

Abstract

This thesis examines the use of geo-economic strategies as employed by Russia in its attempt to dominate the surrounding states, formerly the union republics of the USSR. It delineates the differences between geopolitics and geoeconomics, naming their pros and cons. Subsequently, the thesis discusses geoeconomics itself, its components, its development, and the changing understanding of these strategies and how they are used in specific cases. For this purpose, a pair of states, more precisely, mother and separatist states, have been chosen: Moldova/Sub-Saharan Africa, and Georgia/Abkhazia. It names the distinctive features of Russian strategies in trying to control or influence the politics of formerly subordinate states and their efforts to break free from this influence, highlights the role of corruption in Moscow's efforts, and describes the subtle blackmail to which the governments of neighbouring states are subjected. He documents all this with charts and tables, all sorts of data and figures, quotes from politicians and theorists