



Russia-Australia relations

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Abstract

The history of Russia's contacts with the Australian continent is centuries along. Seventy-five years since the first Australian embassy opened in Russia, on 26 January 1943, Moscow wants to strengthen dialogue with Canberra to build a regional architecture of equal and indivisible security based on a non-aligned approach. The bilateral relationship has been fraught with tensions especially in recent years due to Russian belligerence. Australia's political allegiances to the west, the two nation's geographic separation and Russia's centralised, unstable economy have resulted in the relationship being viewed as unimportant in both Canberra and Moscow. While the Skripal incident may only continue the friction in the Australia-Russia relationship, it may be reflective of an emboldened Kremlin that poses direct risks to Australian interests. In this we study about history and background of Russia and Australia relations, Russian federation, diplomatic ties, political ties, economic ties and at last conclusion. The legal framework of bilateral relations continues to improve. Both countries have signed several agreements: on the avoidance of double taxation, on cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Keywords: relationship, bilateral relations, peaceful purposes

Introduction

Russia-Australia relations date back to 1807, when the Russian warship *Neva* arrived in Sydney as part of its circumnavigation of the globe. Consular relations between Australia and the Russian Empire were established in 1942, and the first Australian embassy opened in 1943. At present, relations between the two countries have severely deteriorated following Russia's involvement in Ukraine as well as the suspected involvement in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which claimed the lives of 38 Australians. Relations were tested as Putin arrived for the 2014 G20 Summit in Brisbane, Queensland, among reports Russian warships were closing in on Australian waters. According to a 2017 Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, 37% of Australians have a favourable view of Russia, with 55% expressing an unfavourable view.

History and background

Russian Empire

1803-1898

Peter the Great was familiar with New Holland through his connections with the Dutch, and the Empire in the 18th century tried several times, unsuccessfully, to reach the Australian continent. Contacts between Russia and Australia date back to 1803, when Secretary of state for the Colonies Lord Hobart wrote to Governor of New South Wales Philip Gidley King in relation to the first Russian circumnavigation of the globe by Adam Johann von Krusenstern and Yuri Lis yansky. As the Russian and British empires were allies in the war against Napoleon, the Russian warship *Neva*, with Captain Ludwig von Hagemeister at the helm, was able to sail into Port Jackson on 16 June 1807. Hagemeister and the ship's officers were extended the utmost courtesy by Governor William Bligh, with the governor inviting the Russians to government house for dinner and a ball. This was the beginning of personal contacts between Russians and Australians, and

Russian ships would continue to visit Australian shores, particularly as a stop on their way to supplying the Empire's North American colonies. Suvorov commanded by captain Mikhail Lazarev spent twenty-two days in New South Wales in 1814, when it brought news of Napoleon's defeat, and this was followed up by the 1820 visit of Otkrytiye and Blagonamerenny. In 1820, Fabian Gottfried von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Vasilyev arrived in New South Wales, on board Antarctic research ships *Vostok* and *Mirny*, under the command of Mikhail Lazarev. Bellingshausen returned to Sydney after discovering Antarctica, spending the winter at the invitation of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Macquarie played the greatest role in the expression of Russophilia in the colony, ensuring that the Russian visitors were made to feel welcome. While Sydney, Bellingshausen collected information on the colony, which he published in Russia as Short Notes on the colony of New South Wales. He wrote that Schmidt, a naturalist who was attached to the Lazarev expedition, discovered gold near Hartley, making him the first person to discover gold in Australia. While in Sydney, on 27 March 1820, officials from the colony were invited on board *Vostok* to celebrate Orthodox Easter, marking the first time that a Russian Orthodox service was held in the Australian Colonies.

Although Russia and Britain were allies against Napoleon, the taking of Paris in 1814 by the Imperial Russian Army caused consternation with the British in relation to Tsar Alexander's intension of expanding Russian influence which would compete with Britain's own imperialistic ambitions. Further visits to the New South Wales colony in 1824 visits by *Ladoga* and *Kreiser*, caused concern with the colony authorities, who reported their concerns to London. In 1825 and 1828, *Elena* visited Australia followed by *Krotky* in 1829, *Amerika* in 1831 and 1835. Visits by Russians ships became so common in Sydney Cove that their place of mooring near Neutral Bay became known as Russian Point, which added to the sense of alarm in the

colonies. By the late 1830s, relations between Russia and Britain had deteriorated, and in 1841 the Government of New South Wales decided to establish fortification at Pinchgut in order to repel a feared Russian invasion. Fortifications at Queenscliff, Portsea, and Mud Islands in Melbourne's Port Philip Bay followed, as did similar structures on the Tamar River near Launceston and on the banks of the Derwent River at Sandy Bay and Hobart. As Australia was engaged in a gold rush in the 1840s and 1850s, in conjunction with the Crimean War between the UK and Russian, paranoia of a Russian invasion gripped the colony, and Russophobia increased.

