ABSTRACT

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RUSSIA’S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD IRAN’S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN ITS POWER STATUS

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The combination of limited political influence, unpredictable international system, and high determination to be one of a pole in a multipolar world has prompted Russia to consider about its foreign policy to maintain its power status. This is when Russia sees Iran and its nuclear development as a potential opportunity because Iran is in need of nuclear deterrence itself. Given that Russia has experienced a declined power status previously, Russia needs to keep increasing its capabilities: economically or politically, so that history will not repeat itself. This research aims to explain the potentiality of Iran and how its nuclear development could benefit Russia not only economically, but also in increasing Russia’s role in the Middle East region.

This research is based on the perspective of neo-realism. The concepts used are structural realism, national interests, power, balance of power, alliances, international regimes, national security, deterrence, foreign policy, and nuclear energy. Analysis in this research is done through qualitative research method and historical comparative method specifically. A primary data has been successfully obtained by doing an interview with a professor in the fields, Prof. Mark N. Katz from George Mason University. Other data used in this research are secondary data gained from literature study, media, statistical reports, Internet sites, and documentation.

This research shows that Russia realized the disorder of the international system. Russia also realized that in the times of intensified uncertainty, an assertive foreign policy was needed to be composed for sustaining its power status. The official documents of foreign policy of the Russian Federation have directly mentioned the importance of further developing relations with Iran, especially through its controversial nuclear development. The international community has often opposed Russia’s action, but Russia realized that being the main supplier of Iran’s nuclear development could increase its political leverage towards Iran and also towards the Middle East region. Finally, in recent years Russia has also shown its seriousness to assist and to become Iran’s primary supplier in the nuclear development issues.

References: 30 books (1987-2011); 5 journals; 8 documents; 33 Internet sites.