

Eastern Europe

Triinu Jõgi



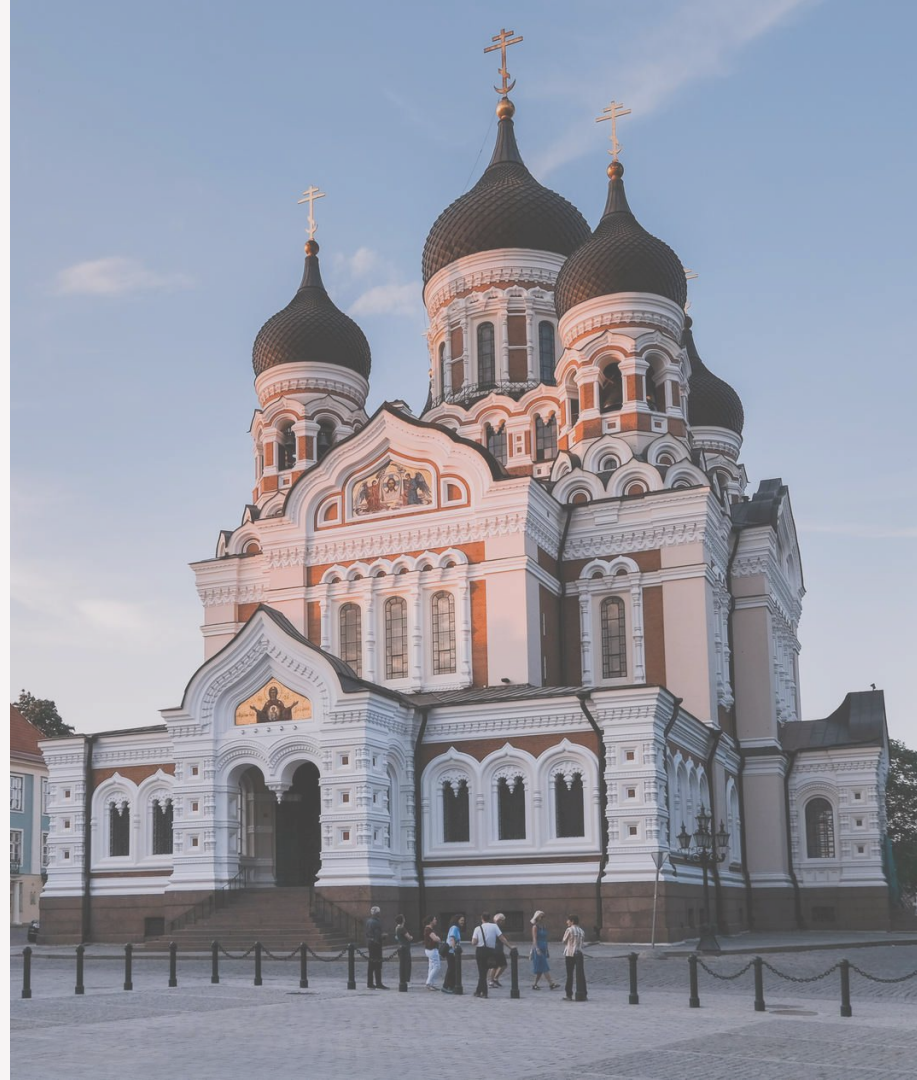


Structure

- 1 General characterisation
- 2 Economic perspective
- 3 Political perspective
- 4 National security & Russia
- 5 Identity

General characterisation i

1. Not a homogenous group
 - a. Lack of cohesive EU or EE identity
 - b. Varying EU & NATO membership
 - c. Different relations to Russia
 - d. Multitude of ethnicities and religions
2. But...
 - a. Somewhat similar economic history & standing
 - b. Proximity to Russia
 - c. Comparable position in relation to the EU
3. Differences between the perceived and real impact of EU





General characterisation ii: how to be persuasive

1. Use specific examples
 - a. If necessary, come up with plausible lies
2. Find many structural reasons applicable to all countries
3. Don't be afraid to call out spec knowledge / examples if you don't have it
 - a. All the countries are so different - an example of something in Bulgaria is unlikely to be true in Latvia anyways

Economic perspective i: motions

- 1 In hindsight, THBT the European Union should have never formed the Eurozone
- 2 THBT the European Central Bank should monetize the government deficits of Eurozone countries experiencing financial crises
- 3 THBT the Greek government should have rejected the 2015 bailout deal and sought to negotiate further concessions, even at the risk of not receiving a bailout.



