

THEORY AND HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: SINO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

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Rezumat: Acest articol se referă la regiunea Asiei de Nord-Est văzută prin prisma istoriei internaționale și a teoriei echilibrului puterii. Două studii de caz privind relațiile sino-ruse constituie partea empirică a studiului: primul privește ruperea relațiilor sino-sovietice în timpul Războiului Rece; iar, al doilea, construirea parteneriatului strategic în perioada post-Război Rece, lipsit de componenta unei alianțe politico-militare. Aceste examinări empirice confirmă devierea de la comportamentul de echilibru al puterii. Concluzia principală este că teoria relațiilor internaționale ar trebui să se bazeze mai mult pe studiile istorice pentru a întări capacitatea de deslușire a proceselor de politică internațională.

Abstract: The article deals with the Northeast Asian region seen through the lenses of international history and balance of power theory. Two case studies about Sino-Russian relations are employed: first, the break up between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China during the Cold War times; and second, the formation of a strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in post-Cold War times that fell short of a political-military alliance. These empirical examinations confirm a deviation from the balance of power behavior. The main conclusion is that theories of international relations should rely more on international history in order to improve explanatory power and to make sense of processes of international politics.

Keywords: balance of power, North-East Asia, Sino-Russian relations, Sino-Soviet conflict, Sino-Russian partnership, regional security, international history, theories of international relations. Introduction (font Times New Roman, bold, size 12; line spacing options: 12 points before and 6 points after the paragraph).

Introduction

International dynamics in East Asia are described in international relations literature through the lenses of power politics persistence and security competition among actor states¹. A general look on the last two centuries, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries' history, shows that the perceptions of political-military threats have been a constant feature of the region. The penetration of Western power and

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¹ John J. Mearsheimer (2001) *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company, pp. 372-377.