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# \*\*\*SOLVENCY\*\*\*

### Russia Says No: 2AC

#### Putin says no to US offers of a grand bargain

**Vershbow, former US ambassador to Russia, South Korea, and NATO**, 6-22-**18**

(Alexander, “Trump’s ‘grand bargain’ with Russia is an illusion,” accessed 8-6-20, <https://www.inquirer.com/philly/opinion/commentary/trump-russia-putin-summit-ukraine-crimea-20180622.html>) JFN

President Trump is again floating the idea of a summit with Vladimir Putin. **Trump** still **seems to believe there's a grand bargain to be forged with Russia**, if he can just get in the room with its president. **The grand bargain is a grand illusion**. We all would like to halt the downward spiral in U.S. relations with Moscow. But wishing for a better relationship won't make it so. **Fundamental differences cannot easily be overcome**. **A durable improvement cannot be achieved by** sweeping those differences under the rug or by **throwing sovereign countries** such as Ukraine **under the bus** — as Trump apparently did during the recent Group of Seven summit. **It is only possible if we stick to our principles and insist on changes in the Russian behavior that led to the worsening of relations.** By illegally annexing Crimea, waging an undeclared war in eastern Ukraine, and occupying large swaths of Georgia's and Moldova's territory, **Putin's Russia has torn up the international rule book and firmly established itself as a revisionist power**, **undermining the basis for cooperation on European security**. In Syria, Putin has not been fighting the Islamic State, but is propping up Bashar al-Assad's regime and giving a strategic foothold to Iran, increasing the threat to Israel. On arms control, Putin has withdrawn from some agreements and flagrantly violated others, including the 1987 INF Treaty. He has systematically sought to interfere in Western elections and discredit our democratic institutions, along with NATO and the European Union. In short, **Putin defines Russia's interests in opposition to the West and isn't interested in compromising on the issues of concern to us. His hostility is driven, first and foremost, by domestic politics**. **Moscow fears the encroachment of Western ideas and values**, and their potential to contaminate Russia itself **and ultimately undermine the regime**. **This means Putin and his propaganda machine will continue to promote the narrative of a Russia under siege, a Russia that is standing up to a hostile,** Russophobic **West that wants to weaken Russia rather than respect it as a great power**. **This siege mentality will remain in place for the foreseeable future, since the Putin system can no longer deliver on prosperity or improve living standards without fundamental reforms — reforms that would mean liberalizing the regime more than Putin believes would be safe**. **In these circumstances, we should give up on the fantasy of a grand bargain with Putin** in favor of strategic patience. The best we may be able to do in the short term is to manage the competition and reduce the risk of direct conflict, both through strong deterrence and by using Cold War tools such as arms control and military transparency. Strategic patience doesn't mean being passive. We should continue to stand up for our values and support what's left of civil society in Russia. We should engage in dialogue with the Russian government and try to cooperate on the few subjects where our interests may overlap, such as North Korea. And we should continue to provide off-ramps on issues such as eastern Ukraine. **On most issues**, however, **we should expect Russia to be more interested in playing the spoiler — seeking to diminish U.S. influence rather than pursuing win-win solutions**. We may need to wait until Putin leaves the scene before there can be a real change for the better in our relations with Moscow. This doesn't mean that Trump should not have a summit with Putin in the coming months. But the president should aim for more than a nice photo-op. He should tell Putin that our governments should work on preparing realistic deliverables before we set the date for a summit meeting. And he should coordinate with our allies and Congress, whose support and solidarity could strengthen his hand with Moscow.

### Russia Says No: Extensions

#### Putin has no need for a grand bargain with the US

**Trudolyubov, Kennan Institute Senior Fellow**, 3-10-**17**

(Maxim, “What Russia? What Grand Bargain?,” accessed 8-6-20, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/what-russia-what-grand-bargain>) JFN

Somehow **a grand bargain of sorts has already happened, all by itself. Russia is no longer isolated; it is talking to the rest of the world from a position of strength; it is busy building independent relationships with U.S. allies**, including many European countries and Turkey. **Most of its present freedom to act Russia has taken without asking for U.S. permission.** T**he U.S. media have portrayed Putin as an all-powerful player who can tip the balance of a U.S. election**. “[The U.S.] has more recently continued [to build up Putin’s power ] by advertising Russia's hacking and propaganda prowess. As a result, Putin is punching well above Russia's economic weight, and many Americans are happy to let Trump legitimize it,” the journalist Leonid Bershidsky wrote recently in an astute comment. Trump, just by saying “You think our country is so innocent?” when interviewed by Fox’s Bill O'Reilly, has established a moral equivalence between Russia's actions in Ukraine or Syria and U.S. actions throughout the world. Allegations of Russia's meddling in the U.S. elections are being muted by a scandal closer to home, one that Trump alleges involves the previous administration. Trump keeps feuding with his own intelligence agencies (just imagine Putin feuding with the FSB!). Washington may soon lose all interest in any special relationship with Russia. The same seems to be true for Moscow. **What bargains can possibly do more to further Russia's strategic interests than what has already been done?**