Econ ii: the EE need for an integrated market

1. EE countries unsuccessful on their own
 - a. Geography, economic sectors, size, history
2. Lack of international bargaining power
 - a. No meaningful possibility of gaining trade partners on their own
 - b. Russia is a worse alternative
3. Common market gives reason for Western Europe to develop EE markets
4. Prone to crisis otherwise (flip OPP crisis analysis)
 - a. Lack of stability and market confidence
 - b. Need EU for overcoming crisis



Econ iii: integrated market is harmful

1. Different economic sectors than decision-makers
 - a. Wrong prioritisation of policy
 - b. Requires EU institutions analysis
2. Flip gov analysis on poor countries
 - a. Mass inflation
 - b. Economies unable to adjust
 - c. Different levels of taxation etc.
3. High chances of crises
 - a. Lack of control over currency → can't control monetary or fiscal policy
 - b. EX: Greece



Econ iv: how to make it impactful

1. Characterise economic vulnerability
 - a. Compare day-to-day life of Eastern Europeans and Germans
2. Impact to euroscepticism
 - a. The “real” impact of EU on EE matters a lot to change narratives about the EU
3. Impact to Russia
 - a. Stronger connection with EU means less dealing with Russia, which economically and otherwise disempowers it
4. Impact to EU cohesion
 - a. Stronger economies enable stronger EU identity and possibilities to increase economic cooperation



Political perspective i: motions

All motions about the EU structure:

THS a Multi-Speed Europe

THO the democratization of the European Union (e.g. the increase of power of the European Parliament, the increased focus on European elections, and a stronger push of the European identity)

THW grant more power over the EU budget to countries that contribute more money to the budget than they receive in monetary benefits, rather than an equal say in the budget

Motions about specific policy:

THBT the European Union should suspend the memberships of Hungary and Poland



Politics ii: basics of euroscepticism

1. National identity & sovereignty
 - a. The migration crisis
 - b. Forced ideas and liberalisation
 - c. National security / foreign policy concerns (incl. Russia)
 - d. Historic anti-Western sentiment in older people
2. Economic
 - a. Playing onto crises and inflation
 - b. Economic differences between West and East (“Germany is rich and developed, we are not”)
 - c. Neoliberalism (eftist parties) / too socialist (right-wing parties)
 - d. Lack of visible EU benefits



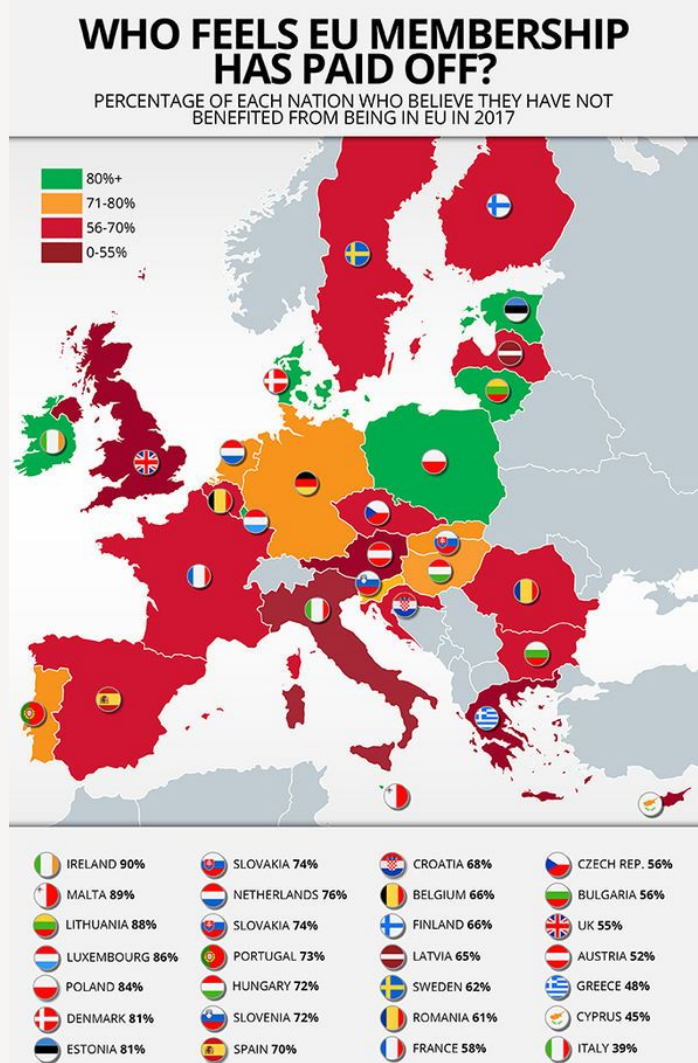
Politics iii: basics of euroscepticism cont.

