

From Russia to Russia

Un percorso nella storia del Novecento dall'arretratezza all'economia del terzo millennio.



From Russia to Russia: exercises

Exercise 1.

Surf the net, e.g. en.wikipedia.org/Russia, and look for information about the history of Russia from 1850 to 1989.

Try to answer the following questions:

Questions:

- What is the meaning of "Imperial Russia"? Who was the Emperor of Russia?
- What was the Russian revolution?
- Who was Lenin?
- Who was Stalin?
- What did happen in '90s?
- Is Russia considered a Brics country today?

Exercise 2.

By using your information and the net, draw one timeline about the history of Russia from 1900 to 2000.



Russia today: Brics o Sbric?

Read the following article, in Italian language, and discuss with your partner (from Espresso, 12 Ottobre u.s., cfr. [002844 resource1 orig_SBRIC.pdf](#)). What do you think about Russia today? Working in small groups, use the information from the first exercise and the information from the Espresso article to discuss.

Exercise 3.

Working with primary sources

Extracts from Pravda.ru of Dec. 04, 2012

Read the source. Working with a partner, underline the words you don't know. Discuss with your partner and, by surfing the net, check their correct definition.

Explain in your own words what is the meaning of the article.

China's strategic focus with Russia, an opportunity for Asia

by Farooq Yousaf

With global political scenarios changing with a rapid pace, China has been high on its heels in pursuit of increasing influence in the region. The amount of recent investment by Beijing on military and naval technology is more than what it used to be in the past.[...] With this magnitude of emphasis on military might, many economic experts and analysts have been proved wrong who were previously of the opinion that China would primarily focus on attaining economic rather than military influence [...]. Military analysts and experts around the world are of the view that the Chinese spending on the navy should not be seen as an effort to match the US; rather it should be seen as an effort to prepare itself for future local disputes [...] China is also vying for strong military and strategic alliances in the region. During a recent visit to China by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Beijing pledged to strengthen military ties with Moscow in order to further the already bolstering ties [...]. "China is willing to work with Russia to positively implement the two leaders' important agreement and further promote pragmatic communication and cooperation so as to upgrade their military relations to a higher level," said Xu while meeting Shoigu. He further

expressed China's desire to push increased strategic cooperation with Moscow. The past few years have witnessed the Russian-Chinese alliance reach an unfathomable level. With both the states jointly opposing any sort of military interventions, it seems that a common global interest is the primary element in creating such a strong bond among the two.

It is not only Russia that has become a major focus of Chinese foreign policy [...]. The progress made by China, coupled with Russia, is surely a positive sign not only for the region, but also for the world, as the concept of a uni-polar world would surely be diluted in times to come. This multi- or bi-polar power structure would not only help in averting major wars, but would also enhance the chances of Asia's progress.

By Farooq Yousaf

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Exercise 4

In a small group, discuss the aim of the article. Then, present your findings to the class and to your teacher.

According to what you have learned and understood during the lesson, with a partner and using the internet, try to find information about the relationship between Brics countries, esp. Russia and China:



Prodotto finale

Creazione, a piccoli gruppi (4/5 studenti) di una breve presentazione in Powerpoint sulla Russia oggi in cui gli studenti metteranno in evidenza, commentando una linea del tempo "figurata", ovvero composta da immagini, le tappe più importanti della storia del paese e il suo ruolo nell'economica mondiale di oggi.