

Russia's Outlook on Energy Security: Via an analysis of national policy documents

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Summary

How has the resource colossus Russia positioned "energy" within its own security issues? To start with, do policy concepts for "energy security" within Russia's national policy exist? Or, as is often generally said, is Russia attempting to use energy as a political tool? Based on the awareness of the above issues, this paper, for the most part, via analysis of Russia's national policy documents, sheds light on Russia's outlook on energy security.

With the problem of the cutting-off of the gas supply to Ukraine which occurred in January 2006, Russia's reliability as a resource-supplying nation came to be questioned in international society. With this as a turning-point, Russia took "energy security" as a policy concept, and at the G8 Summit in Saint Petersburg in 2006 they formulated the policy document entitled "Global Energy Security". Subsequently, along with placing "energy security" within Russia's diplomacy for the first time in "The Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation" formulated in 2008, the recognition was shown that the securing of reliability as a resource-supplying nation was a major issue in Russia's foreign policy.

Furthermore, in the "National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation up to 2020" approved in May 2009, under the new outlook on security of ensuring Russia's security via national development, the importance of energy issues has been ranked highly for Russia's national security. In this way, in the sense of directly influencing state power, they acknowledge that energy is a key factor governing Russia's security, and that in order to maintain sustained economic growth an excessive dependence on resources is a danger. In Russia, energy security as a policy concept is something that has come into being recently and has not yet matured, but, in addition to economic growth being a priority issue in Russia's security, this concept will henceforth continue to be strengthened.

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