

Why Instability in Belarus, Khabarovsk, and Lebanon Creates Problems Putin Doesn't Want

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Current events in Lebanon may seem remote compared to protests closer to Russia, but the situation in Beirut directly affects Moscow's policy in Syria and its evolving status as a regional player.

Political instability in Belarus, Lebanon and Khabarovsk all present shades of the same challenge for Russian president Vladimir Putin: They disrupt the status quo he prefers in parts of the world that matter to his regime's survival. He's not going to sit back. In Lebanon, French president Emmanuel Macron is unlikely to push beyond cosmetic reforms without American leadership. In fact, he initiated a call with Putin to discuss the matter, while the Russian embassy said that Moscow will not accept efforts to undermine Lebanese sovereignty. Just days ago, Putin named a new ambassador to Lebanon, but he will never admit that it is Hezbollah, the Syrian regime and other Iranian partners who have repeatedly undermined Lebanese sovereignty and fomented regional instability over the years...

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