

The Russian Challenge to the European Security Environment: A Comprehensive Analysis



The Russian Challenge to the European Security Environment by Roger E. Kanet

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Russia's annexation of Crimea and its ongoing military intervention in eastern Ukraine have raised concerns about the future of European security. This article examines the challenges posed by Russia to the European security environment and assesses the potential consequences for Europe.

The Annexation of Crimea and the Intervention in Eastern Ukraine

In 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. This was followed by a Russian-backed separatist movement in eastern Ukraine, which has led to a ongoing conflict between Ukrainian forces and the

separatists. The annexation of Crimea and the intervention in eastern Ukraine have been widely condemned by the international community, and have led to a sharp deterioration in relations between Russia and the West.

Challenges to European Security

The Russian challenge to the European security environment is multifaceted. It includes:

- **Military aggression:** Russia's annexation of Crimea and its intervention in eastern Ukraine have demonstrated its willingness to use military force to achieve its political objectives. This has raised concerns about the potential for further Russian aggression in Europe.
- **Political subversion:** Russia has been accused of interfering in the political affairs of other countries, including through the use of cyberattacks and propaganda. This has raised concerns about the potential for Russia to undermine European democracy and stability.
- **Economic coercion:** Russia has used its economic power to pressure other countries, including by cutting off gas supplies and imposing trade sanctions. This has raised concerns about the potential for Russia to use its economic power to destabilize Europe.

Consequences for Europe

The Russian challenge to the European security environment has a number of potential consequences for Europe, including:

- **Increased military spending:** European countries are likely to increase their military spending in response to the Russian challenge. This could lead to a new arms race in Europe.

- **Weakened NATO:** The Russian challenge has exposed weaknesses in NATO, and could lead to a weakening of the alliance. This could make Europe more vulnerable to Russian aggression.
- **Increased instability in Eastern Europe:** The Russian challenge is likely to lead to increased instability in Eastern Europe. This could lead to a new wave of refugees and could make it more difficult for European countries to cooperate with each other.

The Russian challenge to the European security environment is a serious and growing threat. It is likely to have a significant impact on European security for years to come. European countries need to work together to address this challenge and to ensure the security of their citizens.



The Russian Challenge to the European Security

Environment by Roger E. Kanet

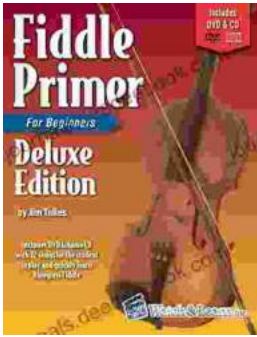
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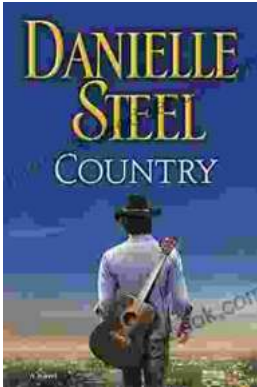
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