

## **Russian Geopolitical and Economic Grammar: Sovereignty, Strategic Time, and Continuity under Systemic Fragmentation**

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### **Abstract**

Contemporary international political economy is undergoing a profound epistemological transformation under conditions of geopolitical fragmentation, sanctions regimes, technological decoupling, and systemic uncertainty. Conventional paradigms emphasizing efficiency, optimization, and market integration appear increasingly insufficient for explaining contemporary state behavior. This article examines the evolving geopolitical and economic grammar underlying contemporary Russian statecraft and explores its implications for broader transformations in international political economy.

Employing Strategic Discourse–Epistemological Analysis (SDEA), a qualitative interpretive methodology combining Strategic Discourse Analysis and Epistemological Analysis, the study analyzes official speeches, policy statements, and public presentations delivered by

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senior Russian political leaders and technocrats during periods of intensified geopolitical confrontation and economic restructuring.

The findings reveal the emergence of a distinctive continuity-centered strategic grammar characterized by sovereignty, continuity preservation, strategic autonomy, systemic coordination, and long-term adaptation. The study further demonstrates that sovereignty is increasingly understood not merely as territorial control or juridical authority, but as the capacity to preserve systemic continuity across financial, technological, logistical, and institutional domains. In this context, the article proposes the concept of temporal sovereignty, defined as the capacity of states to govern developmental time while maintaining strategic autonomy under conditions of prolonged uncertainty.

More broadly, the article argues that international political economy is experiencing an epistemological transition from efficiency-centered globalization toward a Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE), in which continuity preservation, synchronization, temporal autonomy, and emerging forms of networked continuity governance increasingly constitute the principal organizing principles of contemporary statecraft.

**Keywords:** Russia; Strategic Grammar; Temporal Sovereignty; Continuity-Centered Political Economy; Networked Continuity Governance.

Received: 30/06/2026

Revised : 26/07/2026

Accepted: 27/07/2026

## 1. Introduction

The contemporary international political economy is undergoing profound transformation. Intensifying geopolitical competition, sanctions, supply chain fragmentation, technological decoupling, and financial restructuring increasingly challenge the assumptions underpinning the post-Cold War globalization model. Conventional paradigms emphasizing efficiency, optimization, and market integration appear increasingly insufficient for explaining contemporary state behavior (Rodrik, 2011; Tooze, 2022; Strange, 1996).

Existing scholarship has generated important insights into sanctions resilience, macroeconomic stabilization, and state adaptation under geopolitical pressure. However, comparatively less attention has been devoted to the epistemological foundations through which states redefine their strategic priorities and reconstruct their operating logic under conditions of prolonged systemic fragmentation. This analytical gap motivates the present study, which examines not only policy responses but also the deeper strategic grammar underpinning contemporary statecraft.

Rather than treating Russia as an exceptional case, this article employs contemporary Russian statecraft as an analytically revealing case for examining broader transformations in international political economy.

The Russian case provides an important example of this transformation. Since 2014, and particularly following the escalation of geopolitical tensions after 2022, Russia has been compelled to operate under extensive sanctions, financial restrictions, and disruptions across multiple international economic networks. While existing studies have examined Russia through realism,

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sanctions resilience, and macroeconomic stabilization (Connolly, 2018; Rutland, 2023), limited attention has been devoted to the epistemological foundations of contemporary Russian statecraft.

Recent statements by senior Russian policymakers and technocrats suggest that Russia is not merely adapting to external pressures but is actively constructing a new economic operating logic. According to reports from the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Finance Minister Anton Siluanov argued that Russia had achieved "absolute financial sovereignty," emphasizing independence from external financial infrastructures and autonomous control over budgetary decision-making (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 2026). Within this strategic discourse, national development increasingly relies on domestic financial mobilization, internal resources, and sovereign policy coordination rather than external borrowing or international financial structures. Such statements reflect a broader orientation toward preserving developmental continuity and expanding national room for maneuver rather than reintegration into earlier globalization arrangements.

Similarly, reports from the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum indicate that Russian Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov views the contours of Russia's future economic model as already becoming visible, characterized by a stronger ruble, relatively higher interest rates, and continued institutional adjustment under conditions of global uncertainty (Izvestia, 2026). He further emphasized that structural transformations within the economy are ongoing and require continuous policy recalibration. These observations point toward an emerging developmental model centered not primarily on short-term efficiency maximization, but on preserving continuity, managing adaptation across extended time horizons, and governing systemic transformation under conditions of persistent uncertainty.

Equally important, reports from the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum indicate that senior Russian officials, including Maxim Oreshkin, no longer regard the current geopolitical environment as a temporary disruption but rather as a structural transformation requiring a fundamentally different developmental model (TASS, 2026). Under these conditions, strategic priorities increasingly emphasize continuity preservation, domestic investment coordination, infrastructural autonomy, and long-term systemic adaptation. From a temporal sovereignty perspective, these priorities seek to strengthen control over developmental trajectories and govern strategic time under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

This article argues that these developments reflect the emergence of a distinctive strategic grammar within contemporary Russian statecraft. Rather than treating this strategic grammar as unique to Russia, the analysis employs the Russian case as an analytically revealing window through which broader transformations in contemporary international political economy become visible. Rather than prioritizing efficiency, short-term optimization, or external integration, this grammar increasingly emphasizes continuity over speed, endurance over optimization, sovereignty over dependency, and strategic adaptation over market determinism. Consequently, Russian strategic behavior may be interpreted not simply as a response to sanctions or geopolitical confrontation, but as an attempt to construct a sovereign adaptive coordination system capable of preserving continuity under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

More broadly, the Russian case provides an analytically revealing perspective on an ongoing epistemological transition within international political economy. Whereas the dominant globalization paradigm emphasized efficiency, liberal integration, and external financial interdependence, emerging conditions of fragmentation increasingly reward synchronization capacity, reserve accumulation, infrastructural resilience, and the autonomous governance of

developmental time. President Vladimir Putin has interpreted these transformations as signaling "a change in the very paradigm of global development" (Suvorov, 2026). While such claims remain open to empirical debate, they nevertheless reflect an emerging understanding that continuity preservation and temporal autonomy are becoming increasingly central to contemporary statecraft.

Despite growing scholarly interest in resilience, sovereignty, and sanctions adaptation, limited attention has been devoted to the epistemological foundations underlying contemporary Russian statecraft. In particular, existing studies rarely examine how strategic discourse produced by political leaders and technocrats reveals an emerging grammar centered upon continuity, synchronization, and temporal autonomy. Moreover, the concept of temporal sovereignty remains largely underdeveloped within contemporary international political economy. As a result, existing explanations remain limited in accounting for how states reorganize strategic coordination and preserve systemic continuity under conditions of prolonged geopolitical fragmentation.

Accordingly, this article seeks to answer three principal questions. First, what constitutes the geopolitical and economic grammar underlying contemporary Russian statecraft? Second, how does this grammar shape Russia's responses to geopolitical fragmentation and systemic disruption? Third, to what extent does the concept of temporal sovereignty provide a useful analytical framework for understanding the ongoing transformation of Russian political economy?

To address these questions, this study develops a Strategic Discourse–Epistemological Analysis (SDEA) framework to examine official discourse produced by senior Russian political leaders and technocrats. The framework is designed to identify recurrent conceptual patterns and interpret them as indicators of deeper epistemological transformations in statecraft. Statements delivered during periods of systemic disruption constitute particularly valuable empirical sources because state elites are compelled not merely to pursue economic growth, but also to preserve

systemic continuity and prevent institutional breakdown. Under such conditions, official discourse increasingly reveals the underlying operating logic of the state, including priorities concerning continuity preservation, reserve management, synchronization, and strategic adaptation.

Existing studies have primarily examined Russian statecraft through the lenses of realism, sanctions resilience, macroeconomic stabilization, and geopolitical competition. While these approaches provide valuable insights into observable policy responses, they devote comparatively less attention to the underlying cognitive and normative structures through which political actors interpret systemic uncertainty and organize strategic adaptation. This analytical gap motivates the present study's focus on strategic grammar as the theoretical foundation for understanding contemporary Russian statecraft.

