



## **The Russian Vision of the Ukrainian Conflict: Discourse of National Interests and Perspectives for Conflict Resolution**

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Вместе в глобальный мир



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# RIAC Expertise of the Ukrainian Conflict



- **“A Cooperative Greater Europe by 2030”**
  - to decisively break with the costly legacy of the Cold War;
  - focus on meeting the emerging political, economic, and security challenges of the 21st century.
- **“New Eastern Europe”**
  - systemic review of Russian foreign policy resources in Central and Eastern Europe;
  - Russia’s long-term and medium-term goals in the region.

# RIAC Position on the Conflict

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- RIAC sees the opportunity for conflict resolution in the dialog on the level of expert community, cultural and other professional communities.



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# RIAC Scenarios

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Decentralization  
and  
Compromise

Military  
Confrontation

“Deep Freeze”  
(Status Quo)





## Question 1

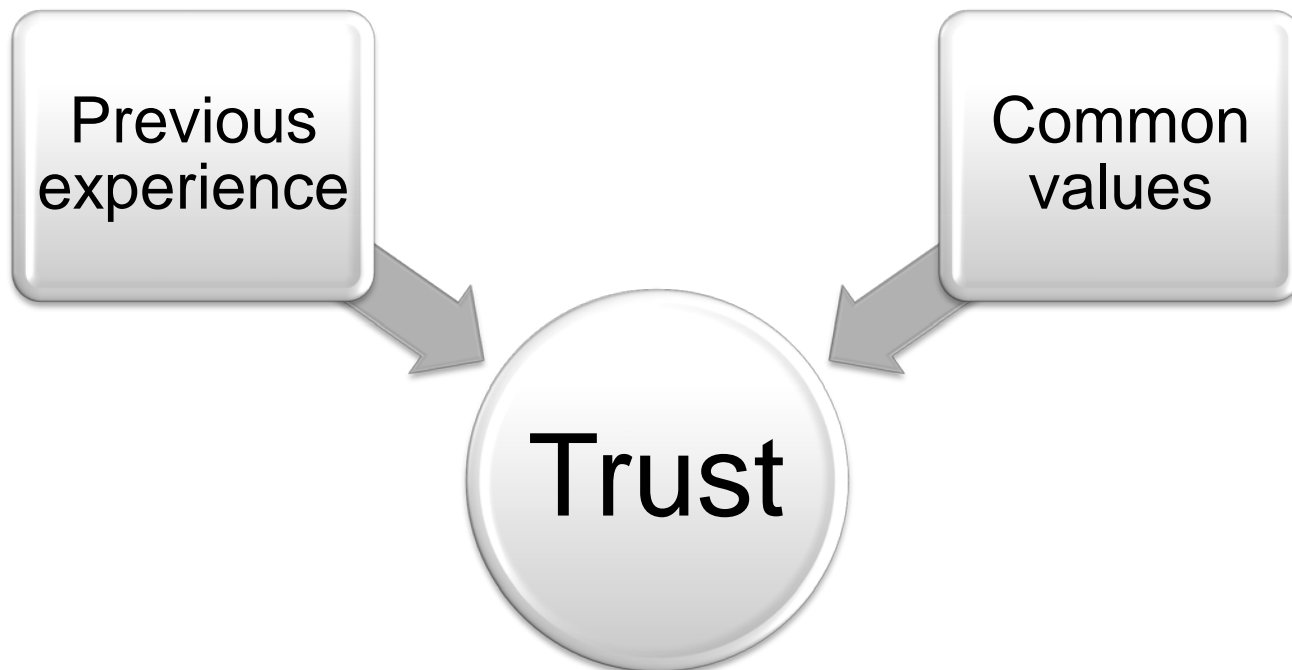
**Why it is difficult to find common vision of the conflict?**



# Trust in the Conflict Resolution

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- What is it **trust**?
  - It is a opportunity to predict the behavior of the trusted partner.





