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European and Asian Markets for Russian Energy Sources

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Abstract

The European and Asian markets are among the most important receiving markets for Russian energy sources. Europe is considered the first importer of Russian energy sources in large quantities, whether oil or natural gas, which Russia possesses in large quantities. In return, there is a great European need for these resources in order to achieve its energy security. The Asian markets are a modern and new direction for Russia. It plans to continue production and export in the same quantities and without being affected by American and European threats and sanctions and the fear that the European Union will abandon Russia's energy exports.

Key words: (Russia, energy markets, Europe, Asia)

Introduction

The Russian Federation is one of the largest producers of energy resources, especially suppliers of oil and natural gas, and Russia relies heavily on the financial revenues achieved by the exports of these resources to global markets to support its national economy and achieve development. This is undoubtedly what made these resources of great importance to the State of the Russian Federation.

Perhaps the most important markets that attract Russia's exports of energy resources are the European energy markets, which suffer from a shortage of domestic production on the one hand and increased consumption rates on the other. This is what made it urgently need to import the energy materials necessary to meet these growing needs, so it only resorted to Russia close to it and rich in natural resources. Also, this is what is achieved for Russia in return as an interest embodied in securing an energy market that covers its huge energy exports.

However, with the passage of time and the emergence of many international data, especially those resulting from the economic sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia following its annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russia found that European markets are no longer safe markets that ensure the stable discharge of its energy products. So. it searches for alternative markets to these markets, thus the huge Asian energy markets, led by the Chinese energy market and the Indian energy market, were the best alternative.

Due to the great importance of Russia's energy resources, the Russian state has formulated several strategies to ensure Russian energy security, perhaps the most prominent of which are the energy strategies approved in the years (2003-2009-2015).

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The Importance of the Study

The study is important because of the great role played by the European and Asian energy markets in Russian energy security. It is the largest future for Russian exports of energy sources (oil and natural gas), especially Europe, which is a major importer of Russian energy sources, all that Europe needs from oil and gas gets from Russia, as for the Asian markets. They are very important for Russia at the present time, as part of its plans to search for an alternative to Europe, following the US-European sanctions imposed on Russia and the strained relations with Europe could affect Russia's exports to Europe.

The Hypothesis of the Study

The study a hypothesis is based on two variables, the first is that the US-European sanctions led to the obstruction of Russia's access to the global energy markets to discharge its products, especially the European energy market. The second is that the US-European sanctions, although they affected the Russian economy, but they did not affect Russia's ability to market energy sources in global markets, especially after the latter access to Asian markets, especially the Chinese and Indian markets.

The Problem of the Study

There is no doubt that the energy markets play a decisive role in marketing Russia's exports (oil and natural gas) and based on the foregoing, the problem of research arises in the following question:

To what extent have U.S.-European sanctions affected Russia's access to global energy markets?

This leads us to several sub-questions, namely:

What is the importance of European markets for Russian exports of energy resources?

What alternative markets did Russia find the best alternative to European markets?

Research Methodology

The descriptive analysis approach has been adopted, which is based on the analysis of the total international data to reach an accurate understanding of the tangible material facts at the level of international economic relations, and this approach has been relied on in most parts of the research under study.

Structure of the Study

The study was divided into two parts, the first addresses the European energy markets and the second Asian energy markets.

First: European Energy Markets

European countries are considered one of the most consuming countries of energy resources, especially oil and gas resources. Yet, this percentage of consumption, which is constantly increasing, is not commensurate with the percentage of oil and gas produced by these countries.

According to statistics conducted by BP in 2019, it shows that European countries produce only approximately (3,566) million barrels per day, while their daily consumption of crude oil is about (14,975) million barrels. As for natural gas, these statistics showed that European countries produce only approximately 228 billion cubic meters per year, while their annual consumption of this natural resource (gas) is estimated at about 531 billion cubic meters. Thus it is noted that there is a big difference between the energy resources produced by European countries, especially oil and gas, and what they consume (Tawfiq, 2023).

