Position: Russia should be removed from the G8

This position addresses the topic 2008 South Ossetia war.

For this position

"In Soviet days, Russia didn't care because it was at the center of a self-enclosed autarkic system that included 15 Soviet republics, all of Eastern Europe and a collection of overseas colonies. With these all gone, post-Soviet Russia is infinitely more dependent on the international system. It has political/economic pressure points. Yet with Georgia occupied, its infrastructure stripped and its capital under siege, NATO pushed not one of them."

From NATO Meows, by Charles Krauthammer (The Washington Post, August 22, 2008) (view)

"But we can make life very uncomfortable for Mr Putin. Russia is not the Soviet Union. Its recent (relative) prosperity depends on its continuing integration into the global economy. It sets great store by the recognition that it gains from a seat at the high table with the great powers in the G8. It wants to elevate that status farther by joining the World Trade Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development."

From Europe wins a gold medal for defeatism, by Gerard Baker (The Times, August 15, 2008) (view)

"What is to be done? Let's be real. There's nothing to be done militarily. What we can do is alter Putin's cost-benefit calculations. We are not without resources. There are a range of measures to be deployed if Russia does not live up to its cease-fire commitments."

From How to Stop Putin, by Charles Krauthammer (The Washington Post, August 14, 2008) (view)

Against this position
"Breaking off arms reduction and missile defense talks with Russia is in nobody’s interest. Nor are cheap shots like throwing Russia out of an (ever less relevant) G-8. But nor can the West be cowed. It must shore up the Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili, with financial and other support. It must keep the trans-Caspian, Russia-circumventing energy corridor open"

From NATO’s Disastrous Georgian Fudge, by Roger Cohen (The New York Times, September 1, 2008) (view)

"I do not support Russia's expulsion from the G8: that would encourage Russian sense of victimhood, fuel Russian revanchism, and allow the Russians to position themselves as the champion of reform for those currently outside the G8. Instead we should use the G8 to work on issues where Russia can be a partner - whether on climate change or nuclear decommissioning. But we should also be prepared to act as a G7 when Russia acts in flagrant breach of international law and flouts our values."

From Russia will not benefit from its aggression, by David Miliband (The Times, August 19, 2008) (view)

Mixed on this position

No results

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