

Summary in English

This issue of Acta Politica Estica focuses on Estonia's foreign policy; goals, challenges today and tomorrow. Estonia's foreign policy goals of the 1990's have mostly been achieved. Membership in the EU and NATO were the corner stones of that achievement. Despite this, Estonia still faces many challenges and will need new foreign policy goals to meet them. This volume attempts to address the goals and challenges Estonia has faced and will face in the future.

Ander Allas begins the volume by addressing how Estonia has made and fulfilled its foreign policy goals. Ander brings up the questions that Estonia has to now face with its future foreign policy goals. Professor Jyrki Käkönen observes Lennart Meri's vision of Estonia in the world. Specifically using discourse analysis, professor Käkönen looks at many public speeches that Lennart Meri gave. Toomas Alatalu uses a geopolitical framework to explain the failed ratification of the Estonia-Russia border treaty. Catlyn Kirna compares Estonia's foreign policy in the years just after independence with today. Kirna finds that the role of society and the need for foreign policy goals are important in forming a foreign policy strategy. There have been many suggestions from the foreign policy elite for a direction of the future of Estonia's foreign policy. While there currently is not a clear answer to who should be Estonia's friends, Kirna gives us a framework to understand how Estonia may answer that question in the future.

The volume then takes a deeper look at current challenges to Estonian foreign policy starting with Matthew Crandall's article on Estonia's security strategies analyzing whether collective security and NATO membership is the best security strategy to deal with Estonia's security threats. He concludes that cooperative security would be more effective. Tiiu Pohl analyzes Estonia's foreign policy towards Central Asia, which as a region is becoming more important. Laura and Märt-Martin Arengu take a look at small state foreign policy, using the concept of political capital to determine the influence it has in foreign policy. Leif Kalev and Mari-Liis Jakobson address transnationalism in the Estonian-Finnish space which is a very relevant and recent development influencing Estonian foreign policy. Rene Toomse also analyzes Estonian defence strategy and looks at the evolution of war and what tactics Estonia can implement to increase the efficiency of its defence policy.

Together these articles give a depth of understanding and a clear picture regarding where Estonia has come from and where it could be going regarding its foreign policy choices.