

SPY WARS

IMPLICATIONS FOR
CHINA RUSSIA
RELATIONS

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RUSSIA UK ROW OVER POISONING SPY

- On March 4, 2018, Russia allegedly attempted a murder of its former military officer, Sergei Viktorovich Skripal.
- Skripal and his daughter Yulia were poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent.
- Novichok is a series of nerve agents the Soviet Union and Russia developed between 1971 and 1993. Nerve agents, sometimes also called nerve gases, are a class of organic chemicals that disrupt the mechanisms by which nerves transfer messages to organs.
- Skripal and his daughter remained in critical condition for few days. They survived this murder attempt.

WHO IS SERGEI VIKTOROVICH SKRIPAL?

- Sergei Skripal is a retired Russian military intelligence colonel who was sentenced in 2006 to 13 years in prison, accused of spying for Britain.
- He was convicted, and later pardoned, for passing the identities of Russian secret agents in Europe to the UK's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6).
- Russia claimed MI6 had paid him \$100,000 for the information, which he had been supplying since the 1990s.
- But he was one of four prisoners Moscow swapped for spies in the US in 2010.
- Col Skripal was later flown to the UK. He is now 66.



REACTION OF USA UK AND EUROPE

- Prime Minister Theresa May said the chemical used in the attack had been identified as being part of a group of nerve agents developed by Russia known as Novichok. The British government has expelled 23 Russian diplomats. 14 EU Member States decided to expel Russian diplomats, including Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands and Moldova.
- Only Kazakhstan came out in support of Russia.

NON EU STATES REACTION

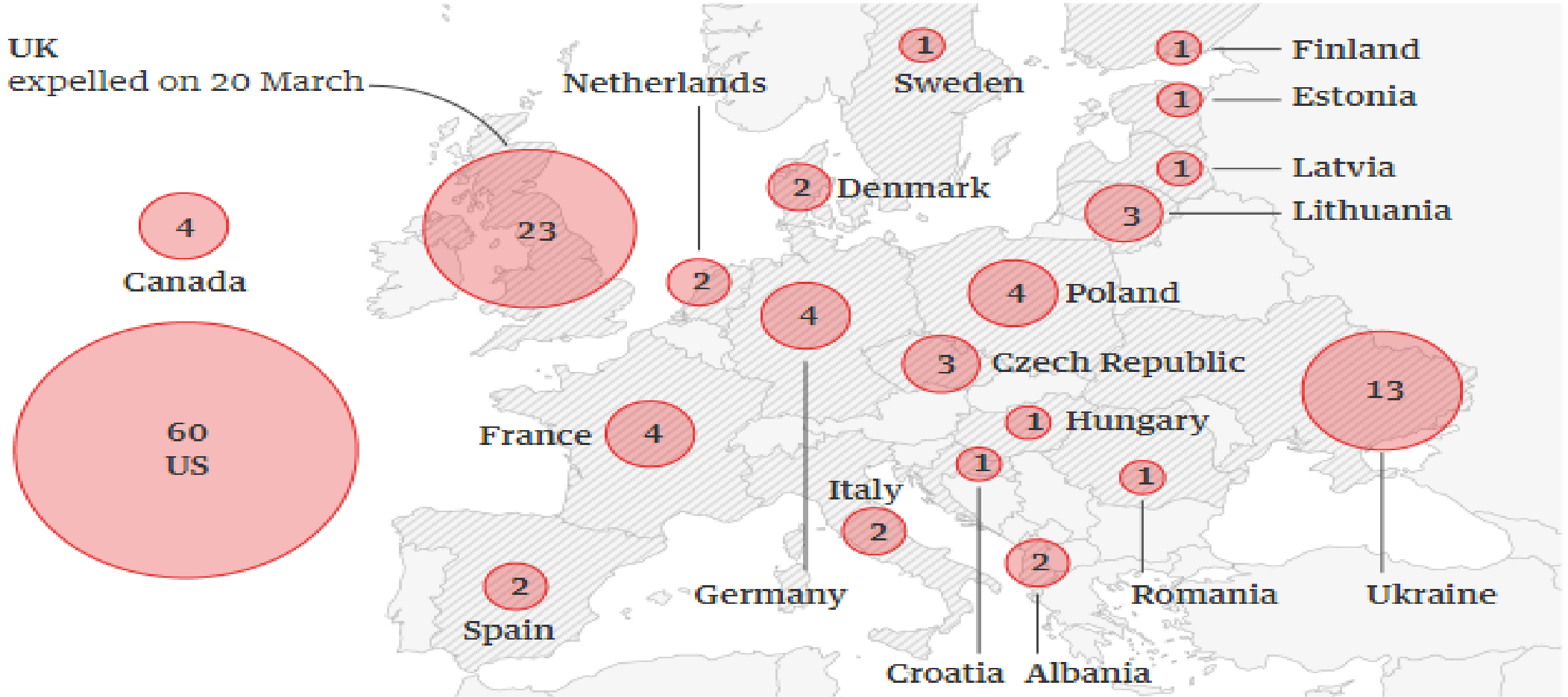
- Other than EU, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Ukraine, and New Zealand condemned the incident and expelled Russian diplomats.
- United States: On 12 March 2018, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson released a statement that fully supported the stance of the UK government on the poisoning attack, including "its assessment that Russia was likely responsible for the nerve agent attack that took place in Salisbury. And on 26 March 2018 Trump ordered the expulsion of 60 Russian officers and closure of Russian consulate in Seattle.

