**Russia’s Future with the**

**Post-Soviet States**

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**Representing the Russian Federation**

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Introduction

The Russian Federation is here to bolster its ties with the Post- Soviet States, and to assist in the disorder within Ukrainian borders. We hope to lead the Ukrainian Government to become a more stable, sovereign nation by offering examples of political independence from Europe. Russia would also like to address the sanctions installed by the European Union and their contagion effects on a number of economies relying on Russian trade. Seeing as the European Union lacks an appropriate response to the legitimate reclamation of Crimea, we also offer advice on how to discipline one economy without devastating those within one’s own territory. Russia, within its own borders, intends to reform transparency for Russian citizens. We too intend to promote stronger agricultural alliances as we work to regenerate ourselves along with other countries during this arduous time.

Key Points

* Russia hopes to improve agricultural alliances with countries willing to compromise with fair trade. The deal would be beneficial for all sides.
* We hope to make steps to establish civility with Ukraine and help lead its government to an appropriate solution to the current conflict.
* Within its borders, Russia seeks to promote better relations with minority groups as we recognize that the ethnic Russian comes in many forms.
* Russia seeks ways to promote better transparency for our citizens.
* While we strive to mend our economy by solving problems created by the drop in oil prices and the unfair sanctions, we can begin to stabilize the ruble.
* Russia intends to be an example for the Post- Soviet states in moving towards greater sovereignty.
* It would be rational for the European Union to lift sanctions, seeing as these sanctions are harmful to all parties involved.

Background

The Rurik Dynasty transformed their small settlement in the Rostov- Suzdal principality into the imperious unit in Northeastern Russia. After the abatement of the Mongols, the Muscovy Principality emerged again in Moscow instead of Kiev, which was destroyed in 1240 at the beginning of the Mongol tyranny. Surviving after over 200 years of Mongol oppression, the principality managed to emanate in the 12th century under Rurik leadership. During the second half of the thirteenth century, under the command of Daniel, the youngest son of the Rurik prince Alexander Nevsky; Muscovy became a chief principality. Muscovy was located within the heart of thick forests, therefore guarding it from invasions. The Muscovy Principality, as it was well suited for commerce at the intersection of prominent trade routes, progressively surmounted and consumed surrounding principalities. In 1326, it came to be the home of the Russian Orthodox Church which is still the largest ecclesiastically independent Eastern Orthodox Church in the world. After the collapse of Constantinople in 1453, Grand Duke Ivan III (r. 1462-1505), accredited his empire as the Third Rome and heir to the Byzantine tradition. His military triumphs inaugurated Moscow’s predominance above most of other Russian principalities. Grand Duke Ivan IV (r. 1533-1547) was the first Russian leader to call himself “czar” and he expanded Russia eastward. As Ivan IV’s son was physically impaired and ail minded, he was succeeded by Boris Gudunov. Gudunov’s reign brought on internal political disorder and territorial intrusion, ending the Rurik Dynasty. Stability was regained again when Michael Romanov rooted the Romanov Dynasty. Russia expanded across Siberia to the Pacific and when Peter I (r.1682-1725) extended predominant influence to the Baltic Sea, the country was renamed the Russian Empire. It was also under his leadership that the Russian capital shifted from Moscow to St. Petersburg, on the Baltic Sea. Russian influence expanded further into Europe and Asia during the 18th century. In 1812, Russia was attacked by the French Emperor, Napoleon. Although he made an ample approach to take over, he was driven from Russia. Bessarabia, Finland, and Eastern Poland had all been attained at the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815. Russia’s European borders remained essentially stable throughout the 19th while the Asian borders extended, acquiring its Maritime Province, now Vladivostok. Until the 20th century, the Russian government was autocratic. Russia’s devastating involvement in WWI was a catastrophic massacre and put Russia on the edge of ruin and drastically reformed its leadership. Going in as the largest army in the world with 1,400,000 soldiers; 900,000- 2,500,000 Russians were killed, at least 1,500,000 were wounded, and there were nearly 4,000,000 prisoners of war. Following the defeat, the monarchy fell and a Provisional Government was instituted.

