



Key Quotes from: U.S.–Russian Relations: Beseet By Reset?

“As we think about Russia, it’s important for us to think about it as a country that is a threat to many, but a protector of none. When you think about the American role in the world, we are a protector of many and a threat to none.” – **Senator Jim DeMint**

“As I look at the START Treaty, the first thing that hits me is that it assumes that there should be nuclear parity between the United States and Russia. That makes absolutely no sense to me today.” – **Senator Jim DeMint**

“I want a good relationship with Russia, but understanding their political environment right now, the only way we can work with them is to demonstrate that we have the resolve, the commitment, and the strength to back up what we say.” – **Senator Jim DeMint**

“The administration, when it first came into office, viewed Russia in instrumental terms. They wanted to repair the relationship with Russia in order to get Russia onboard on Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan and non-proliferation. My concern is that the administration has shifted and the U.S.–Russian relationship has become the end not the means to an end. It has become the goal, it has become the focus. It is touted as one of the major foreign policy successes of the administration. That sends the wrong message to Moscow. It gives them the impression that we need them more than they need us.” – **David J. Kramer, The German Marshall Fund**

“I would argue that the Obama administration has gone overboard and has focused too much on trying to reset or repair relations with Russia. Despite clear messages that President Obama delivered himself in Moscow in July of 2009, that improved relations with Russia would not come at the expense of good relations between the United States and the neighboring states, this is exactly what has happened.” – **David J. Kramer, The German Marshall Fund**

“There is a bit of a dichotomy in Moscow, it sees weakness and wants to take advantage of it, but it also needs to perpetuate that there are threats out there because those threats can become awfully handy when they need to justify their antidemocratic and increasingly authoritarian way of governing.” – **David J. Kramer, The German Marshall Fund**

“The New START Treaty negotiations recreated the conventional Cold War dynamic. For the Russians, these negotiations were essentially Christmas Day over and over again. They kept asking for more, and they kept getting more. The more they said “no” the more concessions they got.” – **Steve Rademaker, BGR Government Affairs**

"Iran is often pointed to as an area where we have received some concessions from Russia that we would not have otherwise received, particularly on the fourth Security Council resolution on Iran. I am prepared to talk about this in greater detail, but there is nothing about that arrangement with respect to Iran that can be pointed to as success of this arms control negotiation or of reset." – **Steve Rademaker, BGR Government Affairs**

"I would not say that Russia is close to being in the category of an ideologically maximalist, extremist, predatory state that is not in the swim in terms of the kinds of countries one can engage." – **Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University**

"Engagement takes time. When I see an engagement with Russia that has been going for a year and a half, I see a START Treaty, I see 257 over flights to Afghanistan, I see more help on Iran, I don't see a country that's turning its back, I see a county that is in the midst of feeling its way forward in a new relationship with the United States. Let's give it time. Let's build on the successes that we've had, recognizing that there are powerful domestic obstacles on both sides." – **Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University**