

# Russia's Approach towards the Arctic Region: A Strategic Perspective

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## **Abstract**

*Given the present international scenario, Russia, which has abundance domestic natural resources and an ambition to reclaim itself as a superpower, is similar to the Soviet Union in its aspiration. In this approach, the post-Soviet Russia makes an effort to restore the status through both diplomatic as well as military measures. To put it more specifically, the aim of this study is to trace and analyse Russia's approach towards the Arctic region, focusing on its strategic interests, military build-up, and collaboration with other Arctic and non-Arctic nations. The Arctic was seen by Russia as a zone with low tensions in the first decade after the Cold War, where it would be advantageous and possible to work with other powers to address shared concerns. But when relations with the West soured over time, particularly after its invasion of Ukraine in 2014, Russia gradually took a far more competitive, if not hostile, posture on the Arctic. The undeveloped natural resources, the development of new shipping lanes due to melting of icecap and the possibility for geopolitical rivalry among the Arctic states have all contributed to the region's increased global attention in recent years. In order to provide an in-depth understanding of Russia's objectives and activities in the region, this study is based on comprehensive analysis of various academic and governmental sources.*

**Key words:-** Arctic Region, The Arctic Council, Russian Policy, Northern Sea Route, Northern Fleet.

## **Introduction**

Combined with the Arctic Ocean, the Arctic encompasses the northernmost parts of Europe, North America and Asia. The Arctic is the area with the North Pole as its geographic hub. The Russian Federation, the USA, Denmark, Norway and Canada are the Arctic states that have been granted formal Arctic status. International legal standards

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