



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2007, 18th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Ancient Bonds, Contemporary Powers: Investigating the Causes of Center/Periphery Conflict in the Russian Federation

Brett Strand
Illinois Wesleyan University

Kathleen Montgomery, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Strand, Brett and Montgomery, Faculty Advisor, Kathleen, "Ancient Bonds, Contemporary Powers: Investigating the Causes of Center/Periphery Conflict in the Russian Federation" (2007). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2007/oralpres3/2>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O3.3

**ANCIENT BONDS, CONTEMPORARY POWERS: INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES OF
CENTER/PERIPHERY CONFLICT IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Brett Strand and Kathleen Montgomery*
Political Science Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

What are the real causes of conflict between the federal regions and central authority in the Russian Federation? Why is it that some regions are compelled to act assertively towards Moscow, while others are not? These questions are relevant for any actor concerned with Russian affairs; moreover, they represent a critical debate for those who hope to bring aid to Russia's struggling regional populations. This research furthers the debate through a test of the two major schools of ethno-federal thought: primordialism and bargaining theory. The study (1) identifies relevant variables, (2) constructs indices to represent each of the theories, and (3) tests those indices for correlation with regional aggression.

This research shows that characteristics suggested by both primordialism and bargaining theory exert influence on regional aggression; however, it also finds that bargaining theory more accurately explains the behavior of Russian regions. In the end, this study concludes that ethnic differences, per se, do not lead to center/periphery conflict in the Russian Federation.