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# Nation States and Empires

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Nation State

Empire-Nation

Nationalizing State





# Nation State

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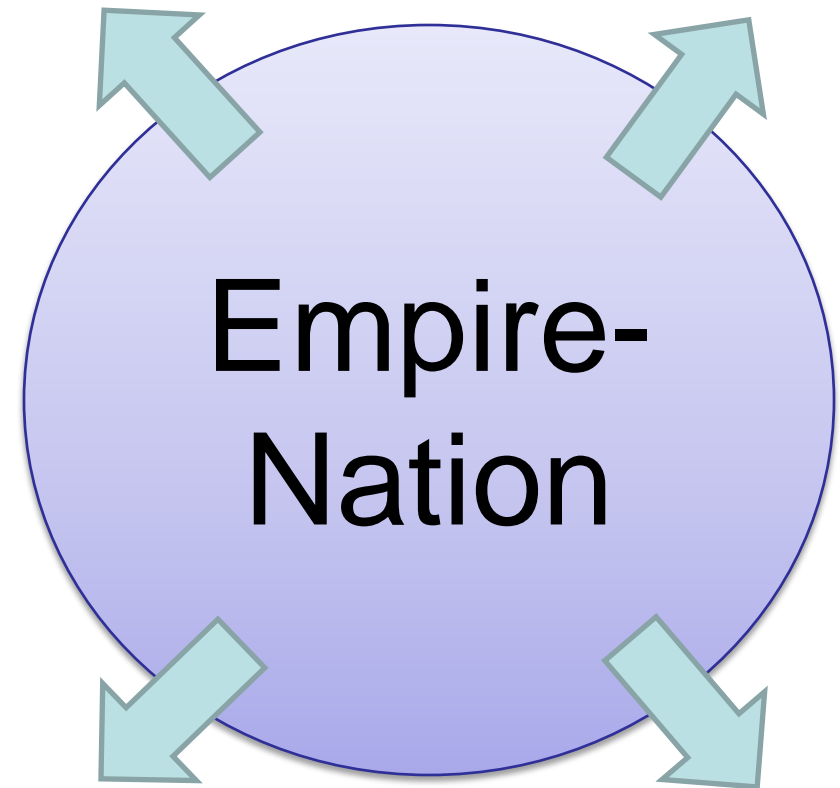
- The borders are defined.
- The unity is based on the internal unity.



# Empire-Nation

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- The borders are not finally defined
- Potential to enlarge the borders.
- The nation is not defined exactly.





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# Nationalizing State

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- Newly created state
- The borders are not defined
- The nation is in the process of creation



