

The Tale of Two Presidents: Putin and Steinmeier Different Treatment in the Middle East. Shifting Geopolitical Paradigm?

By [Drago Bosnic](#)

Global Research, December 13, 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#), [Russia](#)
and [FSU](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name (only available in desktop version).

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Ever since Russia started its full-scale strategic counteroffensive against NATO aggression in Europe, the political West has been insisting on the idea that the Eurasian giant is supposedly "isolated" and the "international pariah". However, time and again, Moscow keeps debunking this laughable notion. Recent events have not only confirmed this, but are showing that the opposite is happening.

The Qatar trip of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been mired in controversy as he was [left waiting at least 30 minutes for someone to greet him during his visit on November 29](#). This could be partially explained by the fact that Berlin's position is decidedly pro-Israeli, while Doha is firmly on the Palestinian side, formally at least.

However, this doesn't explain why Russian President Vladimir Putin got virtually a [hero's welcome in the United Arab Emirates \(UAE\)](#) during a visit to the Middle Eastern country exactly a week after Steinmeier's trip to Qatar. These sharply differing, albeit seemingly unrelated events demonstrate an enormous paradigm shift in the geopolitics of the Middle East, arguably the most strategically important region on the planet. After the start of the special military operation (SMO), the political West has been trying to isolate Russia and limit its (geo)political maneuverability. However, ever since, this has only backfired, becoming a sort of [litmus test for sovereignty](#) and actual independence from the political West's diktat.

After the sanctions warfare proved to be a spectacular failure, resulting in [Russia even becoming the largest economy in Europe](#) and fifth largest in the world, the United States and its numerous vassals and satellite states tried to find other ways to isolate Moscow and its leadership. That was when the so-called "International Criminal Court" (ICC), effectively a

glorified NGO under the full control of the political West, [issued an arrest warrant for Putin for allegedly “kidnapping Ukrainian children”](#), despite the fact that their parents, [including enemy combatants, were able to reach them and even take them out of Russia](#). In contrast, the Neo-Nazi junta’s [blatant child trafficking \(aided by Washington DC\)](#) is completely unreported in the US and European Union.

Worse yet, any information about this horrendous practice is being actively suppressed, along with the fact that [pregnant women are being forcibly conscripted by the Kiev regime](#), as evidenced by the recent [attempt by NewsGuard to censor such information](#). It seems that this blatant hypocrisy is so obvious to the rest of the world which simply decided that Western demands for isolating Russia are unacceptable and should simply be ignored. The UAE could’ve easily chosen to follow basic protocol and greet Putin without any pomp. However, the fact that he was welcomed by Emirati jets painting the colors of the Russian flag in the sky signals something completely different from basic diplomatic protocol.

It should be noted that this in and of itself isn’t only about Putin, but Russia as a whole. Frank-Walter Steinmeier’s role as the German President is largely ceremonial, as most of the political power is officially held by the Chancellor. However, he is the foremost representative of his country and the fact that he was not welcomed as expected shows the [increasing isolation of the political West in the actual world](#), where truly sovereign countries aren’t compelled to follow every foreign demand. Obviously, [Putin’s balanced position in regard to the Israel-Gaza conflict](#) certainly contributes to his popularity in the Arab world, but so does his firm stand in the face of NATO aggression, demonstrating time and again that [Moscow has a geopolitical backbone](#).

[Putin’s follow-up visit to Saudi Arabia](#) was no less important in this regard, while the [mainstream propaganda machine is trying to denigrate both trips](#). In reality, alarm bells are going off in the US, as having nations that are effectively the cornerstones of the [highly exploitative petrodollar system](#) welcome the political West’s archenemy so warmly is certainly a bad omen (for the neocolonialists, obviously). The process of dedollarization is a long-term one and will certainly not be completed overnight, but it’s virtually unstoppable at this point. The blatant theft of hundreds of billions in Russia’s forex (foreign exchange) reserves has left [numerous countries worried that their assets are simply not safe](#), prompting them to find alternatives to the USD.

Another interesting aspect of Putin’s trip was the fact that his Ilyushin Il-96-300PU or “Russian Air Force One” was flanked by four [Sukhoi Su-35S fighter jets](#) all the way from Russia to the UAE, flying up to 2500 km nonstop, with no aerial refueling and no drop tanks. As if this [technologically unprecedented accomplishment wasn’t brilliant enough](#), the Russian [air superiority fighters](#) did so while armed. They flew over the Caspian Sea, parts of Azerbaijan, the entirety of Iran and the Persian Gulf, touching down in Abu Dhabi. Now, it should be noted that countries rarely allow such escorts (much less armed) for state visits, but Moscow secured their free passage over three countries, [including the temporary basing in the UAE](#). This has clear geopolitical implications.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

This article was originally published on [InfoBrics](#).

[Drago Bosnic](#) is an independent geopolitical and military analyst. He is a regular contributor to Global Research.

Featured image is from InfoBrics

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Drago Bosnic](#), Global Research, 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Drago Bosnic](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca