The Post-Expansionist Personality Profile of Russian President Vladimir Putin

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THE POST-EXPANSIONIST PERSONALITY PROFILE OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

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Definition of Personality

- Distinctive, pervasive patterns of thinking, feeling, acting, and relating to others
- Stable over time
- Consistent across situations

Personality Stability

Consistency over Time

- Consistency increases with age
- Personality is more consistent over time than across situations
- Consistency is weaker for attitudes, interests, and opinions than for personality
- Coherence: Although temporally consistent, how a trait is manifested in behavior might change over time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Millon’s Eight Attribute Domains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expressive behavior</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpersonal conduct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cognitive style</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mood/temperament</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-image</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regulatory mechanisms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object representations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morphologic organization</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria

Taxonomy: Scales and Gradations

Scale 1A: Dominant pattern
   a. Asserting
   b. Controlling
   c. Aggressive (Sadistic; DSM-III-R, Appendix A)

Scale 1B: Dauntless pattern
   a. Adventurous
   b. Dissenting
   c. Aggrandizing (Antisocial; DSM-5, 301.7 / F60.2)

Scale 2: Ambitious pattern
   a. Confident
   b. Self-serving
   c. Exploitative (Narcissistic; DSM-5, 301.81 / F60.81)

Scale 3: Outgoing pattern
   a. Congenial
   b. Gregarious
   c. Impulsive (Histrionic; DSM-IV, 301.50)

Scale 4: Accommodating pattern
   a. Cooperative
   b. Agreeable
   c. Submissive (Dependent; DSM-5, 301.6 / 60.7)

Scale 5A: Aggrieved pattern
   a. Unpresuming
   b. Self-denying
   c. Self-defeating (DSM-III-R, Appendix A)

Scale 5B: Contentious pattern
   a. Resolute
   b. Oppositional
   c. Negativistic (Passive-aggressive; DSM-III-R, 301.84)

Scale 6: Conscientious pattern
   a. Respectful
   b. Dutiful
   c. Compulsive (Obsessive-compulsive; DSM-5, 301.4 / F60.5)

Scale 7: Reticent pattern
   a. Circumspect
   b. Inhibited
   c. Withdrawn (Avoidant; DSM-5, 301.82 / F60.6)

Scale 8: Retiring pattern
   a. Reserved
   b. Aloof
   c. Solitary (Schizoid; DSM-5, 301.20 / F60.1)

Scale 9: Distrusting pattern
   d. Suspicious
   e. Paranoid (DSM-5, 301.0 / F60.0)

Scale 0: Erratic pattern
   d. Unstable
   e. Borderline (DSM-5, 301.83 / F60.3)
MIDC Score Sheet for Vladimir Putin

Subject: Vladimir Putin
Date: July 2023

Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria
Score Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Attribute tally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale score (lower):
- 27
- 7
- 24
- 0
- 0
- 0
- 1
- 11
- 0
- 10
- 8
- 4

Scale score (upper):
- 30
- 13
- 27
- 4
- 0
- 0
- 5
- 21
- 0
- 12
- 22
- 8

MIDC Attribute Domains
- A: Expressive behavior
- B: Interpersonal conduct
- C: Cognitive style
- D: Mood/temperament
- E: Self-image

Scale Personality Patterns, Subscales, and Pathological Variants
- 1A: Dominant: Asserting—Controlling—Aggressive (Sadistic)
- 1B: Dauntless: Adventurous—Dissenting—Aggrandizing (Antisocial)
- 2: Ambitious: Confident—Self-serving—Exploitative (Narcissistic)
- 3: Outgoing: Congenial—Gregarious—Impulsive (Histrionic)
- 4: Accommodating: Cooperative—Agreeable—Submissive (Dependent)
- 5A: Aggrieved: Unassuming—Self-denying—Self-defeating (Machist)
- 5B: Contentious: Resolute—Oppositional—Negativistic (Passive-aggressive)
- 6: Conscientious: Respectful—Dutiful—Compulsive (Obsessive-compulsive)
- 7: Retentive: Circumspect—Inhibited—Withdrawn (Avondant)
- 8: Retiring: Reserved—Aloof—Solitary (Schizoid)
- 9: Distrusting: Suspicious—Paranoid (Paranoid)
- 10: Erratic: Unstable—Borderline (Borderline)
## MIDC Scale Scores & Item Endorsement Rate by Attribute Domain

