*Moscow's empire - Russia's reemergence* displayed Russia’s geopolitical influence over former Soviet Union states. The overarching method for Russia’s power was quickly described in the documentary, former Soviet states have transitioned into conduits for Russia’s mono-economy and created a dependency on Russia’s petroleum exports. Due to Russia’s larger economic gifts to countries such as Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine they have become dependent on Russian oil supplies and the transfer of Russian goods to western European countries. Aside from control over the oil market, Russia gains geographic control over regions by “throwing its weight around” ie, exercising its military superiority. In the instance of Akazia and South Ossetia Putin told Saakashvili that he would exert military control over those areas if Saakashvili if launched military operations. On the night of August 7th and 8th a bloody conflict broke out, over five days 850 people were kills and thousands wounded, this showed the world Russia’s willingness to exert power over those who opposed them, either geopolitically or politically.

Another key theme within *Moscow's empire - Russia's reemergence* was how Putin and the governing soviet body exerts their control over other nations governing officials. Forcing those opposed to their ideology out and supporting those who will play as “pawns” for Putin. This force was highlighted within the documentary when Vladimir Nekliayev suffered two assassination attempts following his attempt to visit the city hall and hear the results of his election meeting. Nekliayev is opposition politician in Belarus who believes that Putin’s financial support has causes Belarus their sovereignty. Belarus and other former Soviet states have attempted to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, some of the northern countries have succeeded but others have failed on part of their corrupt political and disregard for human rights. As Vladimir Chuvikin, a Russian Orthodox Abbot, put it bluntly in his interview, if same sex marriage and other wasted Christian values come to Russia, it will quickly bring about the end of the world. *Moscow's empire - Russia's reemergence* gave insight to the variety of methods that Putin uses to capitalize his power over other countries and his journey to bring the values of the USSR to modern day Russia.

Putin's work has been very successful in the restoration of older, Soviet Union ideologies. I agree with you in the fact that Putin will remain Russia's "elected" leader for the foreseeable future. I am uncertain in agreeing with response to your take on Ukraine’s future and directional split between its eastern and western internal forces. Dividing the country will only increase boarder conflicts and give Russia even more political and geopolitical power than it does today. Neither option seems viable so we shall wait to see.