

The Putin Paradox: Investigating Political Personality and its Ripple Effects on Russian Foreign Policy



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Abstract: *This article examines the strategic development of Vladimir Putin's leadership, specifically focusing on his skilful management of intricate global dynamics. The study sheds light on Putin's nuanced strategy in dealing with geopolitical difficulties by thoroughly examining significant choices. At the core of Putin's leadership approach is his adeptness at handling crises, characterised by a rational and analytical viewpoint. His wide-ranging experiences, encompassing intelligence and security services, facilitated the creation of a systematic decision-making framework. This approach, characterised by audacity and flexibility, emphasises his dispute-resolution strategies. Putin consistently prioritises and is dedicated to advancing Russia's national interests, a prominent and recurring aspect of his leadership. His endeavour to establish favourable relations with the United States demonstrates his commitment, effectively managing collaboration while prioritizing Russia's sovereignty. This strategy highlights his active involvement on the international platform. This dissertation utilises personality profile as a research methodology to provide light on Putin's strategic trajectory, emphasising his skill in maneuvering complex global dynamics while pushing for a multipolar global order. The study offers insights into Putin's intricate leadership style and diplomatic efforts in a dynamic world by analysing his crisis management, commitment to national interests, and influence on global power dynamics via the perspective of personality traits.*

Keywords: Vladimir Putin, Personality traits, Leadership style, Assertiveness, Pragmatism, Russian Foreign Policy, Political decision-making, Crisis response

Introduction

Analysing political leaders' personalities has been a long-standing fascination in political science and International Relations (IR). When analysing the psychological profiles of Russian leaders, it becomes apparent that they exhibit distinctive qualities and characteristics that influence their political behaviour and decision-making processes. For example, individuals like Joseph Stalin, renowned for his autocratic and merciless leadership approach, exerted a significant influence on both the internal and

external policies of the Soviet Union.¹ His personality attributes, such as a strong inclination for control and strategic thinking, shaped his strategy for consolidating power and extending Soviet influence. Mikhail Gorbachev is another prominent example. He is known for his leadership style, which is marked by transparency and readiness to interact with the global community. Gorbachev's pragmatic and reform-minded personality attributes were crucial in establishing the policies of glasnost and perestroika, resulting in substantial

¹Schultz, William Todd. 2005. Handbook of Psychobiography. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.

transformations in Soviet foreign policy and the global geopolitical scene.² Upon analysing the psychological profile of Vladimir Putin, the incumbent President of Russia, it becomes evident that he exhibits discernible characteristics that have influenced his political trajectory.³ Putin's assertive and pragmatic leadership style and his profound sense of national pride have shaped his approach to foreign policy and Russia's assertiveness in international affairs. His previous experience as an intelligence officer and his well-known ability to think strategically has dramatically influenced his decision-making and how he handles international difficulties.

Vladimir Putin, the incumbent President of Russia, has become a prominent global figure, exerting considerable sway over Russian politics and foreign affairs. Throughout his time in office, Putin's mysterious character has fascinated and intrigued people from around the globe. His distinct combination of charm, practicality, and confidence has influenced his approach to leadership and how he makes decisions, underscoring the importance of analysing the complexities of his character to comprehend his political conduct. This study paper aims to analyse the many aspects of Putin's personality to reveal the underlying psychological factors that influence his political actions and examine the consequences of these actions in both local and foreign contexts.⁴

Problem Statement:

By thoroughly examining Putin's personality traits, cognitive processes, and emotional composition, we can understand his motivations, strategic reasoning, and decision-making patterns. Furthermore, analysing the interaction between his personality and Russian foreign policy will provide insight into how his leadership approach impacts the nation's involvement with the global community. This research seeks to enhance our understanding of

Putin's influence on Russian politics and global dynamics by thoroughly analyzing his psychological profile. Acquiring a deep understanding of Vladimir Putin's personality traits is highly important for politicians, scholars, and professionals in international relations. By analysing the psychological factors that influence Putin's behaviour, this study can enhance our comprehension of his policy decisions, strategic goals, and possible reactions to home and foreign issues.