Table (1) The Reality of European Energy (Oil and Gas) for the Year 2019 and the Need of the European Market for Imports.

	Just in case	production	consumption	Difference
Oil	9.10 billion barrels	3.566 million barrels per day	14.975 million barrels per day	11.409 million barrels per day
Gas	17.2 trillion m3	228 billion m3 per year	531 billion m3 per year	(303) billion m3 per year

In view of this great difference between production and consumption, European countries are forced to import very large quantities of these resources to meet the needs of their domestic market, and thus these countries occupy the first place in terms of providing Russia with energy resources, as Russia supplies the European Union with approximately 34% (Al-Khafaji, 2019) of its oil needs, and 44% of its needs of natural gas resources. Also, this undoubtedly makes the European energy market one of the largest importers of Russian oil and gas.

There is no doubt that the heavy dependence of European energy markets on Russian oil and gas to meet their growing needs is due to several reasons, perhaps the most important of which are the following (Mankov, 2011):

The First Reason: the proximity of the European Union countries to Russia achieves low transportation costs on the one hand. Also, the protection of Russian energy supplies destined for the European Union countries from sabotage or terrorist operations on the other hand is a natural result of the proximity of the producer to the consumer.

The Second Reason: the infrastructure for the transport of Russian energy resources (oil and gas) is necessary, as the pipelines between Russia and European countries are a very important means of transporting the energy needed by European markets at the cheapest price. For example, Russia controls approximately (154) thousand km of gas pipelines in the European continent (Al-Khafaji, 2019).

In addition to the above two reasons, a third reason is the inability of European States to reach the Central Asian and Caspian region, which is one of the regions very rich in energy resources, without passing through Russia.

In contrast to the needs of European energy markets for Russian energy sources, Russia also finds in these markets cover for its exports, as it relies on them to provide cover for up to 70% of its natural gas exports, 80% of its oil exports and 50% of its coal exports, in addition to relying on these same markets to secure the modern technological equipment necessary for the extraction of energy resources (Rashad, 2022).

Therefore, it can be said that the European energy markets are one of the largest energy markets absorbing Russia's energy exports of oil and gas, and this makes them very important markets for the Russian Federation, which strives to maintain them.

In any case, in order to detail the actual importance of European energy markets for Russia, it is necessary to examine Russia's relationship with European energy markets in the field of oil alone (first). It is then important to indicate its relationship with these markets in the field of gas second, according to the following:

First: Russia's Relationship with European Energy Markets in the Field of Oil (Bouzazi, 2023)

According to statistics conducted by the International Energy Agency, it was found that European markets receive approximately (2.2) million barrels of crude oil from Russia's oil exports, as well as receiving approximately (1.2) million barrels of refined petroleum products. Thus, Russia meets more than a quarter of the needs of European markets of oil and petroleum products and at the same time achieves very large revenues that benefit them in development and investment projects.

The German energy markets occupy the first place in Europe in terms of importing Russian oil, as Germany imports from Russia (555) thousand barrels per day, equivalent to (34%) of its oil needs, according to statistics conducted in 2021. Yet, Poland imports Russian oil covering (63%) of its needs, and this percentage is (333) thousand barrels per day, according to statistics that took place in the same year. Also, Germany and Poland are located within the geographical scope of the Dorjba pipeline.

Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic, located south of the Durzhba line, also depend on Russia's oil exports to meet their domestic needs in significant proportions: Slovakia imports 96% of its domestic needs from Russia, Hungary imports 58% of its oil needs, and the Czech Republic imports 50% of this energy resource(Zidori, 2022).

Thus, the 5,500 km Dorjba oil pipeline, operated by the Russian state-owned Transneft, is one of the most important oil supply lines that feed European energy markets, as this line can transport 1.4 million barrels of oil to Europe per day.(Zidori, 2022)

Table (2) The Percentages Covered by Russian Oil Exports from the Needs of the Most Important European Countries Importing Russian Oil According to 2021 Statistics (Bouzazi, 2023).

