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Russia in Middle East Playing the Long Game?

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Abstract

Russia has re-emerged as a major player in the Middle East once again, mainly because of its military intervention in the Syrian civil war in September 2015. This article throws light on Russia's civilizational links with the region and what its aims in the region have been over the years, including the during Cold War. While Russia's foreign policy towards the Middle East was passive in the tumultuous years following the fall of the Soviet Union, over the last few years, it has begun reorienting and recalibrating its policy towards the region. This article discusses Russia's current aims in the region and its global ambitions, linking these to its intervention in the Syrian civil war, paying particular attention to the close ties that Russia has with Syria. This article attempts to explore whether Russia's presence in the region is sustainable. It also explains the consequences of Russia's intervention for the region and for Russia itself.

Keywords

Russia, The Middle East, Syria, civil war, Islamic State (IS), Russian resurgence

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

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