1. Institutional / democratic
 - a. Smaller countries' lack of power in the European Parliament
 - b. "Far away brussels"
2. Lack of EU cohesion
 - a. No common identity
 - b. Sanctioning Hungary and Poland
3. How politicians and parties use
 - a. Differentiating from other parties to capture voters
 - b. Showing a clear stance regarding EU
 - c. Calling other parties too lenient
 - d. Collaborating with other anti-EU parties across political spectrum



Politics iii: impacting euroscepticism

1. Change in EU policy-making
 - a. anti-EU MEPs sabotage policies
 - b. Policies get watered-down
2. Opposition to EU fuels opposition to EU values
 - a. Less liberal or progressive politics in EE countries
3. Increased turning to Russia
 - a. Support for Putin's regime
 - b. More reliance on Russia reduces sovereignty
 - c. Increasing authoritarianism



Politics iv: how to mitigate

1. EU institutions are democratic
 - a. Proportional representation in the European Parliament
 - b. Effective veto in the European Council
 - c. Legislation through 3 institutions
 - d. Treaties governing EU mandates
2. Visible benefits of the EU
 - a. Economic subsidies, development funds, FMOP
 - b. SQ bias
3. The Brexit process seems harmful
4. Moderate euroscepticism forces EU to be more transparent



National security i: motions

THBT the Biden administration should adopt a diplomatic rather than an antagonistic approach to Russia

THBT increased US political disengagement from Europe is in the interest of the EU

