

CSAG INFORMATION PAPER:

What is Behind the Humanitarian Policy of the Russian Federation

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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of a number of international officers within the Combined Strategic Analysis Group (CSAG) and do not necessarily reflect the views of United States Central Command, nor of the nations represented within the CSAG or any other governmental agency.

1. **Subject.** What is behind (Концепция гуманитарной политики Российской Федерации за рубежом)? The Concept of the Russian Humanitarian Policy document.
2. **Purpose.** To present a rational and literal analysis for the contents and timing of the humanitarian abroad policy of the Russian Federation and its implications in the USCENTCOM AOR.
3. **Significant Statements/ Assessment.**
 - a. **BLUF.**
 - 1) The concept of a humanitarian policy differs between Russia and the Global Humanitarian Overview 2022; according to the Russian perspective, “humanitarian” is related to customs, traditions, values, heritage, culture, and religions. On the other hand, the Global Humanitarian Overview is to fight hunger, killer diseases, and gender-based violence and displacement through plans that prioritize those who need help the most.
 - 2) Six months after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, on September 5, 2022, President Vladimir Putin signed a new official document about the Russian Humanitarian Policy to be implemented to protect, enhance, and maintain the Russian traditions as well as customs to the Russian minorities abroad.
 - 3) The document consists of 31 pages and includes 117 articles. It defines and gives directions and guidance towards major domains related to the way the Russians envisage humanitarian policy.
 - 4) The issuance timing of this document is the most significant:
 - (a) To justify Russian citizens’ support abroad.
 - (b) To promote a new ideology by preserving the traditional values against the western neoliberal ideas.
 - (c) To threaten the former USSR countries with the possibility of an intervention to protect the rights of Russian minorities.
 - (d) To refer to the new multipolar world system.
 - 5) Based on my analysis, I find this document aims to:
 - (a) enhance Russia's image abroad emphasizing on the worldwide support of Russian minorities.
 - (b) illustrate Russia’s foreign policy long-term perceptions.
 - b. **Key points of the Humanitarian Policy.**
 - 1) The establishment of the concept of the Russian world by supporting Russians abroad, protecting Russian traditions and avoiding any customs that do not suit it worldwide, and the enhancement of relations with neighboring states.
 - 2) The endless support of Russian minorities abroad, especially in Abkhazia, Ossetia and CASA countries, by protecting their interests and maintaining their Russian cultural identity, and to aid them wherever they are in order to defeat Western imperialism by creating a multipolar world.
 - 3) The enhancement of Russian soft power tools by introducing the historical and cultural heritage of the Russian Federation to the world community, increasing public access to the Russian and world cultural heritage, and developing international humanitarian cooperation on a mutual, open and non-discriminatory basis.
 - 4) The document calls for an increased cooperation and affirmation of the partnership with China, which supports the construction of a multipolar system. In addition, it stated the strengthening of relations with India, Middle

East countries, Asia, and Africa.

c. Assessment.

- 1) Russian experts analyse this document as:
 - (a) a direct and official threat to the former Soviet Union states which do not respect the rights of its Russian citizens; and
 - (b) a confirmation for Russia's everlasting moral support for Russian minorities in these countries, as it did with the dissidents in the eastern part of Ukraine.
- 2) The document's focus on Russian soft power tools despite the apparent contradiction in Russia's reliance on hard power in dealing with the Ukrainian file and justifying its invasion of Ukrainian territories.
- 3) President Putin seeks to make Russia a leading country in the defense of traditional cultural values against liberal Western values while defending Russia's image against Western smear campaigns.
- 4) Russia will continue to support its minorities abroad, the main objective of the document. Donetsk and Luhansk regions are mentioned, meaning the current war will be protracted and represent the point of no return in Russian foreign policy.
- 5) The Russian foreign policy document affirms the principle of strategic competition and the strengthening of the multilateral system of the world by cooperation with China and India. In addition, the document highlights the importance of cooperation with the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa.

4. Recommendations for the USCENTCOM HQ.

- a. Because of the apparent contradiction between the concept of a global humanitarian policy and the content of the Russian humanitarian doctrine abroad; CENTCOM should analyze the new Russian foreign policy contents to prepare a STRATCOM campaign plan to shape the information environment in CASA countries.
- b. Confront Russian-Chinese cooperation within the strategic competition framework.
- c. Use media resources, conduct more military exercises (military education. Online CT training ...) and initiate a free English language course to reduce Russian influence in the CENTCOM AOR.