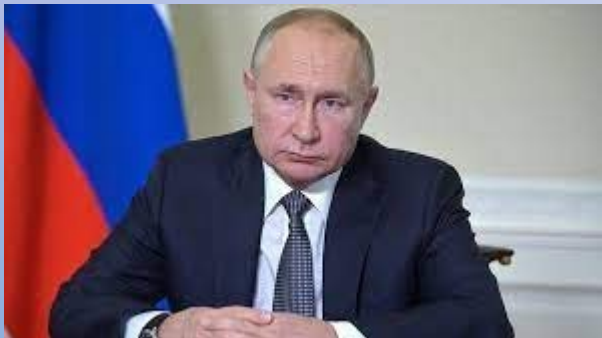




PSYCHOLOGY, LEADERS AND NEW DETERRENCE DILEMMAS



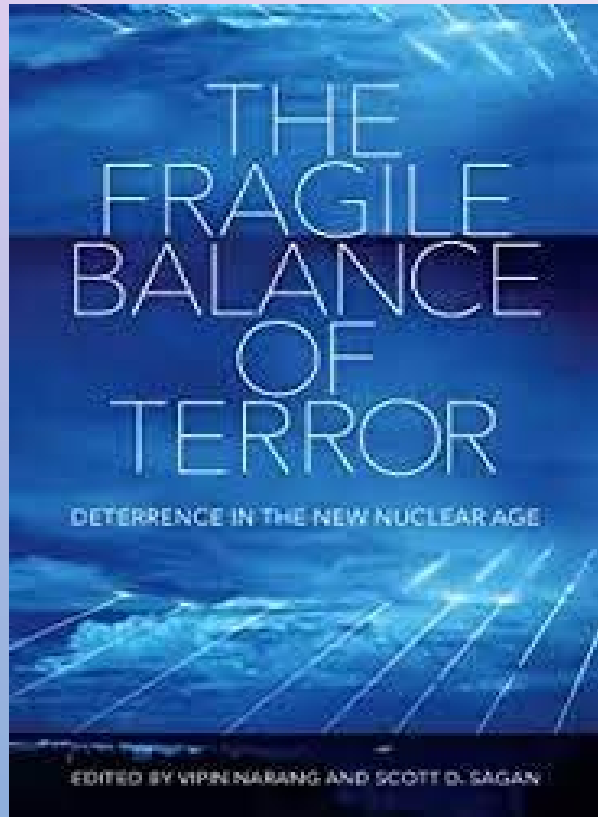
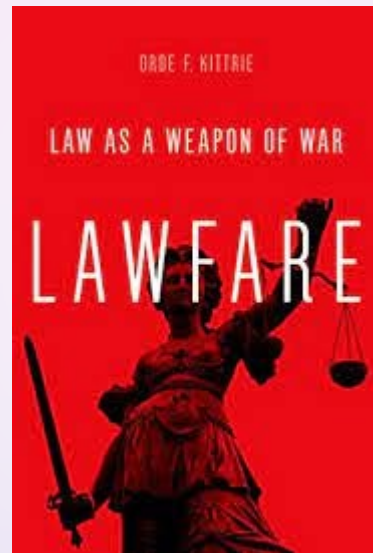
THE ROLE OF PERSONALISTIC LEADERSHIP



PERSONALIST PARADOX (NARANG & SAGAN)

- MORE LIKELY TO WANT NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BE ABLE TO START SUCH PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF FEWER DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS
 - AND/BUT
- LESS LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN BEING ABLE TO BUILD THEM BECAUSE OF WEAK BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURES AND PATHOLOGIES THAT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR LEADERS TO SUSTAIN LARGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS





CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONALIST LEADERS

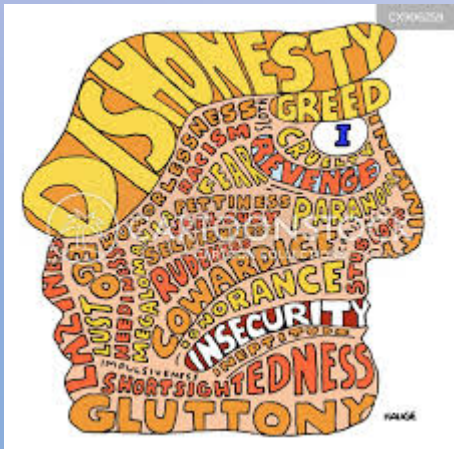
- REGIME TYPE AND STATE STRUCTURE: ORGANIZATIONAL : LOYALTY OVER COMPETENCE
- PRIDE AND SHAME
 - STATUS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS
- LIMITS ON LEARNING



REGIME TYPE AND STATE STRUCTURE



- PERSONALIST LEADERS THRIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF WEAK STATES
- REQUIRES LESS BROAD COALITION THAN IN DEMOCRACY
 - INFORMATION PROBLEM
 - PERSONALITY FLAWS EXERT GREATER INFLUENCE
 - TRUST/LOYALTY AMONG FOLLOWERS PRIVILEGED OVER COMPETENCE





PRIDE AND SHAME (NARCISSISM AND PARANOIA)

- SOCIAL EMOTIONS THAT SIGNAL SOCIAL PRICING
- NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS STATUS SYMBOL



CONDITIONS OF POOR LEARNING

- INTERPERSONAL FEAR
- BELIEFS THAT FAILURE IS UNACCEPTABLE
- GROUPTHINK
- DESTRUCTIVE POWER DYNAMICS
- INFORMATION HOARDING



