



## China, Russia and The Usa: A New Sociopolitical Energy Triangle

*Çin, Rusya ve Abd: Yeni Bir Sosyopolitik Enerji Üçgeni*

### ABSTRACT

The passage examines the energy relationships between China, Russia, and the United States and how they impact global geopolitics. China's rapidly growing economy has increased its energy demand. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels and ensure energy security, China has invested heavily in renewable energy, becoming a leader in renewable technologies. China is also investing in places like Central Asia and Africa for energy supply. Russia has substantial energy reserves, exporting oil and gas which are critical to its economy. Russia leverages its energy resources to advance political goals. China and Russia have formed an energy partnership through increased oil and gas exports from Russia to China. The US has increased its energy production through shale gas and oil, strengthening energy independence. However, the US uses energy policies to support foreign policy aims, competing with China for control of energy resources.

China's energy demand and diversification, Russia's decisive role in energy markets, and the US's increasing energy independence and competitiveness shape the energy triangle. Cooperation exists between China and Russia through energy agreements and pipelines, serving both nations' interests. There is competition between the US and China in trade and technology which extends to energy. As China is a large energy importer, the US is increasing exports but also restricting China's influence on US energy. The energy policies and strategic goals of each nation determine competition and cooperation, impacting global energy balances and geopolitics. The future of energy relations between China, Russia and the US plays an important role in aligning international relations and energy policies.

**Keywords:** Energy Triangle, China, Russia, USA, Geopolitical Dynamics

### INTRODUCTION

This research examines the interactions and relations between China, Russia and the United States, which are at the centre of the world energy market. China's rapidly growing economy, Russia's strong position based on its rich energy resources and the US's leadership in energy production lead these three countries to play an important role in global energy balances.

Regarding energy demand, China has recently grown to be a significant player. Its rapid economic growth has led to an increase in its energy demand and deepened its dependence on energy resources. To lessen this reliance and ensure energy security, China has been putting a lot of emphasis on renewable energy sources. China has become the world leader in renewable energy thanks to investments made in the industry. However, China's energy demand has prompted it to make sizable investments in energy resources, particularly in areas like Central Asia and Africa (Shambaugh, 2018).

Russia is a country with a large share of the world's energy reserves. It is a leading exporter of natural gas and oil, and the revenues from energy resources are vital for the Russian economy. Russia's energy policies aim at utilising energy resources in line with national interests and increasing political influence (Baev, 2014). Relationships between Russia and China in the energy sector have become more strategic. For China's rapidly expanding energy needs, Russian natural gas has grown to be a significant source. Energy agreements and natural gas pipelines between the two countries ensure the access of Russian energy resources to China and strengthen mutual economic cooperation (Chase et al., 2017).

In terms of energy production, the USA is among the top countries in the world. Because of it, the US has been able to strengthen its energy independence and export more energy. However, the US develops its energy policies in line with its geopolitical goals (Blank, 2005). The goal of US energy policies, according to Frazier and Stewart-Ingersoll (2010), is to ensure both domestic energy security and a competitive edge on global energy markets.

This study examines the geopolitical positions of China, Russia, and the United States as well as their interactions with regard to energy. These three countries take different approaches to issues including trade

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agreements, political spheres of influence, energy security, and resource accessibility. International relations and the global energy balance are impacted by the dynamics of rivalry and cooperation.

The research aims to comprehend the interactions that take place inside the energy triangle by examining the energy policies and strategies of these three countries. This research seeks to illuminate potential shifts in the geopolitical landscape, market developments in the energy sector, and dangers to the security of the global energy supply.

A review of the literature, comparisons, and assessments are all part of the research technique. Data from scholarly sources, worldwide news reports, and the energy sector will form the basis of the analysis.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

### China's, Russia's and US's Energy Sector and Policies

In China, Russia, and the United States, energy-related industries are a key factor in economic growth. The three nations are all significant players in the world energy market, despite having different energy profiles (Finley, 2006).

