



RUSSIA'S ENERGY STRATEGY AS A TOOL OF GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE

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Abstract: *This paper examines Russia's energy strategy as a key instrument of geopolitical influence in the contemporary international system. Russia possesses vast reserves of oil and natural gas, which play a crucial role in both its domestic economy and foreign policy. The study analyzes how Russia leverages its energy exports to influence political and economic relations, particularly with Europe and Asia. Furthermore, the paper explores the impact of Western sanctions and the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the transformation of Russia's energy policy. While sanctions have reduced Russia's access to European markets, the country has successfully redirected its energy exports toward Asian economies, especially China and India.*

The findings suggest that although Russia has faced significant geopolitical challenges, its economy has demonstrated resilience due to strong energy demand from emerging markets. The study concludes that Russia's energy strategy is increasingly shifting toward Asia, reshaping global energy dynamics and geopolitical alignments.

Keywords: *Russia, Energy Strategy, Geopolitics, Energy Security, Sanctions, China, Global Energy Market*

In today's world, Russia has giant energy resources which lead them global energy maker. We all know that Russia has huge oil, gas and coal resources. Energy sector of Russia plays a vital role in Russia's political economy and foreign policy. Russia produce energy for domestic demand also exports to Europe and Asia so energy strategy effects Geopolitics of Russia. Russia has energy strategy for 2030⁴³ which reducing of energy intensity by 56 percent. This strategy runs Russian's economy effectively and leads economic stability.

Energy strategy also impacts on Russia's geopolitics which increases Russia's global power. Russia and Ukraine war cause sanctions on Russia but Russia lives by energy resources but European countries need Russia's oil and gas which makes them dependent on Russia. After sanctions on Russia Mostly Turkey, China, India, EU, South Korea, Brazil, Japan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Libya, Taiwan, Moldova, Serbia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Tunisia, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria imports energy sources of Russia⁴⁴. So Russia is

⁴³ <https://www.iea.org/policies/1370-energy-strategy-of-russia-to-2030>

⁴⁴ <https://energyandcleanair.org/june-2025-monthly-analysis-of-russian-fossil-fuel-exports-and-sanctions/>



important for energy resources and plays a vital role in global energy market. Most countries' economy needs Russia's energy sources. Also country's 20% GDP comes from energy resources⁴⁵ so it is also useful for country's economy. Importers of Russia's energy are affected by Russia's geopolitics therefore Russia runs geopolitics by energy resources. Today, global energy markets are important for economy and also for life of people so controlling of energy markets gives big impacts and profit. Mostly Europe and Asia need Russia's energy sources so Russia plays a vital role Asia and Europe's economy and also politics. Therefore this paper covers today's important topic for international political economy.

In political economy, Russia uses state capitalism which key industries of state run by government also energy sector of Russia is controlled by state. In Russia, GAZPROM and RUSNEFT takes control of Russia's energy resources. Russia is rich in energy resources so Russia is the second largest producer of natural gas and largest in exports⁴⁶. Germany, Italy, Belarus, Turkey and Netherlands are main importers of Russia's natural gas⁴⁷. This statistics are shows that this countries really depend on Russia's natural gas therefore Russia can impacts on geopolitics. This countries runs policy carefully to Russia. Also some

Asian countries takes natural gas from Russia and its impacts their economy by Russia. In Russia, country's policy is more important than economy so exports of energy resources are exported by policy. For example, If Russia close some countries politically the country exports energy sources more than the price. In Russia, some political institutions controls economy more than market itself so government's decisions are important for economy also energy sector of country. Therefore country sells energy for Geopolitical stability not for economy. Mostly, these countries buy oil from Russia: China, India, Turkey, EU, Africa, Latin America and Middle East.⁴⁸ This trade effects geopolitics. For example, in wars these countries stays with Russia. This shows Russia's political economy. China buys most percentage of coal of Russia so it makes them politically closer. Also India and Russia are politically closer and supports each other international situations. Energy resources are not just economic resources also political weapon because today's economic world energy resources are plays vital role in a country's economy for producing and logistics. Especially, China's economy mostly needs Russia's energy. Russia can do politically pressure by increasing price of energy or cutting it for that most countries do policy with Russia carefully.

