

Martti Kari on Russian Strategic Culture: Why Does Russia Work the Way It Does

Summary by Edward Andros Mar 25 2022

© by Edward Andros

Strategic culture refers to the prevailing views in a particular state about the nature of the war and crisis, the threat to the country and the causes of the threat, and the operational options to respond to that threat. Russia's strategic culture is particularly influenced by history, but also by geography, technology and, for example, the political culture and attitudes of the state.

Lecture 3 Dec 2018 at the University of Jyväskylä to a primarily Finnish audience.

Presenter: Colonel Martti J. Kari (Retired) PhD, Instructor on the Faculty of Information Technology at the University of Jyväskylä where he teaches cyber security. Colonel Martti has been quoted as saying his lecture from 2018 was uploaded to *YouTube* without his prior approval. The lecture went viral in February 2022.

Kari's Background: Former Deputy Chief of Intelligence for the General Staff of the Finnish Defense Forces. Kari served as *Defense Ombudsman* in Poland and Ukraine from 2004 to 2007; and as a **strategic advisor in the reform of Ukraine's intelligence services in 2020**. <https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martti_J._Kari>

1 hour Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kF9KretXqJw&t=2186s>



Screen capture from video of Martii's 2018 presentation (at the 18:30 mark) highlighting a Russian stamp issued in 2004 depicting the *Life for the Tsar* story/opera

Transcription of Lecture into English with Slides

<https://the-culture-shocks.blogspot.com/2022/03/evaluation-of-russia-by-finish.html>



Scan of 4-stamp set celebrating 200th BD of Opera Composer M. Glinka in 2004



The Finnish stamp in upper right corner...



...is one of three Red Cross *Benefit Issues* which feature...



...three *War Heroes*, Jakob de la Gardie being the third in the set.

De la Gardie was a statesman and soldier of the Swedish Empire who had a Finnish grandmother and as a youth served under Maurice of Nassau. He would introduce reforms based on the then novel Dutch military doctrine upon returning home. From 1608-1613 he was Sweden's commander in Finland from where he launched a campaign against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in a war over which boyar family from Moscow would replace the Rurikid dynasty as *Tsars of all the Russias*. He symbolically represents the very confusing period in Russian history known as the *Time of Troubles* (1598-1613) as well as one of 6 invasion corridors Russian military doctrine is directed against.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_of_Troubles>

Interview recorded 9 Mar 2022 (with English subtitles). This public appearance indicates the Finnish government had cleared Kari to speak in advance. A retiree can be disciplined for unauthorized commentary on sensitive political issues affecting national security. This was an early tell that Finland's current government was dropping *neutrality*.

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21vXembyXY8>>

Subtitles are controlled by YouTube's CC button settings [0:00](#) Introduction, personal background [0:39](#) Did you really think Russia was attacking Ukraine? [1:37](#) Why is Russia attacking Ukraine with massive force? [3:01](#) The Kremlin's neurotic sense of insecurity [4:03](#) The principle of continuous war in Russia [5:14](#) Is there media playing in Russia's bag in Finland? [6:46](#) Why are authoritarian leaders in power in Russia? [9:48](#) The strong resilience of the Russians - how will sanctions be lifted? [10:54](#) Why is Russia using a Nazi card? [12:00](#) How do Russians react to reality? The interface between truth and falsehood [13:08](#) What does Russia want from Ukraine? What kind of peace terms could Russia agree to? How long will Ukraine continue to fight? [14:22](#) Why has the Russian invasion war in Ukraine gone so badly? [15:42](#) Why is Russia deploying more troops in Ukraine and the domestic political situation in Russia? [16:58](#) Can Russia disconnect from the Internet? What is it about? Is the country planning a cyber attack on the West? [19:52](#) What is the impact of Kremlin media propaganda on the nation's mental landscape? What could the Western worlds do about it? [20:58](#) How does Russia view its northwestern neighbors? How do Russians react to Finland? What is Finland's position in relation to [22:40](#) Is joining NATO a solution to Finland's security policy situation? The teachings and military career of the 1980 YJA cadet school in relation to NATO. [24:08](#) How would Russia react militarily and politically if Finland decided to join NATO? How would the NATO accession process proceed? [25:58](#) How likely is it that Russia could attack Finland if we do not join NATO? What is the solution to ensure Finland's security? [26:52](#) What is the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin like? What kind of landscape does he have? From what point of view does he work? [28:37](#) How does Putin's inner circle (oligarchs, workshop) react to the current situation in Russia? Who are they loyal to when luxury has to be given up? [30:34](#)

