

EU and Russia: Constructing Unsuccessful Partnership or 'Bad' Socialization

Abstract:

Why cannot the EU socialize Russia? The dynamic of the interaction between the 'strategic partners' has always remained unpredictable (gas crises, Georgian War, current Ukrainian crisis). The EU has been widely criticized for these failures because of the absence of unanimous position, the lack of internal capabilities or political will to respond effectively. On the hand, poor progress of the relationship was attributed to Russia's re-emerging great power identity. This article will offer an alternative explanation of the failures in the EU-Russia relations by analysing the quality of their interaction. It will be argued that by favouring unilateral approach, offering lack of transparency and equality in the interaction the EU contributed to 'bad' socialization of Russia. It allowed for Russia's misperception about the EU regional policies to grow and become consolidated in its foreign policy. As a result, Russia has changed its foreign policy in relation to the EU in accordance with the new logic of appropriateness.