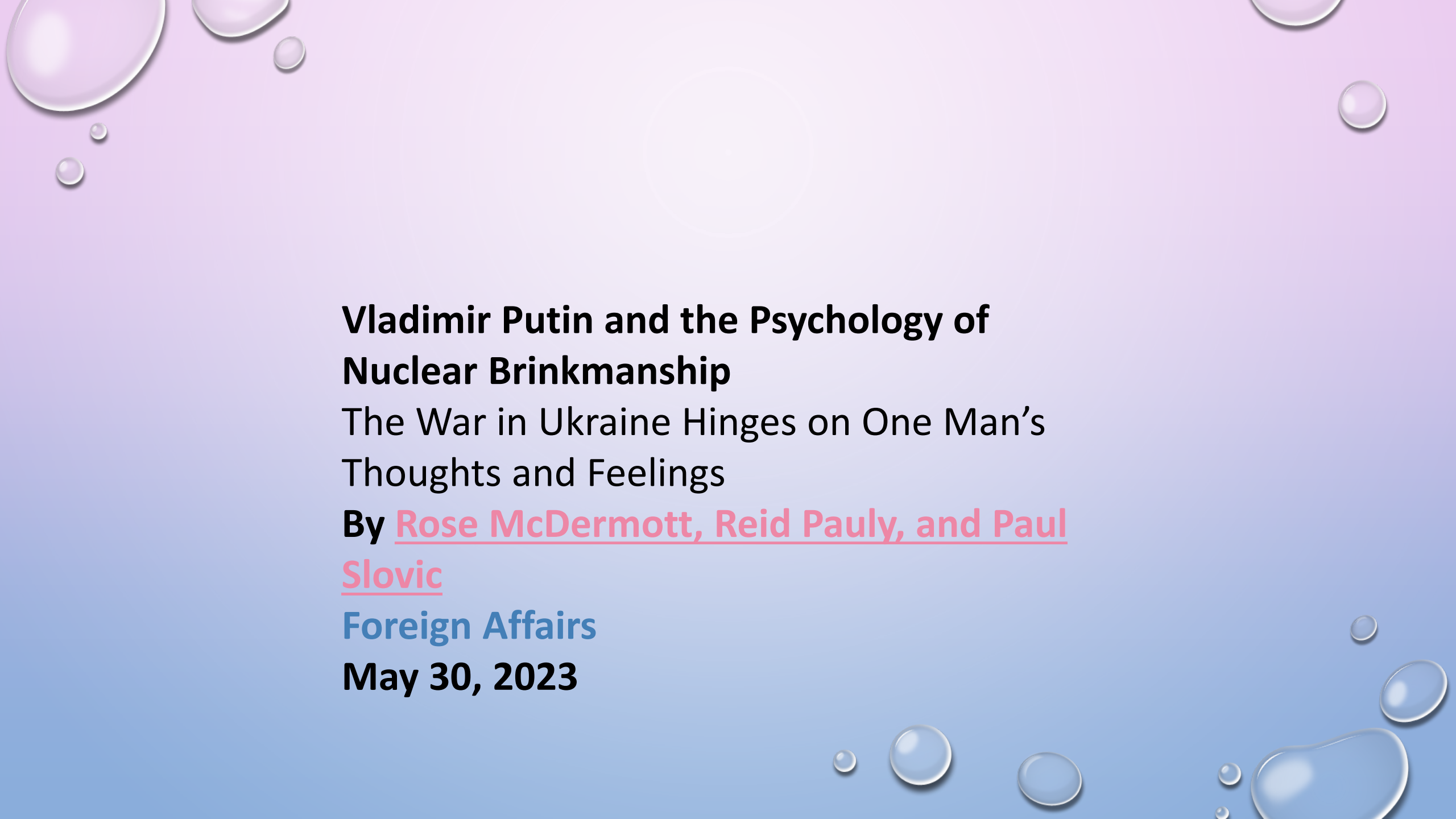
Jordan Michael Smith / March 7, 2022

Would Putin Really Go Nuclear? Well ...

Russia is thought to have around 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons. And that's about all we know.

We disagree





Vladimir Putin and the Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship

The War in Ukraine Hinges on One Man's Thoughts and Feelings

By Rose McDermott, Reid Pauly, and Paul Slovic

Foreign Affairs

May 30, 2023

PUTIN



- INFORMATION BUBBLE
- EXISTENTIAL THREAT PERSONAL?
- NARCISSISM
- PSYCHIC NUMBING
- SECURITY PROMINENCE
- VIRTUOUS VIOLENCE



Implications of this story for management of nuclear weapons

Mass killing with nuclear weapons may arise from cognitive and social mechanisms such as psychic numbing, compassion collapse, tribalism, dehumanization of others, blaming of victims, attentional failures, and faulty decision-making processes, all of which work to destroy feelings and understanding that would normally stop us from planning, executing, and tolerating inhumane acts.

How can a decision to use a nuclear weapon be rational when we are numb to the destructive consequences and cannot comprehend the enormity of the resulting harm?

CONCLUSION: ASSUME IT WILL HAPPEN AND PLAN NOW FOR IT!

- UNCERTAINTY ABOUT PUTIN'S ACTIONS IS NOT IGNORANCE
- PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY AND EVIDENCE, BACKED BY THE HISTORY OF WARFARE, POINT TO A HIGH ENOUGH RISK THAT WESTERN GOVERNMENTS MUST PLAN AHEAD. THEY SHOULD WEIGH NOW THEIR POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO AN ESCALATION THAT WOULD COME AS A SHOCK BUT SHOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE.