

Russian Isolation Would Be Europe's 'Profound Error,' France's Macron Says

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Pushing Russia further into isolation would be a “profound error” by Europe, French President Emmanuel Macron has said in his latest overture toward the country that has been under Western sanctions since annexing Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

Macron [played up](#) efforts to “tie Russia and Europe back together” when he hosted President Vladimir Putin in France last week. He later followed up with a tweet [saying](#) that “Russia is a very deeply European country.”

Related article: [Russia Is 'Deeply European,' France's Macron Says in Russian](#)

“Pushing Russia from Europe is a profound [strategic error](#),” Macron told French diplomats Tuesday following the G7 summit he hosted over the weekend.

Forcing Russia into isolation or an alliance with China “is not in our interests,” Macron said.

“Nor is it in our interest to be weak vis-a-vis Russia, to forget our disagreements.”

Frozen conflicts will metastasize and Europe will remain a “theater of struggle between the United States and Russia” if the bloc doesn’t review its ties with Russia, Macron [warned](#).

“The European continent will never be stable, will never be secure, if we don’t pacify and clarify our relations with Russia,” Macron [said](#).

At the start of his speech, the French president [borrowed](#) a refrain commonly used by Putin and other Russian officials to [warn](#) against “the end of Western hegemony over the world.”

The G7 summit held in Biarritz, France made headlines last weekend when U.S. President Donald Trump’s [demand](#) to readmit Russia into the group led to “heated exchanges” among members.

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