

Russian Energy Politics: Energy Policy Implications for National and Global Stability 2024-2025

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ABSTRACT

Economic development and political stability in Russia, as well as its opportunities to influence international politics, strongly depend on the ambitious energy policy of the state. Energy is vital for the functioning of modern societies and economies, ensuring energy security, climate stabilization, and industrial development, and facilitating the growth of new sectors. The role of energy in the global environment has become increasingly complicated since decision-makers have to concurrently address a growing range of energy-related social, economic, and security concerns. As a rising power, Russia faces some key challenges regarding its energy policies of regulating the energy market and modernizing the energy infrastructure. This research aims to analyse Russia's energy politics in the context of national and global stability in 2024-2025. In this study, a descriptive qualitative method was used to obtain an in-depth explanation of Russian energy policy, which influences global energy supply stability. Previous studies and government documents were used to obtain Russia's perspective on this issue, while mass media reports were used as a comparison for the implementation of policies and the implications of Russian energy policy at the global and local levels. The research revealed that Russian foreign policy is substantially patterned on the articulated rebuilding of its historical idea of power, which shows the wider implications for the energy policies and the energy security of many other countries, as they are also influenced by Russian energy policy and its short-term and long-term impact on the global and local economy.

Keywords: Energy Policy; Geopolitics; Russian Politics.

Article history

Received: 2025-05-10
date

Revised: 2025-07-17
date

Accepted: 2025-07-21
date

Published: 2025-07-25
date

How to Cite: Amirunnaufal, M., & Aurora, A. F. (2025). Russian Energy Politics: Energy Policy Implications for National and Global Stability 2024-2025. *Journal of Social Dynamics and Governance*, 2(1), 36-42.

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INTRODUCTION

Russia's energy policy is realized in the complex international framework because Russia is a member of the World Trade Organization and a key participant in energy integration processes. In 2015, it was ranked second in the Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report published by the World Economic Forum. It renewed its position in the Global Energy Index Report 2017 as the second-best energy market in the world. It also ranked as the country with the highest score in the global ranking of optimal conditions for investment in energy distribution (Matveev & Vakulchenko, 2024, pp. 123-140). Additionally, it has the most favourable investment criteria in the BRICS group. The World Bank published the ranking of "the countries in the matter of obtaining the new renewable energy," and Russia is leading in this ranking.

In the context of the ongoing conflict and military operations in Ukraine, Russia's natural energy resources are a major source of revenue that greatly supports the

administration of the state and military financing in Ukraine. According to the latest data, in 2022, Russia's revenue from the energy industry amounted to 41% of the total state budget (TASS, 2023). Therefore, the Russian energy industry has a significant influence on the country's operational financing as well as Russian domestic and foreign policy.

Russia, as an emerging country to pose as a world superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union, had moved forward with its own path. Russia, with its vast area and natural resources spread across the country, especially in Siberia, is currently developing its source to maximum use for the sake of the country. The energy industry in Russia continues to grow and expand into various sectors. In 2024, Russia earned 9.539 trillion rubles, showing an increase of 32.3%. In the previous year, Russian oil production declined by 23.8% (TASS, 2023).

Post-imperialism, economic thought, and theories of state identity were chosen as a theoretical framework to deepen the investigation, respectively rooted in inter- and transnational factors. It has provided a viewpoint on Russian energy and foreign policy development in the light of current security and international relations theories. These viewpoints have been employed to show how Russian energy and foreign policy development affects the global deployment, proliferation, and use of WMD, particularly using the Russian Energy Policy in 2024-2025 for light.

An analysis of various aspects of Russian energy politics is lacking. The research project that is being discussed here aims to fill the gap in the literature by providing decision-makers with an in-depth analysis of Russian energy politics. The project will focus on the internal, as well as the external, aspects of the Russian energy policy. Russian foreign energy policy-making processes, negotiations, and cooperation with the EU in the energy field are scrutinized for their (potential) impact on national governance objectives, energy policy implementation, and evaluation across all relevant arenas, levels, and elements. The research will further concentrate on the effects of Russian energy politics on European and global governance outcomes, levels, arenas, and instruments, with a particular focus on notions and acts of energy security and equity in the energy field (Klare, 2023, pp. 104-112).

