

## ABSTRACT

### WAR IN CHECHNYA: RESPONSES IN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES

War in Chechnya has demonstrated the limits of the concept of self-determination for an abused minority population. The risk of the military operation in Chechnya is that it may erode Russian democracy and strengthen those within the military and security forces who call for a return to the old ways. For many in today's Russian elite, the restoration of the lost Soviet empire may be the ultimate objective. This thesis will explore the historical roots of the conflict, the nature of Russian federalism, socio-cultural, economic, and leadership factors that led to the outbreak of the war. The thesis will examine the chronicle of the Chechen wars and responses to the wars in Russia and the United States. Finally, it will discuss implications for the Russian democracy and U.S.-Russian relations.

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