

# Outline - Putin's war and the madman theory

## Part I (Albert, Marek) - development of the Russo-Ukrainian war, Russian nuclear doctrine, general idea of madman theory

What have we experienced since 24th of February 2022?

- Full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Ruthless conduct of war
- High readiness of strategic armament

What does Russian doctrine have to say?

- Restraint use of nuclear threats
- Escalation management - deterrence ladder
- Role of strategic arsenal
- (Main source:

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/06/escalation-management-and-nuclear-employment-in-russian-military-strategy/>)

How can we explain Russian brinkmanship?

- Feigned irrationality/volatility -> madman theory
- Perception and misperception
- Effective bargaining strategy? Schelling, McManus, Sagan

## Part II (Albert, Marek + Nick) - theoretical and historical case of madman theory, role of nuclear armament, Vladimir Putin as a possible example

Introduction of our guest and expert

- Dr. Nick Campbell-Seremetis

Question 1: What do you consider being the main tenets of madman theory?

- Alternative/supplementary question: What impact had nuclear weapons on bargaining strategies?

Question 2: In your research, how do you determine and analyze the role of psychological factors?

- Alt.: How to distinguish between a decision maker feigning irrationality and an actual fool?

Question 3: What do you think of the media portrayal of Vladimir Putin in Russia and the West respectively?

- Alt.: To what extent does previous experience shape our perception of a decision maker? Did you change your opinion?

Question 4: How effective do you consider Putin's behavior to be with respect to the West?

- Alt.: What are the negatives perceived madman has to face?

Question 5: How to deal with someone in possession of nuclear weapons, whose intentions are unclear?

- Alt.: In a position of a perceived madman, how do you restrain yourself from becoming one?