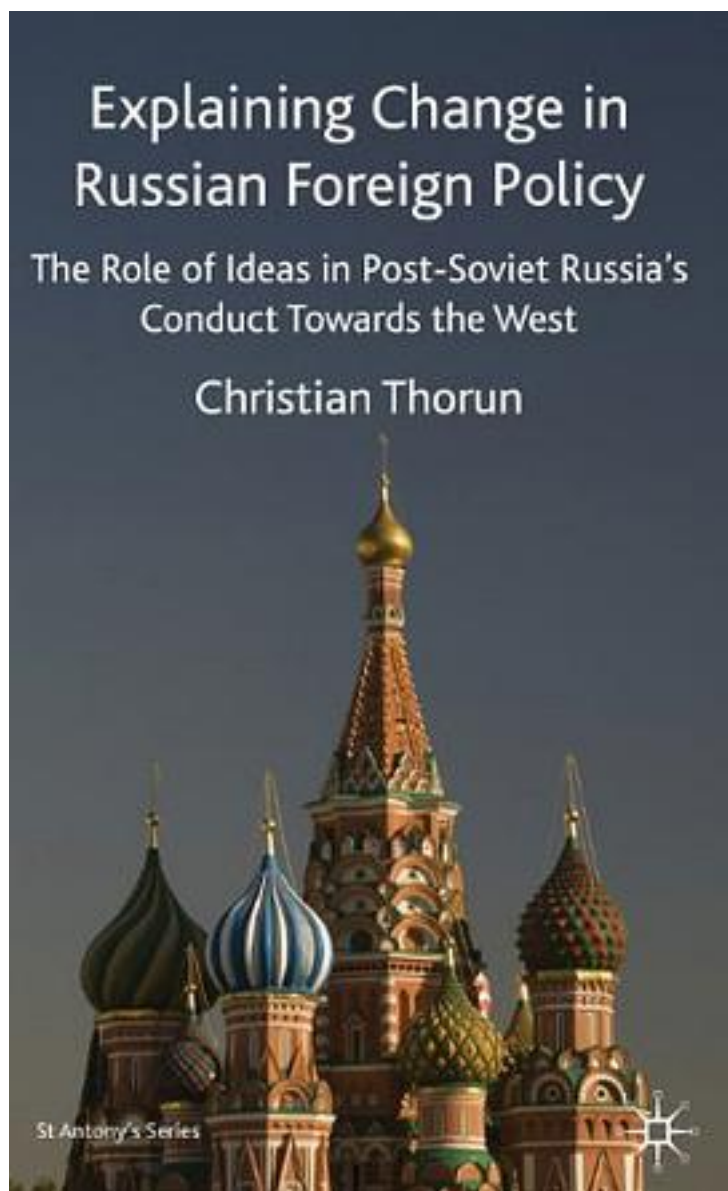


# Explaining Change in Russian Foreign Policy



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Post-Soviet Russian foreign policy towards the West is characterized by ambiguity. While Moscow retreated from superpower status peacefully, its approach towards the West underwent significant change. It evolved from close cooperation with the West to an assertive defence of Russian interests coupled with confrontational rhetoric. This book takes stock and asks which patterns have emerged from 1992 to 2007. It argues that only by focusing both on external constraints and changes in the Russian leadership's foreign policy thinking can we explain major facets of Russia's conduct. In analysing Russian foreign policy the book develops an original analytical framework for foreign policy analysis, illustrates the evolution of the Russian leadership's foreign policy discourse, and unravels major threads in Russia's conduct in three case studies. The case studies encompass: Moscow's approaches towards NATO and its enlargement, its responses to the Balkan crisis, and its reaction to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks.

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