Globalization effects Russia's energy policy by making new ways of

⁴⁵ <https://www.iea.org/countries/russia/efficiency-demand>

⁴⁶ <https://www.iea.org/countries/russia>

⁴⁷ <https://naturalgasintel.com/questions/which-countries-depend-on-russian-gas/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/average-russian-oil-exports-by-country-and-region-2021-2024>



producing energy. For example, some European countries developing green economy and it leads decrease of dependency of Russia's energy. With globalization Russia also makes new markets for selling energy and also political impact.

Russia's geopolitics impacts to Europe is very important for balancing power so Russia exports gas to Europe by Nord Stream 2 so it is very strategic dot for country. USA and Europe can economic and politic pressure to Russia anytime because they see Russia as an enemy because Europe thinks if Russia gets more power it attacks Europe to expansion. USA is afraid of loosing global superpower by letting fall of Europe. For that point, USA always supports Europe but most European countries need Russia's energy resources to build economy. So Russia do polical leverage to Europe. EU imports 15% of all natural gas imports from Russia⁴⁹. Before sanctions EU imports 2 million barrels oil from Russia per day⁵⁰. In 2021, EU imports 50 million tonnes of coal from Russia⁵¹. These statistics shows that how European economy depended on Russians energy resources but after Russia's invasion to Ukraine, EU cutting energy imports from Russia. These sanctions decreased European economy rather than Russian. In 2023, after sanctions, Russia sold 29

billion \$ worth of oil and natural gas to Europe⁵². This statistic shows that Europe always needs Russian oil and gas. After war in Ukraine, Russia seeks new markets to sell oil and gas to increase economy and power. Asia markets increasing and demanding energy for economy so Asia is very strategic place for Russia's geopolitics. China's market is very strategic for Russia not only for economic but politically. Now china buys more oil and gas from Russia, it makes them strategically and economically strong. They want to create strong political cooperation to increase eastern power compared to the west. China's energy imports from Russia was 95 billion \$ in 2024⁵³ and still growing. China and Russia also makes strong power to counter USA to decrease its superpower. Geopolitically, China and Russia's partnership is very strategic. After war in Ukaraine, China supports Russia economicaly to protect from westren sanctions. China buys resources from Russia and sells finished and semi-finished products. These products replaces European products which was used to imported. Also China products are more cheaper than EU and USA products so it is also economically beneficial for Russia. China exports to Russia was \$110 billion while Russia exports to China was \$129 billion⁵⁴. This trade shows strong economic connection of two countries.

⁴⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_trade_with_Russia_-_latest_developments

⁵⁰ <https://energynow.ca/2022/08/factbox-how-much-oil-does-the-european-union-import-from-russia/>

⁵¹ <https://thecoalhub.com/coal-imports-from-russia-to-the-european-union-eu-from-2017-to-2021.html>

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https://www.rbc.ru/economics/16/02/2024/65ce0b359a79470ffd7493db?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁵³ <https://tradingeconomics.com/china/imports/russia>

⁵⁴ <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-country/chn/partner/rus>



Why Russia wants Asian market? Because West imposed sanctions on Russia so Russia wants new market and geopolitical partner like China.

Central Asian relations with Russia is vital for each other for sustainable energy development and geopolitical. After European sanctions on Russia, Russia doubled exports of LPG to Central Asia and Afghanistan and reached 1.06 million metric tons.⁵⁵ It shows that Central Asia and Russia relations are getting strong economically and it lead to strong geopolitical partnership. Also Russia's Gas exports to Central Asia increased 15% after Russia-Ukraine war⁵⁶ In 2024-25, Ukraine drones struck a Russian oil platform in the Caspian sea⁵⁷ and it effected to export of petroleum of Russia therefore Asian importers of petroleum needed to find new partners to import. Geo-politically, Russia plays a very important role in security of Central Asia because of CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization). CSTO is a part of Russia's geopolitics and it established like NATO but it is not strong as NATO because there are some problems with goals of this organization. In my view, Russia and Central Asian countries should develop CSTO and investing more money to it by doing it Central Asian security increased and reach economic stability. Geo-politically and