By integrating strategic discourse analysis with epistemological interpretation, this article contributes to broader debates concerning sovereignty, continuity, and the changing foundations of international political economy in an increasingly fragmented world. More specifically, the article contributes by: (1) identifying the emergence of a continuity-centered strategic grammar in contemporary Russian statecraft; (2) conceptualizing temporal sovereignty as an analytical category for understanding contemporary geopolitical adaptation; and (3) proposing Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE) as a broader framework for interpreting state behavior under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

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## **2. Theoretical Framework: Grammar and Epistemological Escalation**

### **2.1 Strategic Grammar**

To conceptualize this emerging strategic grammar, this article develops a theoretical framework that brings together strategic grammar, epistemological escalation, and temporal sovereignty. This framework provides the analytical foundation for examining how contemporary Russian statecraft interprets systemic uncertainty, organizes strategic adaptation, and preserves developmental continuity under conditions of prolonged fragmentation.

This article conceptualizes grammar as a historically constituted cognitive and normative framework through which political actors interpret reality, identify strategic priorities, and formulate developmental responses. Grammar therefore refers not merely to political rhetoric or discourse, but to the deeper cognitive and normative structures that shape political action (Foucault, 2008; Wodak & Meyer, 2016). From this perspective, geopolitical and economic grammars are historically contingent rather than universal. Different societies may develop distinct strategic grammars depending on their historical experiences, institutional trajectories, geographical conditions, and accumulated experiences of crisis and adaptation (Braudel, 1980; Wallerstein, 1974). Strategic grammars are not static. They evolve through processes of epistemological escalation, whereby accumulated historical experiences, institutional learning, and strategic adaptation reshape the cognitive foundations of statecraft over time.

### **2.2 Epistemological Escalation**

The dominant strategic grammar of the post-Cold War globalization era was largely organized around an efficiency-centered epistemology. Within this framework, market liberalization, global integration, optimization, and interdependence were regarded as the principal mechanisms of

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economic development and international stability. The underlying assumption was that increasing economic interdependence would reduce systemic risks and generate mutually beneficial outcomes.

However, successive disruptions—including financial crises, pandemics, sanctions regimes, technological fragmentation, and supply chain disruptions—have increasingly challenged these assumptions. Under conditions of prolonged systemic uncertainty, an alternative epistemological orientation is increasingly emerging—one that places greater emphasis on continuity, strategic coordination, and temporal autonomy than on efficiency alone.

This article introduces the concept of epistemological escalation to describe the progressive transformation of strategic knowledge frameworks under conditions of systemic stress. Four ideal-typical epistemological levels may be identified, each representing a progressively different mode through which states interpret systemic change and organize strategic responses.

### **2.2.1 Efficiency Epistemology**

At this level, strategic action is primarily oriented toward cost minimization, optimization, market integration, and economic acceleration. Development is evaluated primarily through indicators of growth, productivity, and efficiency (Evans, 1995; Williamson, 1990).

### **2.2.2 Resilience Epistemology**

As systemic disruptions intensify, strategic attention shifts toward resilience, redundancy, diversification, and risk management. The principal concern becomes the capacity of systems to absorb shocks, adapt to changing conditions, and recover from disruptions (Holling, 1973; Walker & Cooper, 2011; Taleb, 2012).

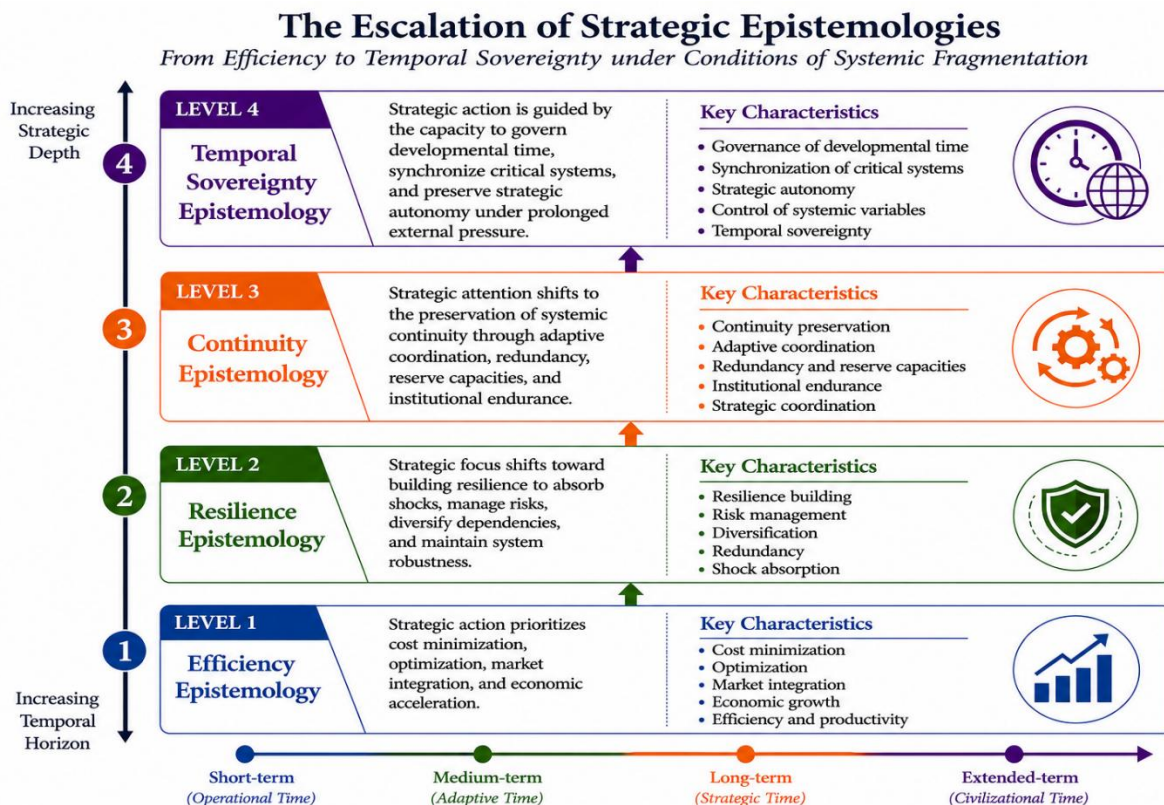
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### 2.2.3 Continuity Epistemology

Under conditions of prolonged geopolitical fragmentation, preserving systemic continuity becomes the central strategic objective. Strategic actors increasingly prioritize continuity preservation, adaptive coordination, reserve capacities, and institutional endurance as the foundations of long-term system viability. Development is no longer evaluated solely by efficiency, but by the capacity to maintain essential system functions under conditions of prolonged systemic stress. (Braudel, 1980; Beer, 1979; Suwan-achariya, 2026).

### 2.2.4 Temporal Sovereignty Epistemology

The highest epistemological level proposed in this article concerns the capacity of states not merely to preserve continuity, but to actively govern their own developmental time. Building upon Braudel's conception of historical time (Braudel, 1980) and Beer's systems perspective (Beer, 1979, 1985), this article introduces the concept of temporal sovereignty. Temporal sovereignty refers to the capacity of states to synchronize economic, technological, logistical, and institutional systems while maintaining strategic autonomy under conditions of prolonged external pressure and systemic fragmentation. At this level, geopolitical competition increasingly concerns not only territory, markets, or resources, but also the capacity to govern developmental time itself (Braudel, 1980; Nowotny, 1994).



**Figure 1.** The Escalation of Strategic Epistemologies

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 1 illustrates the proposed model of epistemological escalation, showing the progressive transition from efficiency-oriented reasoning to temporal sovereignty under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

The escalation framework proposed in this article conceptualizes strategic adaptation as an evolutionary process through which organizing principles progressively shift from efficiency and optimization toward resilience, continuity preservation, and ultimately temporal sovereignty. These epistemological levels should not be interpreted as mutually exclusive stages. Rather,

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higher levels incorporate and reorganize preceding principles within increasingly complex strategic environments characterized by systemic fragmentation and geopolitical uncertainty.

The Russian case examined in this article provides empirical support for the proposition that contemporary Russian statecraft increasingly exhibits characteristics associated with the third and fourth epistemological levels. The recurrent concentration of concepts such as sovereignty, continuity, strategic endurance, and systemic coordination within official discourse indicates an ongoing epistemological transition from efficiency-centered globalization toward a continuity-centered political economy.

**Proposition 1.** The concentration of concepts such as sovereignty, continuity, strategic endurance, and systemic coordination within contemporary Russian official discourse signals an ongoing epistemological transition from efficiency-centered globalization toward a continuity-centered political economy.

