

Putin: A Champion of the Global South?

Description

by Janna Kadri via: [Al Mayadeen English](#)

Moscow's defiance of Western elements, particularly the economic sanctions and the military aid to Ukraine, has not only set an example for other nations to follow but also eroded the legitimacy of the West's ideological supremacy.



On [March 18](#), Vladimir Putin emerged as the winner of Russia's presidential elections, marking his fifth term as President of Russia. This occurred despite complications. While it is common for Russia to be the target of cyber-attacks, this year has witnessed record levels of such breaches on the country's electronic voting platform, with most attacks stemming from the US.

Putin's landslide victory solicited [positive reactions](#) from many across the Global South. Leaders from multiple countries, including Iran, China, South Africa, Belarus, the DPRK, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and several Latin American nations have welcomed his reelection.

The Collective West, on its part, has been eerily silent about the win. A few exceptions surfaced on the X platform, with, for instance, President of the European Council Charles Michel reiterating the standard accusation that Russian elections are undemocratic. "No opposition. No freedom. No choice,"

the tweet read. So much for being disgruntled. Nevertheless, the bloc has obvious reasons for displaying such dismay.

Ukraine war

Two years into the war in Ukraine, discussions on a potential peace deal involving the withdrawal of Russian troops in exchange for retaining territory have begun to pick up speed. The costs of this war were paramount for both the West and Russia, but particularly for the EU. The de-industrialization accompanying sanctions on Russia has resulted in disastrous outcomes for the Euro economy, pushing millions into [financial insecurity](#), while the bloc grapples with efforts to restore economic growth.

More concerning is a decline in US support which has placed the EU in an awkward position. Although the White House recently unveiled a stopgap aid plan for Ukraine valued at [\\$300 million](#), prior delays in aid delivery, fueled by congressional disputes over the border crisis, have left NATO allies questioning the US's commitment to the conflict.

During a recent address before Western leaders at a Ukraine-focused event, French President [Emmanuel Macron](#) echoed these concerns by questioning the wisdom of entrusting Europe's future to the American electorate. "Should we entrust our future to the American electorate? My answer is no. Let's not wait for the outcome," he said.

When Macron mentioned the possibility of deploying NATO forces in Ukraine, some perceived his statement as controversial or bold, only for reports to later emerge and reveal that [NATO forces](#) are already in Ukraine. But given the fact that the Ukraine war is not considered a *de facto* war from the Russian perspective, one can only speculate about the potential scale of a [full-fledged conflict](#) with the NATO alliance.

Western Hegemony

From a Global South perspective, the true achievement lies in Putin's defiance of NATO. It lies in challenging the forces that for years have kept the masses in a state of social, ideological, and historical paralysis. Where the West sees aggression and destabilization, the South sees retribution. The fact is that Russia was deceived by the West over the [Minsk agreement](#).

If one finds it peculiar that the Ukraine war garners very little to no support in the South, the case is far from mere coincidence. The extensive legacy of the West spanning hundreds of years serves as a testament to the destructive nature of its foreign policy. In the Global South, where the collective memory of millions who perished under the weight of imperialism and military aggression remains vivid and lucid, the realities at play are crystal clear.

The Ukraine war is not merely a war for the preservation of Russia's national security but also a war for the thousands of mothers who gave birth to malformed babies due to contamination from NATO's use of [depleted uranium](#) ammunition in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and Serbia, a type of shell which has been shown to increase cancer rates and other forms of disease in targeted countries. It is a war for those thousands of people who succumbed to their illnesses as a result of sanctions that prevented the entry of crucial medical aid. It is also a war for the comrades in Iran, [Indonesia](#), and several countries across

Latin America and Africa who died resisting injustice and oppression at the hands of imperialist stooges.