

Original Article

# Assessing the Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on Russian Politics: A Comprehensive Analysis

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## ABSTRACT

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has significantly shaped and transformed the political landscape within Russia, producing a range of intricate and multifaceted outcomes. Initially, the conflict appeared to bolster President Vladimir Putin's grip on power, driven by a surge of nationalism and the rallying effect typical during wartime. Yet, this perceived consolidation of authority has faced mounting challenges due to severe domestic crises, persistent economic instability, growing societal unrest, and increasing international isolation. This paper investigates the intricate interplay between the war's domestic and international repercussions and their potential long-term implications for Russian political policies and governance. By combining quantitative analyses of key economic indicators, such as inflation rates and GDP performance, with qualitative assessments of evolving political trends, social dynamics, and media narratives, this study provides a holistic view of the current state of Russian politics. It further examines how these factors collectively expose the inherent vulnerabilities of Putin's regime, highlighting the precarious balance between centralized control and the emerging pressures of dissent. Through this comprehensive analysis, the paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of Russia's shifting political trajectory amidst one of its most defining crises in recent history.

**Keywords:** *Political fragility, Political stability, Russia's global position, Russian economy, Russia-Ukraine war*

## INTRODUCTION

This Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 marks a milestone in the history of modern geopolitics and has, to a great extent, modified the internal political landscape of Russia. This action, described by Russian President Vladimir Putin as a measure to guarantee the security interests of his country against NATO's expansion, runs far deeper than that. They combine a rich blend of long-standing historical grievances and deeply ingrained geopolitical ambitions with calculated internal political strategies (Plokhy, 2023). Historically, it includes Russia's continued sense of loss at the disintegration of the Soviet Union and its perceived invasion by the West into its sphere of influence. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 demonstrated an inclination toward resorting to military action for geopolitical gains, building up to the larger-scale 2022 invasion (Grant, 2015).

There were other political factors at home, and possibly war helped cement Putin's control and divert attention away from problems within Russia. The high human and economic costs of the war further undermine such a narrative, such as rising casualties, severe damage to the Russian economy and damage public support and national morale soldiers who have suffered many casualties as a result due to the conflict. It became apparent, that this growing complacency coupled with widespread economic distress leading to dissatisfaction and war weariness among the population, and the increasing crackdown on protests, the narrative of unity and strength that the Russian government has been trying to project, and reflects the apparent weakness of Putin's leadership.

## Background of the Study

The historical and geopolitical context of the Russian invasion is essential to understanding its broader implications. Scholars have long pointed to Russia's dissatisfaction with the post-Cold War order, characterized by the expansion of NATO and the EU into Eastern Europe, as a driving force behind its aggressive foreign policy (Mearsheimer, 2014). Russia perceives these developments as a direct threat to its security and influence in the region, fueling its desire to reclaim its status as a global power. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 was a turning point, signaling Russia's readiness to challenge the Western-led international order. The subsequent invasion of Ukraine in 2022 represents an escalation of this strategy, driven by a combination of strategic opportunism and domestic political considerations (Fedorenko & Fedorenko, 2022).

Domestically, the war initially served as a unifying force, leveraging state-controlled propaganda to rally public support and suppress dissent. Surveys conducted in the early months of the conflict indicated a spike in Putin's approval ratings, reflecting the temporary effectiveness of this strategy (Mueller, 2022). However, the high human and economic costs of the war have gradually undermined this support. Independent reports estimate tens of thousands of Russian casualties, a toll that has sparked discontent among military families and veterans' groups (Coupe & Obrizan, 2016). Economically, Western sanctions targeting critical sectors such as energy, technology, and finance have plunged Russia into a deep recession, with GDP contracting by over 8% in 2022 and inflation rates reaching double digits (Astrov et al., 2024). These challenges have exacerbated existing social inequalities,

fueling widespread dissatisfaction and protests, despite the government's intensified crackdown on dissent (Connolly, 2018).