**Proposition 2.** Strategic grammar functions as a cognitive framework through which states interpret systemic uncertainty, define developmental priorities, and organize collective adaptation.

**Proposition 3.** Under conditions of prolonged geopolitical fragmentation, continuity preservation increasingly emerges as the primary organizing principle through which states allocate resources, coordinate institutions, and maintain systemic endurance.

**Proposition 4.** As geopolitical fragmentation intensifies, states increasingly seek temporal sovereignty, defined as the capacity to govern developmental time, synchronize strategic systems,

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and preserve strategic autonomy over extended time horizons under conditions of prolonged uncertainty.

The epistemological escalation framework developed in this article suggests that prolonged systemic fragmentation progressively transforms the organizing principles of political-economic systems. As strategic priorities shift from efficiency toward resilience, continuity, and temporal sovereignty, existing analytical frameworks centered on optimization, market integration, and economic interdependence become increasingly insufficient for explaining how states preserve systemic continuity, govern developmental time, and maintain strategic autonomy under conditions of prolonged uncertainty (Braudel, 1980; Walker & Cooper, 2011; Farrell & Newman, 2019).

Consequently, a broader theoretical framework is required to capture these emerging strategic dynamics. This article therefore proposes the concept of Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE) as an alternative analytical framework for understanding how states organize adaptation, preserve systemic continuity, and sustain developmental trajectories under conditions of geopolitical fragmentation and systemic uncertainty.

### **2.3 Continuity-Centered Political Economy**

The dominant paradigm of post-Cold War globalization has traditionally emphasized efficiency, optimization, and market integration as the principal organizing principles of economic development (Polanyi, 2001; Strange, 1988; Williamson, 1990; Rodrik, 2011). Under this framework, global value chains were increasingly configured to minimize costs, maximize specialization, and accelerate economic growth. However, recent systemic disruptions, including pandemics, sanctions, geopolitical conflicts, and supply chain disruptions, have exposed significant vulnerabilities embedded within highly optimized systems (Taleb, 2012; Walker &

Cooper, 2011; Farrell & Newman, 2019). These developments suggest that efficiency alone may no longer provide an adequate foundation for economic governance under conditions of prolonged uncertainty (Polanyi, 2001).

This article proposes the concept of Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE) as an alternative analytical framework for understanding contemporary statecraft under conditions of systemic fragmentation. CCPE refers to an analytical framework for political-economic organization in which the preservation of systemic continuity becomes the primary strategic objective. Rather than prioritizing efficiency maximization alone, continuity-centered systems emphasize endurance, adaptive capacity, reserve accumulation, redundancy, and long-term developmental autonomy (Braudel, 1980; Beer, 1979; Holling, 1973; Taleb, 2012).

Within this framework, economic performance is evaluated not only by growth rates or productivity gains, but also by the capacity of institutions, infrastructures, and productive systems to preserve systemic continuity by maintaining essential functions during periods of prolonged disruption (Polanyi, 2001). Accordingly, CCPE extends existing approaches to political economy by positioning continuity preservation, rather than efficiency maximization alone, as the central organizing principle of contemporary statecraft under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

*Table 1*

#### Core Principles of Continuity-Centered Political Economy

| Principle               | Description                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Continuity Preservation | Maintaining essential functions |
| Strategic Autonomy      | Reducing critical dependencies  |
| Adaptive Capacity       | Ability to adjust under stress  |

| Principle            | Description                      |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Synchronization      | Coordination across systems      |
| Temporal Sovereignty | Governance of developmental time |

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Table 1 summarizes the core theoretical principles of Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE), highlighting the organizational capacities required for preserving systemic continuity under conditions of geopolitical fragmentation and systemic uncertainty.

Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE) is organized around five interrelated principles. First, continuity preservation emphasizes the maintenance of essential economic and institutional functions during systemic disruptions. Second, strategic autonomy seeks to reduce critical dependencies that may undermine sovereign decision-making. Third, adaptive capacity concerns the ability of systems to reorganize and adjust under changing conditions. Fourth, synchronization refers to the coordination of economic, technological, institutional, and logistical systems across multiple temporal horizons to preserve systemic continuity. Fifth, temporal sovereignty concerns the capacity of states to govern developmental time while maintaining strategic autonomy under conditions of prolonged uncertainty and systemic fragmentation.

Importantly, continuity-centered systems may interpret systemic disruptions not solely as threats but also as potential sources of strategic opportunity. In Russian strategic discourse, President Vladimir Putin has characterized contemporary global transformations not only as risks but also as opportunities for institutional innovation, new partnerships, and alternative developmental trajectories (Suvorov, 2026). This perspective illustrates how systemic disruptions may simultaneously generate new developmental opportunities, thereby expanding the strategic room for maneuver available to states.



**Figure 2.** Evolutionary Process of Epistemological Escalation toward Continuity-Centered Political Economy

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

The framework illustrates how historical experiences and systemic vulnerabilities generate strategic adaptations that gradually crystallize into distinctive strategic grammars (Braudel, 1980; Wallerstein, 1974; Beer, 1985). These strategic grammars contribute to a process of epistemological escalation, ultimately giving rise to Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE)

Within this emerging framework, continuity preservation becomes increasingly inseparable from the governance of developmental time. As systemic uncertainty intensifies, the

capacity to create, preserve, and mobilize adaptive time emerges as a critical dimension of effective statecraft (Braudel, 1980; Nowotny, 1994).

## **2.4 Continuity, Time, and Statecraft**

From a continuity-centered political economy perspective, statecraft increasingly concerns the governance of developmental time. Strategic reserves, fiscal prudence, domestic productive capacities, and sovereign infrastructures provide not merely economic stability, but also the temporal capacity required for strategic adaptation. Consequently, contemporary political economy increasingly involves the governance of developmental time, synchronization across interconnected systems, and the preservation of long-term continuity under conditions of systemic uncertainty (Nowotny, 1994).

## **3. Methodology**

This article employs a qualitative interpretive methodology that combines Strategic Discourse Analysis (SDA) and Epistemological Analysis (EA). Together, these approaches constitute the Strategic Discourse–Epistemological Analysis (SDEA) framework developed for this study. Rather than introducing an entirely new methodological tradition, SDEA integrates established principles from Strategic Discourse Analysis and Epistemological Analysis into a unified interpretive framework tailored to the objectives of this study. The empirical corpus consists primarily of official statements, speeches, interviews, and public presentations delivered by senior Russian political leaders and technocrats during a period characterized by intensified geopolitical fragmentation, sanctions, and economic restructuring.

The empirical materials were selected purposively according to three criteria. First, documents had to be produced by senior political leaders or technocrats directly involved in

economic governance. Second, they had to be delivered during periods of intensified geopolitical fragmentation and economic restructuring. Third, they had to contain explicit references to sovereignty, continuity, strategic adaptation, or developmental priorities. The analysis focused on recurrent conceptual patterns across multiple actors and institutional settings rather than isolated statements.

The study treats official discourse not merely as political rhetoric, but as a strategic and epistemological artifact reflecting evolving state priorities, cognitive frameworks, and developmental orientations. Particular attention is given to statements delivered by senior policymakers responsible for economic governance, fiscal policy, strategic planning, technological development, and national economic coordination.

Statements produced during periods of systemic disruption are considered especially valuable empirical sources because political leaders and technocrats are compelled not merely to pursue economic growth, but also to preserve systemic continuity and prevent institutional breakdown. Consequently, official discourse increasingly reveals underlying assumptions concerning security, development, vulnerability, adaptation, and long-term national priorities.

Methodologically, the analysis proceeds through four cumulative analytical stages, with each stage building upon the findings of the previous stage to progressively connect empirical observations with theoretical interpretation.

### **Stage 1: Data Collection**

The first stage involves collecting official speeches, interviews, policy statements, and public presentations delivered by Russian political leaders and technocrats. Particular emphasis is placed

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on discourse produced under conditions of systemic stress, including sanctions, geopolitical confrontation, economic restructuring, and strategic adaptation.

### **Stage 2: Conceptual Identification**

The second stage identifies recurrent concepts, keywords, and strategic formulations appearing within official discourse. Examples include sovereignty, continuity, resilience, strategic autonomy, adaptation, domestic resources, infrastructural independence, synchronization, and systemic coordination.

### **Stage 3: Conceptual Concentration Analysis**

Conceptual concentration refers to the recurrent clustering and institutional reinforcement of strategic concepts across multiple actors and policy domains. The third stage examines how these conceptual patterns are repeated, diffused, and reinforced across multiple actors and institutional settings. Recurrent conceptual concentration is interpreted as evidence of an emerging strategic grammar rather than isolated rhetorical preferences. Particular attention is given to cross-institutional convergence among political leaders, economic policymakers, and technocratic actors.

### **Stage 4: Epistemological Interpretation**

The final stage interprets these conceptual concentrations as indicators of broader epistemological transformations within statecraft. The analysis seeks to identify how strategic actors redefine development, security, vulnerability, sovereignty, and national priorities under conditions of prolonged systemic uncertainty.

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Accordingly, this article conceptualizes strategic grammar as a historically constituted cognitive framework through which political actors interpret reality, define strategic priorities, and organize collective adaptation. The emergence of recurrent conceptual **patterns** is therefore interpreted as evidence of an evolving epistemological orientation within contemporary Russian political economy.

The analytical logic underlying SDEA assumes that sustained conceptual convergence across multiple actors and institutions reflects deeper transformations in strategic knowledge systems rather than temporary policy responses. Accordingly, changes in official discourse are interpreted as indicators of broader shifts in the epistemological foundations of contemporary statecraft.

## 4. Results

The first finding addresses the first research question concerning the geopolitical and economic grammar underlying contemporary Russian statecraft. The analysis reveals the emergence of a distinctive continuity-centered strategic grammar that increasingly organizes official discourse and strategic reasoning.

### 4.1 First Major Finding: The Emergence of a Continuity-Centered Strategic Grammar

This section addresses the first research question concerning the geopolitical and economic grammar underlying contemporary Russian statecraft. Analysis of official speeches, policy statements, and public presentations delivered by senior Russian political leaders and technocrats reveals the emergence of a distinctive continuity-centered strategic grammar characterized by a

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significant concentration of concepts associated with sovereignty, continuity, strategic autonomy, strategic endurance, adaptation, domestic resource mobilization, and systemic coordination.

Importantly, these concepts do not appear as isolated rhetorical expressions. Rather, their recurrent appearance across multiple policy domains—including fiscal policy, industrial development, financial governance, infrastructure, and national security—suggests the existence of a coherent strategic grammar guiding contemporary Russian policymaking.

The findings indicate that this grammar reflects an ongoing process of epistemological escalation within Russian political economy. Whereas the dominant globalization paradigm emphasized efficiency, optimization, external integration, and market interdependence as the principal foundations of development, contemporary Russian discourse increasingly prioritizes continuity preservation, sovereign adaptation, and systemic coordination as the primary organizing principles of national development.

This transition signals a profound redefinition of developmental priorities. Economic development is no longer evaluated exclusively through indicators of growth, productivity, or market efficiency. Instead, increasing importance is attached to the capacity of economic, financial, industrial, and logistical systems to preserve essential functions under conditions of prolonged geopolitical uncertainty and systemic disruption.

The recurrent conceptual concentration identified through SDEA suggests three interrelated strategic perceptions among contemporary Russian policymakers. First, prolonged geopolitical fragmentation is increasingly interpreted as a structural rather than temporary condition. Second, systemic vulnerability arising from excessive external dependence is regarded

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as a significant developmental risk. Third, preserving strategic autonomy and continuity has emerged as a central objective of statecraft.

Consequently, the findings suggest that contemporary Russian statecraft increasingly operates within a continuity-centered political economy in which strategic reserves, domestic industrial ecosystems, infrastructural sovereignty, adaptive coordination mechanisms, and long-term institutional endurance are treated as essential components of national development.

More broadly, the Russian case illustrates that states operating under conditions of prolonged systemic pressure may develop alternative strategic grammars that differ substantially from the efficiency-centered assumptions associated with the post-Cold War globalization paradigm. The emergence of such grammars suggests that contemporary geopolitical competition increasingly concerns not only markets, territory, or military capabilities, but also the capacity to preserve continuity, maintain strategic autonomy, and govern developmental trajectories under conditions of systemic uncertainty.

#### **4.2 Second Major Finding: The Transformation of Sovereignty from Territorial Control to Temporal and Systemic Continuity**

Building upon the first finding, this section addresses the second research question by examining how the emerging strategic grammar reshapes the contemporary understanding of sovereignty. The analysis identifies an ongoing transformation in the meaning of sovereignty within contemporary Russian statecraft. Official discourse suggests that sovereignty is no longer understood solely in terms of territorial control or formal political independence, but increasingly

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as the capacity to preserve systemic continuity under conditions of prolonged geopolitical pressure.

Traditional understandings of sovereignty have generally emphasized territorial integrity, juridical authority, and political autonomy. Contemporary Russian discourse, however, broadens the concept beyond these conventional dimensions. Official statements delivered by senior political leaders and technocrats reveal a broader understanding in which sovereignty encompasses the capacity of the state to sustain essential economic, financial, technological, logistical, and institutional functions despite external disruptions.

This expanded conception of sovereignty reflects the strategic experience of prolonged sanctions, financial restrictions, technological decoupling, and geopolitical fragmentation. Under such conditions, excessive dependence on external infrastructures, financial systems, technologies, or logistical networks is perceived as a source of systemic vulnerability.

Consequently, Russian policymakers increasingly emphasize multiple interconnected dimensions of sovereignty, including:

- financial sovereignty;
- technological sovereignty;
- infrastructural sovereignty;
- food sovereignty;
- energy sovereignty;
- logistical sovereignty; and
- informational sovereignty.

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These dimensions should not be interpreted as isolated policy sectors. Rather, they constitute mutually reinforcing components of a broader continuity-centered architecture designed to preserve the operational integrity of the state under conditions of systemic stress. Collectively, these dimensions contribute to the emergence of temporal sovereignty by enabling the state to preserve developmental trajectories, extend adaptive capacity over time, and govern developmental time under prolonged external pressure.

#### **4.3 Third Major Finding: The Emergence of Temporal Sovereignty as a Strategic Principle of Statecraft**

Building upon the transformed understanding of sovereignty, this section addresses the third research question by examining the emergence of temporal sovereignty as a strategic principle of contemporary statecraft. Analysis of official discourse suggests that contemporary Russian policymakers do not merely seek to preserve sovereignty in its conventional territorial or juridical forms. Rather, they increasingly seek to preserve the state's capacity to maintain, synchronize, and govern its own developmental trajectories under conditions of prolonged geopolitical pressure.

Contemporary geopolitical competition increasingly extends beyond territorial disputes, market access, or military capabilities. Financial sanctions, export controls, technological restrictions, logistical disruptions, and infrastructural fragmentation collectively influence the temporal conditions of development. Such measures may delay industrial upgrading, interrupt investment cycles, disrupt production rhythms, and constrain long-term developmental planning.

Under these conditions, the governance of developmental time increasingly emerges as a strategic dimension of statecraft.

The findings indicate that contemporary Russian discourse increasingly reflects an understanding that excessive dependence upon externally controlled financial, technological, logistical, or infrastructural systems may expose the state to forms of temporal vulnerability. External actors may not only constrain economic activity, but also shape the timing, sequence, and direction of national development.

Consequently, contemporary Russian statecraft increasingly emphasizes the preservation of temporal autonomy. Temporal sovereignty may therefore be defined as the capacity of the state to preserve, coordinate, and govern its own developmental time while maintaining strategic autonomy under conditions of systemic uncertainty.

Several mechanisms contribute to the preservation of temporal sovereignty:

- domestic financial mobilization;
- strategic reserves;
- sovereign payment infrastructures;
- domestic industrial ecosystems;
- alternative transport corridors;
- technological localization;
- adaptive coordination across strategic sectors.

Collectively, these mechanisms generate what this article conceptualizes as adaptive time: the temporal capacity of the state to absorb shocks, reorganize strategic systems, and sustain developmental trajectories without experiencing systemic breakdown. From this perspective, temporal sovereignty concerns not only the governance of developmental time, but also the

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institutional capacity to create, preserve, and mobilize adaptive time under conditions of prolonged uncertainty.

These mechanisms enable the state to reduce developmental delays, absorb external shocks, and maintain continuity across interconnected systems.

Importantly, temporal sovereignty does not imply autarky or isolation. Rather, it refers to the capacity to synchronize external integration with internal developmental priorities while preserving strategic flexibility and continuity.