How would the use of a nuclear weapon work in practice? Is it possible in theory? [32:32](#) Is Russia planning a strong cyber attack? What could be the consequences of the attack? Does Russia have the potential to carry out such a blow? [33:19](#) How likely is it that the palace revolution will take place against Putin? [34:37](#) How strongly is the Kremlin leadership behind the attack on Ukraine? Is Russia going to declare the rebel territories independent, or will it join them? [36:27](#) How will Putin be stopped? What do Western countries need to do? [37:12](#) What are the future scenarios in the war in Ukraine? Four different possibilities. Can the war escalate with NATO?

Public appearance recorded 9 Mar 2022 (without translation—Finnish only). Packed venue with talk and audience questions lasting 2 hours. This is an example of how Finns engage in the public discussion of political issues in public forums.

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPnGt0ekaL4>>



Martti J. Kari "Will War Change Us?" Konnevesi Hall March 22, 2022.

Interview recorded 23 Mar 2022 (with English subtitles).

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rklNVqK8qKE>>



Until Kari reveals he is a stamp collector, the most plausible explanation for the appearance of stamps in his lecture is a series of articles published by Pauliina Raento, professor of human geography at the University of Helsinki whose work would have come to Kari's attention during his doctoral studies. Two from her series on postage stamps:

Visualizing Finland: Postage Stamps as Political Messengers (2005)

Communicating Geopolitics through Postage Stamps: The Case of Finland (2007)

Communicating Geopolitics through Postage Stamps: The Case of Finland

PAULIINA RAENTO

Academy of Finland/Department of Geography, University of Helsinki, Finland

A study of geopolitics and postage stamps raises three interrelated questions:

1. How do these tiny pieces of paper connect to geopolitics?
2. What makes stamps useful as geopolitical data?
3. Why is a particular country an illustrative answer to the first two questions?

Journal Excerpt: Tuesday May 3, 2022 (0734)

At 0617 I turned on the Bose Wave Radio set to WCLV 90.3 and recognized the music playing was by Sibelius but was unable to name the composition.

6:15am 05/03/2022 Classical Music with Jacqueline Gerber

Karelia Suite: Alla marcia

COMPOSER: Jean Sibelius

ENSEMBLES: Vienna Philharmonic

CONDUCTOR: Lorin Maazel

WCLV's *Queen of the Morn* explained that Sibelius grew hyper-critical of his early works and destroyed the original score for his 1893 composition. I re-learned the origin story of my favorite trumpet solo learned as a Freshman at Chanel: *Finlandia*—Tableau 8.

History [edit]

"The noise in the hall was like an ocean in a storm. I was at the opposite end of the hall and could not distinguish a single note. The audience did not have the patience to listen and was hardly aware of the music. The orchestra was actually there, behind the pillars. I thrust my way through the crowd and managed to reach the orchestra after a good deal of effort. There were a few listeners. Just a handful."

Ernst Lampén^[1]

The movements in the *suite* are all borrowed from the *Karelia Music*, which consisted of an overture and eight tableaux. Sibelius was commissioned to write it in 1893 by the Viipuri Students' Association for a lottery to aid the education of the people of the *Viipuri Province*.^{[1][4]} Sibelius conducted the *Karelian Music* at its premiere on 13 November 1893 at the *Imperial Alexander University* in Helsinki, Grand Duchy of Finland. The behaviour of the audience was, however, far from ideal.^[1] As Sibelius noted later:

You couldn't hear a single note of the music – everyone was on their feet cheering and clapping.

