

term option whereby Russia joins NATO; and the extension of NATO into Central Asia and the Transcaucasus. Proposals to create a new non-NATO security institutions which would tie Russia to the rest of the world, such as a "Global Alliance for Security" and Russia-EU security relations will also be briefly outlined.

The argument put forward is that, in the new post September 11 climate, there is a tremendous opportunity for Russia and NATO members to cooperate to counter the key security threats to world peace. NATO is the only institution which has both the political capacity to unite these countries, and the military means to counter the new threats. The creation of the new NATO-Russia Council in May 2002 is a major step on this road towards increased cooperation.

1. Russia-NATO Institutional Relations

Before we can examine the current options for NATO-Russia relations it is helpful to review the institutions linking the two which have existed thus far. Events since September 11 must be seen in the context of the fitful moves towards closer relations which took place over the past ten years. Since 1991 NATO has been actively pursuing a closer and more profitable relationship with Russia. However, thus far this evolution has been on NATO's terms with little regard to Russian interests and insecurities. The institutional approaches examined below succeeded to various degrees to extend NATO's influence. For Russia's part, from the beginning, it has acquiesced to, if not embraced, NATO's new developments. Russian leaders have been eager to join the more affluent West and its myriad of institutions and have realized that their desire to remain a great power gives them few, if any, alternative approaches. At the same time, Russia has continually objected to not being an equal partner. Reformed or future institutions should move towards bringing Russia in as an equal partner and be sensitive towards Russian concerns precisely because NATO needs Russia's full cooperation and assistance if it is to successfully adapt to counter today's new threats.