The Russian case further suggests that contemporary statecraft increasingly concerns the capacity to govern time under conditions of systemic uncertainty. Senior policymakers appear to recognize that while external shocks cannot always be prevented, their effects can be moderated if the state possesses sufficient adaptive capacity, strategic reserves, and domestic policy autonomy. In this context, low public debt, reserve accumulation, and limited dependence upon external financing provide more than macroeconomic stability. They effectively expand the temporal capacity available for strategic adaptation by reducing immediate external constraints and allowing the state additional time to reorganize production, redirect trade flows, develop alternative infrastructures, and implement long-term strategic adjustments.

From this perspective, fiscal prudence, reserve accumulation, and domestic resource mobilization may be interpreted as mechanisms for preserving temporal sovereignty. They enable the state to maintain influence over the timing, sequence, and direction of national development despite prolonged geopolitical pressures.

## 5. Discussion

Building upon the three major findings, this discussion interprets their broader theoretical implications for contemporary international political economy. Rather than treating the findings as isolated observations, the discussion integrates them into a broader conceptual framework concerning sovereignty, temporal governance, continuity preservation, and Continuity-Centered Political Economy under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

### 5.1 Transformation of Sovereignty under Systemic Fragmentation

This subsection examines the broader implications of the transformed concept of sovereignty under conditions of systemic fragmentation. The discussion argues that sovereignty is increasingly redefined through the capacity to preserve continuity across interconnected strategic domains.

The findings indicate that sovereignty under conditions of systemic fragmentation is becoming increasingly multidimensional. Rather than being confined to territorial control alone, contemporary sovereignty encompasses financial, technological, logistical, and infrastructural domains (Strange, 1988). These sectoral sovereignties collectively contribute to the emergence of temporal sovereignty, understood as the capacity to govern developmental time and preserve systemic continuity under prolonged external pressure.

The analysis further suggests that contemporary geopolitical competition increasingly unfolds within a temporal field. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, states compete not only for territory, markets, or resources, but also for the capacity to govern the timing of strategic adaptation, preserve developmental trajectories, and sustain continuity under conditions of persistent uncertainty and external disruption. This transformation may be conceptualized as a shift from traditional geopolitics, primarily concerned with the control of space, toward a temporal

geopolitics in which the governance of developmental time increasingly becomes a central object of strategic competition (Braudel, 1980; Nowotny, 1994).

*Table 2*

From Traditional Geopolitics to Temporal Geopolitics: A Comparative Perspective

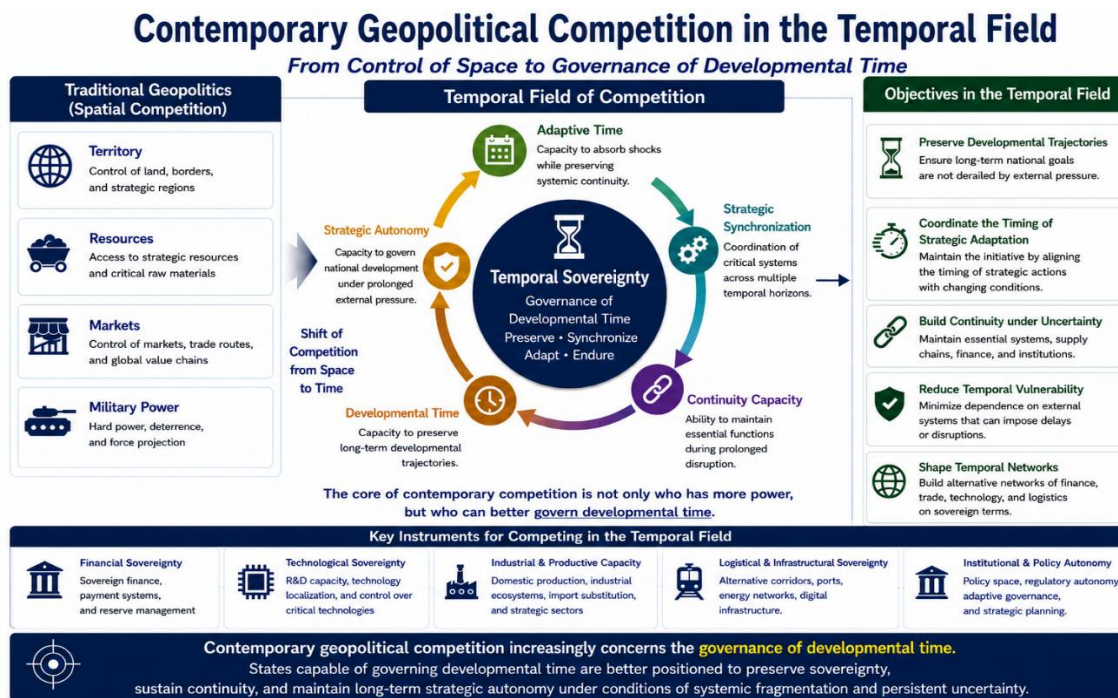
| Traditional Geopolitics | Temporal Geopolitics      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Territory               | Developmental Time        |
| Resources               | Adaptive Time             |
| Markets                 | Strategic Synchronization |
| Military Power          | Continuity Capacity       |

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

As Table 2 illustrates, contemporary geopolitical competition increasingly extends beyond territorial control and resource acquisition toward the governance of developmental time, adaptive time, and continuity capacity. This shift does not eliminate traditional geopolitical concerns; rather, it reorganizes them within a broader temporal field of competition (Braudel, 1980; Nowotny, 1994). Geopolitical power, therefore, increasingly derives not only from the control of strategic spaces, but also from the capacity to shape the temporal conditions under which development, adaptation, and systemic transformation occur.

Viewed in this light, contemporary international political economy appears to be undergoing an epistemological transformation in which continuity, synchronization, and temporal autonomy increasingly complement—and in some contexts supersede—efficiency and optimization as the principal organizing principles of statecraft (Walker & Cooper, 2011). The Russian case suggests that, under conditions of systemic fragmentation, the preservation of developmental trajectories and the governance of developmental time may become as important

as conventional measures of economic performance. More broadly, this transformation indicates that the ability to sustain continuity under uncertainty may constitute a critical dimension of strategic power in the twenty-first century.



**Figure 3.** Contemporary Geopolitical Competition in the Temporal Field

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 3 illustrates the transition from traditional geopolitics, primarily concerned with the control of spatial variables such as territory, resources, markets, and military power, toward temporal geopolitics, in which the governance of developmental time increasingly constitutes a central arena of strategic competition. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, states compete not only for material capabilities, but also for the capacity to preserve continuity, coordinate strategic adaptation, sustain developmental trajectories, and maintain long-term strategic autonomy.

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The figure further suggests that temporal sovereignty emerges through the interaction of multiple strategic capacities, including **adaptive time, strategic synchronization, continuity capacity, developmental time, and strategic autonomy**. These capacities are supported by strategic instruments such as financial sovereignty, technological sovereignty, industrial and productive capacity, logistical and infrastructural sovereignty, and institutional and policy autonomy. Consequently, contemporary geopolitical competition increasingly concerns the ability of states to create, preserve, and mobilize adaptive time while governing developmental time under conditions of persistent uncertainty and external disruption.

