

# ***RUSSIAN MILITARY POWER***



*and Europe's Response to Russia's Conventional Military Threat*

# ‘The Tragedy of Europe’



# *Military Power*

- Numerical Preponderance
  - Technology
  - Force Employment
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## **MILITARY POWER**

Explaining Victory  
and Defeat in  
Modern Battle

**STEPHEN BIDDLE**

*Russian  
(Conventional)  
Military  
Power*

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# Military Strength Indicator

(Credit Suisse)

Military strength indicator								
Country	Overall ranking	Active personnel ('000)	Tanks	Aircraft	Attack helicopters	Aircraft carriers	Submarines	Final military strength score
United States	1	0.90	0.86	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.94
Russia	2	0.81	0.95	0.90	0.90	0.52	0.86	0.80
China	3	0.95	0.90	0.86	0.86	0.52	0.90	0.79
Japan	4	0.38	0.38	0.76	0.81	0.76	0.81	0.72
India	5	0.86	0.81	0.81	0.19	0.76	0.76	0.69
France	6	0.33	0.24	0.67	0.43	0.90	0.57	0.61
South Korea	7	0.76	0.57	0.71	0.71	0.05	0.67	0.52
Italy	8	0.52	0.33	0.38	0.57	0.76	0.43	0.52
UK	9	0.19	0.14	0.52	0.67	0.52	0.57	0.50
Turkey	10	0.57	0.67	0.57	0.57	0.05	0.67	0.47
Pakistan	11	0.71	0.62	0.48	0.48	0.05	0.52	0.41
Egypt	12	0.62	0.76	0.62	0.38	0.05	0.14	0.34
Taiwan	13	0.43	0.52	0.43	0.76	0.05	0.14	0.32
Israel	14	0.24	0.71	0.33	0.48	0.05	0.33	0.32
Australia	15	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.24	0.52	0.43	0.30
Thailand	16	0.48	0.43	0.24	0.14	0.52	0.05	0.28
Poland	17	0.14	0.48	0.19	0.29	0.05	0.33	0.23
Germany	18	0.29	0.19	0.29	0.33	0.05	0.14	0.19
Indonesia	19	0.67	0.29	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.12
Canada	20	0.10	0.10	0.14	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.10

# Military Power Index

(Global Fire Power)

Ranking	State	Power Index	Ranking	State	Power Index
1	The United States	0,0857	11	Italy	0,2694
2	Russia	0,0929	12	South Korea	0,2741
3	China	0,0945	13	Pakistan	0,3287
4	India	0,1593	14	Indonesia	0,3347
5	France	0,1914	15	Israel	0,3476
6	United Kingdom	0,2131	16	Vietnam	0,3587
7	Japan	0,2137	17	Brazil	0,3654
8	Turkey	0,2491	18	Taiwan	0,3765
9	Germany	0,2609	19	Poland	0,3831
10	Egypt	0,2676	20	Thailand	0,3892

# *Russian Military Budget*




- the US spent 611 bn US\$ (= 3,2 % of its GDP) on defense compared to 69,2 bn US\$ in Russia (= 5,3% of its GDP). X 8,5 times
- The 'EU military budget', theoretically assumed to be the combined military budgets of all the EU-member states, is approx. 226 bn US \$ and approx. 181 bn US \$, if one excludes the UK.
- The EU would spend 2,5 -3 times more on defense than the Russian Federation.

# *Russian Manpower*

	Russia	United States	China	EU
Total Population	142.355.415	323.995.528	1.373.541.278	739.207.742
Total Military personnel	3.371.027	2.363.675	3.712.500	2.998.710
Active	798.527	1.373.650	2.260.000	1.441.125
Reserve	2.572.500	990.025	1.452.500	1.557.585
Militarization index	2%	0,7%	0,2%	0,4%

# *Russia's Force Employment*

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- **New Look Army** - The Serdyukov-Makarov reform plan (2008-2012) and ongoing modernization program (2011-2020)
  - **Tactical superiority** - local superiority, surprise and initiative).
  - **Large scale training exercises program + snap training exercises + experience in real war settings.**
  - **Mobilization of society**
  - **Hybrid strategy**
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*Russia is a  
Force in  
Being*

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# *The EU's Response*




*“By 2025 we need a fully-fledged European Defense Union. We need it. And NATO wants it.”*  
*(13 September 2017)*



	France		Germany		Italy		Poland	
Common S&D Policy	77	17	84	13	64	36	79	16
Relative place in EU	12/28		3/28		26/28		10/28	
Creation of EU Army	65	30	55	39	56	37	61	29
Relative place in EU	7/28		17/28		15/28		11/28	

# *The EU's Force Employment*

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- No **military identity** different from NATO and the US umbrella,
  - No **sense of urgency**,
  - No **centralized and unified threat analysis**,
  - No centralized and authorized Command and Control (C&C) beyond the C&C of the Member States
  - A **post-heroic society**
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*‘Russia is  
never as  
strong as  
she looks,  
nor as weak  
as she looks’*

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