ABSTRACT

The Soviet Union played the role of a great power in the international system for many decades after World War II, and the main sources of Soviet power came from its hard components of power such as large territory, large populations, and solid industrial base. However, the Soviet Union dissolved at the end of the Cold War in 1991 and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as an alternative body of former great power was established. However, the CIS still attempts to overtake the symbolic image of a post-Soviet region to rebuild a powerful multilateral organization in realms of security, trade, and finance. Thus, the question is, What if the Commonwealth of Independent States turns out to a unitary coherent actor able to compete in the international system as a great power? In order to answer this question, this chapter will try to measure the composite index of national capability (CINC) of the CIS combined and compare it with the CINC scores of the United States and China to figure out the main CIS potentials in terms of hard power components such as total population, urban population, steel production, energy consumption, military personnel, and military expenditure.
INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established in 1991 after the communist countries of the former Eastern bloc had decided to change their socioeconomic system 1989, and the Soviet Union with 15 republics ceased to exist two years later. CIS is the edifice of 12 independent states of which four are located in Europe: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Three from Caucasus region between Europe and Asia: Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. The five remaining CIS countries are in central Asia: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

In the last two decades, Russia has been much intensified its efforts to rebuild its legacy in post-Soviet era, thereby the Russia’s “near abroad” strategy relies on strong ties of influence and interests in Eurasian and Eastern Europe, therefore the CIS edifice was also a driving force for Russia and its neighbors to rebuild their tangible and intangible capabilities to bear any militarized disputes in international system.

Although the CIS organization is still trying to overtake the symbolic image of post-Soviet region to sustain a powerful multilateral organization in fields of security, trade, and finance. Thus, the question is: what if the Commonwealth of Independent States turns out to a unitary coherent actor able to compete in the international system as a great power along with the United States and China? In order to answer this question, this chapter will try to measure the Composite Index of National Capability (CINC) of Commonwealth of Independent States altogether and compare it with CINC scores of the United States and China to figure out the main CIS potentials in terms of hard power components such as: Total population, urban population, steel production, energy consumption, military personnel, and military expenditure.

The Composite Index of National Capability (CINC) is used widely as a model of hard power measurement formulated by Joel David Singer for the correlates of war in 1963. Thereby, This chapter has used the correlates of war material capabilities dataset, in the late version of 2007, and the updated version in 2013 by Víctor M Mijares to fill the temporary vacuum in the official CINC data set since 2008, besides the current available data that covers the fields of military personnel, military expenditure, steel production, energy consumption, urban population, and total population for the three members’ system (CIS countries, the United States and China), the research then derived indexes of economic, military and demographic dimensions by analysis of each states’ average share cross Composite Index of National Capabilities different sub-components.

The goal of this chapter is to draw a comprehensive comparison in the overall tangible components of power between the three actors US, China, and the Commonwealth of Independent States, according to CINC indexes of 2007, and
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