

CONTRIBUTORS

VALENTYN BIELIAIEV (2001)

Education: 2018– ... Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), Political Science.

Main research areas: international law, European Union, Roman law.

ARTUR BORSUK (2000)

Education: 2018– ... Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), Political Science.

Main research areas: conflict studies, political science.

HILLE HANSO (1976)

Education: 2002 Euroacademy (Tallinn, Estonia), International Relations and Foreign Policy (BA);

2017 Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey), International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies (MA).

Professional career: Based in Istanbul, Hille Hanso is an independent researcher and freelance journalist. A frequent commentator on Middle Eastern affairs, Hanso's interviews, essays and commentaries have appeared in media outlets across the world, incl. Estonia, the U.S., Turkey and China. Hanso is also the Estonian Refugee Council's refugee relief project coordinator in Jordan and Lebanon.

Main research areas: Kurdish nationalism, Assyrian identity in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Turkish foreign policy including Estonian-Turkish relations in the 1920s and 30s, the Syrian conflict and Middle Eastern migration.

General (Ret.) ANTS LAANEOTS (1948)

Education: 1966–1970 Higher Military School in Kharkov (Ukraine), Tank Officer; 1978–1981 Malinovsky Military Academy of Armoured Forces (Moscow, Russia); 1997–1998 NATO Defence College (Rome, Italy); 1999–2000 Higher Command Course at the Finnish National Defence College.

Professional career: From 1981 to 1987, Laaneots was posted to the Soviet-Chinese border in Eastern Kazakhstan, serving first as the Chief of Staff of the 96th Tank Regiment, later as the Commander of the 180th Tank Regiment,

and finally, as the Deputy Commander-Chief of Staff of the 78th Armoured Division. From 1987 to 1989, eventually attaining the rank of colonel, he was deployed to Ethiopia where he served as the military advisor to the commander of an infantry division, and later to the commanding general of the Ethiopian army corps participating in combat activities. Before his resignation from the Soviet Army in September 1991, Laaneots served as the Chief of Regional Defence District, Tartu in Estonia.

When Estonia regained its independence in 1991, Laaneots was one of the founding officers of the restored Estonian Defence Forces, serving as the Chief of the General Staff until 1999, promoted to Major General in 1998. Before becoming the Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Defence Forces in 2006, Laaneots served as the Commandant of the National Defence College (2001–2006). In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 2011 to General. After retirement in 2011, he served as the National Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister until 2014. In 2015 and in 2019, he was elected to the Parliament (Estonian Reform Party), and currently serves on the National Defence Committee. Laaneots remains an active member of the Estonian National Defence League.

Main research areas: military science, military history, modern conflicts, conflicts involving small states/nations, and development of national defence.

Dr. YEVHEN MAHDA (1974)

Education: 1996 Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University (Ukraine), History (diploma); 2006 Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Political Science (PhD).

Professional career: National Technical University of Ukraine, ‘Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute’, Associate Professor; since 2017 Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member of the Public Council; since 2018 Kyiv Institute of World Policy, Executive Director.

Main research areas: hybrid warfare, Russia’s hybrid aggression, international relations, conflict studies.

HEIDI MAIBERG (1993)

Education: 2015–2018 University of Tartu, Religious Studies (MA); 2019–... Royal Holloway University of London, PhD student in Sociology and Criminology.

Professional career: 2017 Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Coordinator; since 2018 University of Tartu, Asia Centre and Centre of Educational Innovation, Specialist.

Main research areas: de-radicalisation and disengagement, extremist groups (far-right and Islamic).

Dr. ILLIMAR PLOOM (1974)

Education: 1993–1997 University of Tartu, Public Administration (BA); 1997–2000 University of Tartu, Public Administration (MA); 1997–1998 University of Oxford, Queen’s College, visiting graduate student; 2000–2013 University of Oxford, St. Hugh’s College, Faculty of Modern History (PhD).

Professional career: 2005–2008 University of Tartu, Institute of Government and Politics, Lecturer; 2008–2009 Tallinn University of Technology, Department of Governance, Lecturer; 2009–2012 Tallinn University of Technology, Research Associate; 2011–2013 University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences and Education, Adjunct Lecturer; since 2011 Estonian Academy of Arts, Department of Architecture, Adjunct Lecturer; since 2012–2014 Tallinn University of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Adjunct Lecturer; since 2015 University of Tartu, EuroCollege, Adjunct Lecturer; since 2017 Estonian National Defence College (from 2019 Estonian Military Academy), Associate Professor in Politics and Civil-Military Co-operation.

Main research areas: security policy, international relations, European affairs, political theory.

Colonel, Dr. YURII PUNDA (1971).

Education: 1988–1992 Military Academy; 2004–2005 National Defence Academy of Ukraine, Military Management (MA); 2008 National Defence Academy of Ukraine, Military Science (PhD); 2014 National Defence Academy of Ukraine, post-doctoral degree (*dr. habil.*) in Military Science; 2018 National Defence University of the United States, National Resource Strategy (MA).

Professional career: 1988–2005 military service; 2005- ... National Defence University (Ukraine), faculty and research positions; since 2015 National Defence University of Ukraine, Senior Researcher Head of National Security and Defence Strategy Department.

Main research areas: military strategy, national security, conflictology.