RUSSIAN RESPONSE TO THE EXPULSION OF ITS DIPLOMATES

- The UK expelled 23 Russian diplomats on March 14. Russia expelled an equal number, and announced closure of the UK consulate in St Petersburg and closure of the British Council in Russia.
- Russia took similar measures against all those countries who expelled its diplomats.
- Furthermore, UK and Iceland have decided to diplomatically boycott the 2018 FIFA World Cup held in Russia.

Expulsions of Russian diplomats

UK
expelled on 20 March



Guardian graphic

CHINESE RESPONSE.

- On 27 March, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying called on the UK to "respect international law and the fundamental norms of international relations, as well as avoid escalation of confrontation. China is closely following the developments, we strongly oppose any use of chemical weapons, but we still believe that this issue should be properly resolved between the Russian Federation and the UK on the basis of facts.

RUSSIAN HYBRID WARFARE

- It is believed that Putin has waged a hybrid warfare against west. Russia is accused of hacking Macron's Presidential campaign and French TV broadcast during 2017 elections.
- Russian hackers attacked German Foreign ministry website few months back bring all computers to shut down.
- Poland, Lithuania and Estonia faced cyberattacks from Russians.
- Russian has always denied such accusations.

IMPLICATIONS

- Apparently, this spy poisoning incident has a lot of impact on Russian foreign relations, with the US and western Europe, Eastern Europe, and China.
- US and western Europe has shown solidarity with the UK. Most of them has ordered expulsion of diplomats from their countries. Despite the differences between EU and Britain over Brexit issue, Europe's collective response and expulsion of diplomats in a huge number indicates their less desire for a dialogue with Russia.
- Most surprising reaction came from eastern European states. Once a sphere of Russian influence, and now in a queue for EU and NATO membership, many eastern European states have joined the diplomats expulsion bandwagon with the western Europe.

IMPLICATIONS...

- The worsening of this situation would further aggravate the relations between Europe and Russia. Including trade and energy issues.
- One surprising response came from some Latin American states. Who extended full support to UK.
- Former CIS states remained very careful in their response. Kazakhstan and China reacted to the expulsion of diplomats quite harshly. They opposed use of chemical weapons but asked for restraint until things get clear.

RUSSIAN OPTIONS

- Russia has a long history of differences with Europe. This antagonism has brought considerable changes in foreign policy behavior of Russian Federation. Russia's Asian Pivot and rapprochement with China indicates Russian compulsion to create an amicable environment on its eastern borders.
- Both Russian and China have been facing US and European rivalry in their back yards. China in East and South East Asia, While Russia has been facing it in post Soviet states and eastern Europe.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA RUSSIA RELATIONS

- The biggest reality of 21st century Sino Russian relations is “Russia needs China” and this need is increasing day by day.
- The biggest setback Russia would face in this stalemate with Europe is energy trade. So their energy relations with China would boost further. Last year, China purchased 14.16 % share of Rosneft Russia’s largest oil company.
- China has invested \$39.66 billion since 2012. Only in 2017, \$14.94 billions were invested.

BILATERAL TRADE

Year	Russian Imports from China	Russian Exports to China
2017	48,042,300	38,922,044
2016	38,086,982	28,021,250
2015	35,199,264	28,334,955
2014	50,853,010	37,414,604
2013	53,173,086	35,625,420
2012	51,767,694	35,766,830
2011	48,038,378	34,692,362
2010	38,960,930	19,783,043

NORTHERN CORRIDOR OF OBOR TO ENHANCE COOPERATION: RUSSIA-MONGOLIA-CHINA ROAD CORRIDOR

- Another area where both countries are cooperating is OBOR. Northern corridor of OBOR is a road transport project that connect both countries via Mongolia.

China-Mongolia-Russia



ICE SILK ROAD

- In addition to the Maritime Silk Road, Xi Jinping also urged the close cooperation between Russia and China to carry out the Northern Sea Route cooperation to realize an "Ice Silk Road" to foster the development in the Arctic region. China COSCO Shipping Corp. has completed several trial trips on Arctic shipping routes, the Transport departments from both countries are constantly improving policies and laws related to development in the Arctic, and Chinese and Russian companies are seeking cooperation on oil and gas exploration in the area and to advance comprehensive collaboration on infrastructure construction, tourism and scientific expeditions.



A LOOK AT THE ICE SILK ROAD

What

Make joint efforts to develop and utilize maritime passageways, particularly the Northern Sea Route.

Who

Proposer



Participants



and

other countries with interest

Where

The Arctic routes include two major routes:

Northwest Passage: Most of the sea corridor lies in waters north of Canada. Bering Strait - the waters of Alaska - Arctic archipelago - Davis Strait.



Northeast Passage: (also called the Northern Sea Route by Russia)

Most of the shipping route hugs Russia's northern coast.

Northern Europe - the Barents Sea - Kara Sea - Laptev Sea - East Siberian Sea - Chukchi Sea - the Bering Strait.

Highest feasibility for navigation.

★ The route which Russia has invited China to jointly develop.

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- Since 2010, China Russia bilateral trade is increasing except of two years which saw decline in bilateral trade.
 - Trade data clearly indicates that Russia is dependent over imports form China.
 - Russian exports to China mainly consists of petroleum products. Which is a sign of growing demand for Russian oil and gas in China. Recent Russian spy poisoning issue would further increase Russian dependence over China for its energy trade.

CONCLUSION

- Growing China Russia relations have both negative and positive impact.
- Apparently, All these projects and diplomatic cooperation would strengthen bilateral relations of both states, however, it would increase Russian reliance over China and further escalate the strategic imbalance.
- Nonetheless, growing relations between the two states would open new opportunities for strategic cooperation, Which will not only benefit them but also the whole region, adjacent to them.