#### Putin is not interested in serious and sustained engagement with the US

**Kramer, Former assistant secretary of State for democracy, human rights and labor**, 8-11-**20**

(David, “No, Now Is Not the Time for Another Russia Reset,” accessed 8-12-20, <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/08/11/russia-reset-response-open-letter-393176>) JFN

While the United States is not blameless for **the** current **state of U.S.-Russia relations**, the authors fail to make clear that **the main responsibility lies with the Putin regime**. **Since President** George H.W. **Bush, every American administration has tried to establish good relations with Russia**. But **since Putin came to power, the Russian side has not reciprocated these overtures in a serious, sustained way**. **Putin is more interested in portraying the United States as Russia’s greatest enemy—to justify his repressive control at home—than he is in improving bilateral relations.** By arguing that it is the United States and not Russia that needs a “change of our current course,” the authors of the open letter get it exactly backward and give Putin too much leeway to continue his dangerous and reckless behavior.

#### US-Russia dialogue produces nothing because Putin refuses to concede any wrongdoings

**Kramer, Former assistant secretary of State for democracy, human rights and labor**, 8-11-**20**

(David, “No, Now Is Not the Time for Another Russia Reset,” accessed 8-12-20, <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/08/11/russia-reset-response-open-letter-393176>) JFN

The authors urge the United States to engage with Russia through “a serious and sustained strategic dialogue that addresses the deeper sources of mistrust and hostility and at the same time focuses on the large and urgent security challenges facing both countries.” They also argue in favor of the restoration of normal diplomatic contacts between the two countries to minimize “misperceptions and miscalculations.” But **there has been no shortage of U.S.-Russian dialogue, including about nuclear capabilities**. And **U.S. representatives have regularly engaged their Russian counterparts on Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine, Syria, nuclear issues and more**. **We have full diplomatic relations**, even if both sides have engaged in tit-for-tat expulsions reducing the size of each other’s embassy staffing. **The lack of results is not for lack of trying. It’s hard to negotiate with the other side when Moscow refuses to admit that its forces invaded Crimea and Donbas** and still are present there; is complicit in shooting down a civilian airliner resulting in the deaths of 298 passengers and crew; **lies about interfering in America’s 2016 elections**; commits human rights abuses in Syria and **props up the murderous Assad regime** there; and kills Russian critics in Western countries with highly dangerous radioactive and chemical agents. **Until Putin is ready to address his complicity in these actions, further dialogue won’t go very far**. Meanwhile, it’s difficult to do “normal” diplomacy when the Russians use their diplomatic posts for troublemaking, not for clearing up misperceptions.

### Nothing to Offer: 2AC

#### Putin cannot put anything valuable on the table

**Rutland, Lowy Institute**, 2-27-**17**

(Peter, “The petty bargain: Trump, Putin and the future of US-Russia relations,” accessed 8-7-20, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/petty-bargain-trump-putin-and-future-us-russia-relations>) JFN

One problem is that **it's hard to see what the US would be getting in return. Trump** the consummate deal-maker **will want something to brag about: Putin’s goodwill doesn’t count for much**, and **the Russian President can hardly publicly promise not to invade other neighboring countries, or to stop provocative air and sea sorties against the US military (there is no kudos in stopping doing something that you shouldn’t be doing anyway**). **There is no sign that Putin is willing to withdraw from the Donbas** and leave the secessionist region to its fate at the hands of the Kyiv government. **Beyond that, what can Putin put on the table?**

### Empirics: 2AC

#### No possibility of a grand bargain

**Stent, Brookings Institute Senior Fellow, 16**

(Angela, “Why small steps on Russia are better than attempts at a grand bargain,” accessed 8-7-20, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2016/11/30/why-small-steps-on-russia-are-better-than-attempts-at-a-grand-bargain/>) JFN

President-elect Donald Trump has promised to mend relations with Russia and make a “deal” with President Putin that will restore ties and facilitate cooperation on global challenges. As his administration embarks on their own reset of relations with Russia, he should bear in mind two key facts. First, **every U.S. administration since 1991 has come into office seeking to improve ties with Russia and each of these resets has ended in disappointment, because the United States and Russia have a very different understanding of what a productive relationship would look like**. Second, President **Putin has made clear what he would put on the table as the main elements of a deal—a reprise of the Yalta agreement that divides the world into spheres of influence and does not challenge what he considers are Russia’s legitimate interests**. As an experienced businessman, Mr. Trump needs to ensure that U.S. interests are served by whatever deal he negotiates.

### No Enforcement: 2AC

#### Russia doesn’t respect diplomatic agreements

**Continetti, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute**, 7-14-**18**

(Matthew, “No ‘Grand Bargain’ with Putin,” accessed 8-11-20, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/07/trump-putin-summit-grand-bargain-with-russia-not-worth-risks/>) JFN

But **he would be wrong to make a deal with Putin, or agree to any concessions in which reciprocity is not verifiable, concrete, and upfront. What happened in Daraa was a classic lesson in Russian diplomacy: Talk** bigly and **nicely, then wait for the democracies to look inward and become distracted before making your next advance** on the ground.