Furthermore, the war has deepened societal divisions in Russia. State-controlled media has played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, promoting a narrative of national resilience and external threats. However, evidence suggests that this propaganda is losing its effectiveness as the war drags on and public patience wanes (Bonch-Osmolovskaya, 2015). Growing war fatigue, particularly in urban centers, has led to increasing protests and acts of defiance, despite the government's authoritarian response. This background highlights the intricate dynamics of the war's impact on Russia, providing the foundation for this study's exploration of how the conflict has reshaped the country's political, economic, and social fabric. By integrating historical context, economic data, and analyses of social trends, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the long-term implications of the invasion for Russia's domestic stability and international standing.

## Research Questions

- How did the Russian invasion of Ukraine affect the strengthening of President Putin's power and its subsequent destruction due to economic crisis and rising death toll?
- What impact have Western sanctions had on the Russian economy, and how has this affected political stability and social unrest in Russia?
- How has the war fragmented Russian society, and what role has state-controlled propaganda played in shaping public opinion in the face of growing war fatigue and suppressed protests?

## Objectives of the Studies

This paper explores some of the intricate ways the war has impacted Russian domestic politics. It focuses on four major areas. The study looks at how complex the relationship between the war and Putin's consolidation of power into subsequent erosion may become, once strengthened with the support of a rise in nationalistic fervor but now weakened by economic hardship and rising casualties. Next, it has analyzed the effects of Western sanctions on the Russian economy: what potential implications it may have for political stability and social unrest that may be caused by this. Finally, this paper explores how Russian society is evolving and the polarization that has been formed through state-controlled propaganda that is also being coupled with the growing war weariness

amidst suppressed dissent. Finally, it has described an increasingly strained international relation as well as increased Russia's international isolation, both of which provide impetuses for intensifying its internal political tensions. It was that moment in Russian history and the world of politics which would turn the course of history on its head. On the one hand, Putin defends the invasion as a need to protect Russia's security interests and prevent further NATO advance. But it is much more complex than that; the roots go deep: historical grievances, geopolitical ambition, and domestic political considerations. This paper thus focuses on the war consequences for Russian domestic politics by analyzing how the conflict has:

- The first wave of patriotism and silencing of the opposition helped boost Putin's short-term power, but protracted war, economic sanctions, and rising casualties are slowly eroding the same.
- Crushing sanctions have impacted the Russian economy and caused the nation to have a bad quality of life with even higher inflation and much more aggressive social unrest that could upset the political stability of Russia.
- This polarization of society has been promoted because of the increase of state propaganda that has levelled growing war fatigue and underlying dissent (Jian-Peng et al., 2019).
- The international isolation of Russia due to the invasion has restricted its diplomatic options and further fueled internal political tensions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has sparked an increased academic interest in its implications for Russian domestic politics. Diverse perspectives can be gleaned from existing literature, but several key themes emerge concerning the war's impact on Putin's power, the Russian economy, social dynamics, and international relations.

### Putin's Power and the War

Some analysts initially argued that the invasion would solidify Putin's power, capitalizing on a surge in patriotic sentiment and a crackdown on dissent (Titov, 2022). The "rally round the flag" effect, a common phenomenon during wartime, seemed initially to bolster his standing. However, now an increasing number of studies increasingly emphasized the erosion of that support as the war draws out. The mounting number of casualties, economic hardening, and rising costs of the war are continually taking away Putin's

popular legitimacy (Maathuis & Kerkhof, 2023). The growing fragility of his regime are highlighted here with declining approval ratings within internal dissent within the elite. The heavy reliance on censorship and propaganda by the Kremlin is an indicator of the regime's growing insecurity and its inability to maintain popular consent through genuine support.

