

Abstract

Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine – which started in 2014 with the invasion of Crimea and then escalated in 2022 with the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine – has had a major impact on European power dynamics and on European energy markets. Following this aggression, European countries began to rethink their energy dependence on Russia. In particular, this war has impacted the CEE (Central Eastern Europe) region, logically, as they are geographically closer to Russia. CEE also has a history that is more connected with Russia, as it was most recently part of the Eastern Bloc. In this paper I will argue and show that the Russian War of Aggression in Ukraine (starting in 2014 with the invasion of Crimea and escalating with the full invasion of the country in 2022) is having a significant impact on the nuclear energy policy of CEE countries, with most of these countries seeking to shift away from Russian nuclear supply chains amid heightened national security concerns over Russia and great power competition in the region.