

# Chapter 4

## Internal and External Determinants of Russian Foreign Policy

**Nikoloz Chkhaidze**

*International Black Sea University, Georgia*

### **ABSTRACT**

*Russian foreign policy is one of the most complex issues to examine, in terms of its internal and external determinants. In this research brief, the author focuses on analyzing the foreign policy of Russia according to the following aspects: Geography, economy, groups of social interest, Russian political structure and mechanism of decision-making, international commonwealth and Russia, and comparative analysis of Russian and Soviet foreign political behavior. The author will analyze the significance of these factors and how much they've contributed to shaping the foreign policy of Russia as it is today. Since this research will be based on foreign policy analysis, the author will use academic articles, books, journals, and documents from government websites. It should be noted that the author will use qualitative and quantitative analysis. The researcher will use thematic analysis to explain the behavior of the Russian Federation, as well as events and the developments that contributed to the development of Russian foreign policy.*

### **INTRODUCTION: THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DETERMINANTS OF THE STATE FOREIGN POLICY**

The concept of “statehood” is the most important characteristic of the state, revealing not only its internal nature, as R. Chellen would say, “form of life”, but also determining its place in the world system. That is why the use of this concept as a synonym for the state or to refer to fairly generalized and indirect forms of political organization seems to be erroneous. Methodological substantiation of the concept of “statehood” Statehood is a special sign, the state of development of a certain social entity (nation, group of nationalities, people), who managed to create their state, the national legal system or restore these institutions that were lost due to various reasons. Statehood is a property, quality, and state of society

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-8521-7.ch004

## ***Internal and External Determinants of Russian Foreign Policy***

at a particular historical stage of its development. Statehood is the essence, the quality of the state. The state is a manifestation, a form of statehood. Thus, statehood is the qualitative side of the state, which fills the state-state with life and organizes not only the entire human but even partly geographical and biological environment. The concept of statehood is broader and deeper than the concept of the state. When we say that some nation has statehood, it means that this nation has or can have its state. Statehood determines the entire structure of social life, the political order, and hence the viability of the state. The state, in turn, must correspond to the statehood of this or that people. The most complete disclosure of the concept of "statehood" seems possible through the imposition of such characteristics as "status" and "consistency". This was first noticed in the late 1960s by the American researcher J.P. Nettle (Nettle, 1968). those. allows you to determine the place and role of this state in the world system.

statehood is the result of the historical, economic, political, and foreign policy activities of a particular society to create a relatively rigid political framework that ensures territorial, institutional, and functional unity, i.e. to create their state-state, national political system. However, how the process of formation of statehood will proceed, and what will be its results - whether there will be a state-state capable of not only obtaining a certain status in the system of international relations but also playing a certain role in the world system, depends on a historically determined combination of internal and external factors. Therefore, the problem of factors influencing statehood seems to be decisive in the process of its development. Factors as analytical units are understood as material and non-material structures, institutions, and processes that determine the formation of statehood. For the most complete and adequate analysis of the development of domestic statehood, we propose to use a kind of factorial "funnel of causality", namely, to take into account seven internal and seven external factors in the analysis. The internal factors that determine statehood include the dimension, demographic and ethnic-confessional, socioeconomic characteristics, the time of existence of statehood, the presence of internal (interethnic) conflicts, the political organization of society, and the nature of the political regime. External are the factors that show the level of economic, military, and political dependence/independence from other countries, supranational structures, and global problems of our time. Specifically highlighted are: external debt dependence, the share of foreign investment and foreign aid, the national currency pegging regime, the presence of foreign military contingents on the territory of the country, the recognition and inclusion of the country in supranational structures, the presence of territorial problems and global problems of our time (terrorism, arms trafficking, drugs, etc.). The selected factors can be considered basic for the analysis of the development of statehood. The rest, with undoubted interest, are secondary and do not change the overall picture.

### **Economy**

The economic factor significantly influences Russian foreign policy. For us to explain why the Russian economy is the way it is today, we have to understand some of the developments that occurred in the 1990s, and most notably, it is a period of so-called "gangster capitalism" and privatization. As the Russian government did not implement the correct economic policies at the time, whether it be the basic operations of tax collection, or controlling its borders/customs, as well as adopting its currency, the state institutions were ineffective and quite frankly, in turmoil. It suffered from skyrocketing inflation and shortages, terrible industrial formation, which was run by bureaucrats centrally, and naturally, the industries were unused to market approaches to conducting business. The inefficient distribution of resources in the 1990s and a heavy concentration of those assets into defense and military industry is what

11 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:  
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/internal-and-external-determinants-of-russian-foreign-policy/327803](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/internal-and-external-determinants-of-russian-foreign-policy/327803)

## Related Content

---

### Asset Price Density Forecasting for the Financial Sector: An Investigation of the Liquidity Effect of Volatility Forecasting

Gorkem Kaya (2014). *Chaos and Complexity Theory in World Politics* (pp. 169-200).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/asset-price-density-forecasting-for-the-financial-sector/110795](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/asset-price-density-forecasting-for-the-financial-sector/110795)

### China's Shifting Labour-Intensive Manufacturing Firms to Africa: A Particular Focus on Ethiopia and Rwanda

Ezihuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi (2021). *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* (pp. 1-36).

[www.irma-international.org/article/chinas-shifting-labour-intensive-manufacturing-firms-to-africa/285550](http://www.irma-international.org/article/chinas-shifting-labour-intensive-manufacturing-firms-to-africa/285550)

### Niche and Community Online: Artists' Tactical Media Activities as Pedagogy

Patti Pente (2016). *Politics and Social Activism: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 1142-1154).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/niche-and-community-online/140020](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/niche-and-community-online/140020)

### Globalizing Migration Dialogue: A Model for Combining Innovative Pedagogy, Community-Service Learning, and Research

Laura Talamanteand Caroline Mackenzie (2016). *Politics and Social Activism: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 241-267).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/globalizing-migration-dialogue/139970](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/globalizing-migration-dialogue/139970)

### China's Shifting Labour-Intensive Manufacturing Firms to Africa: A Particular Focus on Ethiopia and Rwanda

Ezihuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi (2021). *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* (pp. 1-36).

[www.irma-international.org/article/chinas-shifting-labour-intensive-manufacturing-firms-to-africa/285550](http://www.irma-international.org/article/chinas-shifting-labour-intensive-manufacturing-firms-to-africa/285550)