ANDRES SAUMETS (1968)

Education: 1990–1994 Tartu Theological Seminary, professional higher education in Theology and Religious Education; 1992–1993 University of Hamburg and Theological Seminary of Hamburg; 1997 University of Tartu, *magister theologiae* degree; 1998 University of Würzburg, Faculty of Catholic Theology (DAAD scholarship); 2003 IFSH at the University of Hamburg (International Fellowship Graf Baudissin).

Professional career: 1994–2015 Tartu Theological Seminary, Lecturer and Associate Professor of Historical Theology; 1997–2001 University of Tartu, Faculty of Theology, Lecturer of Historical Theology; 2002–2013 Estonian National Defence College (ENDC), Associate Professor and Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences; 2013–2018 ENDC, Editor-in-Chief (Estonian Journal of Military Studies) and Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Research; since 2018 Head of the Editorial Group and Editor-in-Chief (Estonian Journal of Military Studies) at the Estonian Military Academy.

Main research areas: church history, political theology and political ethics, democratisation processes and concepts of reform in the defence forces (*Innere Führung*).

Dr. VLADIMIR SAZONOV (1979)

Education: 2003 University of Tartu, History (BA); 2005 University of Tartu, History (MA); 2010 University of Tartu, History (PhD); since 2011 University of Tallinn, PhD student in Cultural Studies. Additionally, Sazonov has been a visiting scholar at universities in Innsbruck, Göttingen, Basel, Berlin, Istanbul, Bar Ilan (Israel), Münster and Paris.

Professional career: 2010–2011 University of Tartu, Institute of History and Archaeology, Researcher; 2011–2014 Estonian National Defence College (ENDC), Associate Professor; since 2013 University of Tartu, Centre for Oriental Studies, Senior Research Fellow in Ancient Near Eastern studies; 2014–2016 ENDC, Centre for Applied Research, Research Fellow; 2016–2017 Baltic Defence College, Lecturer in Eastern European and Russian studies, 2016–2018 ENDC, Centre for Applied Research, Research Fellow; since 2019 Estonian Military Academy, Senior Researcher; since 2019 Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, Researcher.

Main research areas: Middle Eastern history, politics, religions and cultures, Middle Eastern state ideology and also Russian information operations.

Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. **VITALII SHEVCHUK** (1984)

Education: 2001–2005 Odessa Army Institute (Ukraine); 2014–2018 National Defence University of Ukraine, MA; 2018 National Defence University of Ukraine, PhD.

Professional career: 2005–2015 military service; from 2015– ... National Defence University of Ukraine, Researcher; since 2018 National Defence University of Ukraine, Chief of the Military Security Research Laboratory of the National Security and Defence Strategy Department.

Main research areas: military strategy, national security, conflictology.

Colonel (Ret.), Prof. Dr. habil. **ZDZISŁAW ŚLIWA** (1964)

Education: 1987 Polish Mechanized Forces Military Academy (Wrocław); 1996 Polish National Defence University in Warsaw; 2000 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; 2001 Polish National Defence University, Military Science (PhD); 2008 Chinese PLA National Defence University, Center of Strategic Studies; 2016 Polish Naval Academy, Gdynia, post-doctoral degree (*dr. habil.*) in Security Studies.

Professional career: From 1987 in military service, commanding units up to battalion level as armoured battalion commander (1996–1997); in 2005, served as the chief of operational branch J-3 in KFOR Headquarters in Kosovo; from 2006 to 2007 as chief of operational planning branch J-5 in the Polish Armed Forces Operational Command in Warsaw. Since 2002, Dr. Śliwa has been working in the Polish military education system: incl. Land Forces Academy (Wrocław) as Chief of Didactics (2002–2003) and Chief of Combat Service Support (2004–2006); National Defence University (Warsaw), Head of Military Studies (2008–2009). Since 2009, Dr. Śliwa has been working at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia, starting as postgraduate supervisor, continuing as instructor of NATO Joint OPS (2009–2013) and professor (since 2012). As of 2016, Dr. Śliwa serves as the Dean of the Baltic Defence College; he is also a visiting professor at the Latvian National Defence Academy in Riga.

Main research areas: contemporary military operations, international relations, Central Asian security and Indo-Pacific affairs.

KATRIN TAMMEKUN (1983)

Education: 2007–2019 Tallinn University of Technology, Public Administration and Innovation (MA).

Professional career: since 2004 Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, various positions.

Main research areas: security policy.

Dr. VILJAR VEEBEL (1977)

Education: 1995–1999 University of Tartu, Political Science (BA); 1999–2001 University of Tartu, International Relations (MA); 2012 University of Tartu, PhD in Political Science.

Professional career: Mr. Veebel's professional experience includes working as an academic advisor to the Estonian government (during the Convention on the Future of Europe), and also as a researcher at various institutions (incl. OSCE, SIDA, European Council on Foreign Relations, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, Latvian Institute of International Affairs, and the Eurasia Group). Additionally, he has extensive experience as a lecturer (e.g. University of Tartu, Estonian National Defence College, Ukrainian Diplomatic Academy, OSCE Border Management Staff College, Estonian School of Diplomacy, etc.). Since 2017, Veebel works as researcher at the Department of Political Science and Strategic Studies, Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia.

Main research areas: Russian military doctrine and strategic ambitions; non-cooperative game theory models in security studies and deterrence; positive conditionality concept in initiating reforms and policy change; concepts and models of deterrence for small nation states; hybrid warfare and the concept of deterrence.