

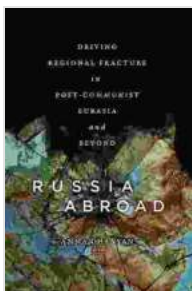
# Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture In Post Communist Eurasia And Beyond

## A Comprehensive Analysis of Geopolitical Fault Lines and Their Impact

### Summary

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a tectonic shift in global politics. The vast realm that had once been held together by communist ideology fragmented into 15 independent states, each grappling with the challenges of post-communist transition. This disintegration not only reshaped the political landscape of Eurasia but also sowed the seeds of deep-seated regional fractures that continue to shape the region's dynamics today.

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the geopolitical fault lines that have emerged in post-communist Eurasia. It examines the historical, economic, and cultural factors that have contributed to these divisions, and explores their implications for stability, security, and development. The article also discusses the broader effects of these regional fractures, extending beyond the borders of Eurasia and into the global arena.



### Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond by Charles Ellms

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## Historical Antecedents

The roots of regional fracture in post-communist Eurasia can be traced back to centuries of ethnic and political conflict. The patchwork of nationalities and ethnicities within the former Soviet Union, many of whom had been subjected to forced assimilation or oppression, now found themselves free to assert their own identities and aspirations.

These historical tensions were exacerbated by the economic disparities that emerged during the Soviet era. Industrial development had been concentrated in certain regions, leaving others impoverished and resentful. This uneven distribution of wealth and opportunity set the stage for economic and political competition between different parts of the post-Soviet space.

## Economic Disparities and Resource Conflicts

Economic disparity has played a significant role in driving regional fracture in post-communist Eurasia. The collapse of the central planning system led to a sharp decline in economic output and living standards, particularly in those regions that had been heavily dependent on Soviet subsidies.

Competition for scarce resources has further exacerbated these disparities. Central Asia, for example, is rich in hydrocarbons and other natural resources, which have become a source of conflict and tension between

different states in the region. Similarly, the Caspian Sea has been a flashpoint for disputes over oil and gas rights.

## **Ethnic and Political Divisions**

Ethnic and political divisions have also contributed to regional fracture in post-communist Eurasia. The collapse of the Soviet Union unleashed a wave of nationalism and separatism, leading to several violent conflicts, including the Chechen wars and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. These conflicts have left deep scars on the region and continue to cast a shadow over relations between different states.

In addition to ethnic and political divisions, religious differences have also exacerbated regional fractures. The rise of Islamist movements in Central Asia and the North Caucasus has fueled tensions between Muslim and non-Muslim communities, further complicating efforts to build stability and cooperation.

## **Implications for Stability and Security**

The regional fractures in post-communist Eurasia have had a profound impact on stability and security. The presence of frozen conflicts, unresolved territorial disputes, and ethnic and religious tensions creates a constant threat of renewed violence. These conflicts can also be exploited by external actors seeking to gain influence or destabilize the region.

The competition for resources and economic advantage has also created incentives for states to prioritize their own interests at the expense of regional cooperation. This has led to the emergence of rival economic and

security blocs and hindered efforts to address common challenges, such as climate change and transnational organized crime.

## **Beyond Eurasia: Global Implications**

The regional fractures in post-communist Eurasia have had broader implications beyond the borders of the region. The conflicts and instability in Eurasia have contributed to global security challenges, such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The region has also become a hub for illicit activities, such as drug trafficking and human smuggling.

Moreover, the regional fractures in Eurasia have had a spillover effect on the global economy. Economic disparities and resource conflicts have hindered trade and investment, contributing to poverty and inequality. The lack of regional cooperation has also made it difficult to address global challenges that require collective action, such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

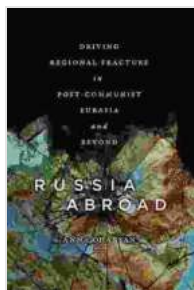
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The regional fractures in post-communist Eurasia are a complex and multifaceted issue rooted in historical, economic, and cultural factors. These fractures have had a profound impact on stability, security, and development in the region and beyond. Understanding the nature and causes of these fractures is essential for devising effective strategies to address the challenges they pose to both regional and global security.

By promoting dialogue, cooperation, and economic integration, it is possible to overcome these divides and build a more stable and prosperous Eurasia. This requires the active engagement of states in the region, as well as international organizations and partners. Only through a shared commitment to peace, cooperation, and inclusive development can the regional fractures in Eurasia be healed and the full potential of the region realized.

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An in-depth analysis of the geopolitical fault lines that have emerged in post-communist Eurasia and their implications for stability, security, and development, extending beyond the borders of the region and into the global arena.



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