



center within the Russian Empire, the University of Helsinki, or the Imperial Alexander University in Finland as it was called, received copies of all published material produced within the borders of the Russian Empire, and today remains a vital resource for researchers from around the world.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Finland maintained its policy of general conscription and substantial defense forces, unlike many other European states. That decision was based on Finland's memory and its analysis that Russia constitutes a permanent threat to territorial integrity. However, Finland never declared that assessment very loudly and maintained a calm calculation of its force posture within its borders.

Throughout the post-Cold War period, Finland's evaluation of Russian interests and goals heavily influenced its decision-making. Finnish society, by necessity, has always examined Russia and Russians from an immediate distance, not from hundreds or thousands of miles away. Everyday life, tourism, commerce, and various cross-border programs provided Finns with practical experience in dealing with the Russian state and with Russian society and culture. Even as positive contacts flourished and expanded, however, the historical memory of Russian treatment of Finland never faded.

Any neighbor of Russia develops a robust intellectual understanding of the country. M t7u6rlmnd

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### Il- i i l

holds a PH.D. in Russian language from the University of Turku, Finland. His research focuses on Russian Military and Security policy issues and Intelligence studies. He has served several years in different governmental positions in Finland. At the moment he serves as a Senior Analyst in the Finnish Defence Forces. In 2019-2021, he worked at the Finnish Embassy in Kyiv as an assistant to the Defense Attaché.

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