PAX RUSSICA: HOW RUSSIANS VIEW FOREIGN POLICY

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Introduction

• Who am I?
  – Teach Comparative Public Policy, Ph.D. in Political Science
  – Coach and teach debate since 1998, mostly WSDC

• What am I Going to Tell You?
  – Why the world map looks different to Russians.
  – Putin’s strategy to "reconstitute the Old Russian Empire"
  – "spheres of influence“, “Russian world” as Russian foreign policy tools.
‘Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”.
W. Churchill, 1939
Practice One

Mapping stereotypes with the geography of prejudice by Yanko Tsvetkov

http://alphadesigner.com/mapping-stereotypes/
Russian Monroe Doctrine

Pax Russica (Latin for "Russian Peace") - the military and economic position of Russia in relation to other nations (mostly, former Soviet Union).

- Pax Romana of the Roman Empire
- Pax Britannica for the British Empire,
- Pax Mongolica for the Mongol Empire
- Pax Americana for the US.
Post WWII World Order

1945-75 – Yalta/Potsdam system.
- Moral and political interpretation of war outcomes
- Spheres of influence
- Cold War but balance of power
- Soviet Union – one of the superpowers
Post WWII World Order

• Backup of the Socialism worldwide
• Arms race
• Star Wars

1990s – Eastern European concept of “two occupations”, Stalin = Hitler
Post WWII Russia

- 1987-88 – Gorbachev’s Perestroika
- 1991-93 – Partnership with NATO and US
- Monetarist financial reforms
- No prosperity
- 1991-2000 – Regional power + developing nation status
A sense of Putin’s soul
Putin strikes back 2000-05

• Intensified appeal to the middle-class
• Blaming the oligarchs for the developing crisis.
• Offered a sense of national pride
• Restoration of Russia’s world influence
• Reliance on capitalization, fossil fuels exports and sovereignty
• Changing “little brother” status in G8 and G20
Pax russica perceptions

“Putin has no ideology” (Obama, 2014)

1. Communism didn’t work

2. The *breakup* of the *Soviet Union* was the greatest *geopolitical* tragedy of the 20th century (April, 2005)

3. Russia’s is betrayed by the West (NATO and EU expansion), (Munich speech, 2007)

4. Russia is not safe unless every immediate neighbor connected to it
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2. The *breakup* of the *Soviet Union* was the greatest *geopolitical* tragedy of the 20th century (April, 2005)
3. Russia’s is betrayed by the West (NATO and EU expansion), (Munich speech, 2007)
4. Russia is not safe unless every immediate neighbor connected to it
5. Russia is a self-sufficient country. Society consolidation is a primary goal (Valdai speech, October 2014)

6. Sacred duty to protect – not only Russian citizens – but ethnic Russians or Russian language speakers, all over the world.

7. Spirituality as a unique Russian genetic code as resistance to the “Corrupted Perverted West”

8. Revenge for the defeat WWIII/Cold war
Russian World/Russkiy Mir or Soviet Union 2.0

1. Mysterious Russian Soul = something perfect that nobody can explain
2. Empire as a union of equal peoples
3. No mistakes of the past, No Iron Curtain, No information isolation, internet is ok
4. State-sponsored and state-owned media for 75%
Russian spheres of interest
Russian language as lingua franca

1. Bridge or common
2. 100 million speakers outside Russia
3. Soft power tool - promoting culture and education
4. Public diplomacy, RT TV channel similar to Al Jazeera
Conclusions

1. Since 1990 no less than five Russian operations into neighboring states
2. Mission: creation of a pro-Russian independent regions
3. Russian World as new long-term ideology