Nationalizing  
State



## Question 2

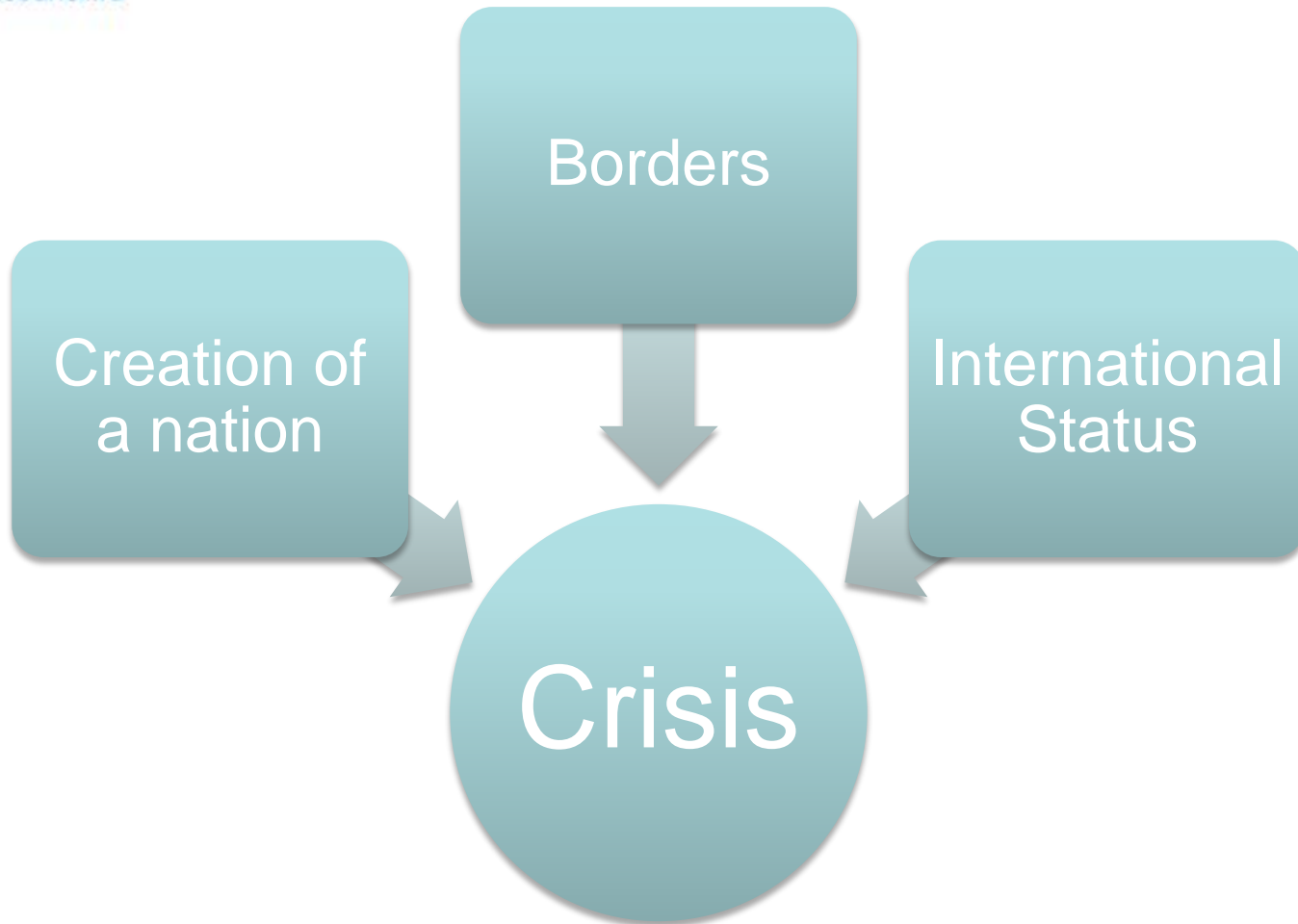
**What is the vision of the conflict in Russia?**





