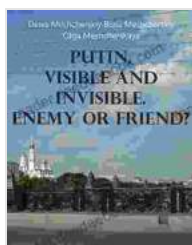


Putin: Visible and Invisible Enemy or Friend?

Vladimir Putin has been a dominant figure in international relations for over two decades. His presidency has been marked by both domestic and foreign policy successes, as well as controversy and conflict. Putin's foreign policy has been particularly assertive, with Russia intervening in conflicts in Ukraine, Crimea, and Syria. This has led to accusations that Putin is a dangerous and expansionist leader, who poses a threat to global security. However, others argue that Putin is a strong and decisive leader who is defending Russia's interests in a dangerous and unstable world.

In this article, we will explore the evidence and arguments for and against the view that Putin is a visible enemy or a potential friend. We will consider his foreign policy actions, his motivations, and the potential consequences of his policies for Russia and the world.

Putin's foreign policy has been characterized by a strong emphasis on Russian sovereignty and national interests. He has sought to restore Russia's status as a great power, and to challenge the dominance of the United States and its allies. Putin has also been a vocal critic of Western interventionism, and has accused the United States of trying to weaken Russia and undermine its government.



Putin. Visible and Invisible. Enemy or Friend? by K.L. Slater

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 975 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 312 pages
Lending : Enabled



One of the most significant developments in Putin's foreign policy has been the annexation of Crimea and the intervention in Ukraine. In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, a peninsula in the Black Sea that had been part of Ukraine since 1954. Russia justified the annexation on the grounds that the majority of the population of Crimea was Russian-speaking and that the region had voted to join Russia in a referendum. However, the annexation was widely condemned by the international community, which saw it as a violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Russia has also been accused of supporting separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. The conflict in eastern Ukraine has resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 people and has displaced over 1 million people. Russia denies that it is providing military support to the separatists, but there is strong evidence to suggest that this is the case.

In 2015, Russia intervened in the Syrian civil war on the side of the Assad government. Russia's intervention has helped to turn the tide of the war in favor of the Assad government, but it has also led to accusations that Russia is targeting civilians and committing war crimes.

Putin's foreign policy has also been characterized by a willingness to use military force to achieve his goals. In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia in response to Georgia's attempt to retake control of the breakaway region of South Ossetia. Russia's invasion of Georgia was widely condemned by the

international community, and it led to a deterioration in relations between Russia and the West.

There are a number of factors that have influenced Putin's foreign policy. These include:

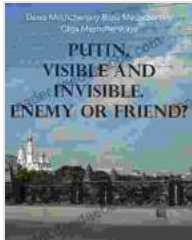
- **Historical Factors:** Putin has a strong sense of Russian history, and he believes that Russia has been historically mistreated by the West. He sees Russia as a great power that has been humiliated in recent decades, and he wants to restore Russia's status in the world.
- **Security Concerns:** Putin is concerned about Russia's security, and he sees NATO expansion into Eastern Europe as a threat to Russia's borders. He also believes that the United States is trying to weaken Russia and undermine its government.
- **Economic Interests:** Putin wants to increase Russia's economic power and influence in the world. He sees Russia as a major energy producer, and he wants to use Russia's energy resources to gain economic and political leverage.

Putin's policies have had a profound impact on Russia and the world. His annexation of Crimea and intervention in Ukraine have led to a deterioration in relations between Russia and the West. The conflict in eastern Ukraine has resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 people and has displaced over 1 million people. Russia's intervention in Syria has also led to accusations that Russia is targeting civilians and committing war crimes.

Putin's policies have also had a significant impact on the Russian economy. The sanctions that have been imposed on Russia by the United States and the European Union have led to a recession in Russia and a decline in the

value of the ruble. The Russian economy is also heavily dependent on oil and gas exports, and the recent decline in oil prices has had a negative impact on the Russian economy.

Vladimir Putin is a complex and controversial figure. He is a strong and decisive leader who has restored Russia's status as a great power. However, his foreign policy has also been marked by aggression and conflict. It is too early to say whether Putin will be remembered as a friend or an enemy, but there is no doubt that he has had a profound impact on Russia and the world.



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