Country	Germany	Poland	Slovakia	Hungary	Czech
Percentage	34%	63%	96%	58%	50%

Second: Russia's Relationship with European Energy Markets in the Field of Gas

The importance of Russian gas is no less than the importance of oil as a natural resource that European countries import from Russia to meet the needs of their local markets, as European countries import more than two-thirds of Russia's exports of natural gas to meet their domestic needs(Rashad, 2022). What confirms the dependence of European markets on Russian exports of natural gas is the report issued by the European Commission in 2014, which stated that: There are six member states of the European Union that depend entirely on Russian exports of natural gas to meet the needs of their domestic markets, in addition to three other countries that depend on Russia's exports of this natural resource to cover more than 25% of the needs of their markets for this resource(Bouzazi, 2023). The energy security of these countries makes them very fragile and vulnerable to collapse at any moment when the Russian Federation decides to cut off the supply of this vital energy resource (natural gas) towards them(Rasul, 2018). The German energy markets occupy the first place among the European energy markets in terms of attracting Russia's exports of natural gas, as these markets receive the equivalent of

(22%) of Russia's total gas exports to Europe. In addition, the German energy markets are followed by the Turkish energy markets receive (13%) of Total exports to Europe and, finally, Italy 12% of the total exports (Bouzazi, 2023).

Table (5): The Percentage of Coverage of European Energy Markets for Russia's Gas Exports (Bouzazi, 2023).

Country	Germany	Turkey	Italy
Percentage	22% of Russia's total gas exports to Europe	13% of Russia's total gas exports to Europe	12% of Russia's total gas exports to Europe

Russia's exports of natural gas to European markets through a network of pipelines that pass through Ukrainian territory, and the length of the gas pipeline passing through Ukraine is about (37) thousand km. Its absorptive capacity is about (32) billion m³, equivalent to (21%) of the needs of European markets of gas. Also, there are some reports indicating that Russia's exports of natural gas that are transported to European markets through Ukrainian territory alone reach (80%) of the total exports Russia is using gas to the European Union. This undoubtedly makes Ukraine a gateway of great importance for the protection of European and Russian energy security alike (Ziad, 2022).

The Russian gas transmission lines that pass through Ukrainian territory towards European energy markets are very fragile lines and are subject to political bargaining and geopolitical conflicts, and this has undoubtedly caused a threat to European energy security several times. The most prominent of these threats was what happened in 2004 as a result of the tension in Russian-Ukrainian relations after the arrival of the first pro-Western Ukrainian president to power after the Orange Revolution. This tension in relations affected gas lines and led in 2006 to Russia cut off all gas supplies that reach the European Union countries through gas lines passing through Ukrainian territory and continued to cut off supplies until the end of the year (2006) and then Russia returned to pump gas through these lines to the European Union again. Yet this matter soon Russia returned to cut supplies in 2009 as a result of the escalation of tension between Russia and Ukraine against the background of Ukrainian gas debts. Russia in 2011 restricted gas supplies through Ukraine on the background of tense relations between the two countries on the grounds that Ukraine did not pay for Russian gas at market prices (Zidori, 2022).

Some studies on the reality of European energy security, especially with regard to gas, indicate that the needs of the European market for this natural resource are steadily increasing. They are expected to increase significantly between 2025-2035 as a natural result of the reality of declining production of European Union countries on the one hand and increasing demand for it on the other (Said, 2019).

The Versailles summit held in France in 2022 revealed a European consensus to condemn the Russian military intervention in Ukraine and impose many economic sanctions on it. Yet, these sanctions still lag behind the goal of the United States of America, especially in the energy field, and the fact that the markets of the European Union countries depend on Russian energy exports by more than (40%), and the German markets are one of the largest European markets that attract Russia's energy exports. This is because they import from Russia accounts for more than 33% of its oil needs, more than 45% of its coal needs, and more than 55% of its natural gas needs (Al-Shobaki, 2022).

