to end its support and supply to the Iran nuclear plant that may contribute in building Iranian nuclear weapons in the future (Islam, 2013).

Though Russia was contented that the Iranian nuclear plant was not built for the purpose of nuclear proliferation and the plant will be operating under the rules and safeguards of IAEA, Russia did not pay attention to the restrictions of UNSC which urges that Russia would restrict herself and will not supply the nuclear goods to Iran, Russia wanted to build total 19 power plants in Iran (Islam, 2013). Officials from Iran and Russia used to say that the two government are making an agreement to reach at the point that Russia will build more nuclear plants in Iran (Islam, 2013). For many times Russia has added different technologies and nuclear item to the Iran nuclear program, Russia also collaborated with Iran to developed its nuclear technology

which has contributed in the mistrust among Russia and different western states, keeping this in mind Russia has said several times that all of our deals with Iran are strictly followed under the compulsions and defined limits of international law and under the safeguards of IAEA to make ensure that the Iranian nuclear program would not be used for the proliferation of nuclear weapons but for the purpose of Iran's energy requirements (Hutcheson, 2002).

Collaborating with Iran and helping Tehran in building its nuclear plants Russia was also suggesting Iran to allow more IAEA inspection in the country to check the Iranian nuclear program for that the international agency come to know the nuclear program and rules of IAEA that followed by Iran for its nuclear program (Sabrina, 2003).

Though US has negotiated Iranian nuclear program and reached to an agreement on 24 November 2013 signed by Iran and P+1 states in the capital of Switzerland, in that agreement America lifted sanctions from Tehran and made deal for Iranian nuclear program. But when president Trump came to power, he officially announced that US has withdrawn from the deal made with Iran and the sanctions would be remained imposed on Tehran and US may impose more sanction when Iran tries to follow its nuclear dreams, the step and statement was condemned by Tehran and members of the international community (Tass, 2013).

Russia has been considered as the most reliable friends by Iran on all levels of international politics especially when it comes to Iranian nuclear deals. Foreign minister from both the countries met in an official meeting and stated that we are most reliable friends, we are cooperating each other on regional and international levels and we have an honest agenda for one another. Araghchi, foreign minister of Iran said that we are very thankful and pleased on Russia position in Middle East, Russia has balanced its position with US and also for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Tass, 2013).

Russian Role and Strategies in The Middle East

Russia have shown its resurgence in the Middle East specifically in Syria, Libya and Egypt. It has busy in cooperating successfully with the aggressive regional powers in the Middle East like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey, the Gulfs and the Kurds. Russia boosted its involvement in the Middle East from 2005 to 2007, Vladimir Putin paid visits to the states of Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and also successfully gained the Organization of Islamic Cooperation observer status.

Russia is making a strong comeback in the Arab world after its intervention in the Syrian crisis. Russia started its military deployment in Syria to give a major support to the Syrian government in keeping its position strong. This was the 1st combat positioning of the Russia military outside its border since the Post-Soviet Russia. Along with that Russia have been supporting Bashar-ul-Assad financially and diplomatically and have been sharing intelligence reports and delivering weapons and equipment's. Russia have been maintaining combat and intelligence facilities in Syria, which would have been quite peril had the government of Assad fell (Lazareva, 2014).

The military intervention in Syria proved very vital for Russia in many aspects. Russia reinstated itself in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea politically and militarily in a way which was not been there for over a generation. The forces of Russia showed many new capabilities it has attained and reinstated themselves as a mighty force to be reckon by many observer states and made a market of its weapons again in the

region and beyond it. Furthermore, the Kremlin sent a message to all the world specifically its potential partners that it's a reliable ally and friend unlike the United States and will help its allies in the need of time. The most important thing was that Russia was able to save the regime of Assad showing that the US operation was illegal. Moscow has suspected Washington for using the democracy promotions all across the world and specially in the peripheries of the Russia to topple the governments which it didn't like the so-called color revolutions across Eurasia and the Arab spring in the Middle Eastern Area in 2011 (Radin & Reach, 2014).

