



Same Crisis, Different Meanings

How US and EU Audiences Interpret Russia
During the Hormuz Crisis?

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Aspect #1: How Russia Is Discussed in the United States	5
Main Pattern.....	5
Main Political Logic.....	5
Examples of Key Accounts	6
Main Themes in the US Conversation.....	6
Overall US Findings.....	7
Aspect #2: How Russia Is Discussed in the European Union	8
Main Pattern.....	8
Main Political Logic.....	8
Examples of Key Accounts	9
Main Themes in the EU Conversation.....	9
Overall EU Findings	10
Final conclusion	11

Executive Summary

This analysis examines how Russia is discussed in US- and EU-based X conversations during the 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis linked to the Iran war.

The main finding is that the same crisis produces two very different transatlantic narrative logics.

In both the US and the EU, Russia becomes part of the Hormuz conversation even though it is not the main operational actor in the Strait itself. Russia appears in the discussion because many users see the crisis through a broader geopolitical lens: who benefits from instability, rising energy prices, Western distraction, and pressure on global supply chains.

However, the meaning of Russia differs sharply between the two conversation spaces.

In the US-based conversations, Russia is quickly absorbed into domestic political conflict. The discussion becomes heavily focused on:

- fuel prices;
- presidential leadership;
- foreign-policy competence;
- inflation.

Russia becomes a political talking point used to attack or defend US leadership.

In the EU-based conversations, Russia is discussed mainly as a strategic exposure problem. The focus shifts toward:

- European dependence on external energy;
- NATO burden-sharing;
- sanctions credibility;
- military restraint;
- strategic autonomy;
- and fears of European weakness or fragmentation.

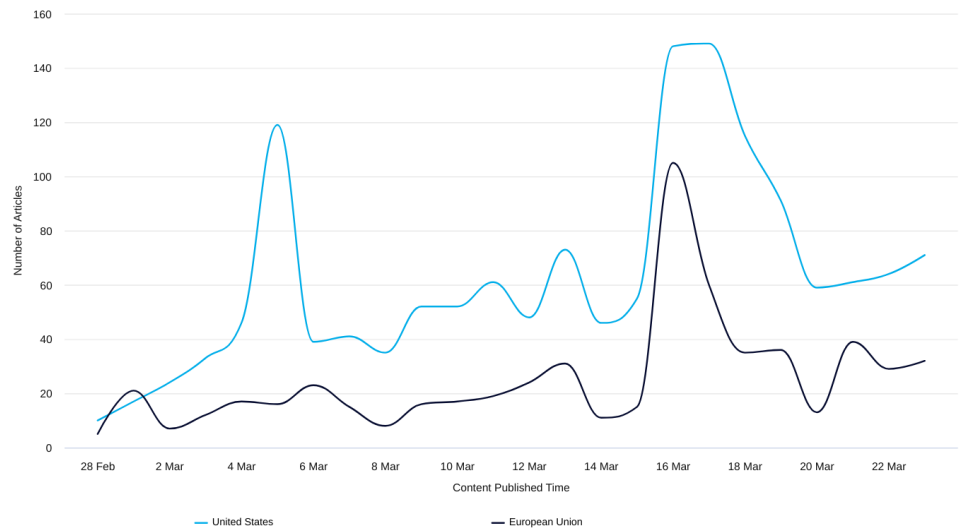
Russia becomes a stress test for European unity and long-term strategic resilience.

The same Hormuz crisis therefore generates two different political conversations across the Atlantic:

- In the US, the crisis becomes domestic and electoral.
- In the EU, the crisis becomes structural and strategic.

This difference matters because transatlantic audiences are increasingly interpreting the same geopolitical crisis through different political priorities, fears, and pressures.

