

## Breakthrough in the Far East: Opportunities and Challenges for Russia

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**Research Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to explore the current status, challenges, and opportunities of the development in the Russian Far East, as well as its impact on Russia and the international community. By thoroughly analyzing the background, significance, achievements, and issues of the Far East development, the study aims to provide references for the Russian government in formulating future development strategies and to offer insights for the international community to understand the development status and challenges faced by the Russian Far East.

**Research Methods:** Literature review and analysis are the main research methods employed in this study. Firstly, comprehensive literature, reports, news, and other materials related to the development history, policy measures, and economic conditions of the Russian Far East are reviewed and analyzed. Secondly, the comparative analysis method is utilized to compare the development of the Russian Far East with that of other countries or regions, exploring the similarities and differences. Finally, combining field research and expert interviews, the study delves into the actual situation and public feedback of the Far East region, providing more accurate and comprehensive data support for the research.

**Research Status at Home and Abroad:** Both domestically and internationally, there has been a substantial amount of research on the development issues of the Russian Far East. Foreign scholars mainly focus on the position and role of the Russian Far East in the global economic landscape and its cooperative relations with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Domestic scholars pay more attention to the economic, political, and social issues of the Russian Far East, exploring its internal driving forces and future trends. Current research mainly centers on resource development, regional economic integration, international cooperation, and geopolitical aspects of the Far East region, conducting in-depth discussions and analysis on development models, policy effects, and development prospects. However, there still exists insufficient understanding of specific problems and challenges in the development of the Far East region, as well as inadequate research on future development paths. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct more systematic and comprehensive research on the development of the Far East region to promote its sustainable development.

**Keywords:** *Russian Far East, development challenges, Asia-Pacific cooperation, Sino-Russian relations.*

### Summary of the paper:

#### *1. The Strategic Importance, Historical Background, and Phase Achievements of Developing the Far East*

Faced with external pressures such as NATO's eastward expansion and Western sanctions, Russia has gradually abandoned the idea of "integration with the West" and begun to "turn to the East," seeking cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries.

Since 2012, the Russian government has initiated a series of development projects in the Far East, including advanced development zones, free port systems, and free land policies, aiming to

promote economic development in the region. President Putin has emphasized that the Russian Far East is the priority area for Russia's development in the 21st century, which is crucial for the country's economic growth, future, and positioning in a multipolar world.

President Putin has outlined a blueprint for the future development of the Far East, including supporting industrial development, mineral resource exploration, and improving the investment environment. Over the past decade, the Far East has achieved certain development outcomes, such as increased employment, business growth, and infrastructure construction.

### *2. Opportunities in Developing the Far East*

For Russia, the Asia-Pacific region offers a relatively friendly environment, providing the much-needed capital, technology, and vast markets. Its strategic value has risen unprecedentedly, holding an important position in the world economic landscape. Particularly in the energy sector, Russia sees the potential for cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries.

Deepening the political consensus on the alignment between the Eurasian Economic Union and the Belt and Road Initiative, regional cooperation is being pursued in areas such as trade, logistics, and transportation infrastructure connectivity. Promoting the resonance between the development of the Far East and the revitalization of Northeast China creates a significant market platform.

The development of Russia's Far East also presents a new market for countries in the South, enhancing South-South cooperation. Southern countries can enter the Far East market through cooperation with Russia, exploring new business opportunities and promoting mutual economic complementarity and development.

### *3. Challenges and Confusions in Developing the Far East*

However, despite the abundant resources in the Far East, the region faces challenges such as harsh climate, socioeconomic underdevelopment, and significant difficulties in development. The exploration ratio is low, and most of the land is permafrost, which is unfavorable for productive activities.

Additionally, the development of the Far East is confronted with challenges such as adverse international environment, geopolitical uncertainties, and security concerns, as well as issues related to domestic consensus-building.

Moreover, Russia encounters problems in policy implementation, including population issues, governance capacity, and the investment environment.

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