

Abstract

Russia as a rising power in multilateral institutions looks at the Russian attitude towards all institutions this country participated in 2001-2015. I address the questions of what is the attitude of Moscow and what determines the country's choice of attitude patterns. Drawing from the works of those specializing in rising powers and Russian foreign policy, I seek answers to my research questions and contribute to both strings of literature. The parsimonious hypothesis suggests that Russia's attitude depends on its position within the institution. In cases when Moscow holds a strong position in an institution, the country develops a supportive attitude; Russia's weak position within an institution translates into a challenger attitude. I endorse the existing studies by arguing and further supporting with data that Russia tends to be a revisionist in West-led hard-issue institutions it joined after the end of the Cold War. The data points at the supportive attitude pattern also in situations when Russia holds a strong position in institutions it co-founded as a rising power status in the last two decades.

The primary data source for the dissertation is the recently released online archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Analyzed with the sentiment analysis software, the online archive comprises the quantitative core of the research. The qualitative part focuses on the three case studies that represent each of the hypotheses (the OSCE, the SCO, and the WTO). It deepens the findings of the quantitative section and introduces the attitude of other governmental bodies participating in foreign policy implementation towards multilateral institutions. Together the two parts form a comprehensive overview of the Russian attitude towards all multilateral institutions that this country participates in. It combines previously divided literature strings and argues that a state's weak or strong position within an institution influences its attitude.