

Analyzing Soviet and Post-Soviet Contemporary Russian Foreign Policy by Applying the Theory of Political Realism

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Abstract : In this study, we propose to analyze Russian foreign policy conduct by applying the theory of Political Realism and the qualitative comparative method of analysis. We find that the paradigm of Political Realism supplies us with significant insights into the sources of contemporary Russian foreign policy conduct since the power factor was and remains an integral element in Russian foreign policies, especially when we apply comparative analysis and compare it with the behavior of its Soviet predecessor. Through the lens of the Realist theory, a handful of Russian foreign policy-making becomes clearer and much more comprehensible.

Keywords : realism, Russia, cold war, Soviet Union, European security

Conference Title : ICMSPS 2022 : International Conference on Meaning and Scope of Political Science

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : August 30-31, 2022