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Military Conflict in Ukraine: Personality Profiles of the Principals – Vladimir Putin, Alexander Lukashenko, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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MILITARY CONFLICT IN UKRAINE: PERSONALITY PROFILES OF THE PRINCIPALS

Panel: Aubrey Immelman, Christ'l De Landtsheer, Abby Goff, and Elise Vomacka



Psychodiagnostic Meta-Analysis: A Psychodiagnostically Relevant Conceptualization and Methodology for Assessing Personality in Politics

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PowerPoint presentation at the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting
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Montréal, Québec, Canada

July 9–11, 2023

Classical Personality-in-Politics Inquiry

Conventional approaches to political personality assessment date back to the establishment of organized political psychology in the 1970s, and earlier.

- Integrated Psychodynamic Approaches
- Trait/Motivational Approaches
- Cognitive Approaches

Classification by Jerrold M. Post in *The Psychological Assessment of Political Leaders* (2003)

Jerrold M. Post, M.D. (1934–2020)

Founded the CIA's
Center for the Analysis
of Personality and
Political Behavior

Awarded ISPP's Nevitt
Sanford Award for
Distinguished
Professional
Contributions to
Political Psychology
(2002)



Methodologies for Assessing Leader Personality

Integrated Psychodynamic Approaches

- Psychobiographical/psychodynamic political personality profiling (Jerrold Post)
- Psychoanalytically oriented assessment of character and performance (Stanley Renshon)

Trait/Motivational Approaches

- Verbal behavior analysis (Walter Weintraub)
- Motivational analysis (David Winter)
- Leadership trait analysis (Margaret Hermann)

Cognitive Approaches

- Operational code analysis (Stephen Walker)
- Assessment of integrative complexity (Peter Suedfeld, Philip Tetlock)

Adapted from The Psychological Assessment of Political Leaders (2003) by Jerrold M. Post, Ed.

Margaret G. 'Peg' Hermann (born 1938)

Founding editor of
the journal *Political
Psychology*
(1980–1982)

First woman
president of
the International
Society of Political
Psychology
(1987–1988)



Conceptual Issues in Classical Personality-in-Politics Inquiry

Most traditional approaches to assessing personality in politics are at variance with conventional psychodiagnostic frameworks and clinical procedures.

- Bear little resemblance to professional psychological assessment in modern clinical practice
- Often rely on inferring personality traits from content analysis of political speeches, raising questions of authorship and construct validity
- Employ political personality taxonomies at variance with existing classification systems in clinical science

Toward a Generative Theory of Personality and Political Performance

For the past three decades, I have endeavored to develop a psychodiagnostically relevant conceptual framework and methodology for the psychological examination of political leaders – termed “psychodiagnostic meta-analysis” – adapted from the evolutionary model of Theodore Millon.

- Immelman, A. (1993). The assessment of political personality: A psychodiagnostically relevant conceptualization and methodology. *Political Psychology*, 14(4), 725–741.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/3791383>
- Immelman, A. (1998). The political personalities of 1996 U.S. presidential candidates Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 9(3), 335–366.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1048-9843\(98\)90035-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1048-9843(98)90035-2)
- Immelman, A. (2003). Personality in political psychology. In I. B. Weiner (Series Ed.), T. Millon & M. J. Lerner (Vol. Eds.), *Handbook of psychology: Vol. 5. Personality and social psychology* (pp. 599–625). Wiley. https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/psychology_pubs/51/
- Immelman, A. (2005). Political psychology and personality. In S. Strack (Ed.), *Handbook of personology and psychopathology* (pp. 198–225). Wiley.
https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/psychology_pubs/49/

Theodore Millon (1928–2014)

Founded the *Journal of Personality Disorders*

Contributed to the development of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*

Awarded the American Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Application of Psychology (2008)



