# Putin’s political survival in question as Ukraine war drags on and peace talks falter



Speculation surrounding the health and political future of Russian President Vladimir Putin has intensified, with increasingly dire descriptions painting him as a "dead man walking." This alarming portrayal comes amid a deteriorating situation in Ukraine, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, reinforcing growing frustrations with ineffective leadership.

Experts are suggesting that the toll of age and a protracted war are draining Putin's vitality. Britain's former military commander, Colonel Hamish de Bretton-Gordeon, contends that as the war drags on, Putin’s grip on power may weaken significantly—something that would only exacerbate the already dire conditions faced by everyday Russians. Bruce Jones, a prominent analyst on Russian affairs, indicates his previous heavy-handed tactics could lead to his downfall, creating a climate of fear for leaders in Moscow who mismanage vital decisions.

Colonel Richard Kemp, another former military figure, recognizes the potential factions wishing to remove Putin, yet his stringent security measures complicate any coup attempts. This growing domestic paranoia does little to alleviate the pressures Russia faces from intensifying Western sanctions. U.S. officials are indicating a willingness to impose harsher economic penalties to further cripple the Russian economy, leaving citizens to bear the brunt of these misguided policies.

The recent diplomatic landscape has been tangled with complexities. The Kremlin announced Putin would not participate in the Russian delegation at peace talks in Turkey, instead sending a smaller team. Ukraine’s adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, insists that negotiations will only proceed if President Volodymyr Zelensky can engage directly with Putin—suggesting that the fate of the talks hinges critically on the Russian leader's participation. His absence from the delegation raises significant questions about his physical and political prowess.

Since the outset of the conflict, numerous diplomatic overtures have fizzled out without yielding lasting resolutions. Initial talks in Belarus and Istanbul saw ambitious ceasefire proposals, but ultimately produced only short-lived agreements. U.N. mediation and various international summits have marginalised Russia or resulted in temporary arrangements, unable to deliver substantive outcomes.

Putin has consistently asserted that Ukraine has proposed peace multiple times, only to withdraw those propositions. This narrative serves as a deflection of responsibility, attempting to frame Ukraine as inconsistent. Still, intense calls for peace from both sides remain unmet, illustrating the entrenched positions neither party is willing to abandon.

As tensions rise, Turkey has emerged as a self-proclaimed mediator, attempting to reconcile the split between Ukraine and Russia. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has engaged in high-level discussions, underscoring Turkey's intentions to facilitate peace despite significant obstacles. However, there are growing concerns regarding the lack of Ukrainian representation in U.S.-led negotiations, which further complicates the route to a viable resolution.

As winter approaches, both Russia and Ukraine seem poised for renewed hostilities. Analysts anticipate that Russia might manipulate the upcoming negotiations to secure favourable terms, potentially prolonging the conflict. This backdrop signals a crucial moment not just for international relations, but for Putin's very survival in the Kremlin.

