

Course structure, requirements; Introduction

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Course aim

- To acquaint students with the situation in energy sectors of countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)
 - Focus on natural gas, oil and nuclear energy
- To analyse relations between states in the region and Russia
- To explain the nexus between energy and foreign policy
- To analyse influencing factors of all of the above
- To explore contemporary issues beyond the usual clichés

Course evaluation

- Position papers
- Mid-term test
- Exam

- In-class activity is expected and strongly encouraged

Position papers

- 4 standard pages (7200 char. +/- 10%), excl. sources
- Structure
 - essay/critique
 - summary (0,5 page max.)
 - additional source (not included in the course literature)
 - 2 discussion contributions/questions

Mid-term test

- 2.5.
- throughout the day
- can be opened only once
- 15 minutes
- 7 out of 10 to pass
- lessons 1-8

M U N I
F S S

Introduction



Energy security – a definition

- The continuous availability of energy in varied forms, in sufficient quantities, and at reasonable prices
 - Stability, sufficiency, affordability
- What it means in CEE?
 - Supply sources?
 - Routes?
 - Technologies?
 - Policies?

Situation report – CEE, SEE

- High dependency on Russian sources, original infrastructure & technology
 - Path dependency & structural dependency
- Specific historical background
- Strong intertwining of policies & politics
- Mutual accusations of misusing energy supplies for political purposes
 - Gas supply crises
 - Nuclear construction deals
 - Supply curtailments
 - „Suspicious“ timing
 - Conditionality
 - Breaching of market rules
- Regional differences at the same time
- Political differences (discourse, content, topics, goals,...)

Situation report – CEE, SEE

- Geography
 - littoral states
 - landlocked states
- History
 - integral parts of the former USSR
 - integral parts of former states
 - (former) important transit states
- Economy
 - industrialized
 - varying structure, import dependency

Situation report – natural gas

- Sparser infrastructure compared to WE
 - stark regional differences
- Potential for new transit infrastructure (CEE, SEE)
 - South Stream, Turk(ish) Stream, Nabucco, EastMed, Tesla, TAP, IAP, (NordStream)...
- Potential for gas sector development (SEE)
- Incentives?
- Policies?



Situation report

- Clash of principles/paradigms (EU vs. Russia)
 - state-centered vs. market-oriented
- Clash of policies and reality (EU vs. CEE/SEE)
- Russian opposition towards integration in CEE & SEE
- Changing environment
 - infrastructure, policies, regulation,...
- Rising geopolitical tensions
 - Past 15 years as a seminal shift comp. to 1990s
 - conflict in Ukraine, rising E-W tensions, politicization of supplies and contracts, ...
 - compare to the Cold War era (!)

Situation report: CE vs EE, SEE

- Despite sharing basic systemic traits, internal coherence of the 'post-communist bloc' is low
- CE vs EE, SEE
- CE states have profited from the proximity of WE
 - Transit (energy, goods, people)
 - Trade Exchange
- Proximity as a factor for incorporating WE values (and vice-versa)?
- Stronger institutional foundations
- Fewer conflicting cleavages
- ...

Situation report: CE vs EE, SEE

- Differences also in the Russian/Soviet perspective
- CE – states that maintained formal sovereignty
- EE - (+the Baltics) – incorporated as a part of the USSR
- Specific relations (Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania,...)
 - Ramifications also for the energy sector

Situation report: Russia's perspective

- After the CW, views from the USSR/Russia differentiated vis-a-vis respective regions
- The notion of „near borderlands“
- CE – withdrawal; reservations towards integrational tendencies
 - CE as a neutral, ‘bumper region’
 - ‘no’ to NATO enlargement
- The Baltics – initial resistance to the secession
 - oil supply cuts as a tool
 - Persisting issue of minorities (heritage of the past)
- EE – maintaining the influence
 - Belarus, Ukraine – revisionist tendencies (with or without the countries’ representatives’ consent)
- SEE – initial withdrawal; subsequent indirect involvement; broader geopolitical strategy
 - Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania as dissenting members of the communist bloc in the past
 - Nuanced/transactional/fluid relations

Situation report: CE vs EE, SEE

- Changeable/transactional ties
 - Platforms may differ at times, may be formal or proclaimed only
 - Culture
 - Church
 - Opportunistic alliances (GRE+RUS, SRB+RUS)
- SEE as a geopolitical intersection
 - RUS
 - TUR
 - CHN

Situation report: new cleavages

- Russia's position regarding liberalization and decarbonisation
- European Green Deal
- Infrastructural shifts

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