

The paper seeks to demonstrate that, though it was initially an idea with little substance, the principle of reasonable sufficiency and its corollaries have become central to Soviet thinking on arms control and disarmament. The initiative-oriented policies and active diplomacy of Soviet arms control have served to enhance the prestige of the country, while at the same time addressing fundamental domestic problems related to massive military expenditures and commitments. As they have become merged with policy, these principles demonstrate that movement towards radical arms reductions, rather than threatening the security of a state, can actually serve to enhance its strength both internationally and domestically.