Total Volume of US- vs EU-Based X Conversations Mentioning Russia Over Time



This chart illustrates the overall volume of Russia mentions in X conversations concerning the Hormuz Strait, specifically comparing the US- and EU-based discussions from late February to March 23, 2026. Notable trends include a sharp spike in the United States conversations around March 5 (in light of the then intensifying US-Israel strikes on Iran), while the European Union conversations experienced a more gradual rise. Both conversation spaces saw a rise in the mentions of Russia on March 16, around the time when Trump urged a number of nations to send warships to the Strait to help secure it. Throughout the period, the number of US-based posts was consistently higher than that of the EU-based ones.

Aspect #1: How Russia Is Discussed in the United States

Main Pattern

In the US conversation space, Russia is mainly used as a domestic political reference point.

The discussion quickly moves away from Russia's actual role in the Strait of Hormuz and becomes centered on:

- US leadership;
- fuel prices;
- inflation;
- presidential competence;
- and partisan political conflict.

The crisis becomes a way to judge whether the administration appears strong, weak, competent, or responsible for rising economic pressure.

Main Political Logic

The dominant political logic is:

Hormuz crisis → higher oil prices → domestic economic pressure → political blame.

Russia is often mentioned as:





















- a beneficiary of higher oil prices;
- a winner from global instability;
- or proof that US leadership failed strategically.

Different political camps use Russia to support competing narratives about:

- Trump;
- Biden;
- energy policy;
- foreign policy;
- and national strength.

Examples of Key Accounts

Top Ten US-Based Influencers per Total Number of Interactions

Source	Influencer	Posts	Potential Reach	Interactions
	 Adam Mockler @adammocklerr	1	154,391	28,876
	 Brian Allen @allenanalysis	6	1,684,119	28,351
	 The Kobeissi Letter @KobeissiLetter	3	4,456,864	24,357
	 Paul White Gold Eagle @PaulGoldEagle	7	988,127	17,194
	 John A Konrad V @johnkonrad	6	714,604	10,096
	 Clandestine @WarClandestine	1	738,857	7,844
	 Anders Åslund @anders_aslund	4	1,324,107	7,766
	 Ilan Goldenberg @ilangoldenberg	3	105,217	7,394
	 Liam Nissan™ @theliamnissan	1	453,356	6,997
	 James Tate @JamesTate121	2	246,595	6,462

This table highlights the top ten US-based influencers ranked by total interactions across their posts. Adam Mockler leads with 28,876 interactions from a single post, followed by Brian Allen with 28,351 interactions from six posts. The influencers on this list demonstrate a significant range in their potential reach, with figures spanning from around 100,000 to over 4 million.

Main Themes in the US Conversation

Russia as a domestic political weapon

Russia is repeatedly used inside partisan political arguments.

Examples in the analysis show:

- anti-Trump users arguing that Russia benefits from Trump's decisions;
- pro-Trump users arguing that Trump is strategically outmaneuvering Russia and China;
- and broader political fights around inflation, sanctions, and fuel prices.

The focus is less about Russia itself and more about judging American leadership.

Fuel prices become politically central

The Hormuz crisis rapidly becomes connected to:

- gas prices;
- inflation;
- household costs;
- and economic management.

This turns the foreign-policy crisis into a domestic political issue.

Audiences begin evaluating the crisis through everyday economic impact rather than geopolitical complexity.

Audience reactions become highly partisan

Comment sections and replies are strongly polarized.

The conversation is dominated by:

- emotional reactions;
- mockery;
- blame;
- and administration-versus-administration comparisons.

The discussion often shifts from “What is happening in Hormuz?” to “Who failed America?”

High engagement does not always mean support

Many viral posts gain visibility because users attack, reject, or contest them.

Visibility does not automatically mean persuasion.

Some narratives spread because they provoke outrage and political conflict.

Overall US Findings

In the United States:

- the Iran/Hormuz crisis becomes absorbed into domestic political warfare;
- Russia becomes a symbol inside leadership debates;
- and foreign policy is translated into a political competence test ahead of elections.

The dominant emotional drivers are:

- economic anxiety,
- political blame,
- and partisan competition.

Aspect #2: How Russia Is Discussed in the European Union

Main Pattern

In the EU conversation space, Russia is mainly discussed as a strategic vulnerability and dependence problem.

