

While most of the states have embraced capitalist market economy, liberal and democratic norms face resistance in large parts of the world. The \enquote{liberal West} under the leadership of the United States has to face critique of his democratization practices and alleged hypocrisy when dealing with the enforcement of its own norms. One of the loudest critics is Russia under President Vladimir Putin. The first objective of my thesis is to understand the rationale behind Russia's Foreign Policy because without that, no efficient and deescalating policies towards Russia can be developed. I do this by means of an ideological discourse analysis of some of the most famous of Putin's speeches. The concepts of the German philosopher Carl Schmitt serve as a frame for tracing the ideas expressed in the speeches of the Russian President. The analysis concludes that, at least rhetorically, democracy, trust, disarmament, freedom of speech, balance of power and the UN as universal institution have a central place for both the Western World and Russia. NATO expansion, U.S. intervention in the Middle East and, related to that, the alleged non--respect of sovereignty are the most dividing issues between Russia and the Western liberal democracies. It becomes clear that Russia has the impression that Western liberal democracies are less interested in peace and stability than in extending their hegemony and economic influence. The second objective of the thesis is to demonstrate that Russia's arguments are related to a broader critique of liberalism and the current world order. What can be said is that international politics must find a mean to allow for different value and truth claims. Under no circumstance, this does mean that Human Rights should be relativized or modified because they clash with religious values. However, when enforcing liberal and democratic values by means of military or economic pressure, the Western states betray their own values and norms. This gives rise to accusations of hypocrisy and hegemony against the U.S. and the EU, as the analysis has shown. Furthermore, Russia's rhetoric shows a new focus on nationalism and conservatism. This suggests that post--state approaches to representation and government have, at least now, little chances of success. It seems that, if only temporary, the strategies to mitigate anarchy in international politics have failed and balance of power is anew the top priority.