

Global Reordering

Series editor
André Broome
University of Warwick
Coventry, UK

Shaun Breslin
PAIS
University of Warwick
Coventry, UK

How is the global order changing, and why? The contemporary dynamics of the global political economy and global security in the twenty-first century are experiencing a series of fundamental transitions, which are challenging and transforming the existing global order. These dynamics are reshaping relations between and within different categories of actors such as states, club forums, international organizations, transnational policy communities, private sector agencies and corporations, and civil society organizations. At the same time, processes of global reordering have led to the emergence of new issue areas and policy problems that the existing landscape of national, regional, and global governance is struggling to effectively address. The Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) at the University of Warwick has been home, since 2011, to a major EU funded research project on Global Reordering. With 16 partners from across the world, the project has focussed on how European interests, objectives, and modes of governance might influence the way in which a post-unipolar global order takes shape. Global Reordering seeks to build on this research agenda, and also expand it by moving beyond just a European focus towards a truly global perspective. Global Reordering invites manuscript submissions based on innovative empirical research that is theoretically-informed and is relevant for contemporary policy debates. The series welcomes proposals for authored monographs, edited volumes and short length Pivots. Key areas include: changing modes of global governance and multipolarity; global public policy networks; emerging powers and multipolar alternatives; regions and regionalism; as well as regional and global leadership.

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Helge Blakkisrud • Elana Wilson Rowe
Editors

Russia's Turn to the East

Domestic Policymaking and Regional Cooperation

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Editors

Helge Blakkisrud
Norwegian Institute of International
Affairs (NUPI)
Oslo, Norway

Elana Wilson Rowe
Norwegian Institute of International
Affairs (NUPI)
Oslo, Norway



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PREFACE

Pictures can sometimes be more revealing than words. If you ever sit down and look at a night-time satellite picture of the Earth, you will find that there are still huge areas on our planet that are not lit up by human activities and cities.

One of the largest ‘dark spots’ in the Northern Hemisphere is found in the Russian Far East or Pacific Russia. Here are enormous territories rich in natural resources like petroleum, minerals, forests and water—but these vast reaches are sparsely populated and lack connective infrastructure. A closer look at the satellite image will reveal a tiny thread of light, almost like an umbilical cord, linking the Far Eastern part of Russia with the European part. This is the Trans-Siberian Railway that connects the Eastern and Western parts of Russia.

The same satellite picture shows few traces of networking with the territories of the immediate neighbourhood—the brightly lit, heavily populated, urbanized and dynamic Asian economies of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. It is hardly surprising that Russia has intensified its efforts at closer integration with these Asian neighbours, economically and politically. For Russia, this pivot to Asia represents huge opportunities, but it also entails significant economic, administrative, technological, cultural and strategic challenges.

The contributors to this book examine the nature, speed and direction of the long-term structural shift. Rather than taking the declared ‘pivot’ as a fact and exploring the likely consequences, the authors ask whether there has in fact been such a new pivot—or if what we see today is a continuation of longer-duration trends, concerns and ambitions.

The authors explore the relationship between integration and disintegration, examining whether Russia's turn to the East has intensified or changed in nature—domestically and internationally—since the onset of the current crisis in relations with the West. In turning to the East, is Russia also turning away from the West?

This project is a result of collaboration involving scholars from Norway, Russia, Korea and the UK, and has been supported financially by the Korea Foundation and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Oslo, Norway

Ulf Sverdrup
NUPI

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Jae-Young Lee
KIEP

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Helge Blakkisrud Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

Boogyun Kang Russia and Eurasia Team, Department of Europe, Americas and Eurasia, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Sejong, Republic of Korea

Gulaikhan Kubayeva Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

Natasha Kuhrt Department of War Studies, King's College London, London, UK

Marc Lanteigne Centre for Defence and Security Studies, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand

Jae-Young Lee Department of Europe, Americas and Eurasia, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Sejong, Republic of Korea

Jiyoung Min Russia and Eurasia Team, Department of Europe, Americas and Eurasia, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Sejong, Republic of Korea

Malin Østevik Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

Indra Overland Energy Programme, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

Elana Wilson Rowe Research Group on Emerging Powers and International Development, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo Norway

Ulf Sverdrup Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

Tamara Troyakova School of Regional and International Studies, Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia

Roman Vakulchuk Research Group on Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, Norway

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