METHOD

To obtain an in-depth analysis of Russian energy policy, we used a descriptive qualitative method using literature study, governmental archives, and news from trusted mass media that concern high politics. The research variables needed to be defined to process the variables and were linked to the conclusions of the researcher, referring to the definition of the theory put forward by Labovitz and Hagedorn (Creswell, 2012, p. 120). Similarly, when studying the phenomenon of international relations, scientific disciplines are better able to explain and comprehend events and phenomena through information and analysis to investigate policies and their use in international politics (IR Theory). In the methodology of international relations, not only theory but also a conceptual framework in certain circumstances can be used as a theoretical framework (Mas'ood, 1996, p. 116) especially qualitative research.

Using descriptive qualitative methods, the research is expected to gain a holistic understanding of the dynamics of Russian foreign policy concerning energy management outside Russia. Previous scientific journals and official Russian-language government documents serve as the primary sources for this study. From previous studies, discussions on Russia's energy policy post-conflict in Ukraine in 2020-2025 are still under-researched. Therefore, secondary data supporting this research is sourced from international and internal Russian media reports. Data collected in foreign languages will be translated by the author and rewritten in English. Data visualization is presented in the form of diagrams and tables.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Description. Geopolitical Implications of Russian Energy Policy

It is these elements of the nature of interaction that provide the principal reason for the weak development of the mutual "dependence" of supply and demand. Russia's attractiveness as an "energy superpower" is based on the prevalence of political motivation in agreements on the export of geology. However, some of the same factors provide a direct incentive for a lessening of Russia's dependence on export supplies (Corbeau et al, 2024). From a geopolitical standpoint, it is dangerous not only for Russia and its geopolitical partners but for the whole world. Energy crises and price fluctuations of the magnitude experienced in 2004-2006 may result simply from the implementation of requests, some of which have not been formulated clearly or publicly (Mitrova, 2024). Over the following ten years, domestic policy needs to be reoriented in order to make trade in hydrocarbons a highly rational economic part of a particular pattern of foreign relations (Bunakov, 2022).

Importers of Russian fossil fuels transfer significant financial resources to the Russian budget for the sale of resources that belong to the Russian people. In the author's terms, this is done for the risk of insecure long-term energy supplies, weak protection of foreign assets, violations of human rights, the weak rule of law, or support for dictatorships (Hopko, 2023). Western states demand either the prompt shipment of large amounts of fossil fuels into energy markets in the case of a crisis, or prematurely devalue the balance of nuclear deterrence or the capacity to project military and political power. In support of their ability to command, they neither limit their military expenses nor drop their commitment to nonproliferation (Harvard International Review, 2024).

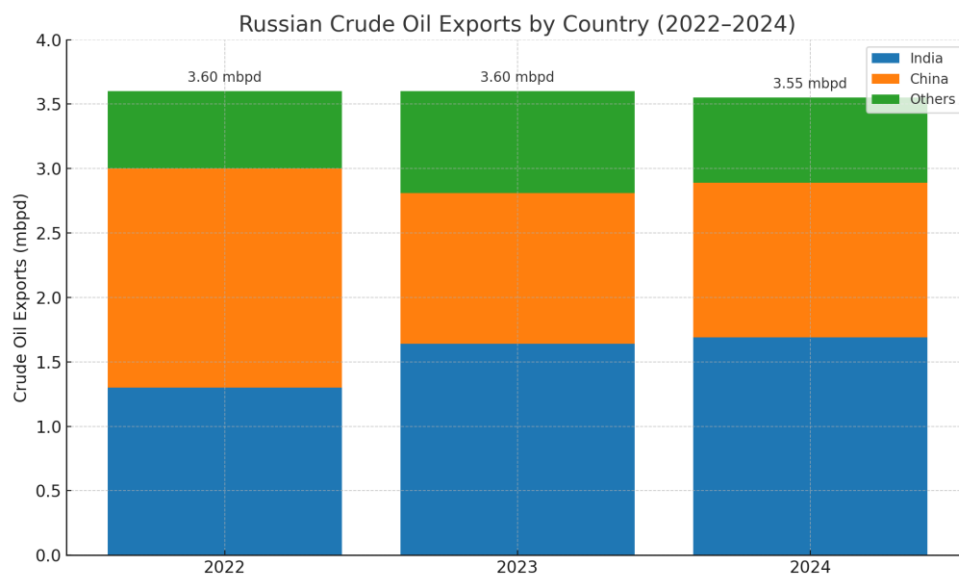


Figure 1. Russian crude oil exporters and importers (CERCA, 2024)

