

Original scientific article**GEOPOLITICAL IMAGINATIONS OF RUSSIA IN THE REGION
OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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SUMMARY:

The aim of the paper is to explore whether contemporary Russian Federation has imaginations of its power in the region of the Central and Eastern Europe. Using a theoretical framework based on instruments, notions and tools of critical geopolitics, this paper discusses four discourses that define the territory which is the focus of the research, as well as stressing the most important concepts of contemporary foreign policy of the Russian Federation. Due to the strong influence of NATO's (and the EU's) enlargement policies in this region, the Russian administration tries to preserve its traditional geopolitical sphere of interest in the European continent. Therefore, three sub-regional case studies— annexation of Crimea in the Eastern Europe, the Three Seas Initiative in the Central Europe, and Western Balkan's case study of Montenegro's path to full NATO membership—will be explored to examine this hypothesis. Finally, adequate conclusion, regarding the main hypothesis, is brought..

KEY WORDS:

geopolitical imaginations; Russia; Central and Eastern Europe; annexation of Crimea; Three Seas Initiative; Montenegro – NATO relations

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SAŽETAK:

Cilj rada je istražiti ima li savremena Ruska Federacija imaginacije o svojoj moći u regiji srednje i istočne Evrope. Koristeći se teoretskim okvirom utemeljenim na instrumentima, pojmovima i alatima kritičke geopolitike, u radu se raspravlja o četiri diskursa koji definišu region u fokusu istraživanja, a potom se predstavljaju najvažniji koncepti savremene spoljne politike Ruske Federacije. Zbog snažnog uticaja NATO-ove (i EU) politike proširenja na ovaj region, ruska vlast nastoji da sačuva svoju tradicionalnu geopolitičku sferu interesovanja na evropskom kontinentu. Stoga će da se ispitaju tri subregionalne studije slučaja kako bi se provjerila prethodno navedena hipoteza: aneksija Krima u Istočnoj Evropi, Inicijativa triju mora u Srednjoj Evropi i studija slučaja zapadnog Balkana o putu Crne Gore do punopravnog članstva u NATO-u. Naposljetku, iznosi se odgovarajući zaključak o glavnoj hipotezi.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

Geopolitička imaginacija; Rusija; Srednja i Istočna Evropa; aneksija Krima; Inicijativa triju mora; Crna Gora – NATO odnosi