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**Historically and contemporary determinants of security thoughts of Russia's political elite:
From 1950s to nowadays**

Since the pre-revolutionary period Russia's political elites has been inclined to perceive internal and external threats, internal and foreign security postures in traditional, risk-avoiding and regime security terms. Weaker geographical position in terms of security, economical shortcomings and several political turmoils historically strengthened "fortress under siege" thinking in not only among political elites, but also in Russian society mind-set. Moreover, repressions in 1930s were resulted in elite changes. In that process, as Edward L. Keenan said, the new political elite that emerged by the end of the 'thirties was dominated by individuals of proletarian or peasant background, whose political culture was formed on the base of what we have called above the village political culture, and strongly reinforced by the experience of the chaotic and risk-laden environment in which they had risen to power (Keenan, Muscovite Political Folkways, *The Russian Review*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (Apr., 1986), pp. 115-181, p.169). In conjunction with historically established peasant's weaknesses and threat perception, Soviet historical experience, specially the Second World War's the avoidance of decisive surprise attack, exerted influence on security thinking of Russia's political elites from 1950s till now. This proposed paper is aimed to analyze Russia's society and political elite threat perceptions and how they are influenced by pre-revolutionary period, the Soviet past, by Russian domestic politics. It will also compare similarities and differences between the Soviet period and current Russian elites threat perceptions and security thinking.