Moreover, the results of this study relate to broader debates regarding the influence of personality traits on political leadership and their effects on global politics. The primary goal of this research is to accomplish three basic objectives. The primary objectives of this study are to analyse Vladimir Putin's personality by examining his biographical information, public speeches, and media portrayals. We also aim to evaluate how his personality traits may impact his political decision-making, leadership style, and interactions with domestic and international actors. Lastly, we seek to understand the implications of Putin's personality for Russian politics and global affairs.

This research paper focuses on analyzing Putin's leadership and his tenure as both Prime Minister and President, emphasizing the importance of political personality profiling in understanding shifts in Russian leadership. It explores the relationship between personality profiling and international relations, emphasizing its significance and how it aids researchers in comprehending political leaders and their actions. The book "Qualitative Methods in International Relations" provides a detailed examination of leader evaluation, including personality traits, background, habits, behavior, and interpersonal relations. It mainly focuses on the psychobiography of Vladimir Putin and extensively discusses his personality study. Early successes and failures, along with

²Zwick, Peter. "New Thinking and New Foreign Policy under Gorbachev." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 22, no. 2 (1989): 215–24.

³Rutland, Peter. "Putin's Path to Power." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 16, no. 4 (2000): 313–54.

⁴Alhassan, Mohammed Kamal. "Russia's Foreign Policies Under Vladimir Putin Between 2000–2008." Title of the Journal or Source, n.d.

identifying key sources of political identity, shape the behavior and decision-making of leaders, highlighting the role of mentors in influencing and inspiring them. Overall, the paper unveils a nuanced portrait of Putin's strategic evolution as a leader, showcasing his adeptness in navigating complex global dynamics while championing the vision of a multipolar world order. This investigation sheds light on Putin's multifaceted leadership and the intricacies of his diplomatic endeavors in a rapidly changing world.

Literature Review:

Masha Gessen presents a thesis regarding the increase in authority in their book "The Man without a Face: The unlikely rise of Vladimir Putin." His work was published in 2012. The author is a journalist and translator who resided in Moscow from 1991 until 2000. The book contends that Putin's ascent to power in Russia was primarily fortuitous, tracing back to his involvement in the Russian secret police. The author asserts that Putin, the leader of Russia, possesses a very vengeful disposition and an insatiable desire for wealth while displaying a contemptuous attitude toward democratic principles. According to the author, Putin possessed a combative nature and a strong desire to become a spy. The author also noted that Vladimir Putin grew weary of his position in the KGB and personally watched the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Catherine Belton, another author, presents a pessimistic portrayal of Putin's ascent in Russia following his departure from the KGB. The author is a professional who works in journalism and reporting. She serves as the Washington Post's correspondent for Russia and has previously held the position of Moscow correspondent for the Financial Times. She has formerly covered Russia for The Moscow Times and Business Week. The book "Putin's People: How the KGB Regained Control of Russia and Confronted the West" was published in 2020. Her book chronicles a detailed portrayal of corruption and political machinations involving the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin. The book essentially presents ten fundamental arguments. In her opinion, given his previous

work in the KGB, Vladimir Putin's transition into Russian politics as president was not justifiable. She asserted that the KGB played a significant role in the economy of St. Petersburg. The second argument focused on Putin's rapid ascent in Moscow's political hierarchy. Furthermore, she contends that Putin strategically utilised terrorism in Moscow to enhance and elevate his public perception.

Another argument is from Richard Sawka's book "Putin: Russia's Choice." Routledge published this book in 2007. The author is a British political scientist currently a political science professor at Moscow State University. They had previously served as a professor at the University of Kent. He has held the position of a research fellow at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow. In the book, the author juxtaposes Putin with an inadvertent leader and explores his ascent to power in the first chapter. According to his perspective, Putin's ascent as a leader was not intentional nor predicted but instead characterised as accidental.