China, Russia, and the US all heavily rely on the energy sector to expand and develop their economies.

Despite the fact that each of the three countries has a distinct energy profile, they all hold sizable market shares in the world's energy market (Lyu and Fang, 2023).

The biggest consumer of energy in the world is China, and in the ensuing decades, its need for energy is anticipated to increase. In addition to being a major producer of coal, China is a significant importer of oil and gas. Although coal is still the majority of the country's energy supply, the Chinese government is investing heavily in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power (BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2022).

China accounted for 26.4% of the world's electricity consumption in 2022 with its 5 point 4 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity consumption. Coal (66 percent), hydro (18 percent), nuclear (5 percent), wind (4 percent), and solar (2 percent) made up the majority of the nation's electricity generation sources. Energy intensity, which gauges how much energy is consumed per unit of GDP, has significantly decreased in recent years, but it is still higher than the global average (IEA, 2020).

The Chinese government has set challenging targets for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. China stated that its carbon emissions would peak in 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2060. To achieve these goals, China is significantly increasing its investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The world's largest exporter of natural gas, Russia also produces a sizable amount of coal and oil. Along with being criticized for its environmental record, the Russian government is also charged with using its energy resources for political purposes. Russia is a major nuclear energy producer and is also advancing nuclear energy technology.

1.6 trillion cubic meters of natural gas, or 17% of the total produced globally, were produced in Russia in 2022. Additionally, the nation produced 558 million tons of oil, or 13% of the world's total. The energy industry, which also makes a sizable contribution to the nation's economic expansion, accounts for a sizeable portion of Russia's budget.

The Russian government has come under fire for its handling of the environment.

The nation's energy sector significantly contributes to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The Russian government hasn't established any difficult objectives despite promising to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The United States consumes a significant amount of energy in addition to being the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas. The US government has publicly backed the development of renewable energy sources and set ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to being a significant player in the international nuclear energy market, the USA is also working to advance nuclear fusion technology.

The United States produced 11.1 million barrels of oil daily in 2022, or 17% of the world's total production. Additionally, the nation contributed 25% of the world's daily production of natural gas, or 97.3 billion cubic feet. According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook for 2022, the USA is a net exporter of both natural gas and oil.

The US government has set challenging targets for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. With a target of net-zero emissions by 2050, the Biden administration rejoined the Paris Agreement in 2021. (United States Energy Information Administration Annual Energy Outlook, 2022) The US government is heavily funding energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Chinese, Russian, and American energy policies are intricate and dynamic. The three nations are all having trouble meeting their energy needs and are all looking for ways to rely less on fossil fuels. In the ensuing decades, the energy policies of these nations will have a big impact on the world energy market.

### **Energy Sector and Policies of China, Russia and the USA**

China, Russia, and the United States hold the top three positions in the world's energy market. The rapid growth of China's economy has increased energy demand and prompted efforts to diversify the nation's energy supply.

The country focuses on sustainable energy resources by leading in renewable energy investments (Li, 2019). Russia, on the other hand, plays an important role in world markets with its natural gas and oil reserves and aims to increase its political influence through energy resources (Tsygankova, 2017). The US, on the other hand, is strengthening its energy independence with the increase in shale gas and oil production and is becoming competitive in global energy markets (Jones, 2018).

China's energy policies focus on incentives for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency measures and investments in foreign energy sources (Wang, 2020). Russia's energy policies aim to increase energy exports and use energy resources as a means of political influence (Kalyuzhnova, 2019). The US energy policies focus on technological innovation, shale gas production and energy security (Muller, 2017).

Developments in energy policies and sectors among these countries influence global energy balances and shape international relations. However, challenges such as energy security, sustainability and climate change are also emerging, making the energy policies of these three countries more complex (Smith, 2021).

