

RUSSIA'S ROLE IN EUROPE ACCORDING
TO FRIEDRICH NAUMANN AND
TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK

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In his book "Mitteleuropa" (Central Europe, 1915), Friedrich Naumann sketched a postwar order dominated by Germany. This was confronted by Tomáš G. Masaryk's political treatise "Nová Evropa" (The New Europe), advocating a "Slav standpoint". Both authors declined to accord Russia an active, creative role in the postwar order in central Europe. This essay uses textual analysis to determine to what extent Naumann and Masaryk harboured the notion of a looming "Russian danger" and used common anti-Russian stereotypes. The conclusions, however, which the two of them drew from the all-embracing antagonism between Russia and Europe, as they perceived it, differed: Whereas Naumann demanded that Russia be isolated under all circumstances, Masaryk stressed the necessity of peaceful coexistence and a policy of alliances.