

Péter Krekó
Eotvos Loránd University of Sciences

The Radical Left and Russia

While it has become a well-known fact in the last few years that there are personal, ideological, and sometimes financial connections between populist radical right parties and players and the Kremlin, much less attention has been dedicated so far to the connections between the radical left and the Kremlin. This is an even more bizarre relationship as the Putin regime's ideology goes directly against the goals and aspirations of the left. Using the concept and theoretical framework of "soft power", the paper analyzes the positions of the radical left parties towards Vladimir Putin's Russia and its policies, and also the rhetorical styles (relativization, victimization) and strategies of radical left parties as well as the ideological elements (peace and neutrality, anti-globalisation, self-determination, anti-fascism, anti-imperialism) that brings Russia closer to the radical left parties in particular foreign policy issues (Syria, Crimea, etc.). The paper analyzes the limits of the relationship as well, finding responses of why the radical left is generally less important for the Kremlin and its proxies and vice versa than the radical right.