

THE EU & RUSSIA



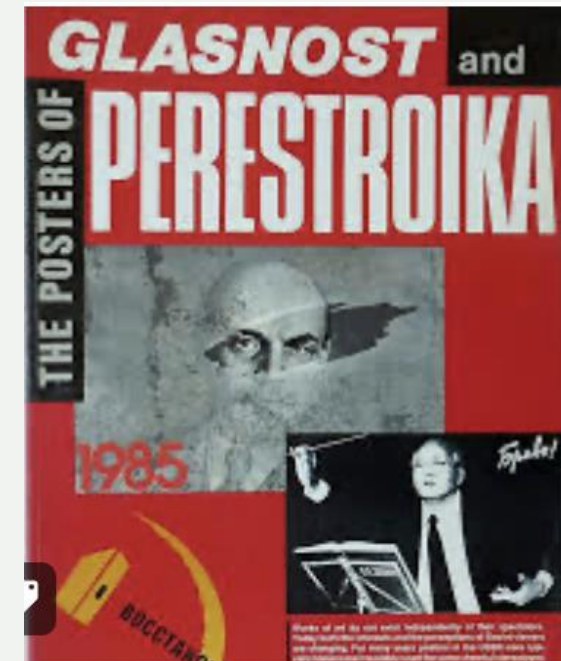
- Russia has historically viewed itself as an empire, namely the natural continuation of the Byzantine Empire, whose legacy was taken by Moscow, after the fall of Constantinople in 1453. This self-image of heir of the Roman empire has been reinforced by the orthodox vision
- The cultural element binds Russia and Europe. Russian is a Slavic language just as many European tongues and the state religion is orthodox Christianity.
- Cultural exchanges have taken place since the times of Peter the Great and his European Travels, bringing Europe and Russia closer.
- At the same time, Russia has historically been seen by Europe as a conservative and repressive despotic country.



- 1951: ESCS seen in Moscow as economic analogue to NATO
- 1957: EEC seen as subordinated to the interests of NATO
- 1962 "Pravda" publishes an article recognizing that EEC "certainly is a political and economic reality"
- 1963 EEC Memorandum "On trade relations between the Common Market and the countries of the Eastern bloc." EEC offers to lower import levy on vodka, caviar, and crabs
- 1972 Brezhnev states that "URRS did not ignore the real situation in Western Europe and the existence of an economic grouping of capitalist countries known as the "Common Market".
- 1973 Comecon Secretary unofficially visits Copenhagen and hold talks with the Danes, who were holding EEC rotating presidency -> discussed prospects for rapprochement between the Comecon and the EEC.
- Suppression of the nascent dissident movement in the USSR and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan led to the rollback of detente.



- 1984 Mikhail Gorbachev defines Europe as "our common home"
- 1985 During ITA PM Craxi's visit to Moscow Gorbachev spoke about the readiness to recognize EEC not only as an economic union, but also as a political reality
- 1988: signing of Joint Declaration on the establishment of official relations between Comecon and EEC; official relations established between the USSR & EEC as well as between the EEC and Hungary, Poland and East Germany.
- 1989: beginning of political dialogue between the EEC and USSR
- December 1989 EEC & USSR sign Agreement on trade, commercial and economic cooperation.
- December 1991: USSR collapse following state coup (August) -> EEC recognized Russia as USSR successor
- Relations with the EU have been the priority of Russian foreign policy from its very beginning.



- 1994: new EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement adding political, legal and humanitarian spheres to the economic dimension in EU-Russia cooperation
- 1999 EU adopts a 'Common Strategy towards Russia' ->Russia & EU created solid institutional architecture, w/ +20 rounds of expert consultations annually
- 2003 St. Petersburg Summit: EU and Russia agreed to reinforce their cooperation
- 2008 onwards: Russia and the EU negotiating a new agreement on partnership and cooperation. However, negative attitude towards Russia fueled by CEECs constituted a substantial obstacle
- Russia became the third (after the United States and China) trading partner of the EU.
 - European import of Russian energy =1/2 of Russian foreign trade;
 - 2/3 of the foreign investments into the Russian economy also came from Europe.
 - Bilateral economic relations developed successfully with Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and several other European countries.
 - Russia suggests elaborating an EU- Eurasian Union agreement on a free trade zone.

At 2014 Russia-EU summit relations became tense because of the Ukrainian crisis the parties managed to agree only upon one document “Joint EU-Russia statement on combating terrorism”

US frustration of the at Europe’s hesitant policy over the pro-democracy protests in Ukraine

2015 situation worsens after the annexation of Crimea and the imposition of sanctions, marking the beginning of the Russia-West confrontation

2022 invasion of Ukraine. Russia is once again seen as Europe – and America’s- main opponent (along with China for the USA).

'Fk the EU,' US envoy says in leaked recording**

UKRAINE - USA ■ EUROPE

Leaked comments allegedly made by a US State Department official have revealed an apparent rift with the EU over how to handle the political crisis in Ukraine, with the US diplomat saying at one point: “F**k the EU.”

US official apologises to EU counterparts for undiplomatic language

Victoria Nuland reportedly said ‘Fuck the EU’ speaking of Ukraine crisis, though department didn’t confirm it was her voice on tape



<https://youtu.be/L2XNN0Yt6D8?si=DibYbJQS5xn5QKoI>

outside. He needs to be talking to them four times a week, you know. I just think Klitsch [Klitschko]



Russian Invasion - Salami Tactics | Yes Prime Minister

<https://youtu.be/QgkUVlj3KWY?si=Sdp8Zwhlp7Zg2Ek8>

Questions to think about

- What are the historical relations between Russia and Europe
- What are the historical relations between Russia and Germany?
- What are – according to the US – the reasons for Russia's attack on Ukraine? And what are they, according to Russia itself? Try to compare them
- What were the opposite views in the US on NATO's enlargement to the East?
- The relations between Russia and the EU during the last quarter century, cannot be properly understood without taking NATO and the US into consideration. Reflect on this triangle