

Strategic Partnership between China and Russia and Global Security Implications

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Abstract

Research has been conducted on the strategic partnership between China and Russia. What role does this Partnership play in China's grand strategy? How it leverages its cooperation with Russia to balance the US globally? The first part of the paper examines the cooperation between China and Russia in the political, economic, and military spheres from 2008 to the present. The second part covers the partnership between Russia and China during the ongoing war in Ukraine. And in the third part, possible scenarios are presented for how this strategic alliance can develop.

The substantial economic, political and diplomatic cooperation between Russia and China began after the end of the Cold War. In 2001, an agreement on good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation was signed. In 2004, they agreed to set the borders. The year 2004 marks the key date for the rapprochement of Russia and China, preceded by the US military operation in Iraq and the next phase of NATO's expansion on the eastern flank.

After the economic crisis of 2008, China's activeness in the international arena began to rise. In addition, he is involved in territorial disputes with his neighbors. After the Ukraine crisis of 2014, China and Russia further enhanced their strategic cooperation in the fields of energy and defense. In 2015, China signed a multi-billion dollar deal to purchase the C-400 air defense system and Su-35 fighter jets. In addition to the procurement of weapons, joint military exercises were activated both at sea and on land. The cooperation of China and Russia in the UN Security Council has become increasingly prominent. Elements of formal union, economic and military cooperation are present. Deepening the military alliance means involving China in Russia's naval adventures, which will spoil its relations with the United States and the European Union. On the other hand, a formal military alliance also poses risks for Russia, which may become embroiled in China's regional conflicts. China has territorial disputes with Vietnam and India. These countries happen to be consumers of Russian weapons.

Keywords: balance of power, alliances, grand strategy, foreign policy, international security.