1888-1917

Paranoia of a Russian invasion subsided in 1888, when Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich arrived in the colony on board the corvette Rynda as a part of celebrations of the colonial centenary. Rynda pulled into Newcastle in the afternoon of 19 January 1888 to replenish coal supplies, becoming the first Russian naval visitor to the city. The Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate reported on January 1888 that given the uncertain state of diplomatic relations between the European powers many people fled fearing that the Russian warship was present in Newcastle to start a war; however, those fears were quickly allayed when the goodwill nature of the visit became known. From Newcastle, Rynda sailed to Sydney. The day after arrival Lord Carrington, the Governor of New South Wales, sent a coach to bring the Grand Duke to Government House. In 1890, the Government in Saint Petersburg concluded Anglo-Russian relations in the Pacific to have become important enough to appoint a career diplomat to represent Russian interests in the Australian colonies.

Soviet union

1917-1941

After the February Revolution of 1917 in Russia, which led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, the Consul-General of Russian for the Russian in Australia and for the Dominion of New Zealand, Alexander Nikolayevich Abaza, expressed his support for the Russian in Australia back to Russia after 500 expatriates petitioned Alexander Kerensky. In March 1918, after the resignation of Abaza, Peter Simonov presented himself to the Australian government as the representative of the Bolshevik government in Australia, and asked for recognition as the new Russian consul. On 8 August 1924, the United Kingdom signed the General Treaty with the Soviet Union which extended British diplomatic recognition to the USSR, and was also considered applicable to the British dominions of Canada, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland, and Australia.

1941-1948

After the German invasion of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 during World War II, the Labor government of John Curtin began to discuss sending a diplomatic delegation to the Soviet Union. The Congress of Friendship and Aid to the Soviet urged the posting of Australian diplomats in the Soviet Union, and also pushed for exchanging military, air and naval missions between the two countries. HMAS Norman in October 1941 visited Arkhangelsk bringing a British trade delegation from Iceland; marking the beginning of the Lend-Lease program in support of the

Soviet Union. H.V. Evatt, the Australian Minister for External Affairs on 4 November 1941 wrote in a secret submission to the war cabinet that the Government had received a large numbers of representations from interested parties since the outbreak of the Russo-German War, and that the major views in support of sending a diplomatic delegation to the Soviet Union included the necessity to provide material and moral support to the Soviet Union and to encourage its resistance against the Germans, the sharing of a common interest in policy towards Japan and the Middle East, and the potential for Australian-Soviet trade and its importance to the Australian-Soviet trade and its importance to the Australian economy.

1948-1963

By the late 1940s, Australia was gripped in a red scare similar to that which led to McCarthyism in the United States. During late 1948 and early 1949, the Australian government like most of the former Western Allies actively opposed a Soviet land blockade of West Berlin, and took part in the Berlin airlift. The RAAF Berlin Airlift Squadron was formed for this purpose. Attempts by the new Liberal Prime Minister Robert Menzies to outlaw the Communist Party to Australia were overturned in the High Court of Australia and defeated at a referendum in 1951. Members on both sides of the Australian House of Representatives advocated severing diplomatic relations with Soviet Union. Relations between Australian and the Soviet Union hit a low point when Vladimir Petrov, the Third Secretary of the Soviet embassy in Canberra, an associate and appointee of Lavrentiy Beria who feared execution. In the absence of diplomatic relations, Soviet Union's interest in Australia were represented by Sweden, and Australia's interests in the Soviet Union were represented by the United Kingdom.

