Russia’s Greater Eurasia Initiative

Dr Glenn Diesen, University of South-Eastern Norway

Thursday 30 July: 5pm-6pm AEST

Vladimir Putin announced the Russian government’s desire for a greater Eurasian partnership at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum in June 2016. He proposed the formation of an economic partnership between the Eurasian Economic Union member states, ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The objective is to bridge the vast Eurasian continent to reposition Russia from the periphery of Europe and Asia to the centre of a new constellation. Moscow’s ‘Greater Europe’ ambition of previous decades produced a failed Western-centric foreign policy culminating in excessive dependence on the West. Instead of constructing the ‘Common European Home’ espoused by former Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, it deprived Russia of the market value and leverage needed to negotiate a more favourable and inclusive Europe.

Eurasian integration offers Russia the opportunity to address this ‘overreliance’ on the West by using Russia’s position as a Eurasian state to advance its influence in Europe.

But what role does China’s Belt and Road Initiative now play? And how will a post-COVID economy affect these aspirations?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Diesen to discuss both Russian responses and adaptations to the current power transition, and the ways in which the economic initiatives promoted by Moscow in its project for a ‘Greater Eurasia’ reflect the entrepreneurial foreign policy strategy of the country.

Dr Glenn Diesen is an Associate Professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway, an editor at the Russia in Global Affairs journal, and an affiliate at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow. Dr Diesen specialises in the geoeconomics of Russia’s Greater Eurasia Initiative and the resurgence of Russian conservatism. He is the author of Russian Conservatism: Managing Change under Permanent Revolution (forthcoming); Great Power Politics in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Geoeconomics of Technological Sovereignty (forthcoming); Russia in a Changing World (2020); The Decay of Western Civilisation and Resurgence of Russia (2019); Russia’s Geoconomic Strategy for a Greater Eurasia (2017); and EU and NATO Relations with Russia (2015).

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 30 July at 3pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email with details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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