— Jean Sibelius, in a letter to his brother *Christian*^[5]

Ten days later, Sibelius conducted a popular concert that included the *Overture*, followed by the three movements that would become the *Karelia Suite*. These four pieces were sold to *Edition Fazer* in 1899 and, at Sibelius's request, *Overture* and *Karelia Suite* were published as *Op. 10 & 11*, respectively. The rest of the *Karelia Music* pieces that were yet to be printed ended up in the hands of *Breitkopf & Härtel* in 1905.^[1]

The score was at some point left in the possession of *Robert Kajanus* and, in 1936, Kajanus's wife *Ella* returned it back to Sibelius. It is thought that Sibelius burned his *eighth symphony* along with most of the *Karelia Music* in August 1945, with only the 1st and 7th tableaux spared from the fire. The *viola*, *cello* and *double bass* parts are also missing from the 1st and 7th tableaux, and the flute parts are completely missing from the 7th tableau.^[6]



Imperial Alexander University, photographed 1870.

Composition [edit]

The original movements are as follows:

- *Overture*
- *Tableau 1* – *A Karelian home. News of War* (1293)
- *Tableau 2* – *The founding of Viipuri Castle*
- *Tableau 3* – *Narimont, the Duke of Lithuania, levying taxes in the province of Käkisalmi* (1333)
- *Intermezzo (I)*
- *Tableau 4* – *Karl Knutsson in Viipuri Castle* (1446)
- *Tableau 5* – *Pontus De la Gardie at the gates of Käkisalmi* (1580)
- *Intermezzo (II)* (Originally titled *Tableau 5½* – *Pontus de la Gardie's March*)^[4]
- *Tableau 6* – *The Siege of Viipuri* (1710)
- *Tableau 7* – *The Reunion of Old Finland (Karelia) with the rest of Finland* (1811)
- *Tableau 8* – *The Finnish National Anthem*

The suite is in three movements:

1. The *Intermezzo* is the only original movement of the suite. Sibelius borrowed the brass theme in the middle of *Tableau 3* and made it into its own movement.^[4] The *Intermezzo* is a jaunty Allegro march-like theme, the orchestra portraying the atmosphere of marching contingents.
2. The *Ballade* was based on *Tableau 4*, and is 'sung' by a *bard* (on *cor anglais*), reflecting the mood of a fifteenth-century Swedish king, *Karl Knutsson*, reminiscing in his castle whilst being entertained by a minstrel.
3. *Alla Marcia* is an exhilarating march, which was originally incidental to *Tableau 5½* and is practically the same as the original music, except for some minor chord changes.^[4]

This was a work dedicated to Pontus De la Gardie, the father of the military hero whose image on Finnish postage is part of my proposed presentation due to its inclusion in Martti Kari's December 2018 lecture.



After listening to the reconstructed 1897 score on YouTube, I placed an order for this CD:



[More images](#)

Jean Sibelius / Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä – Karelia - Complete Score / Kuolema - Incidental Music

Label: [BIS – BIS-CD-915](#)
Series: [Complete Sibelius – 42](#)
Format: [CD, Album](#)
Country: [Europe](#)
Released: [1997](#)
Genre: [Classical](#)
Style: [Romantic](#)

Tracklist

	Karelia, Op.10/11 (1893)	(50:00)
↳ 1	Overture	8:12
↳ 2	Tableau 1: A Karelian Home, News Of War (1293) Vocals – Helkki Laitinen , Taito Hoffrén	3:43
↳ 3	Tableau 2: The Founding Of Viipuri Castle (1293)	3:38
↳ 4	Tableau 3: Narimont, The Duke Of Lithuania, Levying Taxes In The Province Of Käkisalmi (1333) (Allegro Attaca)	1:26
↳ 5	Tableau 3: Intermezzo I (Moderato)	3:47
↳ 6	Tableau 4: Karl Knuttson In Viipuri Castle. Ballade (1446) Baritone Vocals – Raimo Laukka	9:09
↳ 7	Tableau 5: Pontus De La Gardie At The Gates Of Käkisalmi In 1580. Moderato Ma Non Lento	3:14
↳ 8	Tableau 5½: Intermezzo (II) Marsch Nach Einem Alten Motiv	4:08
↳ 9	Tableau 6: The Siege Of Viipuri	3:16
↳ 10	Tableau 7/8: The Reunion Of Old Finland (Karelia) With The Rest Of Finland	6:34
↳ 11	Tableau 7/8: The Finnish National Anthem	2:24
	Kuolema, Op.44 (1903) Original Theatre Version	
↳ 12	Scene I: Tempo Di Valse Lente – Poco Risoluto	4:23
↳ 13	Scene II: Moderato (Paavali's Song) Baritone Vocals – Raimo Laukka	3:04
↳ 14	Scene III: Moderato Assai – Moderato (Elsa's Song) – Poco Adagio Soprano Vocals – Kirsi Tiitonen	7:07
↳ 15	Scene IV: Andante (The Cranes)	0:51
↳ 16	Scene V: Moderato	2:25
↳ 17	Scene VI: Andante Ma Non Tanto	1:55
18	Valse Triste, Op.44, No.1 Revised Concert Version	4:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlv2_jUy9OM&t=2s