1963-1991

During the period of Cold War relations between Australia and the Soviet Union were seen as stronger during the Whitlam government. On 3 July 1974, then Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, as Acting Foreign Minister, took the decision to grant de jure recognition of the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the USSR. The Australian ambassador to Moscow visited Tallinn, Estonia, on 28-30 July 1974, effectively according de jure recognition soviet authorities subsequently leaked this information on 3 August 1974, confirmed by a Affairs a day later. Whitlam had neither information nor consulted with the Minister of Foreign Affairs a day later.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke arrived in Leningrad on 30 November 1987 for discussion on economics, trade and foreign policy with Mikhail Gorbachev. During the visit, Hawke gave the names of Soviet Jews who wished to leave the Soviet Union to Gorbachev, and on 4 December 1987, 60 to 75 Jews were given permission to leave the country.

Russian federation

Diplomatic ties

On 26 December 1991, Australia recognised the Russian Federation as the successor state of the Soviet Union after the dissolution of the latter. Russia has an embassy in Canberra and a consulate-general in Sydney, and Australia has an embassy in Moscow. The current Ambassador of Russia to Australia is Grigory S. Logvinov. The current Ambassador of Australia to Russia is Peter Tesch.

Political ties

The Russian government accepted an offer of Rosaviakosmos on 10 March 2001 to cooperate with the Asia-Pacific space centre in developing a spaceport on Christmas Island, an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean. The project also so the involvement of S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia, TsSKB-Progress and the Barmin General Mechanical Engineering Design Bureau. In aid of the project, the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of the Exploration and the use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes was signed in Canberra on 23 May 2001, replacing the Agreement between the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the Field of Exploration and the use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes of 1 December 1987, and import tax and other concessions were made by the Australian Government. Cooperation in space was on the agenda when Alexander Downer met in Moscow Igor Ivanov in February 2002, where the Australian side pressed the Russian to complete work on two technical agreements which were needed in order for the Christmas Island spaceport project to proceed. On 7 September 2007, head of Rosatom Sergry Kiriyenko and Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer, in the presence of Prime Minister John Howard and President Putin, signed the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes, superseding the Agreement between the Government of the Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which was concluded on 15 February 1990.

Economic ties

Australia and Russia are members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Simon Crean, the Australian Minister for Trade stated in October 2008 that Australia supports Russia's application to join the World Trade Organization in 1933, and says that the United States and European Union have placed unreasonable demands for it to accede to the organisation, although the United States and the European Union blame Russia for delays in its entry.

Investment

In September 2007, at the Russia-Australia Business Forum in Brisbane, Ian Macfarlane, the Australian Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, estimated that Russian investment in Australia was worth between A\$5 and 6 billion. The acquisition by Rus AI of a 20% stake in Queensland Alumina was approved by the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board in February 2005. Alan Carpenter, the Premier of Western Australia, welcomed Russian investment in his state's economy, telling Lateline Business, he said, more we can get from international investment to deliberate the potential to Western Australia's economy, the better. In April 2008, Carpenter became the first Western Australian Premier to visit Russia, when he headed a trade delegation for a five-day trip to the country to court more Russian investment in the state.

The history of Russia's contacts with the Australian continent is centuries long. On 16 June 1807, the Russian sloop Neva called at port Jackson to replenish its stock of provisions and fresh water. The same year Lachlan

Macquarie, a young officer who later became a prominent Australian politician and governor of New South Wales, visited Baku, Astrakhan, Moscow and St Petersburg on his way from Australian to London as a member of a diplomatic mission. Between 1807 and 1835, 15 Russian vessels, including the ships on which famous Russian seafarers Faddey Bellinsgauzen and Mikhail Lazarev set sail to research for the Antarctic, called at Port Jackson and Hobart. In the middle of the 19th century, the number of Russian immigrants in Australia started to increase. In 1857, two consular missions were opened in Melbourne and Sydney to protect the interest of Russian Empire appointed honorary vice consuls in Adelaide, Brisbane, Port Elizabeth, Hobart and Perth. In 1894, the Russian Honorary Vice Consulate in Melbourne was raised to a consulate. In London, on 10 October 1942, the USSR and Australia signed the Agreement on the Establishment of diplomatic relations. On 2 January 1943, Australian diplomats travelled to Kuybyshev to set up an embassy which was opened on 26 January, Australia Day. The Soviet diplomatic mission was established in Canberra in 1943. We remember the support provided by Australia to our country during the harsh years of the war against fascism. Australia launched a broad campaign 'sheepskin for Russia', thanks to which our soldier received about 400,000 sheepskin coats from Australia, and Soviet hospitals were supplied with about 40 containers of medicine and medical equipment. The allied convoys, with the participation of Australian pilots and sailors, played an important role in the defeat of Nazism. For their distinguished service, they have been awarded Ushakov medals, as well as jubilee medals to commemorate succeeding anniversaries of the Victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War.

