



第十一届东亚斯拉夫欧亚会议

# ASSESSING RUSSIA'S TURN TO THE EAST

Comparing the Asian Response to the Crimean  
Crisis and the “Special Military Operation”

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# RESEARCH BACKGROUND (I)

- Since the annexation of Crimea, Russia has strengthened cooperation with Asian countries
- A response to Western sanctions and international isolation through diplomatic diversification
- Most Asian countries refused to join Western sanctions against Russia



# RESEARCH BACKGROUND (II)

- After the "special military operation" in Ukraine, Russia faced more severe Western sanctions and criticisms
- Again, Russia considered rapprochement with Eastern countries inevitable to overcome isolation





# RESEARCH PROBLEM

Assessing the Effectiveness of Russia's Turn to the East



## Scope of the study

The response of Asian countries to Russia's military interventions in Ukraine, including the annexation of Crimea and the "Special Military Operation"

## Relevance of the study

Realistic Assessment of Russia's Grand Strategy  
The Post-War Development of Russian Foreign Policy

## Research Questions

How Effective is Russia's Turn to the East?

# METHODOLOGY

## Comparative Case Studies

How Asian Countries (19) responded to the Crimean Crisis vs. "Special Military Operation"?

- Recognition of Disputed Regions
- Condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine
- Imposition of Sanctions against Russia

## Possible Limitations

Are they sufficiently similar cases?

- Different phases of the Ukraine Crisis

Can other variables be controlled?

- Russia's pragmatism; result-oriented

It's the economy, stupid?

- Complementary to political issues

# FINDINGS (I)

## Recognition of Disputed Regions (Crimea & Donbas)

	Greater China		Northeast Asia				ASEAN										Indo-Pacific		
	CHN	TWN	JPN	PRK	KOR	MNG	BRN	KHM	IDN	LAO	MYS	MMR	PHL	SGP	THA	VNM	IND	AUS	NZL
Crimea				✓															
Donbas				✓															

# FINDINGS (II)

## Direct Condemnation of Russia (Annexation of Crimea & “Special Military Operation”)

	Greater China		Northeast Asia				ASEAN										Indo-Pacific		
	CHN	TWN	JPN	PRK	KOR	MNG	BRN	KHM	IDN	LAO	MYS	MMR	PHL	SGP	THA	VNM	IND	AUS	NZL
Annexation of Crimea	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Special Military Operation	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓



# FINDINGS (III)

## Indirect Condemnation of Russia (Annexation of Crimea & “Special Military Operation”)

	Greater China		Northeast Asia				ASEAN										Indo-Pacific		
	CHN	TWN	JPN	PRK	KOR	MNG	BRN	KHM	IDN	LAO	MYS	MMR	PHL	SGP	THA	VNM	IND	AUS	NZL
<u>UNGA Vote</u> <u>(Crimea)</u> *	(ABS)	(N/A)	✓	✗	✓	(ABS)	(ABS)	(ABS)	✓	(ABS)	✓	(ABS)	✓	✓	✓	(ABS)	(ABS)	✓	✓
<u>UNGA Vote</u> <u>(Special Military Operation)</u> **	(ABS)	(N/A)	✓	✗	✓	(ABS)	✓	✓	✓	(ABS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(ABS)	(ABS)	✓	✓

\* “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”: Calling upon states not to recognize changes in status of Crimea region (27 Mar 2014)

\*\* “Aggression against Ukraine”: Demanding Russian Federation immediately end illegal use of force in Ukraine, withdraw all troops (2 Mar 2022)

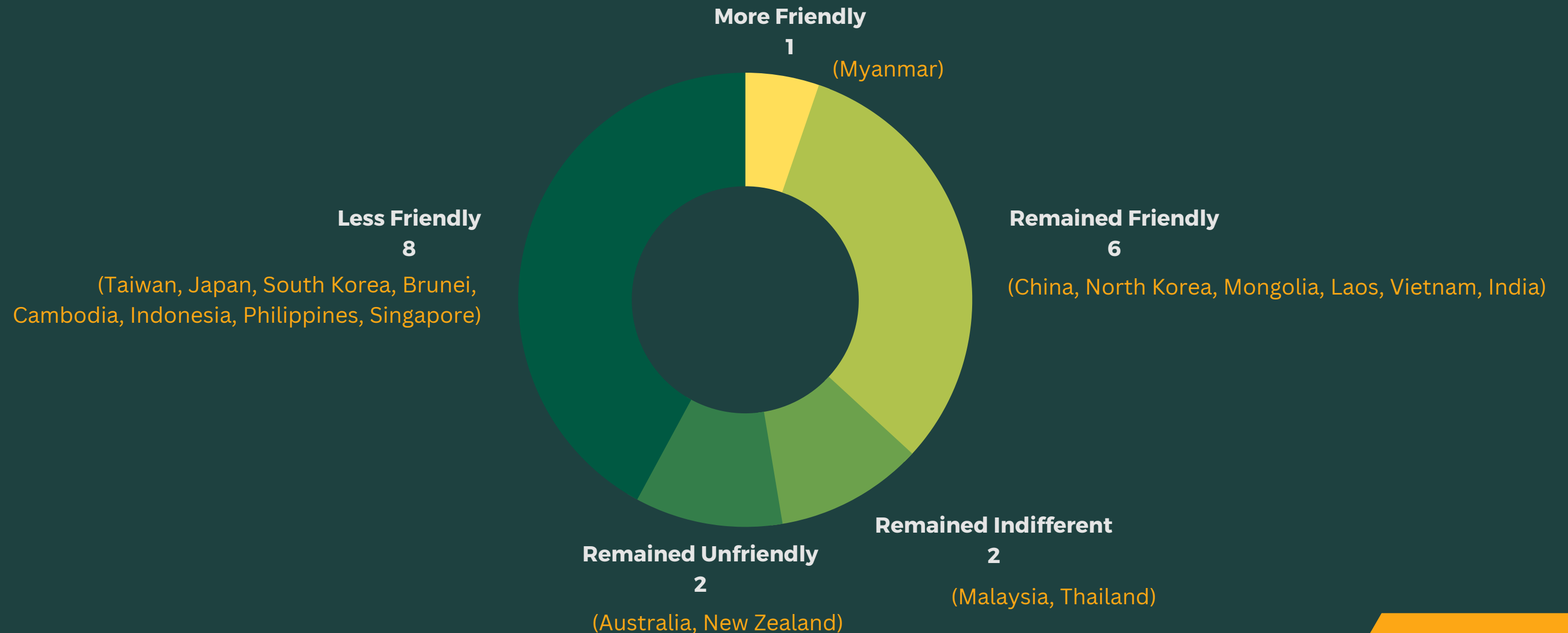
# FINDINGS (IV)

## Imposition of Sanctions against Russia

	Greater China		Northeast Asia				ASEAN										Indo-Pacific		
	CHN	TWN	JPN	PRK	KOR	MNG	BRN	KHM	IDN	LAO	MYS	MMR	PHL	SGP	THA	VNM	IND	AUS	NZL
Annexation of Crimea	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Special Military Operation	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓

# ANALYSIS

Russia's rapprochement with developed Asian economies has suffered a setback, but Moscow consolidated support from traditional strategic partners that have maintained a "pro-Russia neutrality"





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