Dina Rome Spechler's research article, "Russian Foreign Policy during the Putin presidency: The Impact of Competing Approaches," presents her analysis of Russia's trajectory during Putin's leadership. This work was published in 2010 in the Problems of Post Communism Research Journal. The author is a PhD scholar who started her teaching career at Harvard University, where she primarily focused on the subjects of USSR and International Relations. She categorises Putin's foreign policy into four parts, each analysed using a unique methodology. This article examines explicitly Russian policies towards the West, particularly emphasizing the United States and NATO. In her explanation, the author refers to these portions as phases of foreign policy. The author argues that the international relations lenses are insufficient for understanding any of these periods of changing foreign policy. The initial phase can be referred to as nationalist, followed by the realism phase, the excellent power activist phase, and finally, the assertive phase. She asserted that these stages were motivated by distinct purposes at the time rather than the requirements of the

structure.

Research methodology: Political Personality Profiling

Political personality profiling is a qualitative method of studying foreign policy and international relations. It focuses on comprehending a leader's personality's fundamental significance and enduring behavioural patterns. Understanding deeply ingrained personality traits and past experiences is essential for recognising and understanding these behavioural patterns. The book "Political Personality Profiling" by Qualitative Methods in International Relations thoroughly explores leader evaluation and a meticulous and in-depth analysis of leader assessment in international relations. The paper extensively analyses the psychobiography of Vladimir Putin, with a particular emphasis on his personality features, background, habits, behaviour, and interpersonal relations. This study provides vital insights into the understanding and evaluation of leaders in international politics through a thorough examination of qualitative approaches. To comprehend a political personality, one must establish connections between life experiences that influence a leader's conduct and examine the psychological factors that motivate their political behaviour. Psychobiography and psychodynamics analyse both external and internal influences, while Levinson's life transitions emphasise significant stages of an individual's adult development to enhance the precision of personality profiling.⁵

Main Concepts:

Psychobiography employs psychological theories to comprehend the actions of historically notable leaders, offering a thorough approach to examining persons. Regarding Putin, this technique provides valuable insights into his personality as a current Russian President, necessitating perceptive data on multiple facets.⁶ Vladimir Putin was born in

1952 in Leningrad into a family with a modest income. He had a challenging upbringing, living in communal flats. He was the sole remaining offspring, as his two older siblings perished at a young age, and his parents held humble employment.

Putin commenced his education in 1960, displaying a keenness for acquiring knowledge and proficiency in other languages. He had exceptional sports skills and cultivated a keen fascination for history and literature. Although characterised as quiet, he exhibited leadership attributes and maintained a tight-knit circle of friends with whom he would engage in guitar-playing sessions at his residence. Putin commenced boxing, Sambo, and Judo training during his sixth-grade year. However, following a nasal fracture, he shifted his emphasis towards Judo and Sambo. While training at Trud sports club, he showed exceptional skills in Judo and Sambo, achieving victory in municipal competitions. He regarded these sports not only as physical activities but also as philosophical pursuits.⁷

Putin embarked on many professional paths, first as a KGB officer, subsequently shifting to a city functionary and state official, ultimately ascending to the presidency of Russia. The factors contributing to his ascent to power can be ascribed to his instincts, flexibility, and possibly a fortuitous event. His initial captivation with espionage novels affected his choice to enlist in the KGB. Putin initially aspired to join the KGB but ultimately obtained a position at the Law School in Leningrad through fortuitous circumstances and unwavering will. He became the fourth Russian leader to possess a legal degree, having pursued full-time studies at LSU and setting himself apart from his predecessors. Putin's outstanding performance resulted in his recommendation and subsequent entrance into the esteemed Foreign Intelligence Academy, where his language abilities were further

⁵ Post, Jerrold M. "Personality Profiling Analysis." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Leadership*, 328–46. Oxford University Press London, 2014.

⁶ Schultz, William Todd. "Introducing Psychobiography." 2005.

