

Energy Sectors, History and Economic Development in Post-Communist European Countries

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Specific features of individual sectors

- Oil
 - globally traded
 - different means of transport (pipelines, sea lines)
 - storability
- Gas
 - Rigid infrastructure
 - Partitioned market
- Implications for the region?
- Oil-related concerns effectively mitigated in the past (Druzhba outage as a proof – see further)

Energy commodities and IR – the case of CEE

- From geopolitical perspective, gas sector as the most impactful commodity
- Suppliers traditionally relied on specific principles to cement the market control
 - long-term contracts (economic logic aimed at cost return)
 - prohibition of gas re-selling
 - control over infrastructure
 - (oil indexation as a traditional practice in the sector – as a consequence of a limited gas trade)
- Gas as a “new” commodity (from mid-20th century), by-product of the oil sector
- As a result, suppliers were able to secure long-term relationships and calculate viability of their investments
 - stable & predictable environment for the supplier
 - partitioned market
 - applies to gas sectors globally

Natural Gas - How it all began

- Centrally-planned Soviet economy as the key precondition to procure the immense task of building the infrastructure
- Recovery of oil industry after WWII (gas as a by-product at the outset)
- Successful gas exploration in 1950s,
- Growing production through 1960s (as a standalone industry)
- USSR lacked technologies (casting and welding) to construct reliable pipelines
 - Higher pressures in gas pipelines (X oil)
 - German and Italian pipe shipments to the Soviet bloc
- 1960s – Europe in need of energy supplies
- 1962 – NATO countries embargo on large-diameter pipes (oil but also gas pipeline building hampered)
 - missing unity, disputable effect
- 1964 – agreement on the Brotherhood Pipeline between USSR & CZ
- 1967 – put in operation

Natural Gas - How it all began

- Continuation of the cooperation despite the 1968 invasion of the CZ
- Western Europe as a target of the Russian supplies
- Supplying the West as a way of 'showcasing' achievements of communism and a way of getting hard (western) currency
- Counterbalancing the US economic influence in (western) Europe
- Strong adherence to contractual obligations (!)
- First deliveries to the Soviet republics on the border in late 1950s (Georgia, Armenia) and early 1960s (Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania)
- First deliveries to the W. Europe in early 1970s
- Building on the momentum gained during the construction of the oil pipeline (Druzhba)

Facilitating factors

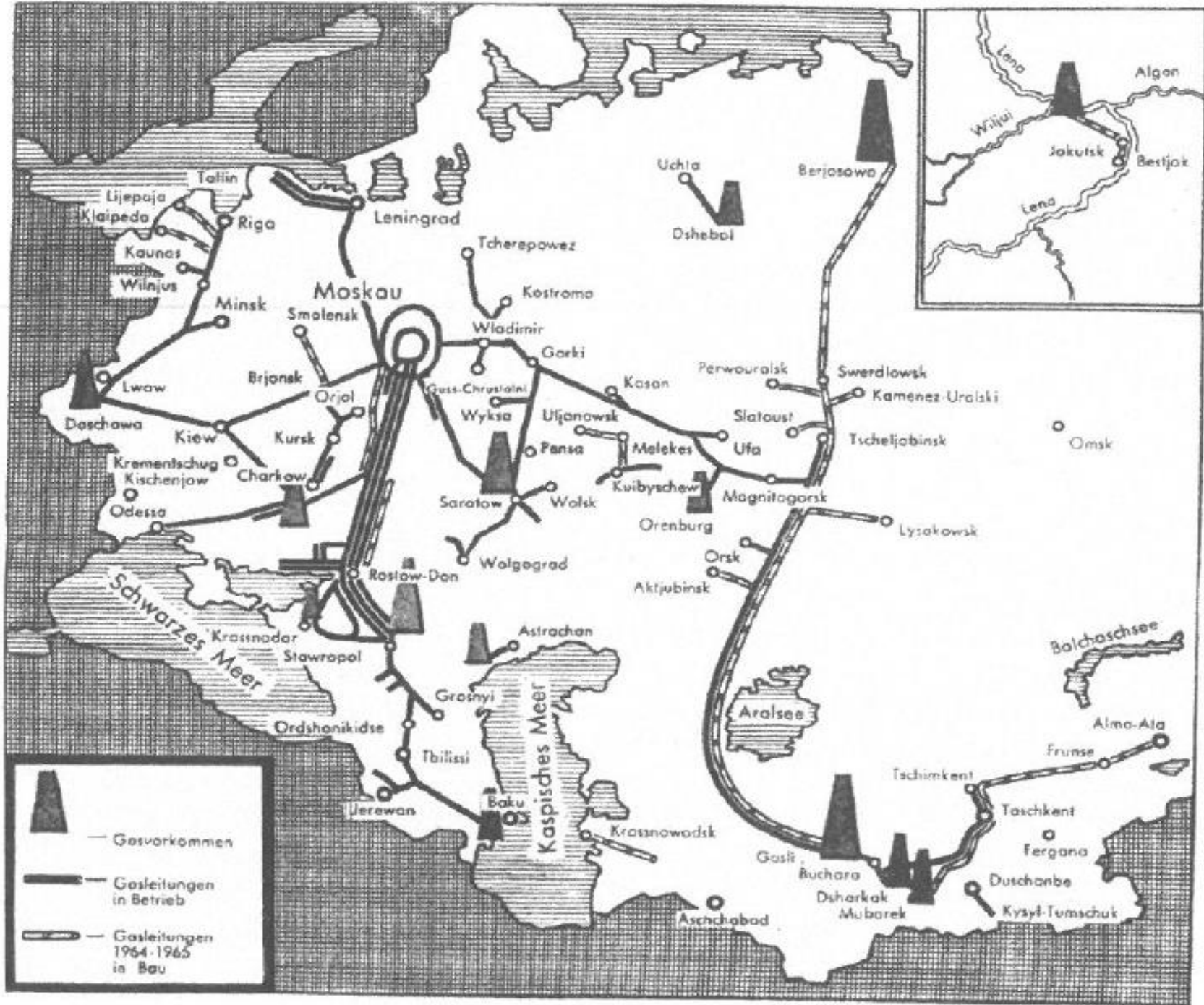
- Oil shock(s) highlighted the need for oil alternatives
- Détente, Ostpolitik – W. Brandt
- Cooperation with Italy in industrial production (car industry)
 - Production of VAZ – 2101 based on Fiat 124
- Italian pipes for the Soviet oil - Italy later replaced by Austria as the closest partner
- Dominance of economic considerations and reasoning
- Russian domestic consumers competing with (prioritized) supplies to the West
- Russian supplies opposed for ‘unfair pricing’ (X nowadays)
- Heated debate
 - Should geopolitical factors be considered?
 - Is economic dependence dangerous?



Pulling it together

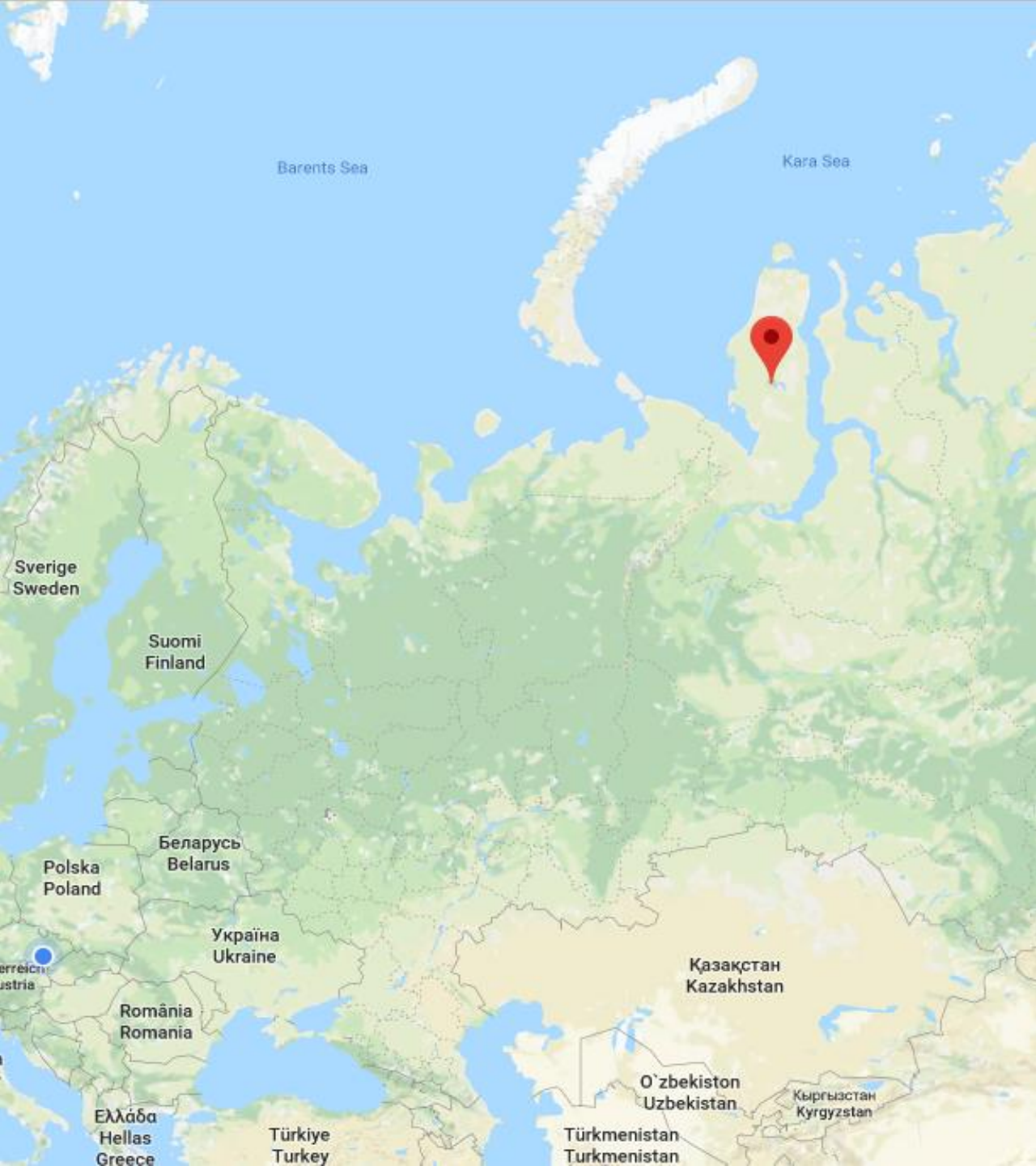
- Enormous task in terms of logistics and engineering
- Gas sources in the Eastern Ukraine played much greater role than expected
 - to cover the supply gap until the Siberian sources were developed
 - Western Ukraine transformed from a producing region to a transit corridor and (later) storage area
 - Key role of Czechoslovakia – the Transit Pipeline (gradually expanded to 80 bcm until 1990s)
- Prioritizing exports caused initial domestic shortages in Russia
- By 1975 all Russian satellites were connected (except for ROM)
- Russian gas imports were not dominantly perceived as politically threatening
 - rather, the technical reliability emerged as an issue
- W. European gas fields were getting depleted (X Groningen) – demand for the Russian gas was growing
- Attractivity of the Russian gas increased even more in the aftermath of the 1st oil shock





Cementing the partnership

- In late 1970s, idea of a new pipeline dedicated exclusively for transit to the West was introduced
 - Tapping into the Yamal gas resources
- Iranian revolution halted the deal on gas supplies (IGAT2 pipeline)
- Europe prompted Russia to proceed with the increase of the export capacity to Europe
- Rise of gas prices in the aftermath of the 2nd oil shock
- Radical change to the established suit – US (under Reagan) opposing the deal
 - 1981 - (failed) embargo on the US-produced parts used in compressors needed for making the pipeline (lifted in 1982)
- Expanding the capacity – Urengoy-Uzhorod pipeline – put in operation in 1984
- Yamal Europe put in operation in 1999



Changes to the environment due to the Internal Energy Market rules

- Towards the common market – after the Single European Act (1987)
- First Liberalization Package (1996/1998) – third party access (TPA)
- Second Liberalization package (2003) – freedom to choose supplier
- Third Energy Package (2009)
 - Ownership unbundling
 - Targeted market incumbents that had dominated the natural gas and electricity sectors
 - Among the most palpable impacts were in CE countries (due to previous centralization)
 - Gas sector as the most visible case - Gazprom as the main target in the gas sector of CE countries
 - 2006 gas crisis as one of incentives (package proposed in 2007, enacted in 2009)

Main Internal Energy Market rules with an impact on CEE-Russia relations

- **The ownership unbundling principle**
 - prohibits any entity from acting as producer and/or supplier and infrastructure owner at the same time (since it may prevent fair competition)
- **The third-party access principle**
 - requires that equal entry to the market should be available to anyone; no one should be prohibited from doing so (e.g. by being exempted from using certain infrastructure)
- **The prohibition of destination clauses**
 - no one should be told what they cannot do with gas purchased (e.g. reselling it to other entities)
 - oil-indexing cited as one of the causes of unfair pricing

Changes to the environment due to the Internal Energy Market rules

- These rules are applied within the Internal Energy Market (IEM)
 - any state wishing to join the market must subscribe to the rules
 - EU members, members of the Energy Community (EC)
- Key goal – energy companies should not dictate the conditions – market forces should prevail
- Strengthened position of the customer + overseeing bodies (regulators + EC)
- Energy market among the EU's flagship and most successful initiatives
 - 60-70% of all gas sold in Europe is traded on competitive markets (NW)
- 2019 Gas Directive Amendment
 - Extended to apply on pipelines to and from 3rd countries (NS2?)
 - Practical application?

Oil Sector

- Oil took over the role of the most important energy commodity after WWII (from coal)
- Soviet oil industry damaged during WWII
- Recovered by 1960s, USSR among world's top producers
- Need for hard currency

Oil sector

- The Druzhba Pipeline – intergovernmental agreement signed 12/1959
- Started in Samara (Siberia)
- By 1962, the pipeline reached Bratislava (SVK), 1965 Litvínov (CZ)
- >5000 KM (the longest oil pipeline in the world)
- North and south branch (Mozyr)
 - North (BEL, PL, GER)
 - South (UA) – 1 (SVK, CZ, HU), 2 (HU)
- REB(CO) – blend of heavy and light crudes with a relatively high sulphur content (1,8%)





Oil sector

- 1990s – diversification, concerns about Russian stability and ability to keep stable supplies
 - Supply curtailments in 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996 – economic/operational issues, disputes w/ transit countries
 - 2007 (BEL+RUS argument over fees)
 - 2008 shortly after CZ agreed on having the US Radar
 - Further curtailments – 2009 (UA+RUS argument over fees), 2012 (undisclosed), 2019 (contamination)
 - Issues for facilities adjusted to REB (Litvínov)
- Concerns in the Baltics – oil supply cuts in early 1990s (1990, 1992)
- IKL Pipeline - 1996
 - connected to TAL (from Trieste, ITA)
 - Considered as a milestone for energy security

Oil sector

- 1990s - Entanglement of energy and foreign policies
- Decline of Russia's formative power over the region
- Russia focused on status quo conservation – unsuccessfully
 - despite protests, the idea of neutrality for the region was rejected
 - Russia's resentment to the integration
- CE as the prime mover of diversification, other regions falling behind
 - Russia's rhetorical resistance – arguments of economic favourability (lower price)
 - Russia's internal instability and CE's fears of revisionsim prompted CE states to push for greater „western“/NATO integration

Differences in development after CW

- CZ – determined to diversify in 1990s, position softened in 2000s
- SVK – transit position as a cornerstone of the state's foreign policy, position changed after gas crises
- PL – constantly anti-Russian
- HU – focused on bilateral relations (gas use, Paks II)

New challenges to the region

- Decarbonisation – EU's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050
- Fourth Energy Package - 2019
 - efficiency, more renewables, energy transition
- CE - Energy-intensive economies with a cautious approach
- Conditional and transactional attitude

Russia in CEE after the CW

- Russia's role is determined by its capacities
- In an economy hinged on exporting resources, capacities correlate with their prices and export volumes
- 1990s as an era of low oil price (+ economic crisis of 1998)
- Realist paradigm as a dominating concept of Russian politics (0-sum game)
- Defensive realism
 - status quo conservation, defensive stance
 - implemented when an actor lacks capacities to make gains at the expense of others
- Offensive realism
 - pushing the boundaries of the status quo (and actual boundaries)
 - implemented when an actor possesses capacities to make gains

Russia in CEE after the CW

- 1990s as an era of low capacities – defensive realism
 - economic crunch
 - low political and ideological power
- Russia's goal was to cement the status quo as it did not have the capacities to actively pursue its geopolitical goals
 - era of low influence
 - efforts to enforce neutral status of the CE region – unsuccessful
 - against NATO enlargement
 - perceived as a grave geopolitical loss

