The Post-Expansionist Personality Profile of Russian President Vladimir Putin

Aubrey Immelman
St. John's University / College of St. Benedict
Abby Goff

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THE POST-EXPANSIONIST PERSONALITY PROFILE OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

Abby Goff and Aubrey Immelman

Department of Psychology
College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University
St. Joseph and Collegeville, Minnesota
Telephone: (320) 363-5481
E-mail: simmelman@csbsju.edu
Unit for the Study of Personality in Politics
http://personality-politics.org/

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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
### Millon’s Eight Attribute Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expressive behavior</td>
<td>The individual’s characteristic behavior; how the individual typically appears to others; what the individual knowingly or unknowingly reveals about him- or herself; what the individual wishes others to think or to know about him or her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal conduct</td>
<td>How the individual typically interacts with others; the attitudes that underlie, prompt, and give shape to these actions; the methods by which the individual engages others to meet his or her needs; how the individual copes with social tensions and conflicts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive style</td>
<td>How the individual focuses and allocates attention, encodes and processes information, organizes thoughts, makes attributions, and communicates reactions and ideas to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mood/temperament</td>
<td>How the individual typically displays emotion; the predominant character of an individual’s affect and the intensity and frequency with which he or she expresses it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-image</td>
<td>The individual’s perception of self-as-object or the manner in which the individual overtly describes him- or herself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory mechanisms</td>
<td>The individual’s characteristic mechanisms of self-protection, need gratification, and conflict resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object representations</td>
<td>The inner imprint left by the individual’s significant early experiences with others; the structural residue of significant past experiences, composed of memories, attitudes, and affects that underlie the individual’s perceptions of and reactions to ongoing events and serve as a substrate of dispositions for perceiving and reacting to life’s ongoing events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphologic organization</td>
<td>The overall architecture that serves as a framework for the individual’s psychic interior; the structural strength, interior congruity, and functional efficacy of the personality system (i.e., ego strength).</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–V, 301.7 / F60.2)

Scale 2: Ambitious pattern
  a. Confident
  b. Self-serving
  c. Exploitative (Narcissistic; DSM–V, 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–V, 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–V, 301.4 / F60.5)

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

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

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

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

**Subject:** Vladimir Putin  
**Date:** July 2023

#### Million Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria Score Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>1A</th>
<th>1B</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5A</th>
<th>5B</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Attribute tally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scale score (lower)**  
- 27  
- 0  
- 24  
- 7  
- 0  
- 0  
- 5  
- 1  
- 0  
- 11  
- 0  
- 10  
- 8  
- 4  

**Scale score (upper)**  
- 30  
- 13  
- 27  
- 4  
- 0  
- 0  
- 5  
- 21  
- 0  
- 0  
- 12  
- 10  
- 8  
- 0  

| F | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| G | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| H | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

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#### Equivocal/Affirmative
- Equivocal/Negative

### 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—Exploitive (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: Retentive: Circumspect—Inhibited—Withdrawn (Avoluntary)
8: Retiring: Reserved—Aloof—Solitary (Schizoid)
9: Distrusting: Suspicious—Paranoid (Paranoid)
10: Erratic: Unstable—Borderline (Borderline)
### Table 1

**MIDC Item Endorsement Rate by Attribute Domain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute domain</th>
<th>Diagnostic criteria (Items)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressive behavior</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal conduct</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive style</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mood/temperament</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-image</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td>2.1</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–Submissive (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>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>Subtotal for basic personality scales</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>112</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

1A Dominant: Asserting–Controlling–Aggressive (Sadistic)
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0 Erratic: Unstable–Borderline (Borderline)
MIDC Profile for Vladimir Putin: 2023 vs. 2014

- **1A**: Dominant: Asserting—Controlling—Aggressive (Sadistic)
- **1B**: Dauntless: Adventurous—Dissenting—Aggrandizing (Antisocial)
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- **4**: Accommodating: Cooperative—Agreeable—Submissive (Dependent)
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- **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
- View 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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