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Ideational Underpinnings of Russia's Tilt to 'World Majority' in An Emerging Multi-Order World System

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This paper examines ideational tenets of Russia's response to fluctuating international order, departing from its foreign policy pivot toward the 'World Majority' comprised of civilizational and cultural communities that reject the universalist hegemony of the West. This repositioning strategy is premised on the idea of 'sovereign internationalism' as a discursive alternative to the West-centric model of 'liberal internationalism'. Russia's deepening conceptual incongruity with the West's approach to changing world order revolves around the claim that the US-led liberal international order is not tantamount to the order per se and that the existing institutional architecture of international relations cannot be instrumentalized by the Atlantic power system. Therefore, the cornerstone of Russia's alternative order conception is a fair multi-order world of polycentrism, which is institutionally informed by anti-hegemonic alignments such as BRICS, SCO, and Greater Eurasia Partnership, and normatively centered on the emphasis of the civilizational distinctiveness and dialog among communities of states. This approach prioritizes the concept of 'civilizational sovereignty' over the conventional notion of state sovereignty in foreign policy discourse, providing a novel source of legitimization of Russia's aspiration to reconstitute its great power status. The paper contends that Russia's foreign policy shift towards the World Majority in its appeal for an alternative model of international relations is a complex attempt to compensate for Moscow's dual strategic failure to become a legitimate regional leader in its traditional sphere of influence (i.e., post-Soviet Eurasia) and an accepted co-manager of global affairs among established great powers.