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National Defense University Releases New Strategic Perspectives Publication: “Russia’s Revival: Ambitions, Limitations, and Opportunities for the United States”

(Washington, D.C.) The Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS) of the National Defense University is pleased to announce the release of a new INSS Strategic Perspectives entitled "[Russia's Revival: Ambitions, Limitations, and Opportunities for the United States](#)," written by Dr. John W. Parker.

Independent Russia is approaching the start of its third decade of post-Soviet existence. After the economic chaos of the Boris Yeltsin decade and the recovery and stabilization of the Vladimir Putin decade, Russia's leaders have high ambitions for a return to great power status in the years ahead. Their aspirations are tempered, however, by the realities of Russia's social, economic, and military shortcomings and vulnerabilities, laid painfully bare by the stress test of the recent global financial crisis. Looking ahead, some also calculate that Russia will be increasingly challenged in the Far East by a rising China and in the Middle East by an Iran that aspires to regional hegemony.

As a result, Moscow is already seeking to strengthen Russia's ties with Europe and the United States. The West is seen as crucial to Russia's modernization as well as a hedge against what may develop to Russia's east and south in coming decades. This process of Russia's anchoring itself more firmly in the West will proceed with lots of tactical hiccups and sporadic crises. Nevertheless, it will bring consequences and opportunities for U.S. diplomacy and strategic development, some of which the Barack Obama administration's policy of "reset" is already reaping. But Russian policy toward the United States is conditional on a U.S. approach that engages Russia in positive ways. If that policy were to change, it could push Russia and China closer together on some issues in an effort to constrain the United States.

Dr. John W. Parker is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University and is an expert on Russian and Eurasian Affairs. The views expressed in this study are his alone and do not reflect the official policy or positions of the State Department, the Defense Department, or any branch of the U.S. government.

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Commands to support the national strategic components of the academic programs at NDU and to provide outreach to other US governmental agencies and to the broader national security community.

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