

Russia, China and the revisionist assault on the Western liberal international order

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Note sur le contenu : Intro Acknowledgements Contents List of Figures Part I Introduction 1 Enduring Rivals: The Return of Great Power Politics Between Russia, China, and the West The Puzzle: Great Power Politics in a Globalized World The State of the Debate: Literature Review The Road Ahead: Research Design Works Cited Part II Theory of International Order Building and Revisionism 2 Falling Short: International Order and Revisionism in IR Theory Dependent Variable: Revisionism International Order and Revisionism: State of the Debate in IR Theory Neorealist Voids, Realist Opportunities Works Cited 3 Strategic Choices: Neoclassical Realist Model of Order and Revisionism Assumptions of Neoclassical Realism Power, National Interests, and International Order International Order as Systemic

Constraint, Revisionism as Strategic Choice Hypothesis: Russian and Chinese Revisionism Toward the US-Led Order Works Cited Part III Western Triumph and Non-Western Accommodation in the 1990s 4
False History: Globalization of the US-Led Liberal West and Its Delusions Historical Legacies and Trajectories Post-Cold War Globalization of the US-Led Liberal West Constraints on Russia and China Works Cited 5
Russia's Fall: Resentful Accommodation to Grim Post-Cold War Realities Historical Legacies National Interests and Propensity to Adapt Opportunity Structure and Strategic Response Works Cited 6
China's Rise: Strategic Accommodation to Post-Cold War Opportunities Historical Legacies National Interests and Propensity to Adapt Opportunity Structure and Strategic Response Works Cited Part IV
Western Crisis and Anti-Western Revisionism from the Late 2000s 7
Return of History: Outgrowth Amidst Erosion of the US-Led Liberal Order Follies and Discontents of Liberal Order Building from the 2000s Constraints on Russia and China Works Cited 8
Russia's Nightmare: Destructive Revisionism for Great Power Survival Balance of Interests and Propensity to Adapt Window of Strategic Opportunity Strategic Response: Destructive Revisionism Works Cited 9
China's Dream: Constructive Revisionism for Great Rejuvenation Balance of Interests and Propensity to Adapt Window of Strategic Opportunity Strategic Response: Constructive Revisionism Works Cited Part V
Conclusion 10
Geopolitical Realities: The Case for Neo-Containment Against Russia and China Theoretical and Empirical Findings Strategic Options for the West Index

Résumé ou extrait : This book analyzes Russian and Chinese revisionism in the face of US and Western post-Cold War liberal international order building and asks why both powers have turned revisionist in the late 2000s. The study develops a neoclassical realist model of international order building and contestation and posits to view revisionism as a strategic choice. States go revisionist if the status quo international order threatens their vital security needs (broadly defined not only as territorial security, but also political, economic, normative and ontological) and if they have the means to challenge the undesirable status quo. Russia and China were both unhappy with the post-Cold War international order of American designs, but had to opt for accommodation in the 1990s and early 2000s (strategic accommodation in the Chinese case, resentful accommodation in the Russian case), before revisionism became even more of a necessity and a real policy option from the late 2000s onward (constructive revisionism in the Chinese case, destructive revisionism in the Russian case). The author calls for a policy of neo-containment to counter Moscows and Beijings efforts to game and erode the international order.

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