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From friend to foe? Analysis of Montenegro-Russia relations since 2006

Montenegro is a small Balkan state which soon will mark the twelfth anniversary of its independence. Historically this country has had special relations with Russia. The origin of this relationship can be found in the early years of the eighteenth century. Since then Russia has viewed Montenegro as a close ally. These ties, however, have been consistently loosened since the mid-1990s when the then Prime Minister Djukanovic, building its position in the country and trying to become independent from the government in Belgrade, chose a pro-Western course, and declared Euro-Atlantic integration as a priority of Montenegro's foreign policy. Therefore, at present Russia does not have as good a relationship with the government in Podgorica as it does with Belgrade.

Since 2017 when Montenegro joined NATO the bilateral relations have gotten worse. Obviously, Montenegro, hundreds of kilometers away from the territory of the Russian state, with such a low military potential, is not in a position to threaten it in any way. Nevertheless, Moscow is trying to incite negative sentiments against NATO that exist among part of the Montenegrin society. However Russia still plays a huge role in the state economy and tries to maintain its influence there. The main aim of the paper is to analyze Montenegro-Russia relations since 2006. In order to do that I will use the discourse analysis and the content analysis. I will also summarize my speech with some conclusions regarding the need for further research.