⁷ Putin, Vladimir, et al. *First Person: An Astonishingly Frank Self-Portrait by Russia's President Vladimir Putin*. Public Affairs, 2000.

enhanced. After completing his studies in 1985, he was appointed as a KGB agent and stationed in Dresden, East Germany. His assignment involved being positioned across from the Stasi Headquarters.⁸

During his five-year tenure in Dresden, Putin's primary mission was to collect technical and economic intelligence. Additionally, he may have aimed to establish a network to gain insights into the downfall of East Germany.⁹ Feeling let down by the Berlin Wall's collapse, he returned to Leningrad in the 1990s. He quit his job at the KGB and turned down an opportunity to join the Foreign Intelligence organisation in Moscow. Instead, he chose to pursue a PhD in International Law. LSU extended an offer to Putin to assume the head of international relations position in the foreign section, with Sobchak serving as his mentor. Subsequently, Sobchak assumed the position of mayor and designated Putin as his advisor, giving Putin the chance to engage in municipal governance. Following a series of fruitless campaigns and facing charges, Putin resigned from the city government. He then shifted his attention towards completing his academic study. Subsequently, he was presented with employment opportunities in several roles within the Kremlin. Eventually, he accepted the position as the chief of the General Affairs Department in June 1991, under the leadership of Pavel Borodin.¹⁰

Following his experience in several roles and accumulated significant knowledge, Putin's diligent efforts and fortunate circumstances led to his appointment as the director of the FSB (previously known as the KGB) in 1998. He stressed that he came back in a non-military position to command the security services, indicating a change in his profession and the extent of his authority. As the leader of the FSB,

Putin enacted changes by replacing staff and using forceful steps to address corruption, cyber security, and other societal problems. Additionally, he appointed individuals he trusted to essential roles.¹¹

Leadership style of Vladimir Putin:

Although Yeltsin appointed Putin, he demonstrated autonomous leadership qualities. Yeltsin highly regarded Putin's professionalism, efficient approach, and remarkable ability to handle important issues. This ultimately resulted in his choice as a reliable leader. There is no text provided. Putin's ascent to power was unforeseen, given his antagonism to powerful oligarchs and his competitor Boris Berezovsky, his management of the Chechnya conflict¹², and His straightforward and accessible communication style that connected with the people. Under Putin, the beginning of the new period witnessed a discernible change in his demeanour. He had more confidence in his intentions and showed enhanced decisiveness as the leader of the Kremlin. His resilience appeared to originate from the obstacles and resistance he faced, which offered significant insights into maneuvering intricate surroundings. Obstacles have been a fundamental aspect of his existence since a young age.

Sergei Kovalev, a critic, emphasised that Putin's appointment lacked transparency, as it was made through closed-door deliberations and a process that he considered merely symbolic. Kovalev believed that the elections served a superficial function of pacifying the population. Putin astutely leveraged the Chechnya war to his benefit. He took advantage of the circumstances to strengthen his political position and increase his popularity among the Russian population. This strategic decision significantly influenced his rise as a prominent leader. Throughout the

⁸ Knight, Amy. "The Enduring Legacy of the KGB in Russian Politics." *Problems of Post-Communism* 47, no. 4 (2000): 3–15.

⁹ Vickers, Marques. *Vladimir Putin and Dresden Germany: The Genesis of Myth Making*. Marquis Publishing, 2016.

¹⁰ Charap, Samuel. "The Petersburg Experience:

Putin's Political Career and Russian Foreign Policy." *Problems of Post-Communism* 51, no. 1 (2004): 55–62.

¹¹ Rutland, Peter. "Putin's Path to Power."

¹² Eltchaninoff, Michel. *Inside the Mind of Vladimir Putin*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

election campaign, Putin adeptly introduced his “millennium manifesto,” officially known as “Russia at the Turn of the Millennium.”¹³ This document, jointly written by Nataliya and initially published in 1999, presented his perspective. 2000, the manifesto was transformed into a book highlighting Putin’s strategic communication and campaigning skills. The book demonstrated how Putin effectively connected with the people and addressed their concerns.