Finlandia is not Finland's national anthem but no less revered by its people.

Finlandia

Finland, behold, thy daylight now is dawning,
the threat of night has now been driven away.
The skylark calls across the light of morning,
the blue of heaven lets it have its sound,
and now the day the powers of night is scorning:
thy daylight dawns, O Finland of ours!

Finland, arise, and raise towards the highest
thy head now crowned with mighty memory.
Finland, arise, for to the world thou criest

that thou hast thrown off thy slavery,
beneath oppression's yoke thou never liest.
Thy morning's come, O Finland of ours!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5zg_af9b8c>



The March 2nd demonstration at the Russian embassy in Helsinki on YouTube:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkzWqJPom-4>>

3 Aug 2023: *The general opinion on NATO in Finland changed overnight: from majority resisting to overwhelming majority wanting eagerly to join. It only happened because Russia attacked Ukraine. I know this as I saw it happening here in Finland. A viewer's comment posted in reaction to:*

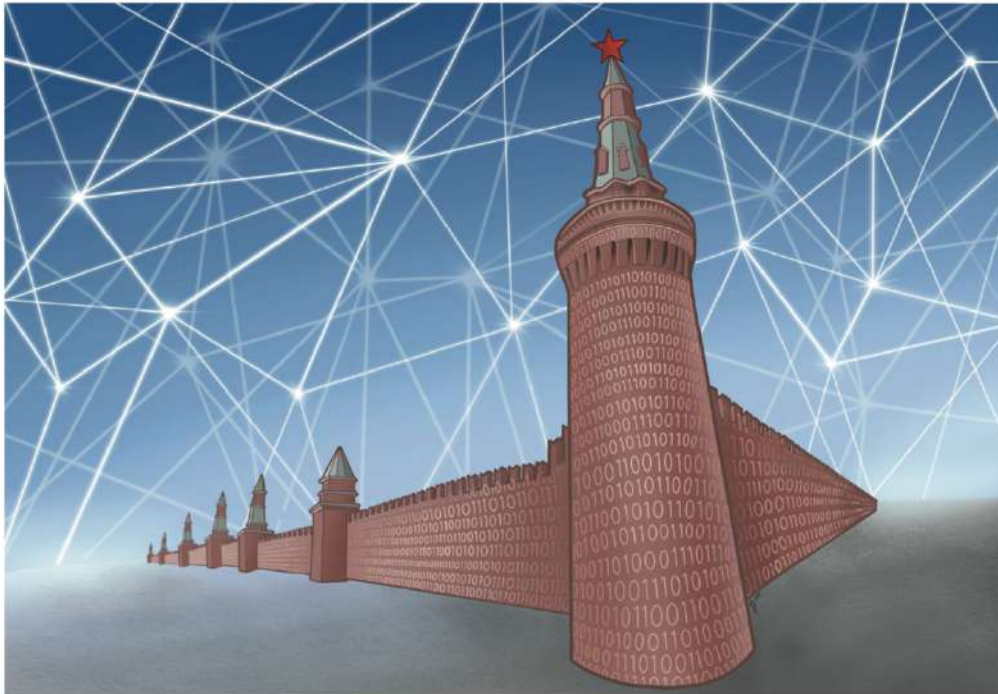
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNt4n_Pik2s

JYU DISSERTATIONS 122

Martti J. Kari

Russian Strategic Culture in Cyberspace

**Theory of Strategic Culture – a tool to
Explain Russia’s Cyber Threat Perception
and Response to Cyber Threats**



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ
FACULTY OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY