

Winds Out of the East

One of the most chilling bits of news that has crossed my desk in recent weeks is an announcement by the Russian Defense Minister that all military draft deferments will be abandoned. This means that Russia is stepping up its conscription of military personnel. One must question not only the motives behind this move but whether or not it will be used a lever to justify a US military draft as a means of neutralizing the potential build-up of Russian troops along the borders of pro-Western countries in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Are we heading back into the Cold War? It is too early to tell, but given the growing competition for global energy resources against the backdrop of our pre-emptive military strike on Iraq (i.e., in hindsight, to exercise tighter control over the Iraqi oilfields and establish a military foothold within striking distance of other key energy-producing regions), there is ample reason to believe that the world is traveling down a dangerous path. More than ever, the US Government needs to be fast-tracking the commercialization of alternative fuels in order to greatly reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern and Russian oil.

December 31, 2004