# Post Soviet Legacy

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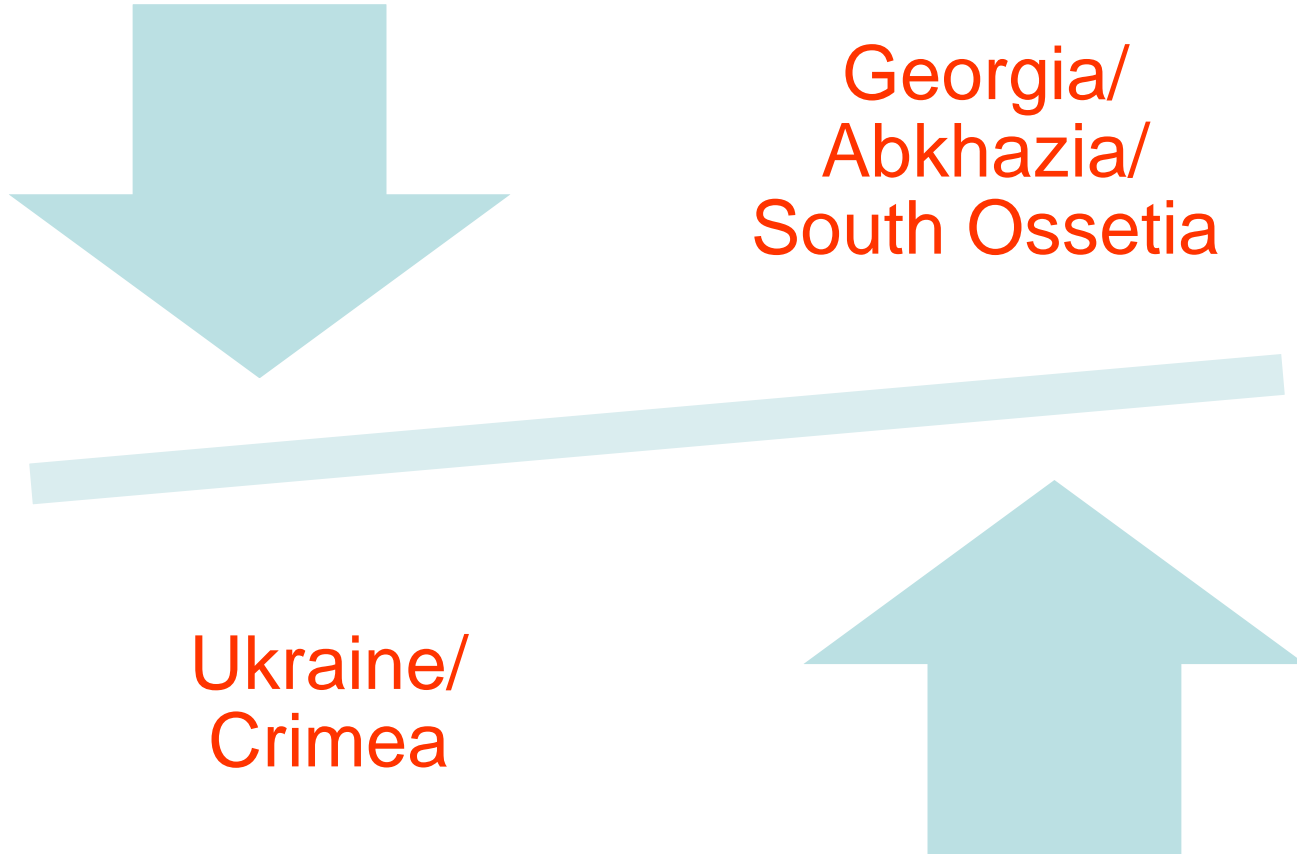


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# Post Soviet Crisis

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# Crimea as a new Heartland

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- *“It was an event of special significance for the country and the people, because Crimea is where our people live, and the peninsula is of **strategic importance** for Russia as the spiritual **source of the development of a multifaceted but solid Russian nation** and a **centralised Russian state**. It was in Crimea, in the ancient city of Chersonesus or Korsun, as ancient Russian chroniclers called it, that Grand Prince Vladimir was baptised before bringing Christianity to Rus”.*