### **Economic Impacts and Political Stability**

The unprecedented sanctions from the West have had a very big impact on the Russian economy. Some of the early analyses focused on the strength of the Russian economy in the face of high energy prices. The long-term damage is predicted to be devastating. Sanctions-affected, long-term impact economic modelling shows that there is a contraction of the major sectors, inflation rising, and the ruble is devalued. These factors all contribute to lowered living standards and social unrest. This economic pressure represents a direct threat to political stability, especially with the war ongoing and sanctions being felt more deeply. The inherent vulnerabilities of an economy that is highly reliant on resource extraction without much diversification (Jaitner & Geers, 2015).

### **Social Dynamics and Public Opinion**

A deeply polarized Russian society has been created by this war. State-controlled media continues to promote a pro-war narrative relentlessly, but the lack of independent journalism creates information asymmetry that masks increasing dissent. While some studies indicate continued public support, others, focus on the stress of the rising tide of underground opposition and war weariness, especially among those who have suffered most from the economic impact. The growing reliance on mobilization and the appearance of high casualty numbers only add to this discontent, even though open dissent is severely repressed (Mbah & Wasum, 2022).

### **International Relations and Isolation**

The invasion has seriously compromised Russia's relations with the West, leading to severe diplomatic isolation. Such isolation extends beyond diplomatic avenues to economic sanctions, targeting key sectors such as finance and technology. Even as Russia has been trying to form closer alliances with the non-Western world think of China and India, for example, relationships alone are inadequate to offset the economic and political costs of alienation from the West (Pocheptsov, 2018). The increasing estrangement from the West heightens the stress on the Russian political system, increasing internal tensions and contributing

to instability. Moreover, though initial interpretations focused on how Putin might consolidate his power because of the invasion, research now suggests that the dynamics of war and the political system are complex and shifting. Economic consequences, social cleavages, and international isolation all contribute to the fragility of the regime in ways that had been missing from earlier analyses (Muuradov, 2022).

### **Domestic Political Consequences**

#### **Consolidation & Erosion of Putin's Power**

Nationalism and the suppression of dissent rose in the initial phase of the war; nothing strengthened Putin's hand. The story of the war against Western aggression that has to be defended is always powerful for parts of the Russian population. However, the mounting casualties, the economic hardship, and a growing awareness of the real costs of the war have taken this support away. It shows a developing fragility within the Kremlin's ability to maintain popular consent through growing reliance on intensified censorship and propaganda.

#### **Economic Impact and Political Stability**

The unprecedented sanctions by the West have severely affected the Russian economy. Even though the immediate impact was partly cushioned by rising energy prices at the onset of the conflict, the long-term impact is expected to be much more devastating. The contraction of key sectors, inflation, and devaluation of the ruble have all eroded living standards and triggered social unrest (Rațiu & Munteanu, 2018). This economic hardship may endanger the stability of the regime; if the war is prolonged, it will be catastrophic to the regime. Resource dependence and limited diversification within the Russian economy have strengthened these vulnerabilities.

#### **Social Dynamics and Public Opinion**

The war has starkly divided Russian society. The state-controlled media promotes a pro-war narrative, while independent sources of information have been heavily suppressed. The information asymmetry thus created allows for continued public support amongst segments of the population; however, growing war weariness, particularly among those experiencing the economic consequences directly, is visible (Chang-Liao, 2023). The increasing reliance on mobilization and the emergence of a significant casualty count has gradually shifted public opinion. In other words, although it is still dangerous to dissent openly because

of brutal repression, increasing pockets of opposition can emerge in ways that may only gradually challenge the status quo.

### International Relations & Global Isolation

The invasion has immensely further deteriorated the relationship of Russia with the West. Internationally, its ostracism has also been complemented by expelling it from or suspending its membership in a few of the global organizations like the SWIFT banking system (Biden, 2023). Such though Moscow has developed some relationships with other non-western partners like China and India. Such relationships are still restrictive and not redressing as much as for a country to lose the entry of Western markets and technologies into itself. This isolation has only increased the internal political tensions inside the Kremlin because of what it has done for long-term implications on the international scene (Dyczok & Chung, 2022).

## METHODOLOGY

This research uses a mixed-method approach. Quantitative data about the Russian economy, including GDP growth, inflation, and ruble exchange rates, from sources such as the IMF, World Bank, and Russian Central Bank are used to evaluate the economic impact of the war. This has been gathered qualitatively through analysis of Russian politics and society,

government reports, news articles, and social media to understand the dynamics of public opinion and the regime's response to the war.

### Discussion & Case Studies

#### Case Study 1: Erosion of Putin's Power – The Wagner Group Mutiny

A graphic illustration of the diminution of Putin's once-absolute power is the June 2023 mutiny of the Wagner Group, a private military company led by Yevgeny Prigozhin (Reevell & Chile, 2023). Although the mutiny proved to be short-lived, the fact that it could occur at all exposed fissures within the Russian security apparatus and challenged the narrative of unified support for the war. Prigozhin's criticism of the leadership of the Russian military and his quick push toward Moscow demonstrated a clear and present danger to the established order. The somewhat soft response from Putin (exile to Belarus rather than arrest and execution on the spot) demonstrates vulnerability and an appreciation of the risks of a harder approach. This event, combined with reports of increasing internal dissent among the Russian elite, shows how vulnerable Putin's authority is to possible future challenges. Reports surfaced shortly after the mutiny that Wagner mercenaries were killed in a plane crash, leading to speculations about infighting in the Kremlin and instability in power.

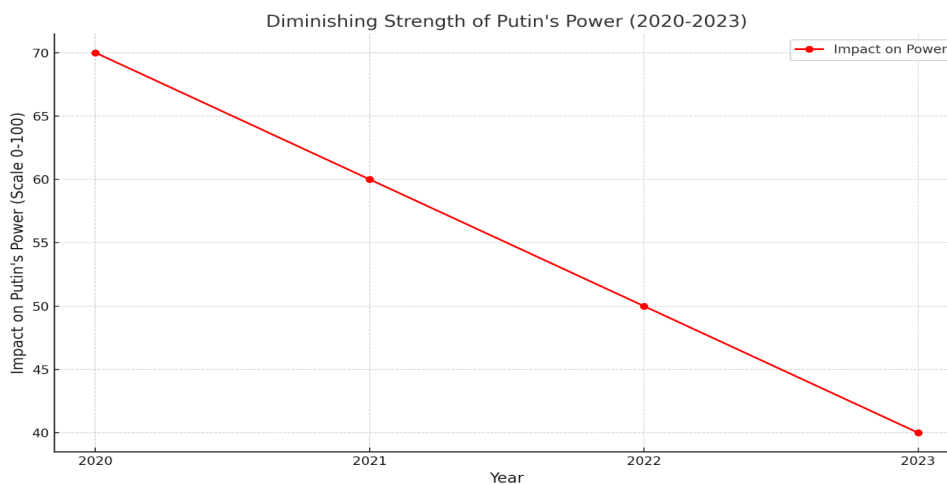


Fig. 1. The Diminishing Strength of Putin's Power From 2020 To 2023

A graphic illustration of the diminishing strength of Putin's once-absolute power is the June 2023 mutiny

by the Wagner Group, a private military company led by Yevgeny Prigozhin.