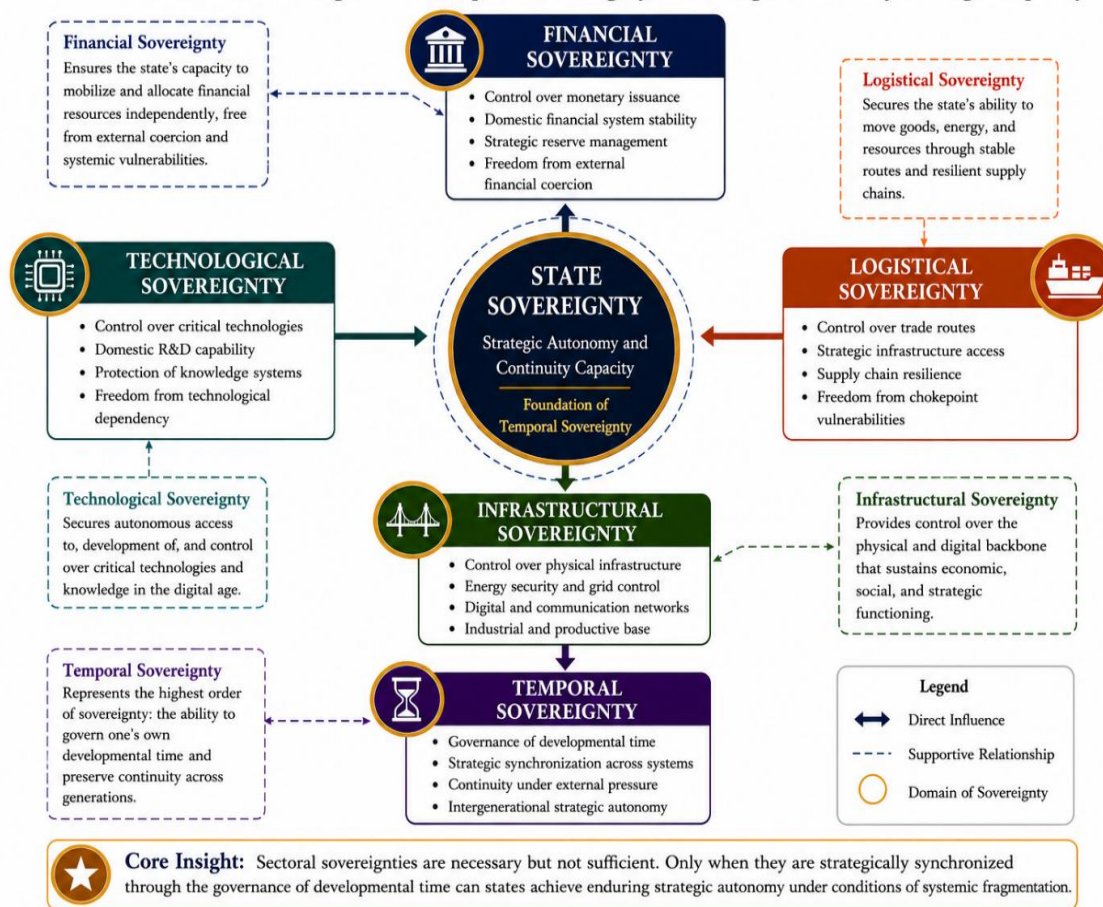
Consequently, contemporary sovereignty increasingly depends upon the capacity to govern developmental time, preserve continuity, and participate in synchronized systems of strategic coordination. Strategic reserves, low public debt, domestic financial mobilization, and sovereign infrastructures provide more than economic stability; they generate adaptive time, enabling states to influence the timing, sequencing, and direction of national development. Reflecting this understanding, President Vladimir Putin has argued that external pressures have simultaneously expanded Russia's "room for maneuver" through the emergence of new partners, as well as alternative financial and technological solutions (Suvorov, 2026).

Contemporary statecraft therefore increasingly concerns the governance of developmental time within an evolving temporal field of geopolitical competition. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, the capacity to generate, preserve, and mobilize adaptive time may increasingly constitute a decisive source of strategic advantage. In this respect, the findings support Braudel's (1980) argument that long-term historical processes shape political and economic structures, while extending this perspective by suggesting that states increasingly seek not only to adapt to

historical time, but also to govern their own developmental trajectories through strategic coordination and continuity preservation.

## Transformation of Sovereignty under Systemic Fragmentation

*From Sectoral Sovereignties to Temporal Sovereignty as the Highest Order of Strategic Capacity*



**Figure 4.** Transformation of sovereignty under conditions of systemic fragmentation

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 4 illustrates the transformation of sovereignty under conditions of systemic fragmentation. Rather than being confined to territorial control or juridical authority, contemporary sovereignty increasingly encompasses multiple interconnected domains, including financial, technological, logistical, and infrastructural sovereignty. These sectoral sovereignties should not be understood

as isolated policy areas. Instead, they constitute mutually reinforcing strategic capacities that collectively strengthen state sovereignty by enhancing strategic autonomy and continuity capacity under prolonged external pressure.

The figure further suggests that temporal sovereignty represents the highest order of strategic capacity because it enables states to govern developmental time through the strategic synchronization of critical systems while preserving long-term continuity across generations. In this perspective, effective sovereignty increasingly depends not merely upon the possession of territory or resources, but upon the state's capacity to coordinate, integrate, and sustain interconnected economic, technological, logistical, and institutional systems under conditions of systemic uncertainty. Accordingly, sectoral sovereignties are necessary but not sufficient; only when they are strategically synchronized through the governance of developmental time can states achieve enduring strategic autonomy under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

## **5.2 The Sovereign Loop: Time, Control, and Continuity**

Building upon the transformed understanding of sovereignty discussed in the previous section, this subsection develops a broader theoretical interpretation of how continuity is generated and sustained over time. Rather than viewing sovereignty as a static institutional attribute, the analysis conceptualizes it as a dynamic process of strategic circulation through which states mobilize, retain, reinvest, protect, and reproduce strategic capacities. This perspective provides the theoretical foundation for the Sovereign Loop as a mechanism linking sovereignty, continuity preservation, and temporal governance under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

The findings presented in this study suggest that contemporary international political economy may be undergoing a profound epistemological transformation. Under conditions of

prolonged geopolitical fragmentation and systemic uncertainty, states increasingly appear to prioritize continuity, endurance, synchronization, and temporal autonomy over efficiency alone. The Russian case therefore may not simply represent a national adaptation strategy, but an early manifestation of an emerging continuity-centered political economy in which the preservation and governance of developmental time become central objectives of statecraft.

Within this emerging framework, the findings suggest that continuity is not maintained through isolated policy interventions, but through a continuous process of strategic circulation and institutional coordination. This study conceptualizes this process as the Sovereign Loop: a cyclical mechanism through which states generate, retain, reinvest, protect, and reproduce strategic capacities over time.

This interpretation extends contemporary debates on strategic autonomy and geoeconomics (Blackwill & Harris, 2016; Rodrik, 2011) by suggesting that effective autonomy increasingly depends not only upon the control of critical resources or production capacities, but also upon the capacity to preserve continuity, synchronize strategic systems, and govern developmental time under conditions of prolonged uncertainty.

The Sovereign Loop consists of five interrelated processes. First, issuance refers to the state's capacity to mobilize financial, institutional, and strategic resources in accordance with developmental priorities. Second, retention concerns the ability to prevent the leakage of critical resources, productive capacities, and strategic value from the domestic economy. Third, reinvestment involves channeling retained resources into productive sectors, technological upgrading, and infrastructural development. Fourth, protection refers to safeguarding strategic systems against external coercion, systemic shocks, and geopolitical disruptions. Finally,

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continuity represents the capacity to sustain developmental trajectories and preserve essential functions across time.

Importantly, these processes should not be understood as sequential stages, but as mutually reinforcing mechanisms operating simultaneously within an integrated system of strategic governance. Breakdowns in any component of the loop may weaken overall continuity capacity, whereas effective coordination among all components enhances adaptive resilience and long-term strategic autonomy (Beer, 1985; Taleb, 2012). Collectively, these interrelated processes generate adaptive time by enabling the state to absorb shocks, reorganize strategic systems, and sustain developmental trajectories without experiencing systemic breakdown.

In this sense, the sovereignty increasingly depends not merely upon the possession of resources, but upon the state's capacity to govern the circulation of time, resources, institutions, and strategic capabilities within an enduring sovereign loop. From this perspective, sovereignty increasingly depends not merely upon the possession of strategic resources, but upon the state's capacity to generate, preserve, and govern developmental time through the coordinated circulation of resources, institutions, and strategic capabilities within an enduring sovereign loop.

## The Sovereign Loop: Time, Control, and Continuity

*A Recursive Governance Framework for Strategic Sovereignty under Systemic Fragmentation*



**Figure 5.** The Sovereign Loop: Time, Control, and Continuity

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 5 conceptualizes the Sovereign Loop as a recursive governance framework through which states generate, retain, reinvest, protect, and reproduce strategic capacities over time. The framework suggests that continuity is maintained not through isolated policy interventions, but through the continuous coordination and circulation of resources, institutions, and strategic capabilities. Effective synchronization across all components of the loop strengthens continuity capacity, generates adaptive time, preserves developmental trajectories, and enhances long-term strategic autonomy.

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### 5.3 Controllable Variables and Continuity Preservation

Building upon the Sovereign Loop, this subsection identifies the operational conditions through which continuity is maintained in practice. The discussion shifts from the dynamic circulation of strategic capacities to the governance of controllable variables that enable states to preserve continuity, sustain adaptive capacity, and reduce exposure to external dependencies under conditions of systemic fragmentation.