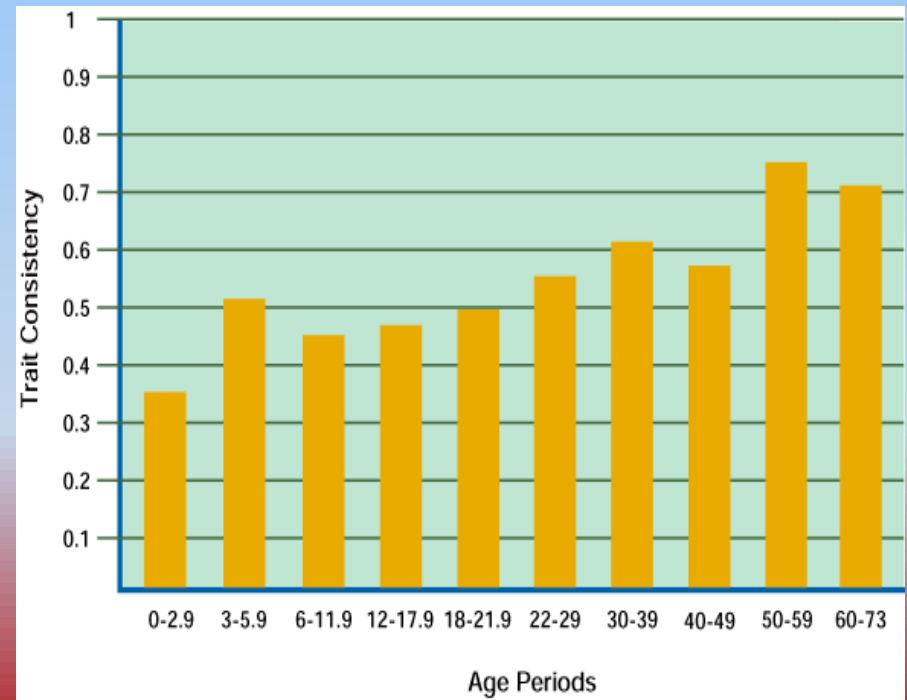
Conceptual Definition of Personality

- 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





Personality, Inventory, and Research Method

What is Personality?

- Patterns of thinking, feeling, acting, and relating to others
- Stability & consistency
- Deeply embedded, largely nonconscious, and multifaceted

- Eight attribute domains
- Twelve scales
- Three gradations (levels)

Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria (MIDC)

Sources

- News articles
- Scholarly papers
- Biographies



Millon's Eight Attribute Domains

A.
**Expressive
Behavior**

B.
**Interpersonal
Conduct**

C.
**Cognitive
Style**

D.
Mood/Temperament

E.
Self-Image

F.
***Regulatory
Mechanisms***

G.
***Object
Representations***

H.
***Morphologic
Organization***

Millon's Eight Attribute Domains

Expressive behavior	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.
Interpersonal conduct	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.
Cognitive style	How the individual focuses and allocates attention, encodes and processes information, organizes thoughts, makes attributions, and communicates reactions and ideas to others.
Mood/temperament	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.
Self-image	The individual's perception of self-as-object or the manner in which the individual overtly describes him- or herself.
Regulatory mechanisms	The individual's characteristic mechanisms of self-protection, need gratification, and conflict resolution.
Object representations	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.
Morphologic organization	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).



Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria

Taxonomy: Scales and Gradations



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 Xi Jinping

Subject: Xi Jinping

Date: May 2021

Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria Score Sheet

Attribute	Scale														Attribute tally																			
	1A		1B		2		3		4		5A		5B		6		7		8		9		10		Min	Max								
	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c	a	b	c			d	e	d	e				
A	①	②	③	①	X	X	①	②	③	①	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	①	X	X	①	②	③	①	②	X	X	④	X	X	12	16	
B	①	②	X	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	①	X	X	①	②	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	9
C	①	②	③	①	X	X	①	②	③	X	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	①	②	③	X	X	X	X	④	X	8	12		
D	①	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	6	7		
E	①	②	③	①	X	X	①	②	X	①	X	X	①	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	①	②	X	X	X	X	X	④	X	7	11		
Scale score (lower)	5	6	3	4	0	0	5	4	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	
Scale score (upper)	5	8	9	4	0	0	5	6	6	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	8	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	
F	3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			4						
G	3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			4						
H	3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			3			4						

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O = Affirmative
() = Equivocal/Affirmative

X = Negative
/ = Equivocal/Negative

MIDC Profile for Xi Jinping