The interaction between Russia and foreign consumers of Russian energy resources, or to put it crudely, foreign energy geopolitics, is often examined from the standpoint of energy exports. India and China are the main importers of Russian crude oil. The main Assessments often assume Russia's interest in expanding energy exports, including by means of export diversification, and link these with geopolitical intrigues. In reality, Russian energy policy incorporates a far broader range of political issues (Bordoff, 2022).

Energy as a Tool for Russian Foreign Policy

While showing skepticism about the effectiveness of military force deployed as a solution for energy security dilemmas, the Moscow establishment concentrated its efforts

on creating alternative models of hegemonic stability by means of the kind of special relationships energy heiresses cherished (Alpman, 2016). The allowed value of these arrangements had two rather than one pre-set parameters - the volumes and prices of energy trade between Russia and its she-neighbor. Since Russia's state capitalism forbade long-term predictability for private gas corporations' financial indicators, the state budgets aside, mass repurchasing of companies' bonds could hardly be guaranteed. Upstream determined how much gas passed through the pipes and how much this, called gigacalories for some obscure reason, of pristine raw materials cost (Chumachenko, 2017). As Moscow saw it, "taking from the government purse, Russia didn't lose anything vis-a-vis the new pipeline section apart from the time value of money invested, arguing the borrowing expenses were fully covered" (Mitrova, 2021).

Russia has been using collusion between the ruling elites and big energy corporations to extract political advantages from its energy trade. The main distinctive feature of Russian foreign policy in the post-Cold War era was maneuvering its energy exports to ensure neither China, nor the European Union, nor the developing world around the former Soviet Union developed into a sufficient collective security pole (Bryza, 2022). Moscow's policy-making in Eurasian energy security dilemmas opted for alternative models of hegemonic stability rather than simply maximizing rents from customers. Hundreds of papers' worth of studies of Russian energy politics have neglected one essential aspect of Moscow's foreign policy on energy transit routes' allocation - its rent-sharing model. Russia appeared to be less interested in the extractive and commercial benefits liberal theories normally emphasize (Dawisha, 2019).

Energy Diplomacy and Geopolitical Implications

There is no unanimity among IR scholars on what constitutes energy politics on the international scene since energy is perceived on a national or a global scale. With regard to Carnegie Endowment's definition, the 'international dimension' is set relative to explaining interstate disputes and unnatural political alliances between oil-producing nations, such as the oil market (Ebel, 2016, pp. 5-22). My choice of preferring the national meaning of energy politics refers to explaining geopolitical dynamics associated with oil-producing states to enhance capabilities for sustainable, peaceful political energy relations in Venezuela. However uncomfortable it may be to admit, it is believed that the economic power 'belonging to the owner or mechanic of a stand-free merchantman equipped with powerful weapons and instructed to use them collectively to strike other forms of social power or those individual organizations or individuals that stand against the will of the owner and his government' (Smith, 2014, p. 551-573).

Throughout this analysis, foreign policy is defined as involving issues of peace, war, and other geopolitical and strategic concerns. Diplomacy is the aspect of foreign relations that involves negotiations and the protection of interests (both in helping a state protect its society and in maintaining its status vis-à-vis other states). In AK's approach to foreign relations, he emphasizes the importance of providing energy in circumstances that prevent states from developing their economies. AK's argument refers to the use of nationalism by hegemonic states in international bargaining, arguing that this policy approach has increasingly resulted in the entrenchment of state power, arsenal of repressive institutions, and thuggish behaviour, which significantly challenge the legitimacy of the state in their society. Russia has been a fossil fuel superpower for over two decades, and its flagging economy has become increasingly bonded to this sector (Shagina, 2014, pp. 247-273).

