GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM YOUNG ACADEMICS PROGRAM
POLICY PAPER SERIES No.12

U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE 2011 NATO INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

ARI HEISTEIN

Researcher, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

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About GRF

Global Relations Forum (GRF), founded in 2009 with the support of prominent Turkish leaders in business, government, and academia, is an independent, nonprofit membership association providing a platform for engaging, informing, and stimulating its members and all interested individuals in all matters related to international affairs and global issues.

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The GRF Young Academics Program is distinct among these community initiatives in that it serves an additional but equally important objective. Through this program, GRF is establishing an expanding network of young academics that contributes to policy discussions in both the national and international spheres.

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This paper, entitled *"U.S.-Russia Relations Following the 2011 NATO Intervention in Libya"* is authored by Ari Heistein as part of the GRF Young Academics Program Policy Paper Series.

GRF convened the following group of distinguished members to evaluate and guide Ari Heistein's paper:

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U.S.-Russia Relations Following the 2011 NATO Intervention in Libya

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Abstract

In the first two decades of the post-Cold War era, the U.S.-Russia relationship followed an "ebb and flow" paradigm in which efforts to improve bilateral ties were interspersed with heightened tensions. However, since the decline of the Obama Administration's "reset" with Russia, the relationship has assumed a fairly consistent negative long-term trajectory and is assessed as unlikely to improve in the near future. The 2011 NATO intervention in Libya is cited by U.S. and Russian officials alike as the turning point which brought about the end of the U.S.-Russia "reset." Taking into account that the Libyan theater is tangential to both global events and the core interests of Moscow and Washington, this paper aims to examine why it is that developments there in 2011 are ascribed monumental impact upon one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. It does so based on an assessment of how the U.S. and Russian decision-makers understood the intervention, its aftermath, and what lessons ought to be drawn from it. The paper concludes with recommendations for how to stabilize the bilateral relationship in order to avert the prospect of further decline or even confrontation.

For full paper, see:

http://www.gif.org.tr/files/US-RussiaRelations2011.pdf