



## Press Release

BROCK UNIVERSITY  
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### **A new Cold War? Brock University experts available for interviews**

Next month, the parliaments of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are expected to ratify the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty, which the three countries signed May 29, creating a market of 170 million people and a gross domestic product of 2.7 trillion dollars. (<http://time.com/135520/russia-kazakhstan-belarus-treaty/>)

Russia has also partnered with China and others who, last month, launched the so-called "BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) development bank" (<http://www.dw.de/brics-launch-new-bank-and-monetary-fund/a-17789608>), which critics say could pose a formidable challenge to the current World Bank/IMF lending system. This is a real possibility, given that China is on the verge of becoming the world's leading economic power. (<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/d79ffff8-cfb7-11e3-9b2b-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3ABOLRaxi>)

This all comes at a time where Russia is expected to lose at least \$75 billion in "capital flight" since the beginning of the year through sanctions and other actions largely over Ukraine. (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/are-sanctions-on-russia-beginning-to-bite-1.2729192>)

Is Russia insulating itself against the impact of sanctions and other actions taken by Western powers? Is it trying to regain the Glory Days of the USSR? Is it embarking on a second Cold War where pinstripes and bankers' hats are the new nuclear weapons?

On a larger scale, will this BRICS arrangement give the World Bank/IMF a real run for its money, further contributing to the "decline of the American empire"?

Political scientist Pierre Lizee specializes in international security, international law and international relations theory. He is available to answer questions, and provide analysis, on:

- \* the impact an Eurasian Economic Union would have on Russian and the region's politics/economics and what, if any, impact this would have on the world's economic/political system
- \* Russia's sensitivity (or insensitivity) to international sanctions

- \* potential impacts of a BRICS bank on the world's lending and political systems
- \* whether the BRICS bank would improve the economic and political lot of developing country lenders

Contact: Pierre Lizee, [plizee@brocku.ca](mailto:plizee@brocku.ca)

Historian David Schimmelpenninck's research interests focus on Imperial Russian intellectual, cultural and diplomatic topics. He is available to answer questions, and provide analysis, on:

- \* Russia's moves to exert its economic and political influence
- \* Russia's relationship with Western powers and whether or not we're seeing a new "Cold War"
- \* the impact an Eurasian Economic Union would have on Russian and the region's politics/economics and what, if any, impact this would have on the world's economic/political system

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