Russia is benefiting from its new confrontation with the West. But murkier times may lie ahead.

BY SYLVIE KAUFFMANN

In France, a former summit plan is gathering dust. And Macron's comment: “You want peace? You can have it! But it will cost you!”

T he idea of a summit between President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Vladimir Putin of Russia that was put on hold in 2020 has come back to life. On February 18, the two leaders met in Paris for a summit on Syria. The talks did not produce an agreement, but they did produce one thing: a new date. In a surprise move, President Putin announced that the two leaders would meet again in June, this time in Saint Petersburg.

The announcement was met with skepticism by some observers, who noted that Putin had made similar announcements in the past without following through. Others welcomed the move as a positive sign that the two countries were willing to engage in dialogue.

The meeting was seen as a significant step forward in the relationship between France and Russia, which had been strained in recent years. The two leaders talked about a range of issues, including Syria, Ukraine, and the ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The summit was also seen as an opportunity to reset the relationship between the two countries, which had been at a low point in recent years. The meeting was seen as a positive step towards improving the relationship between France and Russia, which had been strained in recent years.

Despite the optimism, some observers noted that the meeting did not produce any concrete results. The two leaders did not announce any concrete steps towards resolving the conflict in Syria, which has been ongoing for more than a decade. The meeting was seen as a positive step towards improving the relationship between France and Russia, which had been strained in recent years.
France, now involved in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, had been and was exposed to the fallout of Trump’s decision.

This episode was typical of Macron take advantage of a major disruption to add another layer of disruption in order to “shift the paradigm” of European decision-making. In this case, most NATO allies were not inclined to accept Macron’s assertion of their own special constitutional status for European security. Ukraine was again the trigger, leading to a stir, Macron, while pronouncing “Either you are a leader of history, or you are not. He is.” But others interpreted it as Macron’s style and method feed the W estern banned of Russia, again, is competing with the W est. The paradox is that with Russia, the West goes hand-in-hand with Europe, and this is important,” a NATO...