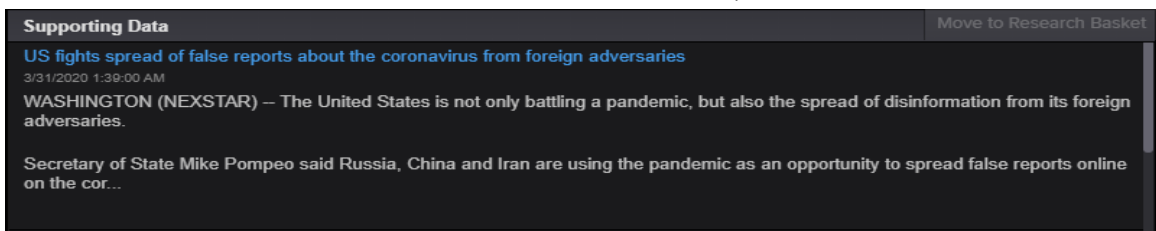


The impact of COVID-19 on US – Russia relations

Overview

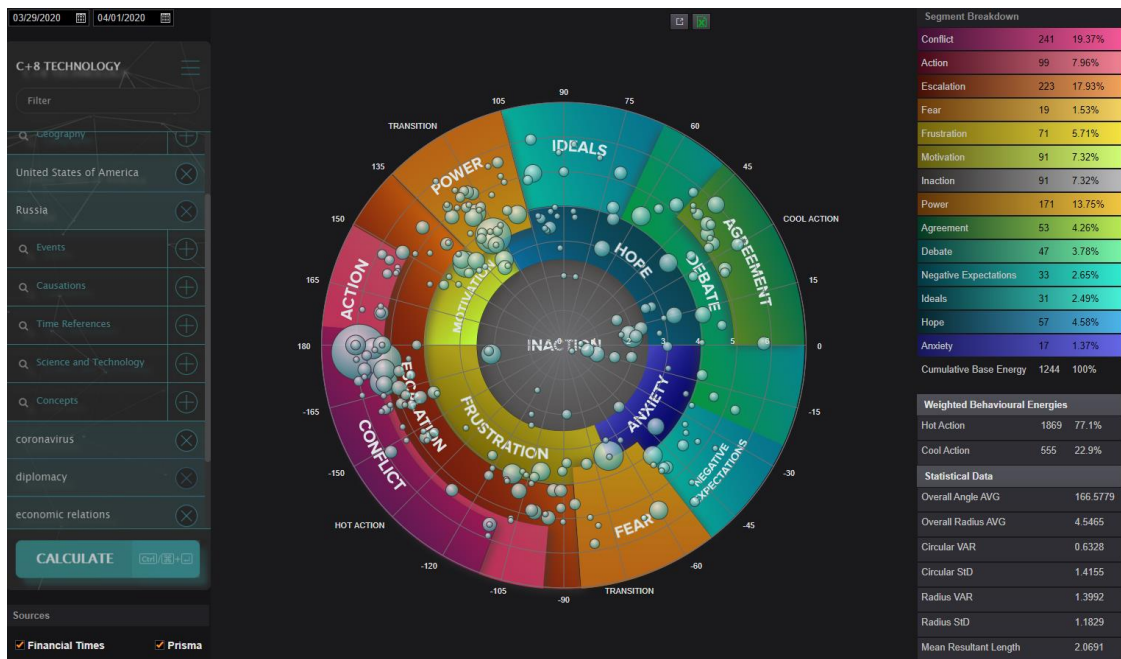
The current global health problem represented by COVID-19, which put much of the world in lockdown, has made many countries suspend the activity of various economic sectors (tourism, industry, etc.), impose travel bans, and start to test citizens who present symptoms in order to prevent the spread of the virus. The negative economic consequences of the lockdown determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbated by the massive influx of fake news, put extended pressure on the already tense diplomatic relations between global powers like the United States, China, the Russian Federation, and the European Union.



Supporting data on the Social Energy Circumplex; query terms: United States of America, Russia, coronavirus, diplomacy, economic relations;
 Time span: March 29 – April 1, 2020

Analysis

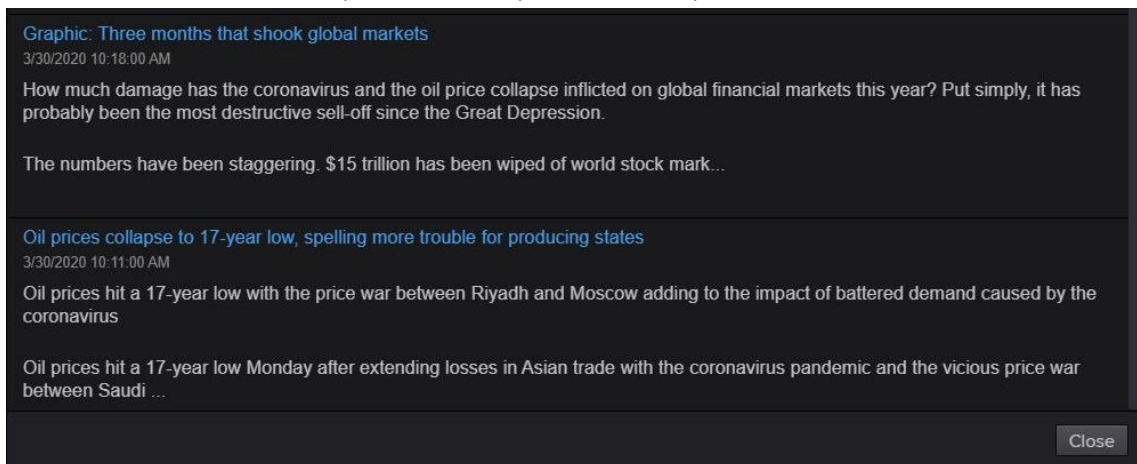
By using the Circumplex of Social Energies, we explore how the impact of the current pandemic on diplomatic and economic relations between the United States and the Russian Federation is reflected in the news media.