### **Energy Competition between China, Russia and the US**

The energy rivalry between China, Russia and the United States stems from their quest to access energy resources, ensure energy security and be influential in global energy markets. These three countries have strategic goals of owning energy reserves and increasing their economic power through energy exports.

China is competing in international markets to gain access to energy resources as its energy demand increases. It is specifically making investments in energy resources in places like Central Asia and Africa (Wu, 2020). On the other hand, Russia wants to dominate the energy export market by utilizing its natural gas and oil reserves and providing its energy resources to developing nations like China (Korppoo, 2018). The increase in shale gas production, on the other hand, gives the US a competitive advantage in international energy markets and boosts its energy exports (Robinson, 2019).

There are many factors that affect how these three nations compete for energy. The variety of energy sources, technological advancements, energy policies, and political relations are a few of these. Geopolitical tensions, restrictions on access to energy resources, and battles for market share may result from these nations' rivalry.

However, this rivalry also results in collaboration and joint initiatives.

For example, energy agreements and partnership initiatives increase the potential for energy cooperation among these countries (Lee, 2021).

In conclusion, the energy competition between China, Russia and the United States emerges as a complex dynamic shaped around the goals of access to energy resources, energy security and efficiency in global energy markets. This competition is driven by geopolitical factors and energy policies and can affect international relations.

### **Energy Resources and Production of China, Russia and the USA**

China, Russia and the USA differ in terms of energy resources and production. China endeavours to diversify its energy production by investing in renewable energy sources (Li, 2019). The country's use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectricity is gradually increasing. Russia, on the other hand, draws attention with its rich natural gas and oil reserves worldwide (Tsygankova, 2017). Energy production based on these resources enables Russia to have a leading position in energy exports. The US, on the other hand, has become an important energy producer with its production of shale gas and oil (Jones, 2018).

Technological advances in shale gas production have increased the energy independence of the US and increased its energy exports.

Differences in energy resources and production among these countries are also effective in energy consumption. China increases its energy demand with its rapidly growing economy. Russia offers its energy resources to international markets through natural gas and oil exports. The US, on the other hand, has strengthened its energy independence by reducing its energy imports with the increase in energy production.

The energy resources and production of these countries affect global energy balances and play an important role in international relations. The strategic importance of energy policies and resources forms the basis of the energy competition between China, Russia and the USA.

### **Energy Cooperation and Agreements in the Context of International Relations**

Energy co-operation and agreements are an important part of international relations between China, Russia and the USA. These countries explore opportunities for co-operation to ensure access to energy resources, energy security and competitive advantage in markets. For example, natural gas agreements between China and Russia aim to strengthen energy supply and economic relations (Smith, 2016). Similarly, the increase in US energy exports encourages international cooperation through energy agreements and partnership initiatives (Brown, 2017). Such cooperation and agreements affect international relations by increasing interdependence in the energy sector.

### **Energy Dependence and Security**

Energy dependence and security are at the centre of relations between China, Russia and the United States. These countries are developing various strategies to reduce dependence on energy resources and ensure energy security. For example, China aims to reduce its dependence through energy diversification policies (Wang, 2020). Russia seeks to ensure energy security by keeping control of its energy reserves (Kazantsev, 2018). The US, on the other hand, focuses on domestic energy production to reduce its energy dependence (Hamilton, 2017). Energy dependence and security between these countries play an important role as strategic issues in international relations.

### **Future Energy Transition and Sustainability Goals**

The future energy transition and sustainability goals are at the centre of the energy policies of China, Russia and the US. These countries are adopting sustainability goals such as reducing carbon emissions, investing in renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency (Wang, 2022). For example, China aims to take a leadership role in clean energy technologies (Zhang, 2021). Russia endeavours to develop environmental sustainability policies in the energy sector (Baryshnikov, 2020). The US, on the other hand, promotes the use of renewable energy sources (Miller, 2019). Sustainability goals among these countries constitute an important driving force in the energy transition.

