

CONTRIBUTORS



DAVID DARCHIASHVILI, PhD, has served a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Ilia State University (Georgia) since 2005. He holds a BA and a candidate's degree in History from the Tbilisi State University, where his academic interests focused on modern Russian history. In 2002, he received a PhD in Political Science from Tbilisi State University, and visited the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, SAIS, and Johns Hopkins University (Washington, D.C.) as a Fulbright scholar (2002/2003). His professional experience includes research at the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (1993–2004), heading the Research Department at the Georgian Parliament (2000–2003), and the Open Society Georgia Foundation (2004–2008), as well as serving two terms in the Georgian Parliament (2008–2016). Currently, his research interests focus on international relations theory and civil-military relations.

LILE GVELESIANI, MA, holds a BA degree in International Relations from the International Black Sea University (Georgia), and a MA degree in International Relations and European-Asian Studies from the Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) where her research focused on the clash between Russia's and the EU's strategic interests in the South Caucasus. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in the Political Science, Public Policies and International Relations programme at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) where her research focuses on EU counter-terrorism policies.

EGBERT KURT JAHN, *Dr. phil.*, is a German political scientist, contemporary historian and peace researcher, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Mannheim, Germany. In the 1960s, he studied history (focusing on Eastern Europe), political science, geography and education theory in Marburg, Berlin and Bratislava. From the 1970s to the 1990s he served as the Research Director of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, and also as the Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Throughout these years his research has focused on the socio-economic structures, institutions and foreign policy of socialist countries, culminating in the establishment of a research group on Conflict and Cooperation Structures in Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe and Eurasia (FKKS) in 1992. From 1993 to 2005 he served as the Chair of Political Sci-

ence and Contemporary History at the University of Mannheim, while also working at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), overseeing the research on new democracies and conflict resolution. He has also been a visiting professor at the universities of Copenhagen, California (Irvine), and Vilnius; returning, in 2009, to the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Professor Jahn's academic and research interests include nationalism, nation states, peace studies, conflict resolution and democratisation processes.

ANTS LAANEOTS, General (Ret) is an Estonian politician and former Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Defence Forces (2006–2011). After graduating from the Higher Military School in Kharkov (Ukraine), and the Malinovsky Military Academy of Armoured Forces (Moscow, Russia), Laaneots served in the Soviet army, eventually attaining the rank of polkovnik (colonel). 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. After graduating from the NATO Defence College (Rome, Italy) in 1998, and completing the Higher Command Course at the Finnish National Defence College (2000), he assumed the position of head of the Baltic Defence Research Centre. 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). After retirement in 2011, he was the National Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister from 2011 to 2014. In 2015, he was elected to the Parliament (Estonian Reform Party), and currently serves on the National Defence Committee, having also headed the Estonian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (2015–2017). His main research interests include modern conflicts, conflicts involving small states/nations, and development of national defence.

MAXIME LEBRUN, MA, has served as a lecturer of war and conflict studies at the Baltic Defence College since 2017. He holds a MA degree in International Relations from Sciences Po (Lyon, France), and specialises in defence and security issues. Mr Lebrun has also studied at the Finnish Peace Research Institute (TAPRI). His professional experience includes internships at the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe, and the Legislative Coordination Unit of the EPP Group of the European Parliament. Before joining the BDC, Lebrun worked at the ICDS (2017), first as a research intern, and later

as a non-resident research fellow, focusing on European geopolitics, security and resilience, as well as contributing to ICDS project “Resilient Ukraine”.

HOLGER MÖLDER, PhD, has served as an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) since 2015. Dr Mölder received his MA degree in international security and civil-military relations from the Naval Postgraduate School (USA) in 1998, and his PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Tartu (Estonia) in 2010. His professional experience includes a lengthy period in the public sector (Estonian Ministry of Defence, 1995–2009), as well as an academic role as an Associate Professor in Security Policy and Strategic Studies at the Estonian National Defence College (2010–2015). Dr Mölder’s primary research focus is on international security issues, in particular international conflict, security cultures, Middle Eastern conflict, conflict in Ukraine, Baltic security.

ZDZISŁAW ŚLIWA, Dr. habil., Col (Ret), holds a PhD in Military Science from the National Defence University in Warsaw, and a post-doctoral degree (*Dr. habil.*) from the Polish Naval Academy. Currently, Dr Sliwa serves as the Dean of the Baltic Defence College (Tartu, Estonia), and also as a Professor at the University of Lower Silesia (Wrocław, Poland). In addition to extensive experience in the Polish military education system, Colonel (Ret) Sliwa has also pursued academics abroad, including at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (Fort Leavenworth), and the Centre of Strategic Studies at the People’s Liberation Army National Defence University (Beijing). Colonel (Ret) Sliwa’s areas of expertise include contemporary military operations, international relations, Central Asian security, and Indo-Pacific affairs.

KARL SALUM, MA, Maj, joined the Estonian Defence Forces in 1998, serving in different staff positions at unit and HQ level. Major Salum holds an MA degree (2009) from the Security Studies Program of Georgetown University (USA), and is a graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College Blended Seminar Program (2017). His career at the Estonian National Defence College began as the OIC of Junior Officer Course, continuing as a researcher and the Chair of Strategy and Military History.

ANDRES SAUMETS, MTh, holds a *Magister theologiae* degree from the University of Tartu (Estonia), and has spent extensive periods at the Universities of Hamburg and Würzburg in Germany. His professional experience

includes lecturing on historical theology at various educational institutions (incl. University of Tartu, 1997–2001). Andres Saumets joined the Estonian National Defence College in 2002, first as an Associate Professor and Head of Humanities and Social Sciences, and later moving on to the ENDC's Centre for Applied Research. Currently he heads its editorial group, and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Estonian Journal of Military Studies (Sõjateadlane).

VILJAR VEEBEL, PhD, is a researcher at the Department of Political and Strategic Studies at the Baltic Defence College (Estonia). He holds a MA degree in International Relations (2001), and a PhD in Political Science (2012) from the University of Tartu (Estonia). His 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 for 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 Diplomatic Academy). His primary research interests include 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.

RENÉ VÄRK, Dr. iur., Capt, is an Associate Professor of International Law at the School of Law, University of Tartu (Estonia), and an Adviser at the Legal Division, Administrative Department, Headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces. Dr Värk holds BA degrees in Law, and History; LLM from the Stockholm University (2001), and a *doctor iuris* from the University of Tartu (2011). Throughout the years, he has served as a visiting professor and researcher at various civil and military institutions, including as an Associate Professor of Humanitarian Law at the Estonian National Defence College (2011–2018), and as a Fulbright scholar at the U.S. Naval War College. Dr Värk's academic and research fields cover the use of armed force, the law of armed conflict (international humanitarian law), and international criminal law.

RIHO ÜHTEGI, MA, Col, holds an MA in Law (2007) from Tartu University, Estonia, and is a graduate of the Netherlands Defence College International Staff Officers Orientation Course (1996), the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies Defence and Security Study Course (1998), and the Baltic Defence College Colonels Course (2003). Colonel Ühtegi joined the Estonian Defence Forces in 1993, and has served in different positions in Military Intelligence, Military Academy and Land Forces Staff. From 2011 to 2012 he was the Estonian Defence attaché in Georgia, and is currently serving as Estonian Special Forces Commander. He is a member of the Estonian Defence League since 1990.