



Germany, Russia, and the Rise of Geo-Economics

By Stephen F. Szabo

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Germany, Russia, and the Rise of Geo-Economics By Stephen F. Szabo

Having emerged from the end of the Cold War as a unified country, Germany has quickly become the second largest exporter in the world. Its economic might has made it the center of the Eurozone and the pivotal power of Europe. Like other geo-economic powers, Germany's foreign policy is characterized by a definition of the national interest in economic terms and the elevation of economic interests over non-economic values such as human rights or democracy promotion. This strategic paradigm is evident in German's relationship with China, the Gulf States and Europe, but it is most important in regard to its evolving policies towards Russia.

In this book, Stephen F. Szabo provides a description and analysis of German policy towards Russia, revealing how unified Germany is finding its global role in which its interests do not always coincide with the United States or its European partners. He explores the role of German business and finance in the shaping of foreign policy and investigates how Germany's Russia policy effects its broader foreign policy in the region and at how it is perceived by key outside players such as the United States, Poland and the EU. With reference to public opinion, the media and think tanks Szabo reveals how Germans perceive Russians, and he uncovers the ways in which its dealings with Russia affect Germany in terms of the importing of corruption and crime.

Drawing on interviews with key opinion-shapers, business and financial players and policy makers and on a wide variety of public opinion surveys, media reports and archival sources, his will be a key resource for all those wishing to understand the new geo-economic balance of Europe.

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Germany, Russia, and the Rise of Geo-Economics By Stephen F. Szabo Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #418670 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-12
- Released on: 2015-02-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .67" w x 6.25" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

An original and indispensable corrective to the overly political-military focus of most writing on Europe, Russia, and global politics. -- Andrew Moravcsik Foreign Affairs Quite simply the best book to appear on any aspect of contemporary German foreign policy in recent years. William Paterson OBE, Emeritus Director of the Institute for German Studies, University of Birmingham, UK Stephen Szabo brings his deep historical and contemporary knowledge to bear in deftly analyzing the German-Russian relationship. This engagingly written book explains the role of economic and commercial factors in driving Germany's Russia policy and should serve as required reading for scholars and students who wish to better understand the present and future course of a relationship that has tremendous implications for the United States, Europe and Eurasia. James Goldgeier, Dean of the School of International Service at American University, USA Stephen Szabo's volume on German relations with Russia in the larger geo-economic context is an important contribution to a better understanding of the long-range complexity of that issue. He correctly puts emphasis on the historically significant economic links between the two states, but he also conveys a keen understanding of the geopolitical dangers inherent in a one-dimensional approach. Szabo's book is thus a genuinely significant contribution to geostrategic literature. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Senior Research Professor of International Relations, John Hopkins University, USA

About the Author

Stephen F. Szabo is Executive Director of the Transatlantic Academy, an independent research institute based at the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington DC, USA. He is the author of numerous books and articles focusing on Transatlantic relations and German foreign policy including *Parting Ways: The Crisis in German-American Relations* (2004).

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