Libya constitutes a land to advance Russia's inspirations to be a key global player, amidst the failure of Western states to advance a common plan in the country. Libya demonstrates how Russia has been able to reverse the years of sidelining in the Arab region, though they have little means. Russia have seen the mistakes of the USA and European powers and have tried not to repeat them. Russia don't want to remain aloof from the reconstruction process in Libya, it is involved in the reconstruction of the war-stricken power facilities and its divided armed forces and damaged infrastructure. Russia is playing a role in the reconstruction process of Libya and is guaranteeing its role. As one Russian expert put it concisely while talking about risks in Libya and Syria, "The Kremlin reflects that without Russia always means against Russia" (East Libya Strongman Visits Russian Aircraft Carrier in the Mediterranean, 2013).

The vacuum that was created in Libya after the NATO intervened in Libya civil war provided Russia with an opportunity to fill. Russia has been very much critical on the role played by NATO in Libya and have blamed NATO on intervening to change the regime and not seeing the job through when it became difficult on them and also termed it humanitarian intervention. Russia have also been able to initiate an alliance with Khalifa Haftar who is a very powerful warlord, at a time when USA and European powers had failed to develop him as a local ally. Russia has sent its only aircraft carrier to the Libyan shores in a rather publicized way. These contracts will assist Russia in securing a seat at the table at which the future of Libya will be determined as well as a beachhead to raise the Russian Flag (East Libya Strongman Visits Russian Aircraft Carrier in the Mediterranean, 2013).

Russia extended its partnership with the Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's very quickly. The administration of Obama on again and off again against the Sisi's regime over its human right violations presented Kremlin an opportunity to court its former client. Both the premiers Putin and Sisi visited each other countries highlighted the friendship. Both the countries have had military exercises in Egypt and Russia have promised Egypt to give it Arms at a time when USA abandoned all its arms deals to Egypt. A premilitary agreement was signed in November 2017 which will allow Russian combat aircraft to have its bases in Egypt and can use them. This is another sign of growing influence of Russia and the declining power of USA in the region (Fisk, 2014).

It is the Sunni Arab royalty of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE who will make a visit to Moscow this year. Putin will receive a warm welcome to Riyadh by the Saudi king Salman, Retired Saudi Major General Anwar Eshki said recently, "Saudi Arabia needs Russia in the Middle East, not to weaken countries but to be a friend" (Adelman, 2014). In other parts of the region, Moscow has diplomatic attacks straddled attacks directed to Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

and the United Arab Emirates. Kremlin has been utilizing a variety of instruments, including visits of high-ranking officials, energy diplomacy, pursuit of trade and economic attractions and investment opportunities, arms sales, and civilian nuclear energy proposals to expand Russian influence and presence, and it is an indication that Russia is returning to the Middle East as a major power and will be there at least in the long term (Ramani, 2016).

Conclusion

Russian reemergence on the global stage needs some external dynamics. Moscow has engaged series of multiple strategies in recent year to increase her power worldwide. Russia has been exercising well-resourced and effective drive to enlarge its international power. Moscow has followed multitude of aims like undermining the U.S controlled liberal world order, particularly in area of traditional U.S influence, distributing Western political and security establishments; indicating Russia's arrival as a global world power. The role of strong military as a factor in global relations is not decreased the Russian military today is on the rise as a smaller, more mobile and balanced force with skills of conducting the full range of modern warfare. Moscow aspires to exert influence through various multilateral organization with member states and affiliated partners both form Russia's post-Soviet neighborhood as well as throughout Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. However, Middle Eastern chapter witnessed reemergence of Russian activism, particularly in Syria, Libya, and Egypt. Russia has been successfully cooperating with all mutually antagonistic regional powers of Iran, Israel, the Gulf, Turkey and the Kurds. On the political front, Russia has engaged herself with Middle Eastern countries which is power struggle zone for the last decade or so. Russia pursues different strategies and role in the Middle East in achieving her interest in the region.

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