

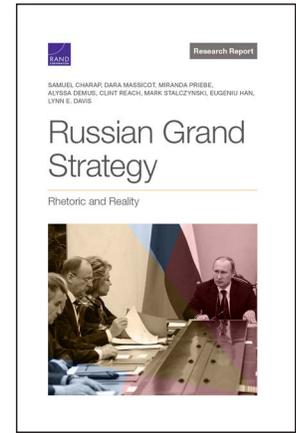


# Russian Grand Strategy

## Rhetoric and Reality

Samuel Charap, Dara Massicot, Miranda Priebe, Alyssa Demus, Clint Reach, Mark Stalczyński, Eugeniu Han, and Lynn E. Davis

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Understanding Russia's grand strategy can help U.S. decisionmakers assess the depth and nature of potential conflicts between Russia and the United States and avoid strategic surprise by better-anticipating Moscow's actions and reactions. The authors of this report review Russia's declared grand strategy, evaluate the extent to which Russian behavior is consistent with stated strategy, and outline implications for the United States.



### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is Russia's stated grand strategy?
- Do Russia's actions, behavior, and resource decisions reflect its stated grand strategy?
- What are the implications of this analysis for U.S. Army planners and other U.S. policymakers?



### KEY FINDINGS

From the broad themes of Russia's stated grand strategy, the authors chose six key elements to examine in greater detail; these six discrete analyses suggest five overarching implications for understanding the evolution of Russian grand strategy

- Russia's declared strategy can generally be considered a reliable predictor of the state's efforts.
- Russia has reacted to the Ukraine crisis and subsequent breakdown in relations with the West in ways that cause its behavior to diverge from its stated strategic goals.
- Insufficient economic resources and a lack of political influence limit Moscow's ability to realize its stated objectives.
- Russian strategy prioritizes threats and thus implies acceptance of certain risks in lower-priority areas;

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in practice, however, Russia seems unwilling or unable to accept these risks and thus allocates resources in ways that are inconsistent with its stated strategy.

- The analysis does not suggest that Russia's revealed grand strategy is fundamentally divergent from its stated one.