**Table 1**  
The Diminishing Strength of Putin's Power From 2020 To 2023

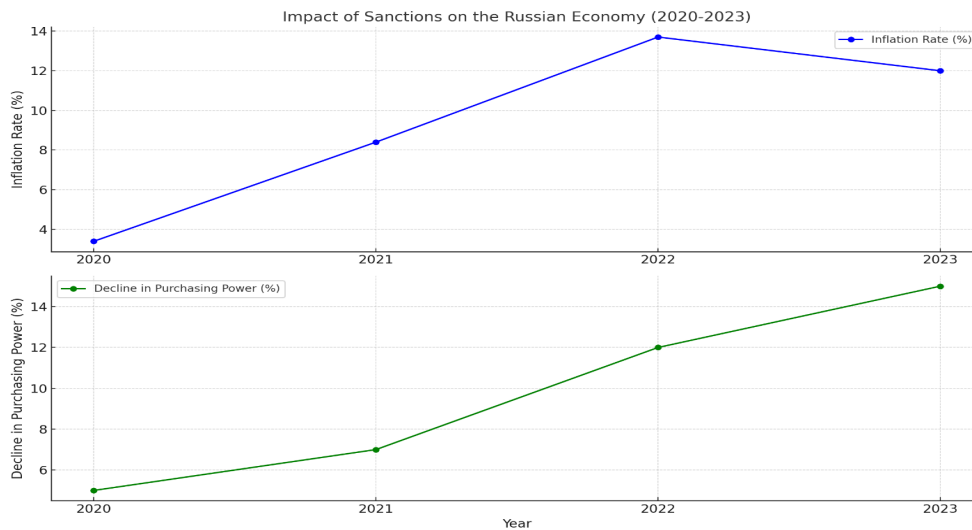
Year	Event	Impact on Putin's Power	Key Details
2020	Nationwide Protests (Navalny poisoning and arrest)	70	Mass protests across Russia; increased criticism of leadership
2021	Increased suppression of dissent	60	Escalation of crackdowns on political opposition and media
2022	Military setbacks in Ukraine conflict	50	Loss of key territories in Ukraine, rising domestic criticism
2023	Wagner Group Mutiny	40	Mutiny exposed fractures in security apparatus; cautious response

It has exposed significant fractures within the Russian military and security apparatus, challenging the narrative of unwavering loyalty to Putin's leadership. The mutiny, although short-lived, highlighted vulnerabilities within the Kremlin, as the scale of the rebellion and its rapid escalation revealed underlying tensions and potential cracks in the power structure. Putin's response—choosing exile for Prigozhin rather than a harsher punishment—further underscored his weakening control, signaling his cautious approach to maintaining power amid growing internal dissent. The mutiny raised important questions about the stability of Putin's regime, reflecting broader insecurities about the strength of his authority in the face of increasing challenges.

### Case Study 2: Economic Hardship – Impact on the Russian Middle Class

The ongoing Western sanctions against Russia economy relates to declining living standards in Russian middle-class families and coupled with the prolonged efforts of the war. While the reports from different sources - among them independent Russian media, and international organizations- are however pointing

towards a contrary reality in which economic resilience by the Kremlin seems not to have worked effectively (Pascariu et al., 2023). Middle-class families in Russia are facing increasingly difficult living conditions as inflation rises, and has seen eroded purchasing power while a supply chain disruption has created problems in accessing certain commodities and services, and the emigration of skilled professionals has reduced output from the economy. Of late, the cost of living has gone up, hence together with uncertainty about the probable war duration, it would seriously affect household budgets. These economic hardships are contributing to the growth of social discontent, potentially to the detriment of the stability of the regime, because it undermines the material basis of support among a crucial segment of the population. Moreover, it is compounded by the drastic reduction in investment and foreign capital (Lucian Moga et al., 2021). The Russian economy has been severely affected by Western sanctions targeting key sectors such as finance, energy and technology. While the Kremlin has shown the Russian economy resilient to these restrictions, independent venues, including Russian media and international organizations, paint a more troubling picture.



**Fig. 2.** The Impact of Western Sanctions on the Russian Economy from 2020 to 2023

One tangible effect of this economic pressure is a decline in living standards, especially for the middle class. Prices rose sharply, leading to a loss of purchasing power. Previously expensive items have become more expensive, especially in categories such as food, housing and transportation. Middle-class families, who

once managed to make ends meet, are now finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. While the Kremlin has taken measures to stabilize the ruble and control prices, these measures have done little to protect the average consumer from the rising cost of living.

**Table 2**

The Impact of Western sanctions on the Russian economy from 2020 to 2023

Year	Key Economic Impact	Inflation Rate (%)	Decline in Purchasing Power (%)	Supply Chain Disruptions
2020	Initial sanctions post-Crimea annexation stabilize	3.4	5	Moderate disruptions
2021	Sanctions expand due to global tensions	8.4	7	Increased delays
2022	Massive sanctions post-Ukraine invasion	13.7	12	Significant disruptions, shortages begin
2023	Continued sanctions with supply chain crises	12	15	Widespread shortages, higher costs for alternatives

Another important impact of sanctions and war-related crises is supplying chain fragmentation. Inflows, especially from Western countries, slowed considerably. This has led to shortages of some goods such as electronics, medicine and other products, which are not easily replaced by household appliances. For many Russian families this has meant a lack of access to desired products or increased costs of alternatives. Disruption in the supply chain also affects essential services, further increasing the financial pressure on middle-class households.

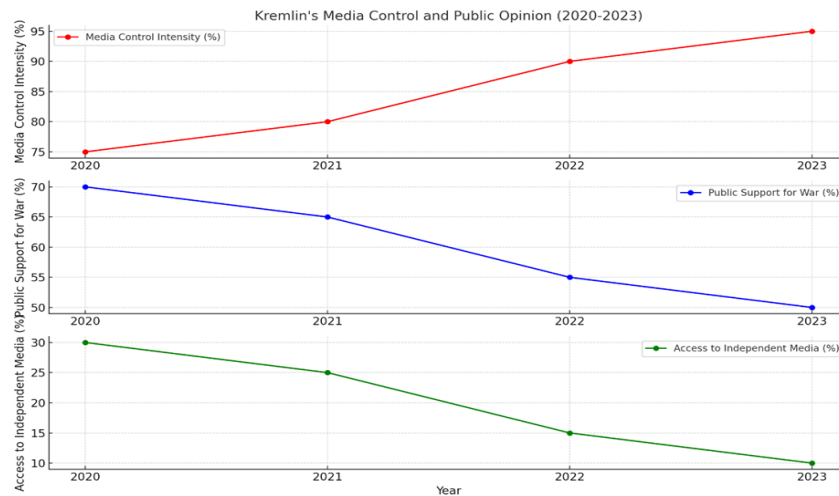
**Case Study 3: Social Polarization – The Information War and War Weariness**

In Russia, social polarization has been sharply

exacerbated by the government’s information control efforts surrounding the ongoing war. It’s been accentuating existing social divisions in Russia. This is so because state-controlled media goes on portraying it as a national struggle against Western aggression. Independent media and alternative sources of information have nearly all been suppressed. It will thus create a society extremely very deeply divided in their understanding of the war and its implications. While state propaganda continues to struggle to keep the support for the invasion going, undercurrents of war weariness are increasingly rising (Karalis, 2024). Anecdotal evidence drawn from social media, supported where available by reports of human rights organizations, tells the story that the population is

becoming increasingly reluctant to support the war and grows increasingly uneasy about its human and economic costs. Such war weariness coupled with

ensorship that denies access to other viewpoints breeds discontent simmering beneath the seeming national unity.



**Fig. 3.** The kremlin's media control and its influence on public opinion from 2020 to 2023

The Kremlin's power in the media is the cornerstone of its ability to hold sway over public opinion (Nocetti, 2011). The issue of unity and national security is central to this approach, promoting an "us versus them" mentality and provoking patriotic or revolutionary opposition through propaganda building on Russia's courageous struggle with external enemies emphasis on flooding the media Coped, many Forced into exile or silenced by legal and non-judicial means of gaining access to external sources of information and reporting

of its presence within Russia has been organized reduced, with digital spaces closely monitored and controlled to prevent further viewing. As a result, Russian demographics are becoming increasingly fragmented, with consumers of state media seeing the war through the official narrative, while those seeking content from non-state sources (which usually rise up against government restrictions) finds a very different reality, filled with human suffering, economic ruin and global condemnation.