### Table 1
**MIDC Item Endorsement Rate by Attribute Domain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute domain</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expressive behavior</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal conduct</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive style</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mood/temperament</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-image</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2
**MIDC Scale Scores for Vladimir Putin**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Personality pattern</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Dominant: Asserting–Controlling–Aggressive (Sadistic)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Dauntless: Adventurous–Dissenting–Aggrandizing (Antisocial)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ambitious: Confident–Self-serving–Exploitative (Narcissistic)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Outgoing: Congenial–Gregarious–Impulsive (Histrionic)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Accommodating: Cooperative–Agreeable–Submitive (Dependent)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Aggrieved: Unpresuming–Self-denying–Self-defeating (Masochistic)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Contentious: Resolute–Oppositional–Negativistic (Passive-aggressive)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Conscientious: Respectful–Dutiful–Compulsive (Obsessive–compulsive)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reticent: Circumspect–Inhibited–Withdrawn (Avoidant)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Retiring: Reserved–Aloof–Solitary (Schizoid)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subtotal for basic personality scales</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Distrusting: Suspicious–Paranoid (Paranoid)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Erratic: Unstable–Borderline (Borderline)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-scale total</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Post-Expansionist” MIDC Profile for Vladimir Putin

Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria Profile for Vladimir Putin

Scale: 1A 1B 2 3 4 5A 5B 6 7 8 9 10
Upper: 30 13 27 4 0 0 5 21 0 12 22 8
Lower: 27 7 24 0 0 1 11 0 10 8 4

1A Dominant: Asserting—Controlling—Aggressive (Sadistic)
1B Dauntless: Adventurous—Dissenting—Aggrandizing (Antisocial)
2 Ambitious: Confident—Self-serving—Exploitative (Narcissistic)
3 Outgoing: Congenial—Gregarious—Impulsive (Histrionic)
4 Accommodating: Cooperative—Agreeable—Submissive (Dependent)
5A Aggrieved: Unpresuming—Self-denying—Self-defeating (Masochistic)
5B Contentious: Resolute—Oppositional—Negativistic (Passive-aggressive)
6 Conscientious: Respectful—Dutiful—Compulsive (Obsessive-compulsive)
7 Reticent: Circumspect—Inhibited—Withdrawn (Avoidant)
8 Retiring: Reserved—Aloof—Solitary (Schizoid)
9 Distrusting: Suspicious—Paranoid (Paranoid)
0 Erratic: Unstable—Borderline (Borderline)
MIDC Profile for Vladimir Putin: 2023 vs. 2014

Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria
Profile for Vladimir Putin

1A  Dominant: Asserting—Controlling—Aggressive (Sadistic)
1B  Dauntless: Adventurous—Dissenting—Aggrandizing (Antisocial)
2   Ambitious: Confident—Self-serving—Exploitative (Narcissistic)
3   Outgoing: Congenial—Gregarious—Impulsive (Histrionic)
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5A  Aggrieved: Unpresuming—Self-denying—Self-defeating (Masochistic)
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6   Conscientious: Respectful—Dutiful—Compulsive (Obsessive-compulsive)
7   Reticent: Circumspect—Inhibited—Withdrawn (Avoidant)
8   Retiring: Reserved—Aloof—Solitary (Schizoid)
9   Distrusting: Suspicious—Paranoid (Paranoid)
0   Erratic: Unstable—Borderline (Borderline)
Primary Personality Pattern #1

MIDC Scale 1A: Range = 27–30
Personality subtype: Aggressive

Dominant pattern (i.e., controlling, forceful)

