

# Russia

Now, with the Kremlin once more bleeding men and resources in a foreign war, and again sagging under a torpid economy, western policymakers risk being caught out a second time.

Just as a failure of imagination blinded the west to the Soviet Union's imminent demise, so the same failure — and an inability or reluctance to understand Russia as the colonial empire it remains — is blinding western policymakers to the potential for the Russian Federation's dissolution.

**Casey Michel,**  
**Financial Times, January 10, 2023**