The findings suggest that contemporary Russian statecraft increasingly prioritizes the governance of controllable variables over efficiency maximization under conditions of systemic uncertainty. From this perspective, continuity-centered systems intentionally maintain strategic reserves and organizational redundancies not as inefficiencies, but as essential capacities for absorbing shocks, enhancing adaptive flexibility, and preserving long-term continuity under conditions of systemic uncertainty (Strange, 1988; Taleb, 2012). This operational orientation enables the state to preserve continuity, maintain adaptive capacity, and sustain developmental trajectories despite persistent external pressures. By strengthening control over critical variables, states are also able to generate adaptive time, thereby extending the temporal horizon available for strategic adjustment and institutional adaptation.

Accordingly, contemporary Russian strategic grammar appears to be organized around the principle of controllable continuity, defined here as the capacity to preserve essential systemic functions by governing those variables that remain within the state's sphere of influence (Beer, 1985). Rather than attempting to eliminate uncertainty entirely, this approach seeks to expand the range of governable variables while reducing exposure to uncontrollable external dependencies.

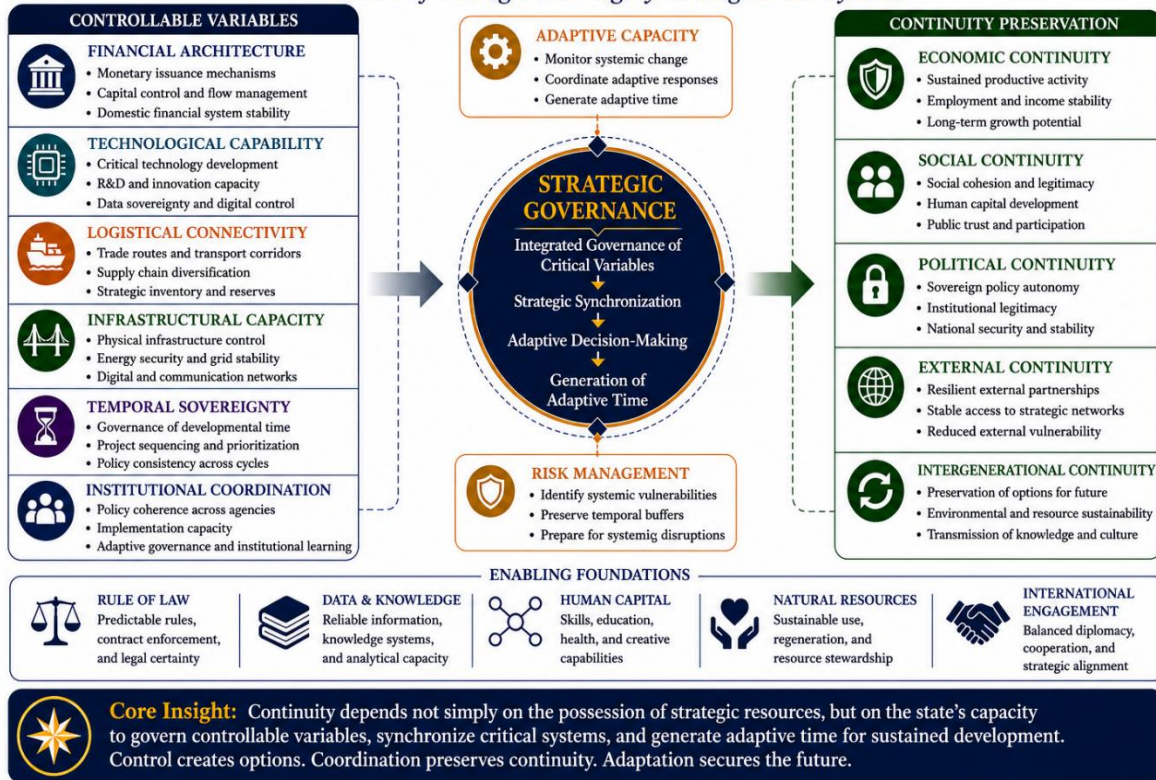
From this perspective, strategic reserves, domestic financial mobilization, sovereign infrastructures, and industrial capacities function not merely as economic assets, but as repositories

of adaptive time. By strengthening control over these variables, states acquire greater flexibility in sequencing policies, allocating resources, and responding to systemic disruptions. Consequently, continuity preservation increasingly depends upon the state's capacity to identify, coordinate, and govern critical variables across multiple domains simultaneously. Collectively, the governance of controllable variables generates adaptive time by expanding the state's capacity to absorb shocks, reorganize strategic systems, and adjust developmental trajectories without experiencing systemic breakdown. In this sense, controllable continuity represents a practical mechanism through which temporal sovereignty is operationalized.

The findings further suggest that contemporary Russia increasingly contributes to the creation of temporal buffers for some partner states through the provision of energy resources, food supplies, alternative payment mechanisms, and emerging transport corridors under conditions of systemic stress.

## Controllable Variables and Continuity Preservation

*Levers of Strategic Sovereignty in Fragmented Systems*



**Figure 6.** Controllable Variables and Continuity Preservation

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 6 illustrates how continuity preservation increasingly depends upon the governance of controllable variables across multiple strategic domains. The framework suggests that financial architecture, technological capabilities, logistical connectivity, infrastructural capacity, temporal governance, and institutional coordination collectively support strategic governance and continuity preservation. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, effective statecraft increasingly depends upon the ability to identify, coordinate, and govern these critical variables while preserving adaptive capacity over time.

These arrangements enable partner states to extend adaptation time, preserve essential economic functions, and reduce exposure to external disruptions. In this sense, the Russian case illustrates how states may contribute to continuity infrastructures within an increasingly fragmented international environment. Such infrastructures may include payment systems, logistics corridors, energy networks, and institutional arrangements that collectively support continuity preservation across interconnected sovereign systems.

This development suggests that continuity preservation in the twenty-first century increasingly extends beyond the national level. While national temporal sovereignty remains essential, long-term continuity increasingly depends upon coordinated governance across networks of states linked through shared protocols, interoperable infrastructures, and synchronized strategic practices.

#### **5.4 From National Temporal Sovereignty to Networked Continuity Governance**

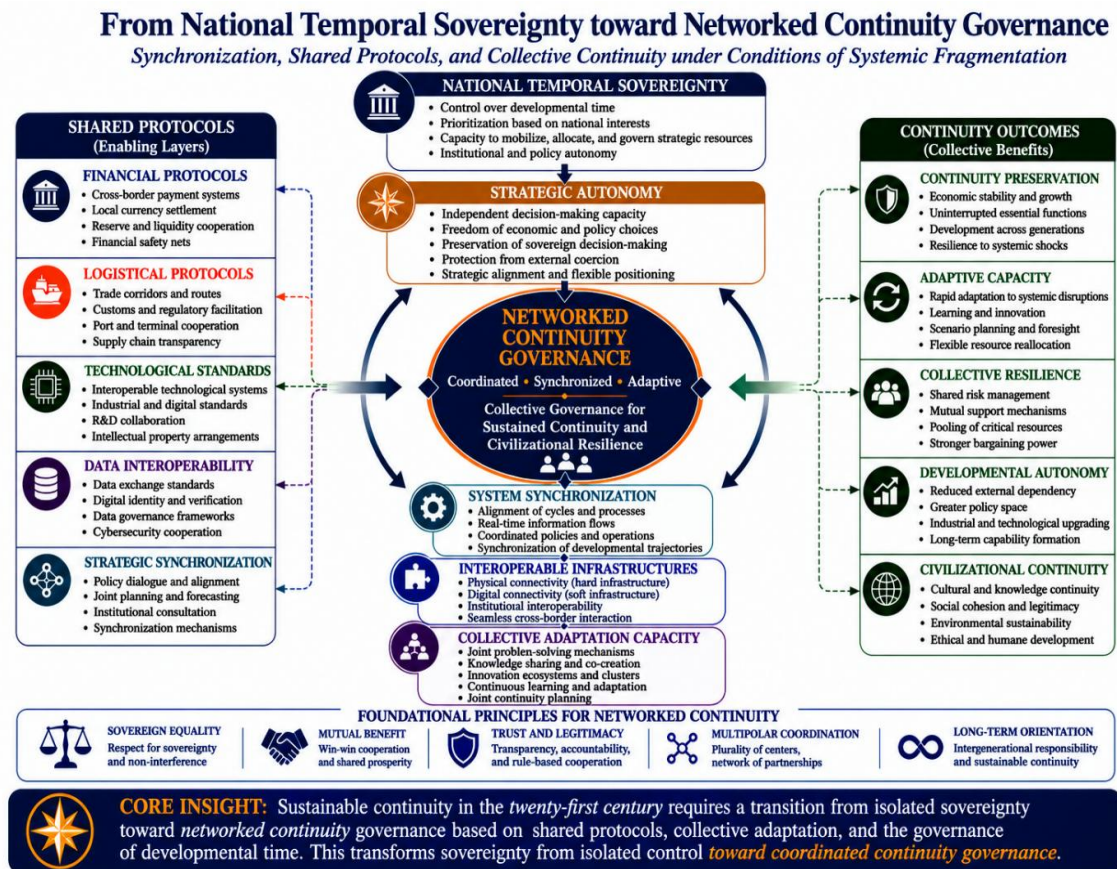
Building upon the governance of controllable variables, the discussion now extends the analysis beyond the nation-state to examine the broader implications of continuity preservation in an increasingly fragmented international system. The argument developed in this subsection is that effective continuity can no longer be understood solely as a national capacity. Rather, it increasingly depends upon synchronized networks of cooperation, interoperable infrastructures, and shared governance mechanisms that enable multiple sovereign actors to preserve continuity across interconnected temporal, economic, and institutional systems.