• Enjoy the power to direct others and to evoke respect
• Tough and unsentimental
• Exhibit coercive behavior
• Domineering, intimidating, argumentative, and precipitously belligerent
• Adept at having their way by browbeating others into respect and submission
• Disinclined to experience and express compassion
• Views self as self-reliant, unyielding, and strong
Primary Personality Pattern #2

MIDC Scale 2: Range = 24–27
Personality subtype: Exploitative

Ambitious pattern (i.e., egotistic, narcissistic)

- Self-confident; believe in themselves and their talents
- Expect others to recognize their special qualities
- Self-promoting and may display an inflated sense of self-importance
- Reveal a self-important indifference to the rights of others
- Shamelessly take others for granted and manipulate and use them to indulge their desires
- Little constrained by objective realities or cautionary feedback
Secondary Personality Pattern #1

MIDC Scale 6: Range = 11–21
Personality subtype: Dutiful

Conscientious pattern (i.e., obsessive)

• Strong work ethic and careful attention to detail
• Loyal to political party and causes
• Persistent in difficult circumstances
• Formal, proper, and dignified
• Hold strong moral principles with absolute certainty
• Micromanaging leadership style
• Intolerant of deviance
Secondary Personality Pattern #2

MIDC Scale 8: Range = 10–12
Personality subtype: Aloof

**Retiring pattern** (i.e., introverted)

- Aloof, introverted, and solitary
- Do not develop strong ties to others
- Prefer distant or limited involvement with others
- Rarely express inner feelings or thoughts
- Most comfortable when left alone
- Generally appear complacent and untroubled
- Tend to work in a slow, quiet, methodical manner
Subsidiary Personality Pattern

MIDC Scale 1B: Range = 7–13
Personality subtype: Adventurous

**Dauntless (i.e., risk-taking)**

- Strong need for independence
- Flout tradition and conventional standards
- Dislike following routine and may act impulsively
- Resistant to coercion
- *Nonconformity* – live by their own internal code of values; not strongly influenced by the norms of society
- *Challenge* – routinely engage in high-risk activities
- *Persuasive* – “silver-tongued” charmers talented in the art of social influence
- *Wanderlust* – like to keep moving; live by their talents, skills, ingenuity, and wits
- *True grit* – courageous, physically bold, and tough
- *No regrets* – live in the present; little guilt about the past or anxiety about the future
Proportion of Various Personality Patterns in Putin’s Personality Composite

“Dominant Expansionist”

Primary Personality Pattern #1
Dominant/aggressive (Scale 1A, level c)

Primary Personality Pattern #2
Ambitious/exploitative (Scale 2, level c)

Secondary Personality Pattern #1
Conscientious/dutiful (Scale 6, level b)

Secondary Personality Pattern #2
Retiring/aloof (Scale 8, level b)

Subsidiary Personality Pattern
Dauntless/adventurous (Scale 1B, level a)
Leadership Qualities

Presidential style (Simonton, 1988)

- *Deliberative*: understands the implications of his decisions; able to visualize alternatives and weigh long-term consequences

Presidential temperament (Barber, 1972/1992)

- *Active–negative*: rigid and driven, compulsively investing great effort in task performance yet deriving little inherent joy from the office of president; uses power primarily as a means of self-realization

Leadership skills (Renshon, 1996)

- *Orchestration*: strong organizational skill; sustained focus and attention to detail necessary for crafting specific policies
Leadership Qualities

Foreign policy orientation (Etheredge, 1978)

- **High-dominance introvert**: stubborn, tenacious, seeks to reshape the world in accordance with his own vision; policies often characterized by the tenacity with which he advances one central idea

Leadership trait analysis (Hermann, 1987, 2003)

- **Expansionist**: motivated to acquire control over more territory, resources, or people
  - **Worldview**: conflict viewed as inherent in the international system
  - **Personal style**: wary of others’ motives; directive, controlling interpersonal orientation
  - **Foreign policy behavior**: focus on issues of security and status
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