economically, Central Asia opens gate to Middle East and South Asia for Russia. Because, Russia needs new markets to sell its products and also energy resources. Uzbek migrants plays a vital role for Russia's geopolitics to Uzbekistan. Today's Russia's energy policy is profitable but for some Asian countries are not good. In my view, economically and politically strong relations with Russia increasing dependency to Russia and European countries and USA remain sanctions to Asian countries. Also for Russia it is not always profitable because in Asia technologies and qualified work force are not enough. Russia can not get that technologies and qualified workforce from Asia and also not from West so it effects Russia economy also energy sector. Additionally, Europe is searching new energy partners one of them is USA and they do not need Russia energy resources anymore so Russia lost geopolitical pressure to Europe by energy resources. And also China and Asian markets buy Russia energy resources cheaper than EU did because Russia gives supply more than Asian's demand but in Europe their demand was high. So Russia can not do geopolitical pressure to Asia what it did to Europe by energy resources Russia though that Europe can not live without my energy resources but Europe find a way by getting energy resources from USA and Norway so Russia's economic weapon did not work. Also Europe sanctions did not work at all because Russia increased Autarchy which Russia provide itself so some economic geopolitics did not work always. Also

⁵⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/russia-almost-doubles-lpg-exports-central-asia-afghanistan-this-year-sources-say-2025-12-26/k>

⁵⁶ <https://timesca.com/russian-gas-exports-to-central-asia-rise-15-amid-growing-regional-demand/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.businessinsider.com/ukrainian-drones-struck-russian-oil-platforms-at-sea-source-2025-12>



state capitalism is very strong in Russia so country prepares the economy to war anytime so state capitalism plays vital role to control Russia's economy effectively in war. Especially controlling energy resources. With energy resources Russia can geopolitical pressure. Before, Globalization worked for Russia's profit but now it changed fully because Russia is disconnected from world. For example, SWIFT banned Russia in 2022 after invasion to Ukraine.⁵⁸ This situation effects to Russia's bank system and trade with abroad was getting slower and Russia begun to trade with CNY instead of USD. Therefore we can not say globalization effects positively to Russia. Russia used trade liberalization by WTO (World Trade Organization) but after sanctions Russia uses protectionism to protect national economy. For Russia protecting national economy is useful because Russia has enough natural resources, they can provide themselves. This photo we can see energy resources of Russia⁵⁹.

From Russia's perspectives, they think that Russia's separation from West makes to become the center of a multi-polar world. Interruption from SWIFT makes CNY strong than USD so they believe it causes the USD depreciates. From West perspectives, they think that Russia's economy breaks slowly because of leaving Europe market and entering junior market which is China. All

perspectives are reliable and may possible but Russia economy will not break down easily. Maybe China small market but all Asia economy increasing well. There is not only chine but also India has good demand for Russia products. After war and West's sanctions, Russia's economy did not changed much. In 2022, economy of Russia was \$ 2.2 trillion and in 2025 it was \$ 2.5 trillion so it is stable. This economic stability shows that Russia has a strong economy to protect itself from any other sanctions.⁶⁰ In conclusion, last 3 years Russia faced economic and political problems and energy strategy changed by war in Ukraine and Western sanctions effected Russia's energy policy and geopolitical power but Russia's economy did not destroyed by sanctions. Russia increased economical and geopolitical relations with Asia and export of energy resources exported to China. Today, China and Russia's geopolitical and economical relations are stable and strong. With this relationship they can go far and will compate with western economy and policy easily. Russia's high energy resources are exported to Asian markets which has a future in economical and geopolitical stage. Developing countries in Asia has high demand to Russia's energy resources. With this increasing demand for energy resources Russia's energy strategy will be related to Asia and it developes cooperation. Also Russia's geopolitical power is directing to Asia. Exporting oil and gas to China, Russia influences

⁵⁸https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/Research/FlagPost/2022/March/Exclusion_of_Russia_from_SWIFT

⁵⁹<https://valdaiclub.com/multimedia/infographics/mineral-and-energy-resources-of-russia/>

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⁶⁰<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2026/jan/10/russia-economy-collapse-oil-prices-fall-war>



geopolitics to China rather than Europe. Also, Central Asia has a crucial role on Russia's geopolitics. Russia's softpower effects to Asia. In the future, Russia's

geopolitics directed to Asia rather than Europe and also energy resources enter's Asian markets.

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