

THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

Worksheet for Michael McFaul | What It's like to Stand up to Putin (Episode 114)

When you're an ambassador to a nation whose government works to undermine your credibility from day one, you'd better be good at developing relationships, creating allies while under fire, and building trust and rapport in uncomfortable situations.

Michael McFaul, former US ambassador to Russia and author of [*From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia*](#), found himself in exactly this position when facing off with none other than Vladimir Putin. He joins us for [episode 114](#) to share how he kept his cool under such daunting circumstances and the details such a job entails -- from keeping state secrets to preparing for conversations with world leaders when the stakes are high.

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Do Your Own Research

Ambassador McFaul and I discussed how to prepare world leaders for conversations with other world leaders. With limited time, and obvious high stakes, he said this preparation was a considerable effort made by a team. They would craft detailed talking points and briefing paragraphs -- all with an outcome in mind for each issue of discussion. Though these diplomatic conversations might seem casual at times, they are constructed with painstaking precision. After all, this opportunity might be the only one they'd get.

Where would you improve your chance for success by being better prepared or doing additional research?

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Thinking Outside the Box

Ambassador McFaul faced pressure and situations that any of us are unlikely to ever see. There was a disinformation campaign from the Russian government that called him everything from a dangerous revolutionary to a spy, and he would publicly combat these lies. The Russian government also decided to ban him from speaking at universities after it decided he became too popular; that's when Ambassador McFaul began to hold lectures for 600-700 people in the ballroom of his home.

Thinking outside of the box always helps in the face of new challenges. Though you may not be on the wrong side of the Russian government, you could surely benefit from Ambassador McFaul's nimble and creative approach to problem solving.

What new struggles have popped up for you in life or business?

Are you satisfied with your ability to tackle them?

Could you find new success by taking another approach?

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The High Ground

Most of us will receive a negative comment on social media at some point. Even if you're not a public figure, expressing the wrong thought about *The Walking Dead* in a public forum is sure to trigger someone. As a result of his work, Ambassador McFaul received direct harassment in person. It's safe to say that much of this harassment came from the Russian government. When those tactics of putting pressure on others by such means were pondered by our own government, Ambassador McFaul told me: "No, *because we're not them.*"

Sinking to the level of the opponent was a strategy that our government chose not to employ (though opponent may not be the correct word here, we all know the saying). After all, they say you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. Have you found more or less success with the high road? What's happened when you've taken the low road?

Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here](#).

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About



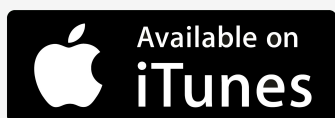
Join Jordan Harbinger (critically acclaimed host, formerly of The Art of Charm) as we get deep into the untapped wisdom of the world's top performers -- from legendary musicians to intelligence operatives, iconoclastic writers to visionary change-makers.

We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth -- and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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