The Russian case further suggests that continuity preservation increasingly extends beyond the national level. The findings suggest that states may contribute to the creation of

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temporal buffers for partner states through the provision of energy resources, food supplies, fertilizers, transport corridors, and alternative financial infrastructures under conditions of systemic stress. These arrangements can extend adaptation time for connected economies and reduce the probability of systemic disruption across interconnected economic networks.

However, continuity preservation within an increasingly fragmented international system cannot be sustained by individual states alone. The long-term viability of alternative economic arrangements depends upon the development of shared protocols, interoperable infrastructures, and synchronized coordination mechanisms (Beer, 1985; Ostrom, 2010). Consequently, contemporary sovereignty should not be interpreted as isolation from external systems. Rather, sovereignty increasingly depends upon the capacity to participate in synchronized networks while preserving strategic autonomy through networked continuity governance.



**Figure 7.** From National Temporal Sovereignty to Networked Continuity Governance

*Note.* Developed by the authors.

Figure 7 conceptualizes the transition from nationally bounded temporal sovereignty toward networked continuity governance. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, the framework suggests that while national temporal sovereignty remains essential, continuity preservation increasingly depends upon shared protocols, interoperable infrastructures, synchronized strategic practices, and collective adaptation across interconnected sovereign systems.

The expansion of alternative partnerships together with new financial and technological arrangements suggests that continuity preservation increasingly depends upon diversified and synchronized networks rather than upon isolated national capabilities alone. This interpretation is

broadly consistent with President Vladimir Putin's argument that external pressures have simultaneously expanded Russia's "room for maneuver" through the emergence of new partners together with alternative financial and technological arrangements (Suvorov, 2026). **Through** shared protocols, interoperable infrastructures, coordinated policy mechanisms, and collective adaptation, sovereign actors may jointly preserve systemic continuity under conditions of prolonged uncertainty. In this perspective, effective sovereignty increasingly emerges not through isolation, but through the capacity to maintain strategic autonomy while participating in collaborative arrangements for continuity preservation.

The findings therefore suggest an emerging transition from national temporal sovereignty toward a model of networked continuity governance, in which multiple sovereign actors collectively sustain continuity across interconnected systems. Within such arrangements, continuity is co-produced through institutional coordination, mutual adaptation, and the governance of interdependent infrastructures operating across multiple temporal horizons. By pooling strategic resources, coordinating responses, and extending the temporal horizons available for adjustment, participating states generate shared adaptive time. Consequently, continuity increasingly emerges as a collectively produced rather than exclusively national capacity.

More broadly, the Russian case suggests that contemporary international political economy may be undergoing a profound epistemological transformation. Under conditions of systemic fragmentation, states increasingly seek not merely to maximize efficiency, but to preserve continuity, maintain strategic autonomy, synchronize critical systems, and govern

developmental time. Contemporary geopolitical competition therefore increasingly concerns the capacity to synchronize critical systems, ensure interoperability, govern controllable variables, and sustain long-term developmental trajectories through both national and networked forms of continuity governance.

This study consequently argues that international political economy is experiencing a transition from efficiency-centered globalization toward a continuity-centered political economy in which sovereignty increasingly depends upon the capacity to preserve continuity, govern tempo, and maintain developmental autonomy under conditions of prolonged uncertainty. In this emerging order, effective sovereignty increasingly rests not only upon national capabilities, but also upon participation in synchronized networks of strategic coordination and continuity preservation. The future of statecraft may therefore depend less upon maximizing efficiency than upon collectively governing continuity across interconnected temporal, economic, and institutional systems.

## 6. Conclusion

This article has examined the evolving geopolitical and economic grammar underlying contemporary Russian statecraft under conditions of prolonged geopolitical fragmentation and systemic uncertainty. By employing Strategic Discourse–Epistemological Analysis (SDEA), the study demonstrates that contemporary Russian official discourse increasingly reflects a distinctive continuity-centered strategic grammar organized around sovereignty, continuity preservation, strategic autonomy, systemic coordination, and long-term adaptation.

The findings suggest that contemporary Russian statecraft is undergoing an important epistemological transition. Whereas the dominant post-Cold War globalization paradigm emphasized efficiency, optimization, market integration, and external interdependence,

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contemporary Russian discourse increasingly prioritizes continuity, endurance, synchronization, and temporal autonomy as principal organizing principles of national development.

The analysis generates three principal theoretical contributions. First, the study identifies the emergence of a continuity-centered strategic grammar within contemporary Russian statecraft. Second, the study demonstrates that sovereignty is increasingly understood not merely as territorial control or juridical authority, but as the capacity to preserve systemic continuity across financial, technological, logistical, and institutional domains. Third, the study develops an integrated analytical framework centered on temporal sovereignty to explain how states generate adaptive time, preserve continuity, and govern developmental trajectories under conditions of prolonged systemic fragmentation.

More broadly, the article argues that contemporary international political economy may be experiencing an epistemological transition from efficiency-centered globalization toward a Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE). Within this emerging framework, strategic competition increasingly concerns not only territory, markets, or material resources, but also the capacity to preserve continuity, govern tempo, synchronize critical systems, and maintain long-term developmental trajectories. The Russian case further suggests that continuity preservation increasingly transcends the national level, such that effective sovereignty depends not only upon domestic capabilities but also upon participation in networked continuity governance supported by synchronized strategic coordination, interoperable infrastructures, and shared continuity mechanisms.

The theoretical contribution of this article lies in four interrelated areas: (1) identifying the emergence of a continuity-centered strategic grammar; (2) proposing the concept of epistemological escalation in statecraft; (3) conceptualizing temporal sovereignty as a higher-

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order organizing principle of contemporary statecraft; and (4) developing the concept of **Continuity-Centered Political Economy (CCPE)** as a broader analytical framework for interpreting state behavior under conditions of systemic fragmentation. **Taken together, these contributions reposition continuity as a central analytical category for understanding contemporary international political economy under conditions of prolonged geopolitical fragmentation.**

Future research may apply the framework developed in this study comparatively across other cases, including China, Iran, India, and the broader BRICS community, in order to examine whether similar continuity-centered grammars and forms of temporal sovereignty are emerging across the contemporary Global South.

This study has several limitations. First, the analysis focuses primarily on official discourse produced by Russian political leaders and technocrats and therefore may not fully capture informal policy processes or policy implementation outcomes. Second, the study does not attempt to evaluate the empirical effectiveness of Russian policies, but rather examines the evolving epistemological foundations underlying contemporary statecraft. **Future research may extend this framework through comparative, longitudinal, and mixed-method studies across states experiencing systemic fragmentation.**

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### **Declaration of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

### **Funding**

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

### **Data Availability Statement**

No new data were generated or analyzed during this study. The analysis is based exclusively on existing literature and publicly available sources cited in the manuscript.

### **Use of Generative AI**

During the preparation of this manuscript, the authors used an AI-assisted language tool for language refinement and structural editing. All substantive arguments, interpretations, analyses, and conclusions are the sole responsibility of the authors.