The conversation focuses less on elections or party politics and more on:

- European energy security;
- sanctions credibility;
- NATO coordination;
- military restraint;
- and fears of fragmentation inside Europe.

Russia becomes a measure of Europe's strategic exposure during crisis.

Main Political Logic

The dominant political logic is:





















Hormuz crisis → energy disruption → European vulnerability → pressure on EU unity and strategic autonomy.

Russia is repeatedly discussed as:

- a geopolitical beneficiary;
- an energy leverage actor;
- and a long-term structural challenge for Europe.

Examples of Key Accounts

Top Ten EU-Based Influencers per Total Number of Interactions

Source	Influencer	Posts	Potential Reach	Interactions
	 József Krieger @JosefKrieg99804	1	2,085	63,883
	 Hossein Sheykhan @sheykhan_h	1	4,998	15,043
	 Hamidreza Azizi @HamidRezaAz	7	387,573	10,037
	 Anna Neumann @anna_p_neumann	2	20,973	8,013
	 Velina Tchakarova @vtchakarova	8	1,659,144	3,150
	 NEXTA @nexta_tv	11	14,374,953	1,854
	 Money Ape @TheMoneyApe	5	2,360,959	1,803
	 Lars Christensen @MaMoMVPY	2	66,802	1,705
	 Mr Sharma @sharma_views	1	9,647	1,649
	 Ahmed Hassan أحمد حسن زيد @Ahmed_hassan_za	1	100,737	1,468

This table presents the top ten EU-based influencers ranked by total interactions across their posts. József Krieger leads with 63,883 interactions from a single post, followed by Hossein Sheykhan with 15,043 interactions, also from one post. The influencers on this list demonstrate a wide range in their potential reach, spanning from just a few thousand to over 14 million. Another notable figure is Velina Tchakarova, who achieved significant engagement with multiple posts.

Main Themes in the EU Conversation

Russia as a strategic stress marker

Many EU discussions frame the Hormuz crisis as exposing Europe's dependence and vulnerability. The conversation repeatedly centers on fears around:

- energy insecurity;
- commodities;
- fertilizer supply;
- sanctions pressure;
- and dependence on external actors.

Russia is discussed less as a military actor and more as a geopolitical pressure point.

Strategic autonomy versus weakness

A major divide appears around Europe's military restraint.

Some users argue that refusing deeper involvement in Hormuz shows:

- strategic independence;

- prudent restraint;
- and refusal to follow US escalation automatically.

Others argue the same behavior shows:

- weakness;
- lack of military capability;
- and dependence on the US security umbrella.

The same EU decision is interpreted in opposite ways.

Energy pragmatism becomes politically dangerous

Calls for:

- Russian energy access;
- normalization;
- or crisis pragmatism

quickly become politically controversial.

Some users frame these ideas as:

- practical crisis management.

Others frame them as:

- appeasement;
- fragmentation;
- or betrayal of European solidarity.

European unity appears fragile

The conversation repeatedly points to pressure on:

- sanctions coherence;
- NATO coordination;
- energy diversification;
- and EU solidarity.

Unlike the US conversation, which centers on leadership blame, the EU discussion centers on whether Europe can remain strategically coherent under pressure.

Overall EU Findings

In the European Union:

- Russia's gains from the Iran/Hormuz crisis become a stress test for Europe's strategic resilience;
- Russia becomes a symbol of dependence and geopolitical exposure;
- and the main debate focuses on autonomy, unity, and long-term vulnerability.

The dominant emotional drivers are:

- uncertainty;
- strategic anxiety;
- and fear of fragmentation.

Final conclusion

The central conclusion is that the same geopolitical crisis is increasingly interpreted differently on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the US:

- the crisis becomes domestic;
- partisan;
- and leadership-oriented.

In the EU:

- the crisis becomes structural;
- strategic;
- and centered on resilience and dependence.

Transatlantic audiences are no longer processing crises through one common political lens, even when governments remain formally aligned.

SENSIKA.COM