During the Cold War, the relations between our countries remained mutually respectful. There were exchanges of messages at the top level on the most acute issues of international security, including the nuclear disarmament problem. The two countries signed a trade agreement (1965) and a number of other intergovernmental documents. In 1975, Edward Gough Whitlam became the first Australian prime minister to visit our country. Ten years later the volume of trade turnover peaked, exceeding \$1 billion. Nowadays, our countries maintain political dialogue, including at the highest level. President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin met Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull on the sidelines of the G20 summits in Antalya and Hangzhou and the APEC forum in Lima. Naturally, the two countries' approaches do not always coincide, but Russia is ready for broader cooperation based on mutual respect, the rule of law, non-interference into domestic affairs and regard for each other's interests. The legal framework of bilateral relations continues to improve. Countries have signed several agreements: on the avoidance of double taxation (2000), on cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes (2001), and on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes (2007). They note considerable potential for building up interaction in trade and investment. In recent years, cooperation in the mining sphere has deepened. Russian company, UC Rusal has been successfully operating in the Australian market. Such mining companies as BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Worley Parsons and Orica cooperation with Russia. Australian coal company, Tigers Real Coal, and its Russian partner JSC "Severo-

Tikhookeanskaya Ugolnaya Kompaniya” (“North- Pacific Coal Company”) are jointly developing the Amaam coking coal field in the Chukotka Autonomous Region.

Cultural and humanitarian ties have been steadily enhanced. In the past two years, Australia hosted the performances of famous Russian musicians Maksim Vengerov and Denis Matsuev, as well as conductor Valery Gergiev with the London Symphony Orchestra. Russian pianists Andrey Guanin and Arseny Tarasevich –Nikolaev won the Sydney International Piano Competition. In 2016, the annual film festival, Russian Resurrection, was successfully held in five Australian cities- Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney –and remains a memorable event. The state Hermitage Museum, which organised such exhibitions as ‘Alexander the Great’ (2013) and ‘The Legacy of Catherine the Great’ (2015), is a regular and welcome guest in Australia. The Russian side annually allocates state scholarships for Australian citizens to study at Russian universities. A number of leading universities. Of Russia such as Lomonosov Moscow State University, the Saint Petersburg Mining University and the University of New South Wales, are implementing the programs of cooperation and student exchange. Australia has become home to many outstanding Russians, among whom was the world-renowned anthropologist and ethnographer, Nicholas Miklouho-Maclay. Today, more than 100,000 compatriots live in Australia; there are Russian language print and online media outlets, and festivals of Russian culture are held regularly. Russia and Australia interact at the international level, primarily in the Asia-Pacific, a region whose role in world politics and economy is steadily increasing. Moscow is interested in strengthening dialogue with Canberra, an active participant in regional grouping, in order to ensure stability and steady growth in the Asia-Pacific and to build a regional architecture of equal and indivisible security based on a non-aligned approach.

Conclusion

Now both countries ready to increase cooperative efforts to find effective responses to numerous challenges and threats, including terrorism and extremism, based on the fundamental norms and principles of international law and the central coordination role of the United Nations.

Both country convinced that there are the necessary prerequisites for bringing Russian-Australian relations to a new level for the benefit of the peoples of our two states, in the interest of strengthening regional and global stability and security. What needs to be done is to put it all into practice. Australia and Russia engage in a number of important international fora dealing with economic cooperation, regional security and non-proliferation issues. Russia students are also eligible to apply for Endeavour Award scholarships under the Australia and Russia has a long history. In 2015, the National Gallery of Victoria hosted the hugely popular Masterpieces from the Hermitage Museum: The Legacy of Catherine the Great exhibition.

President Putin became the first Russian leader to visit Australia when he attended APEC leader’s Week in September 2007. He visited again for the G20 Summit in late 2014. In November 2015, Prime Minister Turnbull spoke briefly with President Putin at the G20 summit in Turkey. Prime minister Gillard (2012), Hawke (1987) and Whitlam (1975) all visited Russia during their time in office. In 2012, a photographic exhibition was held to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations.

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