Amidst the chaos and uncertainty, one fact remains glaringly evident: the mantle of effective leadership is faltering, disrupting the fragile balance of power in this ongoing struggle for control and legitimacy. There is a pressing need for alternative perspectives and approaches—voices that resonate with the aspirations of a populace strained by current leadership and yearning for a meaningful change.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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* <https://apnews.com/article/adc1034f0eed21efcdbb35c9a68bde6c> - Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, multiple diplomatic efforts have aimed to end the conflict, but progress has been elusive. Initial talks in Belarus and Istanbul failed to yield lasting agreements. Efforts included ceasefire proposals and discussions on Ukraine adopting a neutral status. Major milestones involved U.N. mediation, grain export agreements, and peace summits in various countries without Russia's participation. In 2023 and 2024, global attention intensified, with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and other world leaders engaging in high-level talks. While Ukraine, supported by Western nations, pushed a 10-point peace plan, Russia consistently rejected major proposals, including ceasefire arrangements. The U.S. and Russian officials held bilateral talks in early 2025, but Ukraine was notably excluded from key meetings. Recent efforts have seen short-lived or rejected ceasefires, despite broader international pressure. In May 2025, Russian President Putin proposed direct talks in Istanbul without agreeing to a 30-day ceasefire. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy insisted he would only meet Putin personally. Putin has since declined to attend the talks, delegating representation instead, raising serious doubts about Russia's commitment to peace.
* <https://apnews.com/article/3c25f229f994aaa87d837285412cb1be> - In October 2023, a false claim about Russian President Vladimir Putin experiencing a heart attack went viral. The source was a single anonymous Telegram account, General SVR, known to spread unreliable information, particularly about Putin’s health. Despite being refuted by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, who labeled it a 'hoax,' the rumor was widely circulated by global news outlets and social media. Researchers emphasize the dubious nature of the account, which previously propagated unverified claims about Putin, including the use of body doubles and former Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin being alive. The rapid spread highlights the dangers and influence of lightly moderated platforms like Telegram, especially amid restricted Western social media in Russia. Experts caution against accepting sensational claims from such sources, noting the allure of these rumors due to the ongoing conflict and Western opposition to Putin.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/aborted-peace-deal-could-be-basis-ukraine-talks-says-kremlin-2024-04-12/> - Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov mentioned that a peace deal abandoned in 2022 between Russia and Ukraine could serve as a foundation for new negotiations, though there is no indication that Kyiv is prepared for talks. President Vladimir Putin stated that the two nations nearly reached an agreement to end hostilities during April 2022 discussions in Istanbul, but Ukraine withdrew after Russian troops retreated from near Kyiv. The proposed deal included terms for Ukraine to remain geopolitically neutral, not join NATO, limit its military size, and grant special status to eastern Ukraine, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy opposes. Putin expressed openness to realistic talks but criticized Ukraine's bypassing efforts. Since 2022, significant changes, like Russia's claim to four Ukrainian regions, have occurred. Peskov affirmed Russia's readiness to restart talks based on the Istanbul agreement but noted a lack of readiness from Ukraine, which demands the return of all its territories, including Crimea, and the withdrawal of Russian forces. Ukraine focuses on international negotiations excluding Russia.
* <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/putin-says-ukraine-twice-approached-russia-regarding-peace-talks-via-turkiye/3374337> - Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed on Friday that Ukraine has twice approached Russia with peace proposals, mediated by Türkiye, only to abandon its initiatives soon after. In an interview with the Russian channel Rossiya 1, Putin urged Kyiv to clarify its stance on peace talks. 'Our Turkish partners ... have approached us with what they described as initiatives from the Ukrainian side. But each time we agreed, the Ukrainians had already withdrawn their proposal. This has happened twice. Ultimately, we need clarity on their readiness and intentions,' he said. Putin said Turkish representatives had given him 'Ukraine-related materials' on the sidelines of the BRICS economic bloc summit in the city of Kazan, which he said required careful review and that he had not yet had the chance to examine them thoroughly.
* <https://www.turkiyetoday.com/turkiye/turkiye-seeks-to-host-peace-talks-between-russia-and-ukraine-report-120855/> - Türkiye has reportedly proposed hosting negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to help bring an end to the nearly three-year-long conflict, as concerns grow over the exclusion of European and Ukrainian officials from U.S.-led diplomatic efforts according to a report by Türkiye daily. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has engaged in intensive diplomatic outreach, holding four phone calls with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in the past two months. Additionally, Fidan met with newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio during the Munich Security Conference, discussing the possibility of brokering peace between Russia and Ukraine. According to diplomatic sources, Türkiye has positioned itself as a key mediator due to its strong ties with both Russia and Ukraine. Ankara repeatedly has expressed willingness to facilitate cease-fire negotiations and potential peace talks to end the conflict between Kyiv and Moscow.
* <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/10/21/turkey-to-take-part-in-new-ukraine-peace-talks-zelensky-a82846> - Turkey will take part in peace talks next week to discuss ways to end the Ukraine conflict, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday, after speaking with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Mediterranean island of Malta announced Friday it would host a round of Ukraine peace talks on October 28-29, after similar meetings in Jeddah and Copenhagen earlier this year. 'We discussed the next round of the Peace Formula talks in Malta,' Zelensky said after a call with Erdogan. 'Turkey will participate, adding its authoritative voice and stance,' Zelensky said. Russia is not expected to take part in the talks, which Zelensky hopes will rally support for his own peace plan. Similar talks were held in Copenhagen in June and in the Saudi city of Jeddah in August. Representatives from around 40 countries including China, India, the United States and Ukraine took part in the Saudi summit, which did not result in a final declaration. Both Russia and Ukraine are preparing for a grueling winter ahead, with Ukraine warning of renewed strikes on its energy infrastructure and Russia trying to suppress a Ukrainian counteroffensive. Turkey has offered itself as a mediator between the two warring parties, helping to broker a deal in July last year that allowed safe grain exports via the Black Sea. Turkey has since been in talks with both sides about reviving the deal, which collapsed after Russia pulled out less than a year later.