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Vladimir Putin has served three terms and is currently in a fourth as President of Russia (2000–2004, 2004–2008, 2012–2018 and May 2018 to present) and was Acting President from 1999 to 2000, succeeding Boris Yeltsin after Yeltsin's resignation. Putin was also Prime Minister for three months in 1999 and served a full term from 2008 to 2012. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was born on 7 October 1952 in Leningrad, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union (now Saint Petersburg), the youngest of three children of Vladimir Spiridonovich Putin (1911–1999) and Maria Ivanovna Putina (née Shelomova; 1911–1998). The Putin I Know - Interview! Archbishop Gabriel Interviews. The Putin I Know Interview With Archbishop Gabriel By Brother Nathanael Kapner January 25, 2018 © No. 115 y October 2006 Russia's Soft Power Ambitions The European Union thinks of itself as a 'soft power', which is defined by Joseph Nye as the "ability to get what you want through attraction rather than through coercion ...