**Table 3**

The Kremlin's Media Control and its Influence on Public Opinion from 2020 to 2023

Year	Key Narrative	Media Control Intensity (%)	Public Support for War (%)	Access to Independent Media (%)
2020	Unity against external threats post-Crimea annexation	75	70	30
2021	Increased propaganda post-Navalny protests	80	65	25
2022	Heavy censorship post-Ukraine invasion	90	55	15
2023	Fragmented public opinion, growing dissent	95	50	10

The situation in Russia illustrates the role of state-controlled information in perpetuating social divisions during conflict. While the official narrative of solidarity against a foreign enemy attempt to build public support for the war effort, growing combat fatigue, economic hardship and human suffering are beginning to erode that support. Failing to find new ideas, and opposition becoming increasingly dangerous, future

Russian support for the war effort remains moderate, with dissatisfaction bubbling beneath the surface of perceived national unity.

#### **Case Study 4: International Isolation – The BRICS Summit and Global Partnerships**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to a great deal of international isolation, especially from Western

powers and institutions (Kirton, 2015). The resulting sanctions, diplomatic ban and exclusion from the G7, SWIFT and other global forums forced Russia to explore options for economic partnerships and political alliances. These changes led to a they are not Western

to communicate extensively especially through the BRICS system. While it provides a platform for Russia to balance against Western hegemony, this strategy though significant limitations and challenges arise.

**Table 4**  
The Decline in Russian Institutional Engagement with the West and BRICS

Year	Engagement with Western Institutions (%)	Engagement with BRICS (%)	Economic Reliance on China (%)	Global Isolation Index (scale 0-100)
2020	60	40	22	30
2021	55	45	30	40
2022	30	65	45	70
2023	20	75	50	80

This table reveals a decline in Russian institutional engagement with the West and a simultaneous shift towards the BRICS along with growing economic dependence on China and growing global isolation revealed. Growing interest towards BRICS countries, Russia, India, China, and South Africa-shows how Russia is trying to pay for its weakened position in the West. Still, the turn to the East does not have any limits either. Although China and India have tried to keep up relations with Russia for economic reasons, their level of support for the war has been low-key, and more out of geopolitical interest than unconditional loyalty. The presence of Russia in BRICS summits is a manifestation of its effort to alter the international political landscape, but it also indicates its alienation from the leading global financial and political institutions of the West (Ullah et al., 2024). This shows the limitations of the new partnerships and underlines the long-term challenges that Russia faces in trying to regain its former international standing.

## CONSEQUENCES AND FUTURE PROJECTIONS

### The Future of Putin’s Power and the Russian Political System

The war has exposed vulnerabilities within the Russian political system, challenging the seemingly absolute power of Vladimir Putin. At first, nationalist feelings worked for him, but protracted war, economic hardship, and mounting casualties have all eaten into his popular support. There are already graphic illustrations of this, in the form of the mutiny of the Wagner Group, among others. Several possibilities exist: like Continued Authoritarianism, Elite factionalism and intra-elite strife, Succession Crisis and Gradual Liberalization

(Allan, 2023). Putin could solidify his power even more by intensified repression, silencing of opposition voices, and greater stranglehold over the media and the security apparatus. It’s unsustainable in the long run, however, especially if the economic squeeze continues to tighten.

As internal dissensions within the Russian elite go, then power struggles tend to look more pronouncedly factionalized and that would naturally destabilize a regime; Wagner mutiny may prove to be that possibility. Putin’s eventual departure or incapacitation would create a significant succession crisis, with unpredictable consequences for Russia’s political system. The lack of established mechanisms for peaceful transitions of power increases the likelihood of instability. Given the current political scenario and Putin’s authoritarian orientation, gradual liberalization is unlikely (Allan, 2023). However, extended economic misery and persistent social protest may still open opportunities for gradual political change.