Social Energy Circumplex; query terms: United States of America; Russia; coronavirus; diplomacy; economic relations;
 Time span: March 29 – April 1, 2020

The results generated by the Social Energy Circumplex reveal that most of the activity falls on the left side of the diagram, which represents the Active environment (also called Hot Action). The feelings and behaviors regarding the subject are thus mainly in the area of *action*, while visibly fewer are in the one of *discussion*, represented by the Reaction zone (also called Cool Action), on the right side of the diagram.

Conflict (19.37%) and Escalation (17.93%) are the most populated energies. The Conflict layer refers to inter-group conflict and is usually generated by competition for scarce resources or by opposing interests. This is an environment of hostility, where resentments and anger boil over into violence and aggression. To this point, despite the global need for collaboration in order to stop the spread of COVID-19, the United States and Russia are still engaged in an intense competition for global power and influence. The competition was further exacerbated by the 3-week long energy standoff between Saudi Arabia and Russia that resulted in a 45% drop in the price of crude oil, but also by the economic sanctions imposed by the US on Russia, which affect Moscow's ability to effectively combat the pandemic.



Graphic: Three months that shook global markets
3/30/2020 10:18:00 AM

How much damage has the coronavirus and the oil price collapse inflicted on global financial markets this year? Put simply, it has probably been the most destructive sell-off since the Great Depression.

The numbers have been staggering. \$15 trillion has been wiped of world stock mark...

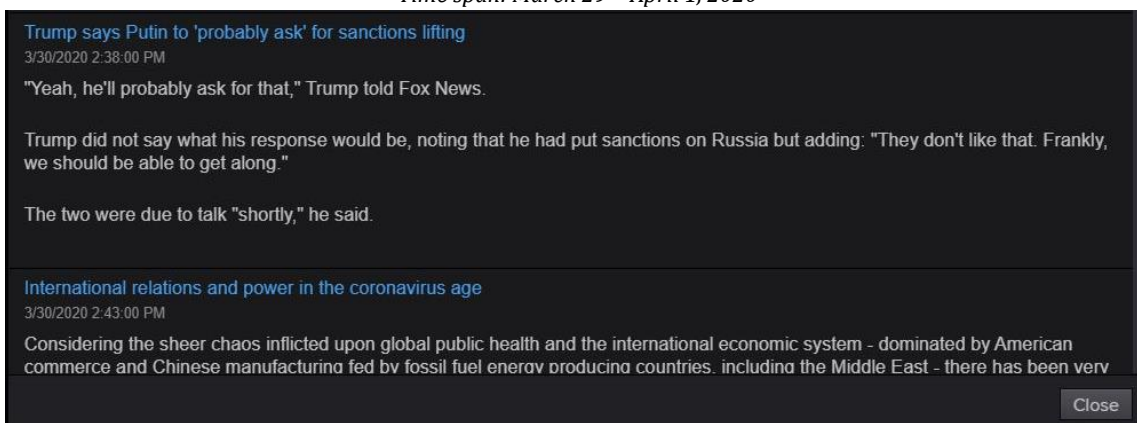
Oil prices collapse to 17-year low, spelling more trouble for producing states
3/30/2020 10:11:00 AM

Oil prices hit a 17-year low with the price war between Riyadh and Moscow adding to the impact of battered demand caused by the coronavirus

Oil prices hit a 17-year low Monday after extending losses in Asian trade with the coronavirus pandemic and the vicious price war between Saudi ...

Close

Above and below: supporting data on the Conflict energy layer of the Social Energy Circumplex; query terms: United States of America; Russia; coronavirus; diplomacy; economic relations; Time span: March 29 – April 1, 2020



Trump says Putin to 'probably ask' for sanctions lifting
3/30/2020 2:38:00 PM

"Yeah, he'll probably ask for that," Trump told Fox News.

Trump did not say what his response would be, noting that he had put sanctions on Russia but adding: "They don't like that. Frankly, we should be able to get along."

The two were due to talk "shortly," he said.

International relations and power in the coronavirus age
3/30/2020 2:43:00 PM

Considering the sheer chaos inflicted upon global public health and the international economic system - dominated by American commerce and Chinese manufacturing fed by fossil fuel energy producing countries, including the Middle East - there has been very

Close

Escalation contains attitudes and emotions that are close to becoming aggressive. The language in this layer is profoundly restless, angst-ridden, and tumultuous. Escalation feeds into Conflict and the balance between the two is already skewed towards the more violent energy.

The next most populated energy is Power (13.75%). Power is in neither the Hot nor Cool Action areas, it is in the transition area between the two. Social change, social action, implementation of ideas and projects all depend, in the end, on political will and power. The play for global power is now stronger than ever in the face of this pandemic as countries race to develop vaccines, stop the virus's spread, and secure necessary goods and products.

Energy layers on the Cool Action side are also populated, albeit more sparsely, with Hope holding the largest number of elements here. Hope is a place where language is compassionate, sharing, future-oriented, and cooperative. These attitudes are of great necessity in times like the present, and even though they are a small proportion of the general mood, the fact that they are present is a positive sign.