### Linkage Diplomacy Fails: 2AC

#### Low status quo relations doom attempts at linkage diplomacy

**Notte, Univ. of Oxford PhD Candidate, 17**

(Hanna, “Russian-American Cooperation in the Middle East – An Analysis of Moscow’s Interests, Leverage, and Strategies of Linkage,” December 2017, accessed 8-11-20, <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:aefbdbb5-06ba-4015-9c93-4e55f2f45405/download_file?file_format=pdf&safe_filename=DPhil%2Bfor%2BSubmission%2BHNotte.pdf&type_of_work=Thesis>) JFN

The institutional form of cooperation, which results from the specific nature of any security issue, marginally influences the scope for Russia’s pursuit of reciprocity. Especially **when cooperation involves ad hoc and short-lived diplomacy, or technical talks led by low- to mid-level ‘issue’ experts**, as opposed to sustained engagement between senior officials with responsibility for the broader relationship, **opportunities for linkage diplomacy are inherently limited**. However, the sparse evidence of linkage in this study is more convincingly explained by stated policy and US perceptions of the meaning and costliness of Russian actions, rather than by the institutional contextual factors stipulated in the cooperation literature. **When Russian-US relations deteriorate significantly, scope for reciprocity in cooperation is** additionally **reduced**.

# \*\*\*TURNS\*\*\*

### Deals Decrease US Credibility: 2AC

#### Deals with Putin make the US look weak and incentives Russian aggression

**Kramer, Former assistant secretary of State for democracy, human rights and labor**, 8-11-**20**

(David, “No, Now Is Not the Time for Another Russia Reset,” accessed 8-12-20, <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/08/11/russia-reset-response-open-letter-393176>) JFN

America’s ability to bring about change in Russia might be very limited. But **to resign ourselves to dealing with Russia “as it is, not as we wish it to be**,” as the authors argue—that is, accepting Russia’s repression, kleptocracy and aggression—**would provide no incentive for Putin to change**. Instead, **it would convey an over-eagerness on the American side for better relations, which Putin would exploit. Such a stance** also **runs counter to America’s values**, interests and principles, **and**, just as importantly, **fails to keep faith with the Russian people as their patience with the regime runs thin**. Putin’s poll numbers have declined over the past year, protests have risen up in the Far East, and the recent nationwide vote needed to be rigged to enable Putin to serve potentially 16 more years. **Putin** feels he **needs to stimulate and exploit nationalist sentiment to maintain his grip on power**. But contrary to the letter writers’ claim that “Russia, under Vladimir Putin, operates within a strategic framework deeply rooted in nationalist traditions that resonate with elites and the public alike,” only 3 percent of Russians consider the United States an enemy, according to a Levada Center survey from earlier this year. Putin increasingly is out of touch with the Russian people.

# \*\*\*PERMUTATIONS\*\*\*

### Unilateral Concessions: 2AC

#### Grand Bargains can be implemented via smaller increments, including unilateral concessions

**Glaser, George Washington Univ. International Affairs Prof., 15**

(Charles, “A US-China Grand Bargain?,” International Security, Spring 2015, accessed 8-6-20, p. EBSCO) JFN

**Another way to balance** feasibility and **benefits**, therefore, **could be to look for a path that divides the grand bargain into smaller**, more attainable **increments**. **One can imagine a series of steps,** including the United States ending its arms sales to Taiwan and China ending its use of force to advance its maritime claims, **that could be implemented sequentially to create a phased grand bargain**. **This approach would enable the United States to revert to its current** Taiwan **policy if China failed to uphold its side of the phased agreement.** Another possibility might include partial resolution of the maritime disputes. An agreement that delayed resolution of the sovereignty disputes far into the future, or indefinitely, while settling the resource disputes would be more feasible to achieve than a full resolution. This type of agreement could be possible because, for the most part, the sovereignty disputes can be separated from the resource disputes. In fact, China and Japan reached this type of arrangement in 2008, although it has yet to be implemented.111 The United States could pursue a variant of this staged approach that would enable it to try to push the diplomatic process forward. In this more proactive model, **the United States would make its initial concession unilaterally**, while explaining that further concessions would hinge on China’s reciprocation of its initial move.

### Plan = Pre-Requisite: 2AC

#### Plan is a pre-requisite to any grand bargain with Russia

**Rutland, Lowy Institute**, 2-27-**17**

(Peter, “The petty bargain: Trump, Putin and the future of US-Russia relations,” accessed 8-7-20, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/petty-bargain-trump-putin-and-future-us-russia-relations>) JFN

Another problem is that **Moscow is** also **looking for more concessions from Washington: a pledge not to try to expand NATO** beyond the accession of Montenegro; **the withdrawal of NATO troops from states bordering Russia;** and (the biggest prize of all) an end to the deployment of missile defenses in Central Europe (ostensibly there to protect against Iranian missiles, but also usable against Russia).