

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

Ilias

Balatou

AS

Vladimir Putin

Current President of Russia
(at the age of 90)



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Context

We are in the year 2042 and I am impersonating a 90-year-old Vladimir Putin, speaking a few months after his resignation from the presidency of Russia. He sits in a traditional Greek kafeneio, a café where Greek old men gather to socialize, drink Greek coffee or tsipouro (a strong traditional drink which is usually served with olives, cheese and meat), and play cards or tavli, a Greek board game. In this setting, Putin sits at the same table with his trusted allies, Victor Orbán and Alexander Lukashenko. Around them, other men have gathered to listen, as the leaders reminisce about their victories and reflect on the empire they rebuilt. While Orbán and Lukashenko engage in the lively conversation, Putin remains silent, reading his newspaper. When a man asks him “how does it feel to be a national hero?”, he puts the newspaper down and begins to speak. I chose this setting because people in kafeneia have nostalgic conversations about the “good old days” and most of the time, they argue about politics.

Speech

A hero? No, I am not a hero. The true heroes are YOU, my comrades, our courageous men fought on the frontlines, for truth and justice, defending the dignity of our Russian homeland against the Western neoliberal dominance and imperialistic aggression.

My role was simple: restore what was lost after the biggest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century, the breakup of the Soviet Union. That tragedy tore apart families and left millions of our people in Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan and beyond separated from their Motherland. Rebuilding the historical Russkiy Mir, our Russian World, was not just my duty, it was the will of our people and the destiny of our great nation.

And that is exactly what we achieved. Our great philosopher Ivan Ilyin once taught us that a nation’s strength lies in unity, rooted in traditional values and faith. We proved to the world that THIS unity is far stronger than Western hypocrisy.

For decades, they dismissed us as a regional power, spreading Russophobia and imposing their so-called democratic values and neoliberal agenda of moral decay on the world: dozens of genders, gay pride parades and rules they followed whenever it suited their interests. But we said: no more! Today, thanks to God, our strong Eurasian Federation, stretches from the Arctic to the Baltic Sea, from the Baltic to Caspian. Together with our partners in China and the Global South we have created a multipolar

world where every nation can determine its own destiny without foreign imposition. THIS, my comrades, is real democracy. THIS is real sovereignty.

And the West? It has fallen into its own chaos. The so-called European Union, torn by internal divisions and the US, an empire collapsing under the weight of its own arrogance.

As we speak, I still remember our special military operation in Ukraine with great pride. It was not a war of conquest, as our opponents claimed, but a moral obligation to liberate our historical heartland, our little Russia, from their neocolonial hands. Even when they flooded Kyiv with their weapons and crossed our red lines, we acted with common sense. Using small-scale nuclear arms was not an act of aggression but a necessary step to protect our sacred lands.

What happened next was inevitable, the West fell, Ukraine returned to its natural place and balance was restored to the world.

As I look around this room I see my friends, my true allies in shaping this new world. My dear Victor, you defended the European Christianity values with honor against the forces of liberalism in Brussels. My dear Alexander, my brother, your loyalty to our vision, even in the darkest hours, will never be forgotten.

Now, as I look back, I feel nothing but pride. We ensured that our children, and their children, will live in a peaceful and free world in which Russia leads by example.

So, to answer your question, I am not a hero, I just did what it had to be done. The rest... is history.

Na zdorovye!