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The Geostrategic Position of the Russian Federation

A Powermetric Study



Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities
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*Russia is never as strong as she looks;
nor as weak as she looks.*

Otto von Bismarck

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Preface

The subject of my book is the geostrategic position of the Russian Federation in the international distribution of power from the point of view of the powermetric research study.

The main inspiration for my work has been the lack of the comprehensive scientific literature that use methods based on measurement on this subject. There are some separate attempts of quantitative and qualitative analysis of selected geostrategic indicators, but without the much broader, holistic approach. There are mostly political and geopolitical analysis without the more profound measurement perspectives. In turn, this leads to shallow, instead of deep, analysis of Russian power in the contemporary international system.

Consequently it is difficult to realistically answer the question: **how strong is Russia?**

Of course, it is clear that a simple and unambiguous answer to this question should not be expected. What's more, this answer applies to every state, not only Russia. For many reasons, mostly historical, Russia strikes fear and uncertainty, sometimes even panic among Polish citizens. Also in the relations with NATO, the problem of Russia's power is a key point.

At the beginning such question requires the answers to other problems – **what does it mean that Russia is strong? What criteria determine Russia's power? In which functional areas Russia is strong?**

In my book, I have attempted to answer these problems by the following research question: **what is the geostrategic position of the Russian Federation in the international distribution of power after the cold war?**

I will adopt my own definition of geostrategy as a branch of geopolitics researching the use of military power by states in order to obtain geopolitical interests i.e. the study of impact that space-time conditions have on achieving state's strategic goals (national security interests).

My research is based on the definition of geostrategic position as the state's placement (rank), in hierarchy of the international distribution of power over time in respect of military power (key factor) and four strengthening and weakening impact factors (economic, political, social and geography).

Powermetrics is a new term, combining two concepts – 'power' and 'metric'. Powermetrics is the applied science dealing with measurements, assessments and evaluation of public life participant's (actors) power, particularly of states, and the modelling, simulation and forecast of relationship between them in global, regional and local dimensions.

The synthetic concept of power (overall power and military power) evaluated according to a formal powermetric model meets the different concepts of power as soft power, hard power, smart power or sharp power and efficiently integrates all these concepts.

I have adopted two scientific goals of my book. **The first scientific goal** is going to allow readers to look at the power of Russia from the perspective of the empirical research, confirming and maybe even changing often too emotional views. **The second scientific goal** is to expand the horizons of geostrategic research with the powermetric research methods. I will try to convince you that application of these methods is not only possible and desirable, but it is even a *sine qua non* condition of reliable and objective geostrategic studies.

Due to the fact that the most current available source was data from 2017, the study covers period from 1992 to 2016.

My book consists of six chapters. **The first chapter** covers my original methodological concept of the research, methodological analysis of the main data sources and the characteristics of the research field. **The data source** of my work consists of geographical, social, political, military and economic databanks, providing me with the current data for my calculations, by means of the formal model and some impact factors. **The second chapter** contains the analysis of the indicators of key factor – the military power. **The chapters from third to six** are focused on the analysis of indicators of the impact factors i.e. geographic (chapter third), social (chapter four), political (chapter five) and economic (chapter six). **In conclusions**, readers will find the answer to the research problem. The work is enriched by numerous tables, graphs, figures and maps. The Appendix provides a form of the survey questionnaire.

The literature of the research subject is quite limited and dispersed in the geographical, subject and institutional sense. Most of the presented studies are based only on the analytical indicators, but there are no studies that synthesize analytical methods with powermetric methods.

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