

The fact that Russia, Ukraine and Romania were also going through a process of self-creation meant that, while the Moldovan situation was developing, their administrations were preoccupied with domestic affairs. Romania proceeded with a "Politik der kleinen Schritte", but the Ukraine was, in the event, not really interested. Russia's political reorientation necessitated a brief withdrawal into itself. Only when Russia had actually formulated its policy, balancing its multiplicity of priorities, was it possible to lay to rest the incubi which were haunting the various parties to the dispute.

The resultant equilibrium does not satisfy all: the principle of inviolability of borders has triumphed, at least for now, yet the problem of Moldova had not been solved. It has been put on ice. The maintenance of the present status quo is heavily dependent on a severely compromised army. Moldavia will probably reunify with Romania in the medium term, opening the question of the Northern Bukovina with Ukraine. When that reunification does occur, the dispute over what will happen to the left-bank residents will flare up again: Should it become another surreal, isolated sliver of Russia, like Kaliningrad Province, or revert to Ukraine? Such a transfer would cut right across the principle of inviolability of borders. Europe would never hear the last of it.

Another remarkable essay drawing on a wide range of sources, incorporating a wealth of material, and put together with great care and skill. A little more info on social structure would be interesting, but here I think you are more analytical than in your other essay.
Most impressive.

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