Prospects For West European Security Co-operation

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Arguably, the prospects for bilateral cooperation lay buried under the wheels of Russia’s invasion of Georgia in August 2008. Putin’s presidential envoy for relations with the European Union (EU), Sergei Yastrzhembskiy, stated that this was Russia’s main objection to recent developments in world politics. Similarly, Russia’s Ambassador to America, Yuri Ushakov wrote that, What offends us is the view shared by some in Washington that Russia can be used when it is needed and discarded or even abused when it is not relevant to American objectives. Europe is an integral part of China’s transcontinental vision, and the European Union (EU) has its own vested interests in the Belt as the EU-China Connectivity Platform demonstrates. This one-year desk and field study has examined the Belt from a security perspective. The report has three components: (a) it has analysed what the Belt essentially is, what has driven China to initiate it, and how it relates to China’s own security interests; (b) it assesses what the Belt’s security implications are and might be in two selected regions of the Eurasian continent (in this report refers to the combined landmass of Europe.)
European security is in trouble. The principal sources of that trouble are the confrontation between Russia and the United States/NATO; the alienation between Russia and Europe; and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine’s eastern regions. The root cause of the confrontation, alienation, and conflict has been the failure, since the end of the Cold War, to build a security system in Europe that includes Russia.