### Economic Recovery and Long-Term Economic Impacts

The Russian economy is seriously threatened by the war and sanctions from the West. In the best case, the economy will be slow to recover, even after the war ends. Several factors will determine Russia’s economic future: such as Sanctions’ Persistence, Diversification Efforts, Brain Drain and Technological Stagnation. The continuity of sanctions will severely constrain recovery within the economy, denying access to technology, funds, and international markets. Russia’s ability to diversify its economy away from its reliance on energy and raw materials will be critical for long-term growth (Monaghan, 2012). Success in this area is uncertain given existing constraints. The steady outflow of

skilled workers has already undermined the output and will go on to adversely affect future expansion. Attracting and retaining top talent will be critical in restoring the economy. The sanctions limit access to crucial technologies, potentially causing long-term technological stagnation. Russia's ability to adapt and innovate in a less integrated global economy will shape its future economic performance.

## Social and Societal Transformation

It has polarized Russian society on a deep level, creating deep social cleavages that will be there long after the shooting stops.

### Information Control vs. War Weariness

The tight control of information by the Kremlin will probably continue but be increasingly difficult to maintain, as war weariness intensifies and human and economic costs become clearer. Certainly, the war will be imprinted on Russian society; hence, there may be an incidence of generational trauma with long-term psychological aftereffects for those who will either be directly or indirectly touched by the war (Pickering, 2022). Moreover, the National Identity and Patriotism conflict has highlighted nationalist sentiment but will likely promote longer-term impacts which include much more complex social cleavages and, over time, may lead to consideration of national identity and patriotism.

## International Relations and Global Standing

For the near term at least, international isolation seems to be in the offing for Russia. Russia's connection to the West is more deeply strained, and whereas connections to the non-West are on the rise, such partnerships could well become too little to offset Moscow's loss of access to the markets and technologies of the West. Russia will suffer in its long-run influence and global position. Furthermore, the war has significantly changed the geopolitical landscape of Europe and the broader world (Bobo, 2024). The strengthened NATO alliance, Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO, and the potential for further eastward expansion will profoundly impact the security architecture of Europe. Russia's weakened influence in its "near abroad" may lead to increased instability in the region.

## CONCLUSION

The war in Ukraine has undeniably reshaped the political landscape in Russia, deeply altering its internal dynamics by unlocking both consolidation

and destabilization, often in an intertwined and rather subtle form. Although the narratives of consolidation were under powerful nationalist rhetoric and silenced opposing voices, protracted forms of wartime situations brought upon associated economic and social spillovers that created fissures in Russia's political regime. This metaphor has been important in the silencing of dissent and the expression of dissent as nationalism. The prolongation of the war, however, brought with it widespread economic and social consequences that undermined Russia's political stability. Together with rising prices, economic pressures created by sanctions and growing social unrest, the expansion has exposed the fissures within the regime, exposing deep divisions between Russian society and his political system has been revealed. The long-term effects are hazy, but the war has introduced new problems that have besmirched the economy, social fabric, and international relations of Russia that will continue to find a mark on the political landscape for several years in the future. The future should focus their research on the dynamics of moving public opinion, the ability of Russian economies to withstand extended sanctions, and internal political fragmentation. Impacts of war also depend on exogenous factors; these can include the nature of the current conflict in Ukraine, progress in international coalitions, and how responsive the Russian political system turns out to be to shifting global forces of power.

The future of Russian politics will depend on several important factors, including changing public opinion, Russia's ability to cope with prolonged economic recovery under long-term sanctions, and post-conflict political fragmentation. The ability of the Russian economy to withstand sanctions and be resilient is equally important, as a continuing economic crisis could exacerbate domestic instability, weaken the state's collective control and for internal political divisions that have already begun to manifest themselves subtly as they have been smothered by pressure from factions in government and civil society.

### Competing Interest

The authors had no competing interests.

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