

The Four Pillars of Russia's Power Narrative

Makarychev A., Yatsyk A.

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

© 2014 Istituto Affari Internazionali. The Winter Olympic Games in Sochi and the annexation of Crimea were two major international events in which Russia engaged in early 2014. In spite of all the divergence in the logic underpinning each of them, four concepts strongly resonate in both cases. First, in hosting the Olympics and in appropriating Crimea, Russia was motivated by solidifying its sovereignty as the key concept in its foreign and domestic policies. Second, the scenarios for both Sochi and Crimea were grounded in the idea of strengthening Russia as a political community through mechanisms of domestic consolidation (Sochi) and opposition to unfriendly external forces (the crisis in Ukraine). Third, Sochi and Crimea unveiled two different facets of the logic of normalisation aimed at proving – albeit by different means – Russia's great power status. Fourth, one of the major drivers of Russian policy in both cases were security concerns in Russia's southern flanks, though domestic security was also an important part of the agenda.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03932729.2014.954185>

Keywords

annexation of Crimea, Russian foreign policy, Sochi Olympics