**The Sanctions Imposed by the West on Russia**

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Course

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Due Date

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The West's imposition of economic and political sanctions on Russia has been a difficult issue in international relations since 2014. The sanctions were enacted in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea and its role in the crisis in eastern Ukraine, as well as its suspected interference in international elections and human rights abuses (Timofeev, 2021). The sanctions aim to pressure the Russian government to change its behaviour and bring it into accordance with international norms. However, the efficiency of the sanctions in attaining these aims has been a source of controversy. While the sanctions have considerably influenced the Russian economy and its relations with the West, they have not successfully modified Russia's behaviour. This paper will investigate the sanctions' economic, political, and geopolitical repercussions on Russia to determine their efficacy in meeting their intended goals.

**Economic Impact of the Sanctions**

The economic impact of the sanctions imposed by the West on Russia has been significant. The reduction in GDP growth has been a clear result of the sanctions, with the Russian economy witnessing a drop of 2.2% in 2015 and a growth rate of only 1.5% in 2018 (Kheyfets & Chernova, 2020). This can be partly linked to the reduction in oil prices and the sanctions themselves. The devaluation of the ruble vs. significant currencies such as the US dollar and euro has led to more inflation and weaker purchasing power for Russian citizens. Furthermore, the sanctions have restricted Russia's access to global financial markets, making it more difficult for Russian enterprises and the government to secure loans or issue bonds. In response, the Russian government has implemented measures such as hiking interest rates and intervening in the foreign exchange market to boost the ruble. Notwithstanding these attempts, the overall impact of the sanctions on the Russian economy has been severe, resulting in worse growth, more inflation, and less access to credit.

The sanctions have also hindered the export of various technology and commodities, particularly those connected to the oil and gas industry, a significant revenue source for Russia. The limits on export have limited Russia's ability to develop and harness new energy resources, which could have long-term ramifications for the Russian economy. Also, the sanctions have reduced foreign investment in Russia, making it more difficult for the Kremlin to get the capital it needs to modernize its economy. Nonetheless, Russia has implemented remedies to lessen the consequences of the sanctions. For example, it has strengthened commerce with non-Western countries, including China and India. It has moved to diversify its economy away from its significant reliance on oil and gas exports. Russia has also created its technologies in fields such as the military, which has helped it to become less reliant on Western imports (Hsiung, 2021). Nevertheless, the repercussions of the sanctions on the Russian economy and their efficiency in meeting their stated purposes remain subject to discussion, and their impact will likely continue to be felt in the years to come.

**Political Impact of the Sanctions**

In particular, Western sanctions have severely influenced Russia's relations with the West. Since 2014, when it annexed Crimea, Russia has been steadily driven out of international groups such as the G7 (Olsen et al., 2023). The sanctions have strained Russia's relationships with several Western nations, particularly the United States and European Union. Consequently, ties between the two nations have worsened, diplomats have been withdrawn, and additional sanctions have been implemented.

Furthemore, the sanctions hurt Russia's foreign policy and aggressive behaviour in Syria and Ukraine. For instance, the sanctions have impeded Russia's ability to achieve its goals in Ukraine, where it is suspected of helping separatist fighters. Owing to sanctions restricting its access to financial and technological resources, Russia has been less able to assist these groups and respond to the actions of the Western-backed Ukrainian government. Russia's ability to back the Assad administration in Syria, which has been accused of committing war crimes and abusing human rights, has been hampered by sanctions (Haghirian & Zaccara, 2022). Despite Western sanctions and criticism, Russia has pursued its foreign policy aims in these regions.

It is debatable whether the political penalties have accomplished their goals. Some claim that the sanctions have significantly diminished Russia's ability to exert power and influence outside its boundaries. For instance, the sanctions have made it more challenging for Russia to obtain legitimacy for its actions in Syria and Ukraine. However, many believe the sanctions have had little to no effect on Russia's foreign policy activities and have increased Russia's resolve to pursue its goals despite Western condemnation. As a result of export and access to funding restrictions, Russia may have become less dependent on Western markets and more resistant to forthcoming sanctions as local output and self-reliance have increased (Gould-Davies, 2020). Whether the political sanctions will successfully achieve their objectives still needs to be answered. It is likely to be influenced by several factors, such as the reaction of the Russian government, the shifting global political context, and the West's willingness to maintain and enforce the sanctions regime.

**Strategic Impact of the Sanctions**

While examining the efficiency of fines, evaluating their potential for strategic influence is crucial. It is worth analyzing whether Russia's muscular foreign policy has been moderated due to the sanctions. As indicated by its actions in Syria and Ukraine, a few academics argue that despite the sanctions, Russia remains aggressive, as seen by its actions (Rezvani, 2020). Nonetheless, many individuals argue that the sanctions have made Russia more cautious. It is also essential to assess whether or not the sanctions have increased President Putin's popularity in Russia. Despite indicators that the sanctions are affecting the nation's economy, Putin's popularity remains high and may eventually decline. In addition, the Russian government has framed the sanctions as an attack on Russian sovereignty, which has helped rally support for Putin and his policies in Russia.

**Conclusion**

Sanctions have hindered Russia's economic growth and currency devaluation, as well as its access to global financial markets and its ability to export certain technologies and goods. The sanctions have political ramifications, in addition to Russia's exclusion from international forums and a shift in Russian foreign policy toward Syria and Ukraine. The consequences of the punishments are complicated and multifaceted. They had a substantial effect on the Russian economy but a lesser effect on internal and foreign policy. Future strategies towards Russia should be based on a comprehensive strategy that considers economic, political, and geopolitical considerations and achieves a balance between them. Sanctions should focus on the origin of the problem, and diplomatic collaboration and discussion should be undertaken. Future Western strategies with Russia will be successful or unsuccessful based on the West's ability to negotiate the region's fluid and ever-changing geopolitical climate.

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