Despite taking the influential role of Russia’s leader, Putin successfully preserved an aura of enigma surrounding his persona. Although several interviews and conferences offered incomplete insights, the overall understanding of Putin’s leadership objectives and personality remained mysterious.¹⁴ Putin’s writings eventually provided insight into specific elements. He wrote his autobiography in Russian, titled “Ot Pervogo Litsa” (From the First Person), and later it was translated by authors from Western countries. This phase represented substantial progress in addressing specific inquiries regarding him.¹⁵

Vladimir Putin’s tenure as a Russian agent honed his strategic insight, elevating him to a proficient strategist. This journey enhanced his skills and expedited his rise to the president, a noteworthy achievement. Since the beginning of his leadership, Putin demonstrated exceptional clarity and ambition. His main goals were to protect and enhance Russia’s international position, aiming to restore its previous prominence. This emphasised his dedication to restructuring the worldwide arrangement with Russia leading the way.¹⁶

What distinguishes Putin is his deliberate and

calculated refusal to conform to established conventions, bravely resisting activities that hindered Moscow’s interests. One notable example was his intentional effort to establish diplomatic relationships with countries considered hostile by the United States when U.S.-Russia relations were tense in 2001.¹⁷ This astute manoeuvre demonstrated Putin’s purposeful approach, carefully putting Moscow in the global arena. Putin’s regime did not fully embrace democratic policies despite the inherent contradiction between his regime and democracy. The system he attempted to construct was a neo-authoritarian one that incorporated democratic elements in order to uphold a constitutional order. He refrained from expelling, but instead supported the concept of pluralism within society.¹⁸

Putin’s leadership trajectory has demonstrated his inclination toward a fair and just capitalist system. Gradually, he realised that a combination of neo-authoritarianism and the pluralistic principles of democracy were the fundamental components Russia needed to regain its former status. Putin’s perceptive leadership enabled him to recognise that this combination was crucial for Russia’s revival.¹⁹ Putin simultaneously addressed important oligarchs and prioritised the improvement of living standards. His commitment to the public’s well-being was evident via his determination to provide fair pay for hard labour, timely distribution of wages, and a robust welfare system. Significantly, this strategic welfare strategy aimed to achieve long-term societal progress.

Putin’s strategy reflects conventional methods of establishing a nation-state, as evidenced by the idea of “managed democracy.” This concept

¹³ Frampton, Kenneth. “Seven Points for the Millennium: An Untimely Manifesto.” *The Journal of Architecture* 5, no. 1 (2000): 21–33.

¹⁴ Sakwa, Richard. “Putin’s Leadership: Character and Consequences.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 60, no. 6 (2008): 879–97.

¹⁵ Putin, Vladimir, et al. *First Person: An Astonishingly Frank Self-Portrait by Russia’s President Vladimir Putin*.

¹⁶ Charap, Samuel. “Inside Out: Domestic Political Change and Foreign Policy in Vladimir Putin’s First Term.” *Demokratizatsiya* 15, no. 3 (2007).

¹⁷ Blank, Stephen. “Partners in Discord Only.” *Orbis* 44, no. 4 (2000): 557–557.

¹⁸ Weigle, Marcia A. *Russia’s Liberal Project: State-Society Relations in the Transition from Communism*. Penn State Press, 2010.

¹⁹ Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Beacon Press, 2001.

represents the current government's efforts to strengthen and energise the middle class, accelerating transformation and modernisation. This strategic perspective seeks to ensure the regime's continued development, drawing on the trajectory of Soviet history. Curiously, this endeavour exhibited aspects of a middle-class uprising, like the beliefs of Karl Marx. In an intelligent move, Putin coordinated a complex shift that encompassed both socioeconomic well-being and political development.²⁰

After taking power, Putin promptly implemented a crucial policy move. He began by swiftly implementing a policy action that strongly opposes the American narrative and the widespread trend of globalisation. Throughout his leadership, Putin quickly identified both his supporters and opponents, a viewpoint also expressed by the writer Alexander Zinoviev. Zinoviev claimed that Putin became Russia's symbol of optimism after the Yeltsin era, emphasising his importance in the country's path. Putin's character has a mysterious and captivating charm. The person who selected him for the position may not have fully understood his capabilities, but over time, his unpredictability proved advantageous for Russia's advancement.²¹