Vladimir Putin

Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly

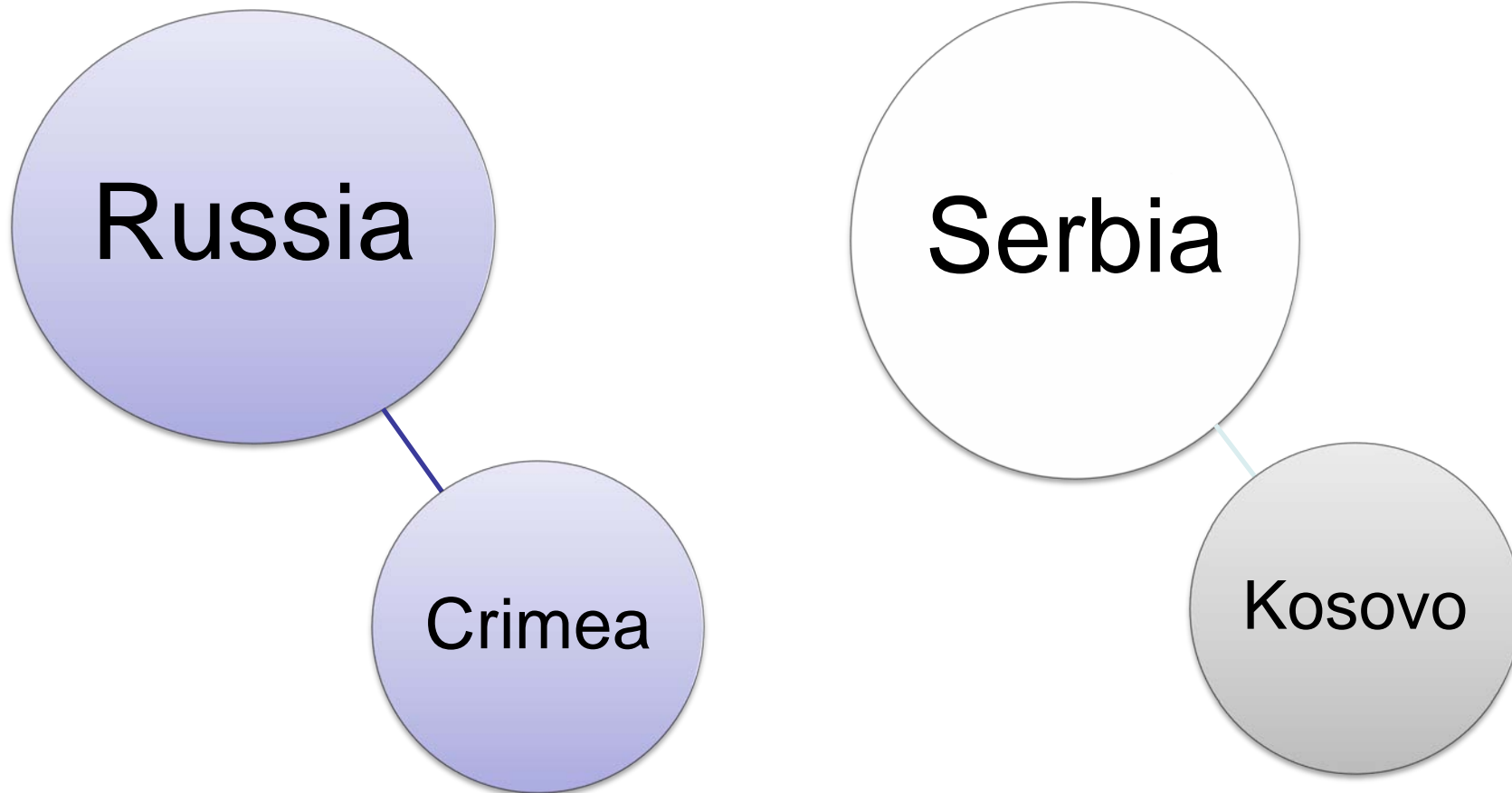


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# External heartland

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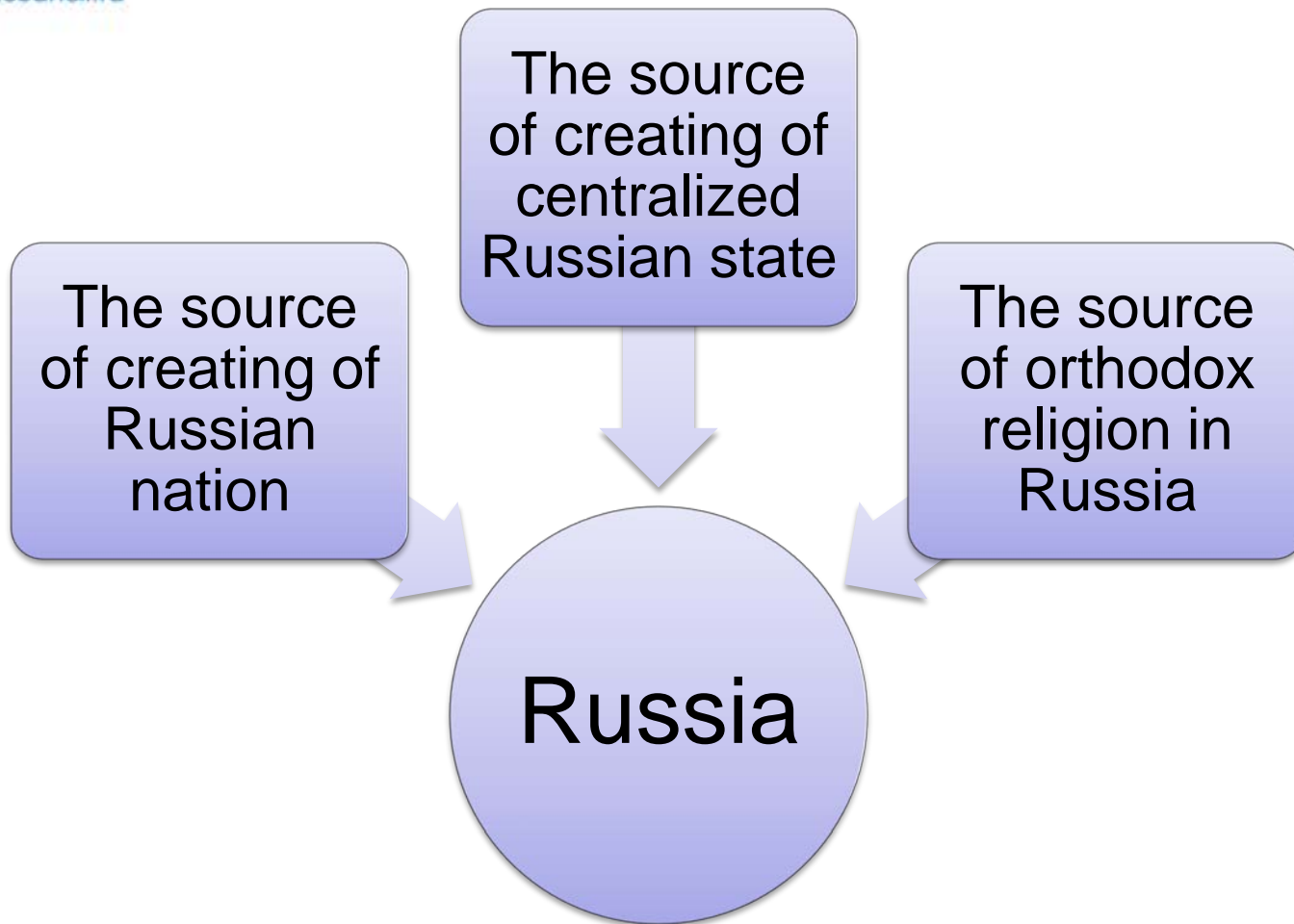


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# Crimea for Russia: new situation

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# Russia in the current conflict

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## *Territory*

- The conflict is near the Russian border.
- At the same time the intention to moderate the NATO in the region.

## *Economy*

- Lack of resources to help the Eastern Regions of the Ukraine.
- Internal economic problems connected with the sanctions.

## *Social*

- Lots of connections between common people in Russia and Ukraine on the level of families and friends.
- Complicated social situation in Russia.



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## Question 3

**What are the perspectives for  
conflict resolution?**



## Variants for conflict resolution

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- *Donbas as separate state – the variant of Transnistria.*
- *Donbas – as the part of Ukraine. Possible only on the basis of wide autonomy. At the same time there is needed a process of economic reconstruction, without the ethnic or language issues.*
- *Donbas – as the part of Russia, the less possible one.*



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