THR the continued existence of NATO after the fall of the Soviet Union

THR Germany's decision to go ahead with the Nord Stream 2 deal with Russia



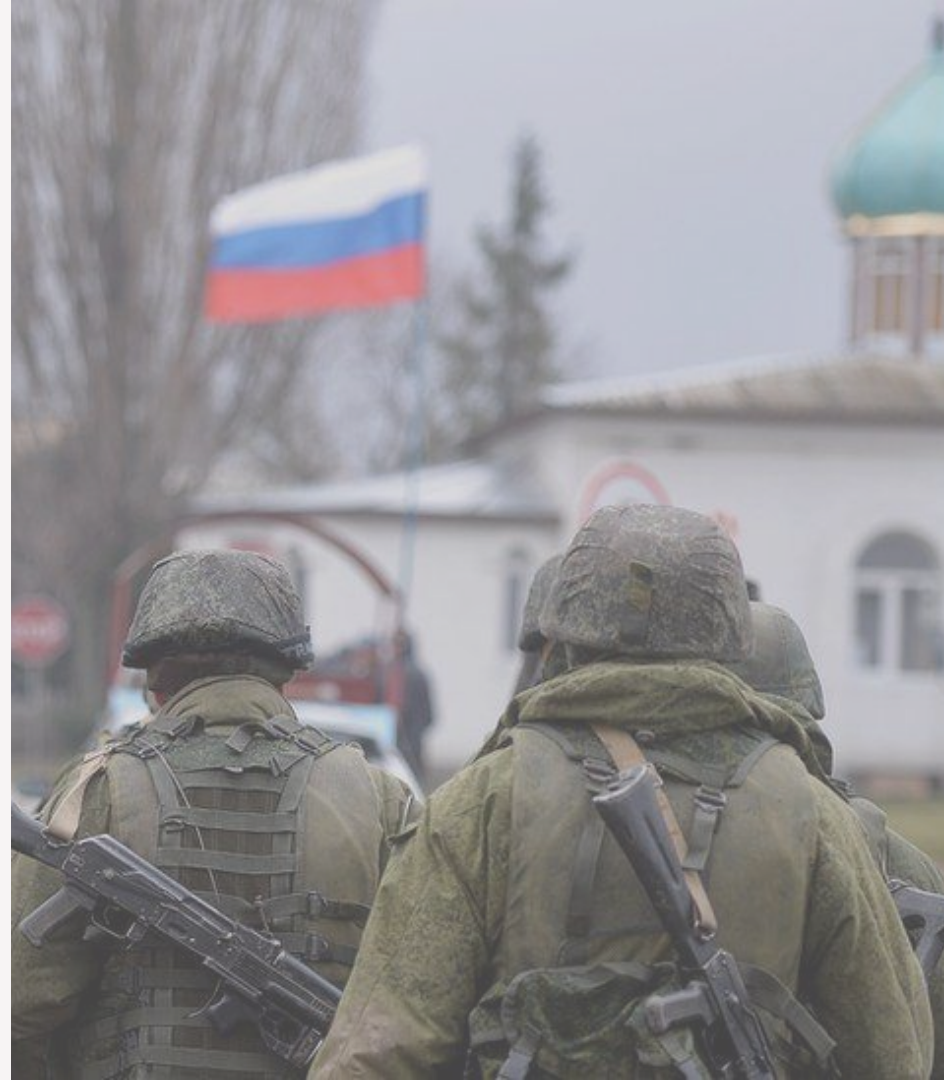
National security ii: how to characterise relevance & urgency

1. Fear in EE countries' politics
 - a. History
 - b. National security constantly played up in politics
 - c. Geographic proximity to Russia
 - d. Knowledge of reliance on external actors
2. Russia
 - a. Historic goal & control over areas
 - b. Expansion as justification for Putin
 - c. "Liberation" of Russian minority groups
 - d. Economic
 - e. Desire to get closer to EU and US



Nat. sec. iii: antagonising vs containing Russia

1. Enhanced Forward Presence
 - a. Deterrence & feeling of safety
 - b. Russian desire to not seem weak
2. Sanctions
 - a. Sanctions have limited impact (ex. Ukraine)
 - b. Signalling effect
 - c. Russian economy in chaos
3. Economic cooperation
 - a. Russian incentive to maintain stability
 - b. Economic & political support for Putin
4. Impacting
 - a. Sense of security & likelihood of aggression
 - b. Euroscepticism



Identity i: motions

THBT states formerly under the rule of the Soviet Union should not emphasize their history of struggle against Russian imperialism in constructing their national identity

THBT leftist parties in Eastern Europe should prioritize left economic policies and postulates (better working conditions, progressive taxation, higher social welfare distribution rates) over progressive liberty rights (same-sex marriages, widespread access to legal abortion, diminishing of influence of church over public sphere)



Identity ii: important characterisation

1. Population

- a. Ethnic russian minority groups & their segregation
- b. Russian infosphere

2. Anti-communist sentiment

- a. Memories of the Soviet Union

3. Sense of victimhood

- a. Family trauma
- b. Memorials for victims of communism

4. Political demonisation of communism

- a. Lustration
- b. Being “Communist” is a political death



Identity iii: impacting

1. Impact on politics

- a. Strong opposition to social welfare policies
- b. Support for neoliberalism & private property

2. Impacts on identity

- a. Patriotism and nationalism are normalised
- b. Support for independent nation state
- c. Suppression of minorities

3. Impacts on relations with Russia

- a. “Bad” treatment of Russian minorities as an excuse for intervention
- b. Strong demands for the EU & West to have a hostile approach to Russia

4. But...

- a. Politicians as Russian puppets is not uncommon
- b. Parties catering to Russian minorities