Putin was confronted with two conflicting options when dealing with the Yeltsin legacy. He decided to join the Yeltsin-affiliated group to continue their legacy or oppose the faction that had helped him attain power. Surprisingly, Putin chose a different and sophisticated strategy to handle this complicated circumstance instead of one of the usual solutions. Instead of quick confrontation or total obedience, Putin pursued a methodical and deliberate approach. He skilfully developed his influence within the system while simultaneously keeping an outsider's viewpoint. By employing this dual method, he could systematically mold ideas and

solidify his power. Putin adopted a systematic strategy in his interactions with powerful billionaires. He instigated thorough inquiries into allegations of corruption, resulting in the removal of influential individuals. Putin's adeptness in confronting tough challenges was demonstrated through this resolute move. His leadership style, marked by a distinctive combination of two perspectives, was crucial in leading him to this wise decision and successfully carrying it out.²²

During periods of crisis, Putin exhibited a methodical approach to making decisions. This experience allowed to develop a wide range of skills and a deep understanding of complex situations. His job path allowed him to gain a wide range of experiences, which helped him develop a very flexible and dynamic personality. Putin's diverse career experiences have shaped him into a figure known for his adaptability and ability to bounce back from challenges.²³

Putin demonstrated exceptional dispute-resolution abilities, characterised by his proficient bargaining skills. His skill in managing disagreements and finding solutions highlighted his calculated and strategic approach. This individual's ability to effectively handle crises is evidence of their extensive and diverse work experience. According to Mukhin, Putin regularly uses a systematic strategy when facing problems. His approach to handling such circumstances is characterised by his rational, analytical, and unemotional nature. This intentional position guarantees that his choices stay rooted in rationality, unaffected by transient emotions. Putin's crisis management strategy is characterised by a deliberate and well-thought-out framework, which emphasises rationality and strategic thinking.²⁴

Putin's demeanour exuded an artistic quality reminiscent of a masterful narrator. He skilfully used 'emotions' as a storytelling tool, carefully

²⁰ Brewer, Anthony, and Karl Marx. A Guide to Marx's 'Capital'. CUP Archive, 1984.

²¹ Rutland, Peter. "Putin's Path to Power."

²² Desai, Padma. Conversations on Russia: Reform from Yeltsin to Putin.

²³ Hutchins, Chris. Putin. Troubador Publishing Ltd,

2012.

²⁴ Mukhin, Aleksey Alekseyevich. "Kto Est Mister Putin I Kto s Nim Prishel." *Dos'e Na Prezidenta Rossii i Ego Spetssluzhby*. Moscow, Centre for Political Information, 2002.

incorporating intense times into his speech. Simultaneously, being a logical thinker, he systematically examined aspects that warranted criticism and improvement. Putin firmly believed that Russia needed a well-defined development plan. He promoted using historical lessons to avoid repeating the same mistakes. Putin stressed the need for self-sufficiency and urged Russia to chart its distinct course, independent from international models. His offer emphasised the need to acknowledge internal difficulties and the need for all stakeholders to be fully dedicated to positive efforts.²⁵

During his time in office, Putin has always supported and defended Russia's national interests, ensuring the protection of its sovereignty. In the face of Western criticism on multiple occasions, he constantly responded with well-supported publicly available facts. A concrete example is a conference in 2014, where Putin clearly emphasised the inconsistency of the situation. He confidently emphasised that although the US military assets are extensively deployed worldwide, Russia is unjustly blamed and portrayed as being aggressive. Putin accurately emphasised the US's persistent deployment of military forces in Europe to restrain Russia, despite Russia's consistent attempts to engage in diplomatic talks with Western nations.

Putin demonstrated a keen understanding of the United States' strategic orientation through its deployments in Europe. Although he understood how to protect Russia's interests, he remained resolute in avoiding unfair responsibility. He regularly emphasised the existence of a double standard, where the activities of powerful nations were seen as matters of national importance, but Russia's defensive actions were generally characterised as aggression. Putin expressed apprehension regarding the positioning of strategic missile defense systems

by the US in areas like Alaska, Romania, and Poland, which are seen as direct menaces to Russia's safety. He regularly portrayed his actions as defensive measures aimed at protecting Russia's sovereignty, a stance that strongly resonated with the Russian population.²⁶

In 2015, the public's general opinion demonstrated Putin's notable power and reputation. Opinion polls portrayed him as the indisputable leader of Russia. Most of the population regarded Putin as unmatched in terms of political aptitude and commitment to the nation's welfare. The public's confidence in his competence to handle difficulties, guaranteeing the utmost importance of safeguarding and advancing Russia's security and prosperity, was emphasised by this emotion.²⁷

A combination of audacity and flexibility marked Putin's dynamic personality. He demonstrated expertise in negotiation strategies, highlighting his proficiency in resolving conflicts. One noteworthy characteristic was his skill in answering questions by cleverly asking counter-questions, which emphasised his perceptive method. The esteemed writer Avramchenko depicted Putin as a skilful leader who could navigate Russia through challenging times, especially after the Yeltsin era and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Putin's extensive involvement in Russia's international affairs enabled him to refine his bargaining skills. From 2000 to 2008, as the president, Putin actively sought to develop favourable relations with the United States. This was a departure from Yeltsin's presidency, characterised by tensions between Yeltsin and Clinton. Significantly, Putin exerted substantial effort to improve tensions and promote collaboration with the USA. The act of ratifying START II and obtaining Duma's assent demonstrated his dedication to establishing long-term advantages

²⁵ Putin, Vladimir. "Ot Pervogo Litsa: Razgovory s Vladimirom Putinyim," with Nataliya Gevorkyan. 2000.

²⁶ Donaldson, Robert H., Joseph L. Noguee, and Vidya Nadkarni. "The Foreign Policy of Russia:

Changing Systems, Enduring Interests." In *Enduring Interests*, New York: ME Sharpe, 1998.

²⁷ CIDOB. "Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation." CIDOB International Yearbook 2010, 2010, 223–30.

for Russia by strengthening relations with the United States.²⁸

The relationship between Putin and Bush seemed optimistic until it was disrupted by Bush's choice to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Missile Treaty. Putin placed the highest importance on advancing Russia's interests. His constant attempts to negotiate and collaborate appeared to be repeatedly rejected. As a result, Putin ultimately adopted a more adversarial position towards the United States. This transition originated from various sources, particularly the observed pattern of the United States increasing its military supremacy. Equally important was the United States' decision to withdraw from the START II nuclear weapons reduction Treaty. This development catalyzed, eliciting a deep sense of uneasiness for Putin. Consequently, his strategy changed following what he perceived as signs of changing power dynamics and possible weaknesses.²⁹

In 2003, while President Bush chose to commence the Iraq conflict, Putin chose to adopt a neutral position, abstaining from providing moral or material assistance. In the middle of the worldwide war on terror, in which the United States was heavily involved, Putin took advantage of the situation to justify his actions in Chechnya as being in the best interests of the state.³⁰ Putin's foreign policy underwent a thorough overhaul, surpassing conventional regional limits. He prioritised the BRICS cooperation as extremely important while keeping a diverse focus on Europe and Central Asia. By strategically shifting his approach, Putin was able to form significant partnerships with these countries, creating a more extensive and complex diplomatic structure. Putin decisively opposed the idea of unipolarity, perceiving it as an unfair display of superiority by one state. Instead, he passionately advocated

for multi-polarity, promoting a global framework characterised by the presence of several power centers. In 2004, the concept of a multipolar world order was officially accepted, marking the culmination of this significant change in perspective.³¹

During the 2007 Munich Conference, Putin strongly criticised the concept of US hegemony and its dominant position as the sole superpower. He expressed his intense dislike for one global hub, emphasising the incongruity of a "one state, one center" concept with the intricacies of the global landscape. Putin's attitude reflected his dedication to advocating for a global order that is more diversified and balanced.³²

Conclusion

This study examines Vladimir Putin's leadership style and personality qualities, uncovering a nuanced strategy for dealing with intricate global dynamics. By utilising personality profiling as a research approach, the analysis emphasises the fundamental characteristics that influence Putin's leadership decisions. A methodical analysis and deliberate decision-making distinguish Putin's crisis management strategy. His involvement in intelligence and security services has developed a methodical decision-making approach. His combination of audacity and flexibility allows him to tackle difficulties from a strategic standpoint effectively.

Putin's leadership journey is characterised by a steadfast dedication to Russia's national interests. The individual's endeavour to establish diplomatic ties with the United States demonstrates a harmonious combination of collaboration and protection of national independence. This active involvement on the international platform demonstrates his commitment to promoting Russia's viewpoint.

²⁸ Woolf, Amy F. *Nuclear Arms Control: The Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty*. DIANE Publishing, 2010.

²⁹ Holum, John. "Assessing the New US-Russian Pact." *Arms Control Today* 32, no. 5 (2002): 7.

³⁰ Headley, Jim. "Globalization And The 'New Wars': The Case Of Chechnya." In *Globalization*

and Conflict, Routledge, 2006, 163–79.

³¹ Karaganov, Sergey, and Dmitry Suslov. "A New World Order: A View from Russia." In *Multipolarity: The Promise of Disharmony*, 2018, 57–85.

³² Katz, Mark N. "Policy Watch: Putin's Munich Speech." 2007.

In addition, Putin's broadening of alliances beyond conventional limits, such as enhancing the BRICS collaboration, demonstrates a deliberate change in his strategic foreign policy. This highlights his aptitude for expanding international connections and establishing fresh partnerships. Significantly, although Putin's unwavering position on protecting national interests is praiseworthy, there are grounds for constructive criticism. Striking a balance between maintaining sovereignty and fostering collaboration can improve worldwide comprehension and cooperation. Vladimir Putin's leadership style and personality attributes, including adept crisis management, unwavering dedication to national interests, and deliberate foreign policy diversification, offer valuable insights into his approach to tackling intricate global dynamics. Leaders can gain inspiration from their leadership journey by acknowledging their strengths and addressing areas that need improvement. This will help them manage the constantly changing international landscape.

Vladimir Putin's leadership trajectory is a complex composition crafted with intricate elements of skilful crisis handling, unwavering dedication to the welfare of the people, and the promotion of a global order characterised by several centres of power. This study, utilising personality profiling, has illuminated the complex aspects of Putin's leadership style. His rational examination, balanced decision-making, and the combination of audacity and flexibility highlight his expertise in manoeuvring intricate geopolitical dynamics. Although Putin's unwavering commitment to Russia's interests is praiseworthy, certain occasions need constructive criticism. The task is to achieve a harmonious equilibrium between pursuing national interests and the imperative of global collaboration. Under specific circumstances, adopting a more cooperative approach could enhance comprehension and promote mutual advantages.

Vladimir Putin's leadership trajectory demonstrates a multifaceted strategy for negotiating intricate global dynamics and promoting a multipolar world order. This study

has utilised personality profile as a research tool to reveal the complex interaction between crisis management, unshakeable loyalty to national interests, and commitment to promoting a more equitable global framework. Nevertheless, this analysis encourages constructive criticism about the intricate equilibrium between declaring national interests and fostering collaborative ties. Although Putin's unwavering commitment to protecting Russia's sovereignty is praiseworthy, adopting a more collaborative approach can foster greater global comprehension and the development of joint solutions. Putin's endeavour to establish other relationships, like promoting the BRICS alliance, indicates a deliberate change in his strategic foreign policy. However, the difficulty lies in guaranteeing that these collaborations continue to be inclusive, including a wider range of nations. Russia may enhance its global engagement and exert more significant influence by actively embracing diversity in diplomatic endeavors.

Nevertheless, while acknowledging the admirable qualities of Putin's leadership, some worries arise over specific issues. When faced with perceived threats, the tendency to engage in conflict may unintentionally restrict the opportunities for mutually advantageous partnerships. Adopting a more inclusive attitude to communication, especially during times of disagreement, has the potential to generate fruitful results. Furthermore, although promoting multi-polarity is a crucial measure in reconfiguring global dynamics, the actual execution of this vision presents difficulties. Achieving fair distribution of power and efficient coordination across several power centers is a challenging task that requires thoughtful deliberation. Moreover, the analysis of Putin's leadership necessitates increased openness and participation in making decisions. Although maintaining confidentiality may be necessary for strategic reasons, a deeper comprehension of the reasoning behind specific actions can potentially promote increased trust and collaboration on an international level.