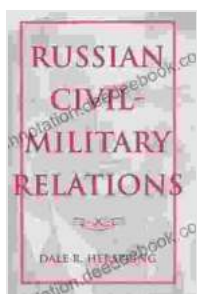


# Russian Civil-Military Relations: A Complex and Evolving Landscape

## Historical Roots and Evolution

The relationship between the military and civilian authorities in Russia has a long and intricate history, deeply rooted in the country's political and social fabric. In the early days of the Russian state, military leaders played a significant role in governance, often holding positions of power and influence.



### Russian Civil-Military Relations by Dale R. Herspring

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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During the Soviet era, the military-industrial complex emerged as a dominant force within the Russian political system. The armed forces enjoyed a privileged status, receiving substantial funding and resources. Civilian control over the military was minimal, and military leaders had considerable influence on domestic and foreign policy decision-making.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian civil-military relations entered a period of transition. The military's role was diminished, and civilian authorities sought to establish greater control over the armed forces.

### **Current Dynamics of Civil-Military Relations**

Under President Vladimir Putin, the Russian military has undergone significant modernization and professionalization efforts. Putin has strengthened the military's position within the government, increasing its funding and restoring its status as a key power player.

Civilian control over the military remains a complex issue in Russia. While civilian authorities have made some progress in asserting their authority, the military continues to wield considerable influence over security policy and defense-related matters.

### **The Military-Political Complex**

The concept of the military-political complex, or military-industrial complex, plays a central role in understanding Russian civil-military relations. This term refers to the interconnected network of organizations, industries, and individuals with vested interests in military affairs.

The military-political complex in Russia includes defense industries, research institutions, military personnel, and political elites. These entities have a symbiotic relationship, mutually supporting and influencing each other's interests and agendas.

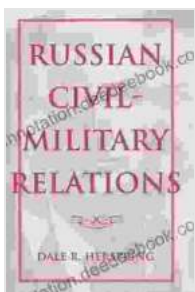
### **Implications for Russian Society and Foreign Policy**

The intricate nature of Russian civil-military relations has significant implications for Russian society and foreign policy. The military's elevated

status and influence can shape public discourse, affect resource allocation, and influence decision-making at the highest levels of government.

In terms of foreign policy, the Russian military has become a more assertive actor in recent years. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine demonstrate the military's increased willingness to intervene abroad.

Russian civil-military relations are a complex and dynamic aspect of the country's political system. The historical roots, current dynamics, and evolving role of the military in Russian society have significant implications for both domestic and foreign policy. Understanding these civil-military relations is essential for gaining insights into the decision-making processes and strategic orientations of the Russian state.

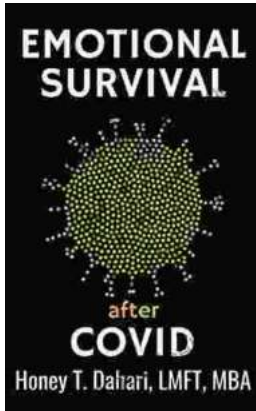


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