Bilateral Relations

This method enabled the EU to agree on the funding of gas pipe infrastructure connecting the EU at present with one additional source of supply, namely gas for the Croatian, Bosnian, and Herzegovinian consumers from an LNG facility on the Island of Krk. In the case of Crete, the island of Vis, in general, the two marine pipe facilities constitute

almost the entire EU market with some liquidity and transparency. Ukraine and Turkey have enabled the active participation of the larger European companies in the exploitation and transport of the gas discovered previously. For more than fifty years, some countries have had alternative solutions. The European diversification progress is significant, but there are also related political problems and relations with Russia (Gustafson, 2021). The larger European energy companies successfully negotiated the creation of managed special purpose vehicles (SPVs) to enable them to participate in the equity of gas systems in the Baltic States. The Russian energy companies also own the gas pipe systems in the Baltic States (Mitrova, 2022, pp. 125-145).

The main forum where the Russian leadership promotes the Russian national interests in bilateral relations is the Annual Majority Shareholders Meeting of Gazprom. In the open part of the business sessions and through their press services, the larger European energy companies like ENI, E.ON, Wintershall, BASF, and Gaz de France quite openly and publicly promote their countries' economic and national interests at the annual meeting. The following actions show this promotion of national interests by the larger European energy companies (Mitchell, 2023, pp. 539-556).

Two major global organizations, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), serve the detailed and systematic quarterly planning of medium-term and long-term prospects for energy markets, including the outlook for consumption, production, trade, investment, price dynamics, and energy security (Shagina, 2020). These organizations were created by developed dual-purpose economies to ensure a dialogue and, essentially, information and analytical support within an exclusive club of consumer countries. All the indices and scenarios of the IEA and IRENA tell the member governments how they can strengthen the competitiveness of their national economies, promote employment, and reduce the fiscal risks associated with the energy sector by outsourcing to experts in three key *gemeinschaft* sectors that determine the speed with which the economy is travelling down the road to decarbonization, digitization, and diversification (Bradshaw, 2016).

Currently, Russia participates in several key multilateral organizations in the global energy sphere that manage both natural resource assets and cross-border energy trade. It is also a member of regional groups of countries that include most of the energy-producing and consuming nations. The most important multilateral organization for Russia today is the International Energy Forum, which brings together 85 major energy-producing and consuming countries, including Russia and all the relevant exporters and consumers of energy. Another important non-state group, which seeks to regulate production and export volumes and energy prices within the framework of the international market for hydrocarbons, is OPEC, which, in conjunction with its latest non-OPEC partners, OPEC+, also includes Russia and nine other countries. The ongoing dialogue by the G7 and G20 energy ministers is very significant, although they lack any regulatory powers (Mitrova, 2023).

CONCLUSION

The exercise of established management of power combined with strategy will be provided to empower large-scale regions. This research acknowledges these policy proposals and points to an analytical strategy for understanding them and other such words in equal terms. Theories reveal the extent to which these terms are used as devices and perverted to mislead experts and the public. The produced ambiguity will trouble ordinary actors into harmless forms of security and political engagement, which will, at the minimum, encourage the repetition of states referred to as 'abstract multipolarity'. It was shown that Russian foreign policy is substantially patterned on the articulated rebuilding of its historical idea of power and a shift from pressure in metal manufacturing bases to 'soft' sources of influence, such as energy reliance, deposits, and pipelines. We noted that

government language assists in the production, systematization, and dissemination of ideas behind the unequal balance of forces rhetoric.

The Russian Federation is an important participant in both the European and global energy markets. The institutional energy governance process in Russia will lead to the amendment of the energy policy goals and to the establishment of new energy policy objectives in the years to come. The understanding of Russian energy policy and energy strategy will help the EU member states to develop the most appropriate energy policy goals and objectives for their energy policy. The analytical framework and its application will enable decision-makers in the European Union and its member states to shape long-term actions that are suitable for achieving energy security in close partnership with the Russian Federation. The present research applies an analytical institutional framework to energy decision-making in the Russian Federation. It uses a highly standardized framework of interdependent factors to assess the impact of decision-making on the governance structures of the Russian energy sector in the years to come. The application of the analytical framework provides a better understanding of the energy policy-making process in Russia. This will be useful for the European Union, for the individual EU countries, and for states outside the EU. Furthermore, it shows the wider implications for the energy policies and the energy security of many other countries, as they are also influenced by Russian energy policy and its short-term and long-term impact on the global and local economy.

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