

DESIGN OF A COMPLEX GEOPOLITICAL SYSTEM: A SYSTEMS APPROACH

Is there a connection between geopolitical ties in the oil and gas domain and corporate ties?



STEP 1
Create a geopolitical narrative

STEP 2
Identify key words and dates

Northern EU - Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Latvia

On September 4, 2015 representatives of Russia's Gazprom, Germany's BASF SE and E.ON SE, France's ENGIE (GDF SUEZ), Austria's OMV, and Netherlands' Royal Dutch Shell signed an agreement initiating the plans to work towards the realization of the Nord Stream 2 project. The company's leaders cited the need for a greater and more reliable gas supply to Europe. Nord Stream 2 was planned to replicate the successful Nord Stream 1 project, doubling the gas flow from Russia to Germany, with Berlin emphasizing the Nord Stream 2 project will mitigate declining European gas production and the possible disruption of supplies piped via conflict-ravaged Ukraine. Gazprom was set to hold the majority shares of the new initiative, controlling 51% of the shares, with Royal Dutch, OMV, BASF SE and E.ON SE would each control 10%, and ENGIE would hold 9% of the stake in the project. However, there

The GDELT Project

suspended in 2014 in light of political tensions and Russia's Ukraine crisis. Gazprom leaders again review the project, though no specific reversal of their decision. The signing of Russia's desire within the European infrastructure can need to rely on a third country (i.e. Ukraine). However, the plan has bitterly divided the European Union since an outline agreement with Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom was signed in September 2015, particularly stoking tensions between Germany and Poland. For Germany, the project is business, whereas for Poland, it is political. Poland fears it is risky to increase reliance on gas from Russia, which provides roughly one third of EU oil and gas. The European Commission stated it would continue efforts to reduce reliance on Russian gas by proposing to increase its oversight of gas deals and improve coordination between states to ensure a diversity of supply and not rely more than a member state on a single project would be EU also deals with the project opposed by Poland, but companies, worried about commercial secrets, Press Release, "Gazprom, E.ON, ENGIE, OMV, and Shell sign Shareholders' Agreement on the Nord Stream 2 Project", September 2015. Foreign Affairs, "Going South: Italy Mounts Opposition to Germany's EU", January 2016. Foreign Affairs, "Germany, Russia, and the Rise of Paradox of Germany 2015. "Europe's Natural Gas Supply: Policy Trends", Brenden 2015.

STEP 4
Visualize and analyze the connections

STEP 3
Query key data sources

Key Research Questions

- How can large amounts of data from disparate data sets be connected and effectively analyzed?
 - How are relevant phenomena identified?
- How can the data be visually represented to create the most insight for the human analyst?
- What is the role of a human analyst in an automated process to balance efficiency and accuracy?

Molly Nadolski and Melissa Rost, GTRI