### **Global Energy Balance and Interactions**

The global energy balance and its interactions reflect the global impact of the energy policies of China, Russia and the US. These countries shape the global energy balance with their impact on energy supply and demand. For example, China's rapidly increasing energy consumption affects global energy markets (Li, 2018). Russia is an important player that determines global supply with its energy exports (Kosachev, 2020). The US, on the other hand, is changing the global energy balance with its own energy production increase (Yergin, 2021). Energy interactions between these countries are an important factor to be considered in global energy policies.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The findings show the complex dynamics between China, Russia and the United States on energy policies and resources. It is clear that energy is a strategic factor shaping the relations between these great powers. All three countries aim to ensure energy security by diversifying their energy production. However, their dependence on specific energy sources differs, such as China's focus on increasing renewable energy, Russia's dependence on oil and gas reserves, and the US' utilisation of shale gas production.

Highlighting how the energy sector influences interactions at both economic and geopolitical levels. It is evident that there is intense competition between China, Russia and the US for access to energy reserves and dominance in global energy markets. At the same time, energy interdependence encourages co-operation through trade agreements and joint ventures. Looking ahead, sustainability goals related to reducing emissions and increasing efficiency will influence the energy transitions of all three countries. Given their weight in

global energy supply and demand, changing energy policies and resources have implications for international relations and the world energy balance.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Energy relations and interactions between China, Russia and the US shape the global energy balance and play an important role in international relations. With changes in energy policies and resources, these three nations have the potential to affect the future energy triangle. The analysis of China, Russia, and the US in the energy sector looked at their roles, rivalries, partnerships, and sustainability objectives.

China stands out because of its high energy demand and innovation in renewable energy technologies. It prioritizes diversifying its energy supply and lowering carbon emissions while maintaining economic growth.

However, thanks to its vast energy reserves, Russia has a significant impact on global energy markets.

Russia's impact on the world energy balance is boosted by its energy exports and policies. The US, on the other hand, grabs attention with changes to domestic energy production and environmental policies. It concentrates on making investments in renewable energy and the process of decarbonization while increasing its energy independence.

There is potential for cooperation between the three nations in this situation, with the energy sector experiencing increased competition. Areas like joint projects, technology transfer, and energy trade should all see increased cooperation. The goals of the energy transition and sustainability also depend on collaborative efforts. Better communication, cooperation, and cohesion in global energy policies will be made possible by mutual respect, dialogue, and information sharing.

This study's findings suggest that China, Russia, and the United States should take the energy triangle effect into account as they develop their future energy policies and work to advance sustainability. Furthermore, it is critical that the international community keep an eye on and support the interactions between these nations' energy markets and the overall energy balance.

It will be possible to achieve sustainability objectives while lowering competition and ensuring energy security. International energy treaties and institutional cooperation should be promoted during this process (Smith, 2022). Additionally, it's critical to increase investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. According to Brown and Sovacool (2019), major energy consumers like China, Russia, and the US can take the lead in the development and adoption of renewable energy technologies. This would aid in efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions, and it would be a significant step toward a future powered by sustainable energy.

Additionally, it's critical to increase investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. China, Russia, and other major energy consumers, as well as the United States, can take the lead in the creation and application of renewable energy technologies. This will aid in efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, and it will be a significant step toward a future powered by sustainable energy.

Finally, accountability and transparency are crucial components of global energy policies. Energy hegemony like China, Russia, and the US ought to take a more liberal and equitable stance when it comes to the allocation of resources and their pricing (Smith, 2022). The stability and security of the world's energy balance can be ensured in this way.

The results of this study emphasise the importance of the energy triangle between China, Russia and the US for global energy policies and sustainability (Smith, 2022). Going forward, the energy policies of these countries need to be more co-operation, innovation and sustainability oriented (Brown & Sovacool, 2019). In this way, a future where the global energy triangle can be managed in a more balanced, secure and sustainable manner can be built.

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