

After several years of hiatus, Russia has re-emerged as a major player in the Middle East, primarily because of its military intervention in the Syrian civil war in September 2015. This article discusses the reasons for Russia's resurgence in the region and whether it is sustainable.

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Article

A Tale of Many Roads: India's Approach to Connectivity Projects in Eurasia

July Quarterly
15(1) 45-66 2014
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DOI: 10.1177/0974026314531488
www.sagepub.com/journals



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Abstract

The Eurasian supercontinent has again assumed importance in world politics in the context of the declining power of the USA, the rise of India and China and Russia's return to global geopolitics. At the same time, 'connectivity' has become the catchphrase in the supercontinent, thanks to China's aggressive pushing of its Belt Road Initiative (BRI). This article examines India's approaches to connectivity projects in Eurasia, including those in its immediate neighbourhood. It argues that India's approach to connectivity-related cooperation ideas in the region like the BRI is not uniform despite the economic advantages some of these projects offer. India appears to view such projects to a significant extent through the prism of geostrategic and security interests. Finally, it examines the implications of India's approach to connectivity for India as well as the broader region.

Keywords

Eurasia, connectivity, Belt and Road Initiative, International North-South Transport Corridor, Freedom Corridor, Eurasian Economic Union

Introduction

The importance of Eurasia¹ has long been recognised by strategic thinkers right from the time of British strategist Harold MacKinder who in 1904 said that 'Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island. Who rules the World-Island commands the world'. Subsequently, in more recent times, former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski described Eurasia as a 'chessboard' on which the struggle for global primacy is played and argued, 'a power that dominates Eurasia would control two of the

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