

**THE RETURN OF A GREAT POWER: A RESURGENT
RUSSIA IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

SHARIFFAH NORHANA BINTI SYED MUSTAFFA

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the presentation of my own research effort except where due references are made in the text. This thesis has not been submitted for any degree in any other universities or institutions.

30 April, 2008


SHARIFFAH NORHANA BINTI SYED MUSTAFFA
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ABSTRACT

With its abundant energy resources and growing economy, Russia has renewed its self-confidence which explains its efforts in reasserting its position in the Asia-Pacific region. By making itself active in the region and by increasing co-operation and partnership with other major players in the region, Russia's state-centred "expansion" has sent mixed signals to the other major powers in the region. Although Russia wants to portray a peaceful resurgence, its quest of reasserting its influence and power in the Asia-Pacific region is not well received by the other great powers. This is fundamentally due to its expansionist past which raises fresh concerns about Russia's intent. Russia's clout, therefore, creates suspicions among the great powers namely China, Japan and the United States. It is this interesting phenomenon that drives this research to be undertaken in order to ascertain the verity of a resurgent Russia in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to examine the challenges and complexities confronting Russia in its quest to reassert pre-eminence in the region. Particular focus is given to the countervailing actions of the other great powers. The research centres itself on Russia's involvement with the Asia-Pacific region in the spheres of politics, economy and military in the Cold War and the contemporary world periods. It further frames itself within the theory of offensive realism and the concept of great power. The methodology applied to this research is qualitative in nature through collection of data from primary source, interviews and also from a secondary source, library research. The findings of this research have much to divulge about Russia's behaviour as a great power in the international system which is significant in the study of international relations. This research reveals that the wounded bear is becoming more vicious and ambitious, and the Asia-Pacific region is encountering the return of a great power.

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