

Strategic competition in a divided Arctic

Abstract

In president Biden's 2022 National Defense Strategy, Russia is stated to pose an "acute threat" to its European neighbors as well as to the US Homeland itself. Focusing on the threats to state security, this article investigates how strategic competition currently plays out in the Arctic, the region that binds Russia, Europe, and the North American continent together. Through assessing - 1) developments in military and nonmilitary capabilities also including posturing, 2) evolutions in policy and national strategies, as well as 3) capability gaps, hampering the ability of states to project power and influence in and through the Arctic, - this article seeks to improve our understanding of the state of the ongoing security competition in the northernmost part of the world. Through investigating the current situation after Russia's war on Ukraine, and with China seeking to broaden its sphere of influence, this article gives an updated picture of the security political dynamics in the region, today being more divided than what has been the case for decades.

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