It is true that European countries are striving to get rid of the dependence of their energy markets on Russia by accessing energy sources other than Russian sources. The number of

factual data confirms that the European Union countries cannot completely dispense with Russia's energy resources, due to the fact that the available alternatives, represented by the Gulf alternatives, cannot cover the full needs of the European energy markets for Russian oil and gas (Al-Shobaki, 2022).

Thus, it is noted that Russia dominates the European energy markets are the most important receiving markets for Russia's exports of energy resources, especially oil, gas and coal, as it relies on these markets to discharge about (70%) of its exports of natural gas, (80%) of its oil exports, and (50%) of its exports of coal (Rashad, 2022).

The First Reason: Russia's possession of a huge amount of natural resources, especially oil and gas, undoubtedly allows it to meet the needs of the ever-increasing European energy markets, thus achieving European energy security, which requires the availability of these resources continuously.

The Second Reason: There is a lack of an alternative to Russia's energy exports, although European attempts to find an alternative, these attempts will fail, due to the fact that the Gulf alternatives that the European Union countries rely on cannot cover the full needs of European energy markets of Russian oil and gas.

Second: Asian Energy Markets

In previous years, the Russian Federation has worked to strengthen its energy security and to counter any future threat to which it may be exposed. In particular, the risk that the European Union States will reduce dependence on Russian energy resources, in particular oil and natural gas suppliers. It entails a lack of Russian financial revenues from the discharge of these resources into European energy markets and thus seriously damage the Russian economy, of which the revenues from these resources are one of the main pillars (Rashad, 2022).

Perhaps the most prominent of these markets is the "Asian energy markets", especially the energy market of the People's Republic of China, which has economic weight and the Indian energy market (Al-Hajj, 2021, Mohammed, 2022). First, then we discuss the Indian energy market as an important alternative to European energy markets second.

First: The Chinese Energy Market as One of the most Important Alternatives to the Russian Federation from the European Energy Markets

The Chinese energy market is one of the largest and most important Asian energy markets that Russia looks at as an alternative to European energy markets. This is undoubtedly due to the magnitude of this market on the one hand and the absorption of large proportions of Russia's energy exports, especially oil and gas exports on the other hand. This in turn achieves Russia's interest (albeit relatively) in maintaining its energy security in the event that European markets dispense with their energy supplies partially or completely, and there is no doubt that this Russian interest Counterbalanced by a Chinese interest in acquiring Russian energy resources to secure the energy needed to run its projects and investments.

Thus, Russian energy resources are the main driver of the Russian-Chinese bilateral relationship. The relationship of the two countries in the energy field has witnessed many developments that have strengthened the idea of China's great dependence on Russian energy resources and thus made it one of the largest Asian markets importing these resources. In 2001, the oil companies in both countries signed an agreement aimed at establishing an oil pipeline up to 2400 km long in order to transport Russian oil to China by (25-30) million barrels per year and by (700) million barrels within (25). However (Al-Qaralah, 2012), Russian-Chinese

relations after this agreement were limited in size and often undeclared, and these relations remained in a state of volatility until recently, and remained limited to traditional energy sources of oil (Mohamed, 2013). This resulted in the signing of several long-term energy agreements between Russia and China to provide the necessary infrastructure for the transfer of energy resources from Russia to China in the near future.

Thus, Russia has become one of the most important countries that provide Chinese energy markets with energy resources, especially Russian oil and gas, and Chinese energy markets have become one of the most important destinations on which Russia depends in discharging its energy products. Also, energy relations between Russia and China continued to improve continuously and expanded significantly in 2021 to include energy fields other than traditional fields, thus starting energy cooperation between the two countries in the field of electricity and nuclear energy.