Russia in CEE after the CW

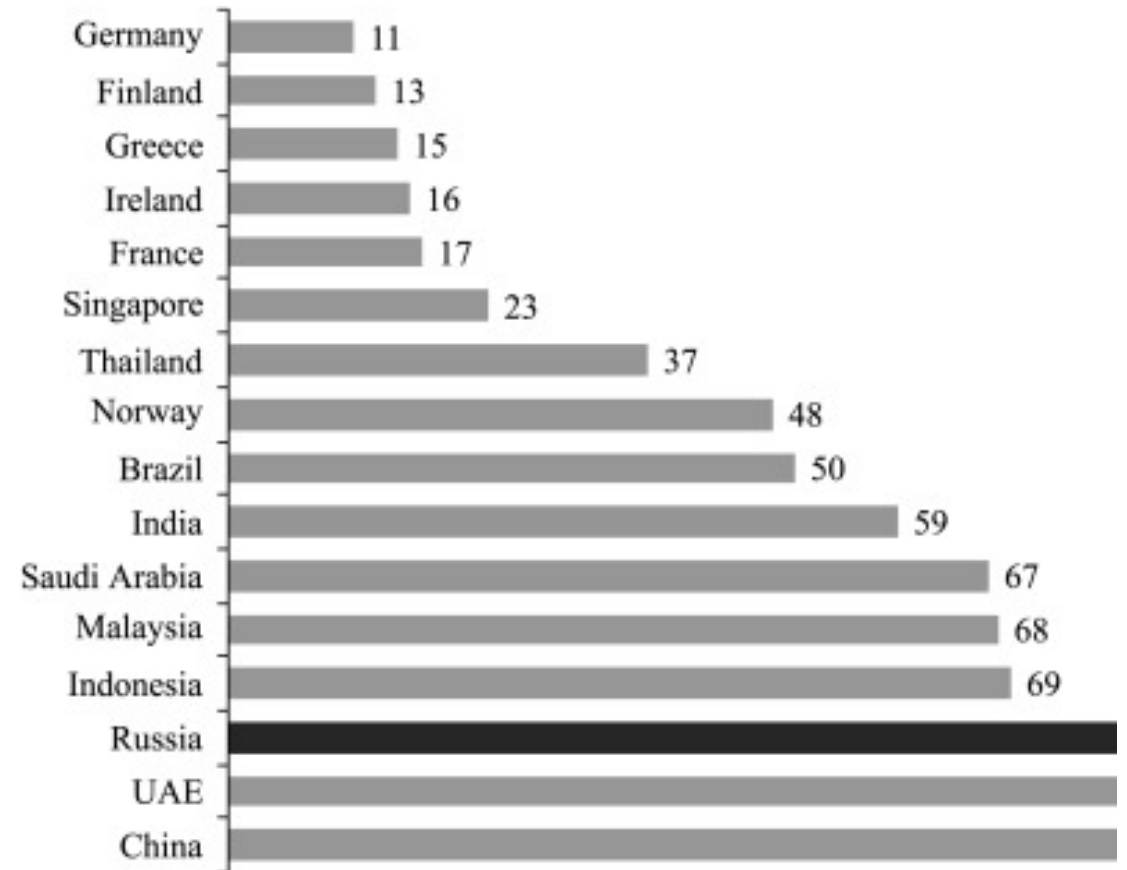
- 2000s as an era of robust economic growth fuelled by rising oil prices
- Consolidation of state assets and increase of state's stakes in key (energy) companies
- The economic growth closely correlated with oil price increase – the dependence grew bigger over the decade
- State role in the energy sector openly stated as the key component of the state's power and capacities
- Hence, Russia's capacities, aspirations, and influence grew accordingly – offensive realism

Russia in CEE after the CW

Russian GDP – annual change in %



State-owned share in the 10 largest companies in 2011 (in %)



Views on Russia from CEE

- Perceptions vary depending on time and region
- Energy as a litmus test of discourses and intentions (vs. abilities) - 1990s
- CE – departure from the East, reorientation/diversification – dominating discourse
- The Baltics – fast political departure, slow diversification
- SE – slow political departure, slow diversification
- The Balkans – internal struggles overshadowed transformation and diversification
- The spirit of emancipation and departure from the Russian sphere dominated

Views on Russia from CEE

- 2000s
 - the era of more individualized issues and attitudes
 - hints of pragmatic relations with Russia disappeared by the end of decade
- Oil price changes
 - 2008 and on
 - Russia on a learning curve
- National Wealth Fund – est. 2008
 - „rainy day“ fund
 - Used to spur economy and patch up national budget