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Trends. Transference Tango and Projections on Vladimir Putin

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Now that Vladimir Putin is the legally elected President of Russia, many analysts are offering projections on the success and/or failure of his new administration, which begins in May. Much has already been made about his intentional ambiguity during his acting Presidency and campaign. Now analysts seem to diverge between prognosticating a strong and weak Putin regime. The strong varies from a benign or less than benign authoritarianism to a muscular liberalism. The weak is predicated on being a captive of economic, military, political, and cultural forces beyond his control.

Such a divergence may suggest that the analysts and (as well) all-informed Russian and world citizens are expressing products of a transference relationship with Mr. Putin--a relationship heightened by his studied ambiguity. One would also predict that as the pose of studied ambiguity necessarily dissipates through the making of political decisions, huge swings in social perceptions about Mr. Putin would likely follow. How successful Mr. Putin becomes in riding the psychodynamic tiger may largely contribute to history's verdict as reified success, demonized failure, or discredited also-ran. How soon will the sons and daughters of the father/mother attempt to rise up to kill the body, eat the flesh, and create the latest totem and taboo? (See Boadella, D. (1999). Transference, politics, and narcissism. *International Journal of Psychotherapy*, 4, 283-311; Diggs, S. (1997). The plural taboo. *Journal of Analytical Psychology*, 42, 459-479; Enckell, H. (1999). Transference, metaphor and the poetics of psychoanalysis. *Scandinavian Psychoanalytic Review*, 22, 218-238; Leznicka-Los, A. (1997). Eastern Europe: Perspective on inner and outer reality in the light of transference of a Polish emigrant. *Issues in Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 19, 47-60; Voinovich, V. (March 30, 2000). Russia's blank slate. *The New York Times*, p. A31.) (Keywords: Russia, Transference, Vladimir Putin.)