According to statistics conducted by the Chinese National Energy Administration, the volume of Russian-Chinese energy trade in 2021 amounted to (34.9) billion US dollars, which represents (34.3%) of the total bilateral trade. These statistics indicate that energy trade exchange between Russia and China is considered a pillar that achieves the stability of trade between the two countries, as its contribution to the total trade between the two countries exceeds one third (Mohamed, 2013).

One of the most important energy projects is between Russia and China. The joint project between the two countries targeted the construction of the East Siberian and Pacific oil pipeline with a length of (1056) km and linking the Russian Skovardino and the Chinese Daqing, which was completed in 2010. It would have provided China from the beginning of 2011 with approximately (800) thousand barrels of oil per day, while Russia's oil exports in 2000 did not exceed (88) thousand barrels per day, meaning that this project increased Russian exports to China nearly tenfold and strengthened the Sino-Russian rapprochement in this area.

Projects aimed at transporting oil from Russia to China continued to expand until in 2014 Russia became the third largest oil exporter to the Chinese energy markets, accounting for 11 per cent of China's total crude oil imports. In 2015-2016, Russia maintained its position as the third exporter of oil to the Chinese energy markets and was able for several months to surpass Saudi Arabia, which enjoys the first place among the exporters of crude oil to the Chinese energy markets (Mohamed, 2013).

There is no doubt that the Russian and Chinese energy relations were not limited to oil, but on the contrary, they expanded, especially in 2013, to include natural gas as well, as China obtained this year the right to access Russian gas fields. It was at the G20 summit held in St. Peter in 2013 and in the presence of the Russian and Chinese presidents, where the China National Petroleum Corporation concluded an agreement to purchase (20%) of the capital of the "Yamal" project, which is Russia's largest LNG project, which relies mainly on Russia's natural gas resources.

Russian-Chinese cooperation in the field of gas has witnessed increasing improvement through the signing of huge deals of gas worth (400) billion US dollars and (270) billion US dollars in 2013 and 2014, the most important of which is the gas deal requires the Russian state-owned Gazprom to secure an annual supply of Russian gas to the Chinese markets amounting to (38) billion cubic meters annually for a period of thirty-five years. Through the Sila Siberian gas pipeline, which is being constructed, an integral part of the deal signed between the two countries (Mohamed, 2013).

In 2022, specifically in February, Russia signed the last contract related to the supply of Russian gas to the Chinese energy markets with China. This contract provided for supplying these markets with (10) billion cubic meters of natural gas annually for a period of thirty years starting from 2026. This contract included an explicit clause to pay the value of these supplies in euros instead of US dollars. Russia is counting on China's gas needs to ease sanctions. The Asian giant's demand is expected to be 40% higher in 2030 than in 2020.

Finally, it is clear that the stable operation of energy resources supply projects between Russia and China, such as oil and natural gas pipelines, the Yamal project based on Russia's natural gas resources, and other energy projects, would have provided stable and reliable energy for the growth of energy trade between the two countries. What confirms this growth is Russian statistics confirming that Russia's supplies of natural gas, which reach China through the Eastern Gas Pipeline, had accumulated. At the end November in 2021, it exceeded (13) billion cubic meters, and since that date, the daily Russian supply of natural gas to China, which depends on this line alone, has increased by approximately (33%). This made the Chinese energy markets one of the largest markets that import almost all of Russia's energy resources (oil, natural gas, coal, and electricity), (Mohamed, 2013). Thus the idea of considering it one of the most important alternative markets for European energy markets has been strengthened.

Therefore, it can be said that Russian-Chinese energy relations are the main pillar for the advancement of relations between the two countries, as this relationship is strong and solid due to the mutual interest between the two countries (Fatiha, 2016). On the other hand, China finds in Russia, one of the largest producers of energy resources, an important source of energy resources for its steadily increasing economic activity (El-Sheikh, 2011).