In 1917 the Bolsheviks took control of the government. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin declared the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic. He implemented a socialist economy prior to the power transferal to Joseph Stalin. To promote industrialization, Stalin implemented the first Five Year Plan. It encouraged self-sufficiency within the country. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formed in 1922 consisting of Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, and Transcaucasia. Germany invaded the USSR in 1941 which lead to involvement in World War II. After diligent fighting Germany lost control and stability throughout the region increased. The first space journey directly involving a man was in 1961. Change was looming near. The USSR ruled until 1991 and change occurred.

The Russian Federation formed in 1991 and is still present. A free market economy emerges from the contrasting previous government. Private businesses emerge. New countries are formed and Boris Yeltsin is Russia's first president. Estonia, Latvia, and Moldova are a few of the new sovereign states created. Russia maintains firm relations to the Post-Soviet territories. In 1993 the Supreme Soviet parliament is shifted to the State Duma. The legislature is sectioned off as the lower house for the Federal Assembly. The Federation Council of Russia is the upper house. Yeltsin advocates for the Duma to acclimate to the Russian Federation’s needs. Actively sought is the opinion of the general public. Steps are made to promote governmental transparency and adjust previous governmental policies.

Vladimir Putin, the current president, was first prime minister in 1999 and became president in 2000. Sainthood is given to Czar Nicholas in 2000. In July of 2001, the People’s Republic of China president, Jiang Zemin paid a visit to Moscow and the Friendship treaty was created. Russia and China continue to bolster relations. The NATO-Russia council is formed, Russia and the other countries involved in NATO all decide on overcoming security concerns and stopping terrorism.

Putin maintained presidency in 2004 and Mikhail Fradkov is appointed as prime minister. Germany and Russia agree to a pipeline deal. A gas pipe is built below the Baltic Sea. Germany and Russia further promote activity. Boris Yeltsin died in 2007. In 2008 Dmitry Medvedev is the new president and Vladimir Putin is prime minister. Presidential terms are lengthened to six years. Vladimir Putin is selected for his third term of presidency in 2012. The Sochi Winter Olympic games are held without flaw despite any prior concerns.

Committee on Sovereignty

On December 8th 1991, Russia became an independent sovereign state and has developed into a world power. We are a state which protects its people and the surrounding individuals.

President Vladimir Putin is committed to protecting Russia’s sovereignty. For the “Russian Federation a true sovereignty is an absolute condition.” Sovereignty is needed for survival. Without sovereignty Russia would dissolve. A declaration of sovereignty was developed over land and resources between August and October of 1990, as though former Soviet Union borders never existed. Many of the national resources are located in the territories of various regions that are now sovereign.

Though many have been critical of the annexation of Crimea, Crimea wanted to be a part of the Russian homeland. Russia is simply aiding our citizens. The annexation of Crimea has had long-term political and economic benefits. The people of Crimea wanted to be part of the state to protect their sovereignty. It is the responsibility of powerful countries, like Russia, to assist smaller countries. While many may assume that Russia coerced Crimea, President Putin reminds us that, “In our hearts, we know Crimea has always been an inalienable part of Russia.”

Any concerns about a lack of freedoms in Russia is unfounded. Russia has become more respectful and tolerant of other countries and cultures. Russia has built a stable new society and earned both internal and external peace. Russia’s government is attempting to address the lack of support and protection of native schools and cultures. Boris Yeltsin, former Russian President, stated that everyone should enjoy their equal “rights in their entirety.” Some of those ethnic groups are: Tatar, Bashkir, Chuvash, Ukrainian, Chechen, as well as other unspecified groups. Since the establishment of the Russian federation, Russia experienced a drop in their population which led to a decline in immigration of the ethnic Russians. Russia’s government believes that everyone is equal and anyone who disagrees is wrong.

The Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, claims that Russia is committing “robbery on an international scale.” President Obama states that the United States will help maintain sovereignty in Ukraine. Russia has a Federal Republic government in which our President and Prime Minister are our head of state. The President is the head of state and defends the constitution when needed. The last presidential election was held March 4th 2012. The Prime Minister handles the personnel decisions and day to day operations of the government.

Russia has helped many emerging countries which gave it the authorization and the right to invest in the other nation’s affairs to prevent chaos. Is it Russia’s fault that there is discord inside other nations because other nations have citizens of Russian decent? We want to protect our people. To protect our people sometimes we must involve ourselves in the affairs of other countries. Wherever Russians are located, Russia has the right to defend them. Our military is capable of rapid development to many areas, if necessary, to maintain peace.

We hope to maintain open borders with post-Soviet states. Russia’s borders should stay the way they are. However we are willing to adjust our policy to the ever changing geo-political climate. We want to protect our lands.

One of their main goals is not to become involved in Ukraine’s sovereignty. In 1909, Russian Prime Minister, Pyotr Stolypin told a journalist: “Give the state twenty years of internal and external peace and you will not recognize Russia.”

Politics are more understandable to the citizens of the sovereign state of Russia. Russia does not foresee any changes with the borders, self- determination, and governance in our region. Russians are pleased with the state’s progress, in spite of current and (temporary) economic challenges. Russians approve of how their government is functioning, why change?

Committee on Security

The Russian Federation is a well-fortified state. We monitor anything considered a cause for concern. Foreign intelligence services, extremism, and radicals are all on our watch list. Possible creation of new types of precision weapons, air and space defense systems communications, intelligence and control, and robotic driven artillery are also serious concerns. However, we are aware of potential nuclear weapons, antiballistic missile systems, and the deployment of foreign troops. Without global constraints this will cause war. "We are certain that the geographical expansion of NATO cannot be justified by security concerns," expressed Sergei Lavrov, a respected Russian diplomat. "But it is clear that NATO is building up its military potential around our borders and its new members continue to increase their defense budgets." We are well equipped to successfully handle whatever comes our way.

Contending with these concerns, President Putin reminds us that **“**Russia’s foreign policy has always been and will remain self-sufficient and independent… it is consistent, successive and represents the unique role of our country in world affairs and civilization development which has formed over centuries. It has nothing to do with isolationism or confrontation, and provides for integration into global processes...” We are part of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in efforts to reinforce or infrastructure.

The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) is mainly responsible for the overview of the internal and external security of the Russian state. The Federal Security Service head, Alexander Bortniko, answers directly to President Vladimir Putin. Bortniko is a permanent member of the Security Council of Russia. Both internal and external security have branches. Internal security in Russia is governed by The Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation or the Russian Minister of Internal Affairs. The current Minister of Internal Affairs is Colonel General of Police, Vladimir Kolokoltsev. We handle internal threats by apprehending the individuals involved. The detainees able to make a call within 3 hours of their detention. They have the privilege to be represented by a lawyer and interpreter. Our police will read the detainee their rights. Organized crime is kept down to a minimum. We treat organized crime similar to internal threats. Deemed by the government, we give warnings before individuals taken into custody.. If the problem persists we will incarcerate them.

External division is governed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavor. We acknowledge external threats. We would like to negotiate and try to find a way to settle the problem. If the Russian state is being compromised, we will pursue a resolution.Our military's role is primarily to protect our citizens from harm. Ensuring that Russia is a safe haven for our citizens is our top priority. We regard our troops as physical symbols of strength and vigilance. Our military also aims to aid and safeguard our expeditions in the Arctic. The main goals of Russia in the Arctic are to use its resources, protect its ecosystems, use the sea as port, and develop a military training facility. Russia's interests, are to ensure that the Arctic remains a zone of peace and cooperation.

We do not experience cyber-attacks because we intervene before the well-being of our people is affected. We monitor the content being provided on the internet through System for Operative Investigative Activities-2 (SORM-2). Our goal is to protect our people from any malicious activity. We have preventive measures to ensure the security of the residents of our country, and we carefully analyze the material that is on the web. We have firewalls to protect us from any cyberspace attacks. Many Russians have even expressed they feel protected by the expurgating of foreign propaganda. Surveying 1,600 of our people, a vast majority expressed the internet should be watchdog.

Russia’s security permits us to manage how we deal with a multitude of conflicts. Our infrastructure most certainly is unconquerable. We are prepared to deal with internal and external affairs before escalation. Our main focus is to align ourselves with the welfare of our citizens. President Putin expressed, “No one should have the illusion that they can gain military superiority over Russia, put any kind of pressure on it." We are an insurmountable entity.

Committee on Human Rights

The great Russian Federation advocates for superlative human rights and we seek to protect our people whilst eliminating potential fulminations. Our current goals are to instill fair and equal rights of minority groups. The status of human rights reflects our values which are enforced and held to the greatest importance. There are few radical formations that pose little threat and are being resolved at this time. Our president, Vladimir Putin, places emphasis on the protection of juvenile youth, and we will do anything to maintain such safeties. The mention of suicide, pharmaceutical misuse, and child harm are nonexistent to prevent societal anguish. Endangering adolescence is what Russia diligently evades. Our decisions are made with the people in mind. Russia looks for the greater good in hopes of prosperity and tolerance. We are establishing an improved Russia for the present and future.

Russia has faced several threats in the past. Our most current adversaries are small factions scattered about which have one common goal: unravel the strong lineage of Russian pride and worth. One group in particular uses cacophonous sounds to lure unsuspecting citizens and spread distorted lies to try to humiliate Russia.

PussyRiots is an extremist group that seeks to decentralize our great morals and general beliefs. They ambushed a Muscovite church and screeched their horrid propaganda which brought distraught to confused citizens. This gathering was subsequently halted and the aggregation was sent to trial for their religious hatred. These beings were unreasonable and handled with the utmost care and consideration. Few fanatics have dared to advance upon Russia, but we defend with consistent circumspection.

Internet terrorists relentlessly create false adverts that defame and lie. We take it upon ourselves to protect our people from such slanderous fabrications filled with disinformation. Websites that go against us are edited to prevent harm to our people. Illegitimate media and internet sources pose as only a hindrance to the Russian people, and we decide to eliminate the need to view such atrocities. The censorship offers benefits to our citizens more than anything else. It is the government’s job to assure everyone is safe and secure. Russia reserves the right to remove any media source deemed harmful to the people in any perceivable form. This promotes Russian ideologies and increases security.

Cultural appendage and social parity are deeply ingrained in Russia’s customs. These beliefs allow outsiders to perceive our country as a unified nation. Russia’s actions are completed for the common good whilst joining the populace to a general consensus regarding thoughts and ideas. Our people are ethnically diverse but unconditionally fervid about Russia. We keenly seek to bolster immigrants in need of protection. In the previous two decades, Azerbaijanis and Armenians have sought asylum from the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. Our migrant population is amongst the highest in the world. At this time, we have individuals seeking our protection from Angola, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and increasing counts from eastern Ukraine. A future is provided for these people trying to escape violence and attain a life. Russia has a demand for labor that is being fueled by immigrant hands.

Russia seeks to ameliorate the living conditions of our immigrant population. We have received such an influx, at times we are unable to sufficiently provide care and comfort for those in need. The lifting of harsh sanctions will better our chances at enabling everyone’s stability and contentment. Our minority groups are to be given the same rights as any other Russian citizen should they abide by our laws and regulations.

Aside from our ethnic diversity, Russia has varied religions. Around 40% of the population identifies as Orthodox Christian. A quarter of Russians are spiritual. Some individuals are Muslim or non-religious. There is acceptance of all faiths which do not impose upon Russia or violate any laws. Our people are free to decide what to believe. Religious minority groups are given the same treatment as other groups. The Russian Federation imposes upon any wrongdoings done to a religious gathering. Religious minority groups in other countries are offered placement in Russia. Assisting those in need gives us a great joy and fulfillment. Those who swear allegiance to us are given treatment like any other citizen. Individuals deserve a fair chance at life disregarding their beliefs.

Any mistreatment or human right violations will be met with swift persecution to those in the wrong. We firmly believe in the individual’s right to select their type of ideology.

Russians are granted freedom of speech and expression. What one may say and do cannot infringe upon our laws and ideals. Russia may not be shamed or spoken of in any negative sort of light because that would be a falsity. Children may not be harmed or corrupted by what people say. They may not be exposed to unnatural sexual tendencies. Anything regarding harm to others may not be openly discussed or demonstrated. These rules are to be abided or our police will intervene to a necessary extent. We must defend our people and protect our freedoms. The safety of Russian citizens supersedes the utterances of lies spewed by negative media.

The great Russian Federation protects its own while defending what is ours. International beings are either with us or against us. Russia will forever endeavor to exist as the proud nation we seek to be. We offer protection to those in need pending the total allegiance of Russia. The status of our human rights is one that is ever changing and accommodating to current needs. Our religious diversity is greatly celebrated. Minority groups are given just treatment and are equal to any other Russian citizen. Our grand nation is unified as a stable whole. We give aid to those in need without hesitation or refutation.

Committee on Economics

The economy of Russia is not, as United States President Barack Obama would put it, "In tatters.” While inflation in Russia is currently at 11.4% and the Russian ruble is currently at sixty-six rubles to the single US dollar, the economic “crisis” is nothing the Kremlin is not ready for. According to a recent release by the Moscow Times, the European Union has stated that Russia's economic state is still durable, and our economy will stabilize in 2016. Admittedly, we are going through an arduous time. If Russia were to encounter such a desolate economy, we would be perfectly capable of solving it.

Our economy is primarily based on energy revenues obtained through a globally integrated market-based trade system. As a result, the global drop in oil prices is a main economic concern as oil is our main export. Our economy is very reliant on trading petroleum based products, and for this reason, we are very dependent on their prices remaining at a reasonable level. Despite the plunge in oil prices, Russian energy output for 2015 is still expected to hit record numbers. Although prices will most likely not return to $100 a barrel, we will continue to produce oil and gas in hopes that prices will improve and stabilize.

Our main trade partners are the Netherlands, Germany, China, Belarus, Ukraine, Italy, and Turkey. Our main exports are energy products such as petroleum, oil, and gas. The latter make up about 50% of our country's exports, but we also are recognized for wood, metal, and military products. Our primary imports are machinery, vehicles, pharmaceuticals, and supplements.

Given that many of our trade partners have imposed sanctions on Russia, one might expect that our economy is in shambles. However, the economic stipulations have had little effect on our economy. While our economy has been affected by the barriers placed by the West, they are not the underlying cause of our economic concern. In fact, many other European countries are affected by the energy embargo imposed by the West. However, the sanctions are still a threat to Russia's economy, we are still threatened by them. We and many outside of Moscow believe the United States and some Western European countries are attempting to cripple Russia with the injunctions due to their own geopolitical protocol. In fact, the German minister of economic affairs and energy, Sigmar Gabriel, has said the United States and some forces in Europe aim to destroy Russia's economy with the sanctions.

European countries that are being greatly affected by the restricted energy approbations continue to bar allowances despite the damage caused to them by previous restraints. However, this is not due to their own accord. In fact, many have said the United States is actually badgering the European Union in order to press its own agenda. This includes United States Vice-President Joe Biden, who claimed, “It was America’s leadership and the President of the United States insisting, oft times almost having to embarrass Europe to stand up and take economic hits to impose costs [for the crisis in Ukraine].” The United States has also sent delegates to China, Singapore, Japan, and South Korea in an attempt to urge those countries to support sanctions on Russia.

In order to boost our economy, we have planned a $35 billion dollar bailout for federal loans, pensions, and recapitalizing banks. The proposal will prevent the further deterioration of the Russian economy and maintain our fiscal stability. In order to finance this project, Russia will make 10% cuts across all government departments except for defense and social expenditures, as Vladimir Putin is adamant about preserving Russia’s social stability and international fortitude. For the following two years, Russia will make 5% cuts in the same departments. Since a large portion of Russia's income is from gas and oil, Russia has also signed a thirty year gas contract with China should the Western sanctions placed on energy stay in place. This will increase our bilateral trade with China from $90 billion to $200 billion.

As well as boosting our economy, we are attempting to lessen the disparity of Russian wages. Unfortunately, our wealth inequality has increased in the post-Soviet Union. While our contrasting revenue has risen, so has the GDP per capita, which has nearly tripled since the end of it, going from $3,429 in 1989 to $14,032 in 2012. While wealth inequality in Russia is above the global average, the common Russian citizen is living a much more suitable lifestyle compared to how they would live at the end of the Soviet Union.

We recognize wealth inequality in Russia is an issue and we are taking careful steps to address it. A bill has recently been prepared that would allow the Russian government to distribute free land plots to the socially vulnerable as well as people who are deemed deserving of reward from the state such as military veterans, teachers, and foundry workers. Russia also plans on granting easier access to loans and state contracts for small businesses. These actions will help to bridge the gap between the extremely wealthy and the less fortunate, which promotes equal opportunity and prosperity.

Our economy does not have the extensive affairs the West seems to believe. Russia has a few items on its agenda, but there are always plans being made to amend them. Despite falling oil prices and the western sanctions, Russia is confident that it has the means to support itself and stabilize its economy. As aforementioned, Russia has protocols in place designed to help its economy flourish as well as strategies to keep the Russian economy formidable. Russia is a nation of success, and even in strenuous times we will strive to flourish.

Committee on Energy

Russian energy exports have overcame great obstacles. Along with the sanctions imposed on Russia by the European Union, the global drop in oil has proven our economy as rigid. Looking eastward for an economic consistency, Russia has formed a stable relationship with China. Russia sees growth in its future energy distribution, aiming to preserve the economy and dismantle the unethical, punitive measures.

Russia is one of the top exporting countries in the world, using mostly energy exports. A multitude of countries depend on Russia for most of their energy. For example, Russia supplies one third of Europe’s energy needs. Ironically, the sanctions placed by the EU prohibit the sale of essential oil industry technologies to Russia. This is an overwhelming inconvenience for all involved. Russia cannot supply countries in need of our energy goods.

Although Russia is largely an exporting country, we benefit from the trades of participating countries. Imports to Russia, because of the sanctions imposed by the EU, are limited. The sanctions that target Russia’s economy disturb other countries’ exports. Countries like Germany, Finland, and Italy along with many others in the west have been affected by the counterproductive sanctions placed on Russia.

The worldwide drop in oil cost has had an effect on the Russian economy. Since Russia leans on its distribution of oil for economic stability, Russia is on the edge of recession for 2015. The sanctions placed on Russia by the EU attribute to the country’s disrupted austerity, as they directly impact Russian oil trade. Russia’s economic strife may be the beginning of a domino like effect. The drop in oil prices and the unwarranted penalties are not only affecting Russia unfavorably; Europe and many other countries rely on Russian oil and gas. Sanctions impair European trade and might cause more disruption than “justice” in the future.

The Russian oil company Gazprom bought out the South Stream pipeline project, but pipeline plan came to an end early December when the EU forbade it. Russia finds this unjust, as the European Union is preventing our economy from reaching its peak. Since Europe depends on Russian oil, it is not sensible for the west to risk losing Russia’s business.

In May, Russia signed a gas deal with China, estimated to bring in around $400 billion. The deal took ten years to establish and will include 38 billion cubic meters of natural gas a year, for thirty years, to China. The deal, starting in 2018, is the biggest contract in the entire history of the USSR and Gazprom. The gas deal has made Russian relations with China stronger and the countries.

Russia sees economic security and opportunity in the future of the energy market. If sanctions are not lifted, Russia does not see a point in maintaining its primary business relationship with countries in the west. Russia does find Europe to be a prevalent partner in the energy market but does not feel at this time that the EU is reacting equitably in its decision to limit Russian trade.

Energy has always been an origin for alliances as well as aversion in Russia since it is one of the most significant trade sources. Energy, especially oil, has connected Russia to many countries for decades. Most currently, ties between Russia and the west have been falling while relations in the east have boomed around energy trade. A stable network in the east is crucial to Russia regardless of Western links.

The Russian economy will recover as it has countless times throughout its history. Russia is willing to rebuild ties in the west but will not attempt recovery until impairing sanctions cast by the EU are overturned. The ban on trade must be lifted in order for Russia to remain a dependable collaborator with Europe.

As a lead in energy trade, Russian presence also maintains the densest oil and gas reserves. Oil in the Caspian Sea is one of the oldest oil generating regions in the world. It was not generally tapped, apart from Azerbaijan’s oil production, until the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Black Sea is on the Crimean Peninsula. Russia is concerned predominately with the distribution of the resources in the Black Sea as it is now rightful owner of the land surrounding the sea. Russian companies also occupy the Arctic Sea. The challenges the Arctic Sea pose, make resource development costly and high- risk. The Arctic Sea, with a harsh climate, is more limited than other reserves but still contains a large supply of natural gases and oil.

Russia has always been a spearhead, energy distributor. Despite the current economic condition, Russia sees resolution in the east if needs are not met in the west. Russia plays an eminent role in the world’s energy market. If the EU neglects to see its significance it is not only causing economic stress in Russia, but also countries within its own vicinity. Russian energy productivity supports a large portion of the world. If it is destroyed, a mass of economies will fall victim to collapse.

Committee on Ukraine

Russia has long been concerned with the situation in Ukraine, especially regarding the ethnic Russians. While Russia does not support the Ukrainian Separatists, any opportunity for Russia to support ethnic Russians cannot be ignored. As its citizens are ethnic Russians, Crimea is a perfect example of this. Russia’s affairs should not be a prominent concern of the international community, as it has many other issues at hand.

The recent ceasefire on the Ukrainian-rebel front line has led to a stalemate in the conflict. The Ukrainian Separatists are isolated in their capital city, Donbass, while native citizens have surrounded the city and hold power in the adjacent areas. As Zakharchenko and Poroshenko meet to agree on an amicable compromise, the civilians will continue to be at risk in an unstable environment.

One possible solution may be for the Ukrainian government to agree to grant the Separatists the autonomy of Donbass. Kiev is resisting this solution and is turning to the United Kingdom for assistance in controlling the resistance. However, if the UK failed to protect its own country from a separatist group approximately fifteen years ago, how can it properly defend Ukraine? Kiev will certainly fail in its expeditions of defeating the Ukrainian Separatists if it continues to take advice from Great Britain.

Additionally, with the recognition of Donbass as a state, the world could potentially see the formation of a new country. If Kiev realizes the necessity of sovereignty for Donbass, the Separatists will have the power to create a new way of life for themselves. Many options will present themselves to its leaders, and decisions will have to be made.

“Crimea is an integral part of Russia in the hearts and minds of people,” says President Vladimir Putin. The ethnic Russians are being returned to citizenship of their native and proper country. We seek to improve their rights as everyday citizens of a state that sees to its needs. We are protecting them from manipulation of the authority of another nation. Ethnic Russians, regardless of location, deserve to be treated as Russian civilians, not as the people of an improper commonwealth for the governing of our indigenous peoples.

The West, primarily the United States, has aimed to prevent the reunion of Russia with Crimea through economic sanctions and offering assistance to the Ukrainian soldiers. The United States often intervenes in situations where it is not needed, yet the international community continues to allow it. The United States has influenced other nations, often without the nation’s knowledge or consent. However, the United States believes that it has the right and the power to involve themselves with the Crimea situation and inform us that we are wrong in our every move. The United States controls military bases in over one hundred countries, yet separatists standing on Ukrainian ground is inherently our fault. The United States seems to believe that it can be the only superpower of the world, and any nation that could potentially rival that status must be stopped.

The Ukrainian government has expansive ties with the Kremlin. However, the European Union is aiming to westernize Ukraine. With the western sanctions imposed on our government, Russia’s trade partners are suffering. These difficulties do not gravely affect Russia, but Russian importers rely heavily on us. The United States is trying to convince Ukraine to join the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in attempts to westernize it.

Many see Russia as a threat that it is not, especially considering naval safety on the Black Sea. While our Navy is endurable and will protect our waters, the sovereignty of other nations will not be corrupted by the new level of Russian exposure on the Black Sea. Other republics should not fear our naval power, as we are not interested in expanding our borders. The Russian Navy will remain on the sea as a defense mechanism, but will not invade nor impose upon any surrounding countries.

Russia is only interested in maintaining its sovereignty and citizen rights. The Black Sea remains in extant safety, and Russia has a more secure border due to the added protection. The United States and the European Union do not need to concern themselves with our affairs. Russia is a powerful nation, and will remain so with or without the support of the international community

Five Issues

* Improve agricultural alliances
* Promote better relations with minority groups
* Advocate more transparency for Russian citizens
* Help move Post- Soviet states towards stable sovereignty
* Eliminate the arbitrary sanctions which are adding stress to the Russian economy and the economies of other nations in the region