

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Institute of Political Studies  
Department of Security Studies

**Master's Thesis**

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**Russian threat through the prism of British competitive  
liberalism**

Master's thesis

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## **Abstract**

The thesis is aimed at addressing the existing lack of academic understanding of the United Kingdom's foreign policy towards the Russian Federation, which stems from insufficient conceptualization of the current posture of Britain on the international stage and lack of in-depth research of the reasons behind the apparent animosity between London and Moscow. Specifically, the work answers the question of why the Russian Federation is designated the most acute direct threat to the United Kingdom and its "most urgent" foreign policy priority. The thesis is comprised of three major parts, each dedicated to a specific source of explanations of the mentioned research problem. Namely, the first two chapters constitute a document analysis of governmental, publicly available British thinking on the matter and academic literature shedding light on the theoretical dimension of the problem, respectively. In turn, the third chapter is a double regional case study of the practical aspect of the Russo-British competition, which highlights on-the-ground, independent causes of the rivalry. The findings suggest that the causes behind such status of Russia lie in the fact that it threatens and harms all vital British foreign and domestic interests, diametrically opposes the UK's vision of the world in theoretical and practical terms, and is a political, economic, and cultural competitor of the UK in multiple regions.