

Russia's Quest for Greater Eurasian Participation: Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract

Russia's strategy towards regional integration with Eurasian Region has evolved taking into consideration divergence in foreign policy choices made at domestic level and changes in the international power structure order. Out of every change in the foreign policy choices, Russia strived hard to maintain its status of powerful bloc in the multipolar state structure at the international level. Currently, the goal of Eurasian integration is the creation of a "Greater Eurasia," as Russia seeks to elevate its position by allying with more vibrant emerging and growing states to form a "Greater Eurasia" that extends beyond the post-Soviet region and incorporates China and other non-Western nations (such as Turkey, India, and Iran) at the moment. Russia's participation in Greater Eurasia revolves around some key issues like regional collaborations done for the economic gains, emergence of New Cold War between Russia and Western world, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Russian apprehensions to integrate Central Asian countries that are considered as security buffer as earlier considered for CIS nations. This article is an attempt to discuss all the aspects of Russia's policy of greater participation in Eurasia.

Key Words: *Eurasia, Belt and Road Initiative, New Cold War, Regional Integration, SCO, BRICS, NATO and Greater Eurasian participation.*

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