Second: The Indian Energy Market as an Important Alternative to European Energy Markets

Russian efforts aimed at creating energy markets in Asia as an alternative to European energy markets were not limited to the Chinese energy market only. On the contrary, these efforts extended to reach many other Asian energy markets, especially the Indian energy market, which has a large absorption of Russian energy sources. This access was achieved significantly after the imposition of US-European economic sanctions on Russia during its military intervention in Ukraine.

After the imposition of Western economic sanctions on Russia, the Indian State Oil Company purchased on 17/3/2022 three million barrels of Russian crude oil. It brought Russia significant financial revenues (Okasha, 2022), in addition to contributing to filling the shortage of Russian energy exports that resulted from European countries reducing the percentage of their imports of these resources.

Thus, the Chinese and Indian energy markets have become major markets dependent on Russian oil exports. The total supplies attracted by the Indian and Chinese energy markets combined amounted (Al-Orabi, 2023) to an amount equal to the amount of Russian oil imported by the European energy markets (belonging to twenty-seven European countries). It undoubtedly strengthened the position of both markets in the Russian strategy aimed at restoring access to Asian markets.

In addition to the Asian energy markets alternative to European markets, which Russia targets with its exports of energy resources, is the energy market of Pakistan. It is in financial distress, as Pakistan is heading to buy approximately 4.3 million tons of subsidized Russian oil next year (Al-Orabi, 2023).

Through this, it can be said that the Russian orientation towards Asian energy markets may be correct, especially that orientation towards the giant Chinese energy market and the large Indian energy market. It plays a decisive role in achieving its energy security, which necessitates the continuity of the existence of energy markets necessary to discharge Russia's exports of energy resources, and to stand in the face of US-European threats to it. In particular, those threats that require the European Union to abandon Russia's energy exports permanently in 2027 (El-Shobaky, 2022).

In conclusion, it is necessary to study energy strategies in the Asian oil markets, specifically the Chinese and Indian energy markets, for identifying American and European threats, which will be discussed in the third and final axis.

Conclusions

European markets are one of the most important energy markets for Russia, as they depend heavily on them in marketing their exports of oil and natural gas. However, these markets have become insecure and not fully stable, especially after the US-European sanctions against Russia, which led to strained relations between Russia and these international parties. This in turn, albeit in a limited way, affects the marketing of Russian energy sources. Therefore, it is clear that Russia is looking for alternative energy markets for European markets, where the Asian markets are the most appropriate alternative, especially the Indian and Chinese markets, which are at the forefront of alternative markets according to Russian strategies devoted primarily to searching for new markets. In conclusion, we can reach a number of results and recommendations, the most important of which are:

First: Conclusions

- 1- Although the European energy markets are considered one of the most important energy markets for the Russian Federation, these markets are considered unsafe markets. From the Russian point of view, this is confirmed by the set of economic sanctions imposed by the European Union countries on it. It primarily targeted Russian energy security, as well as the policies of the European Union countries that aim in their entirety to get rid of the dependence of their energy markets on Russia.
- 2- These facts are undoubtedly what prompted Russia to adopt many energy strategies aimed at getting rid of Russia's dependence on European energy markets to sell its energy products and search for alternative markets for them, which found in Asian energy markets a better alternative.

Second: Recommendations

- 1- The Russian Federation should accelerate the search for alternative energy markets to European energy markets and find enough of these alternative markets to cover all its exports of energy resources, especially its exports of oil and natural gas. So, it is not fully affected by Russia's policies. European countries, especially if the result of these policies is already reduced dependence on Russian energy resources or completely dispense with them.
- 2- Russia must work to take the necessary measures to confront the packages of US-European sanctions, especially those sanctions that prevent Western countries' exports of modern technological machines necessary for oil exploration in the Arctic and shale oil. This confrontation will be by securing these machines and tools away from those developed Western countries and enhancing Russian intellectual and creative capabilities to enable the manufacture of most of them locally.

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