

Course Outline Britain and the Geopolitics of the Baltic, 1600 to present

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The Baltic – the littoral of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden – has been an area of considerable importance to England, Scotland and then the United Kingdom. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was a vital trading partner and source of timber, furs and many other products. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Royal Navy drew most of its naval stores from the Baltic, watched jealously over the balance of power in that region and intervened against Russia. In the 20th century Britain encouraged the independence of the Baltic states in 1918-19 and fought both the Bolsheviks and the Nazis there. Later, the Baltic states, which regained their independence from the Soviet Union in 1990-91 and then secured membership of the European Union and NATO, were supported by the British government. Today British forces provide the backbone of NATO deterrence against Vladimir Putin in Estonia. This course of seven two-hour seminar-lectures will trace the evolution of this important relationship through the lens of historical geopolitics. In the final week, students will participate in a simulation exercise organised around a fictional future geopolitical crisis, featuring guests with longstanding foreign policy experience.

General Surveys

Abulafia, David. *The Boundless Sea: A Human History of the Oceans*. London: Penguin Books, 2020.
Åselius, Gunnar. "Continuity and Change – Lessons from 1000 Years of Geopolitics in the Baltic Sea Area." *Global Affairs* 4, no. 4–5 (October 20, 2018): 467–73.
Boggis-Rolfe, Caroline. *The Baltic Story: A Thousand-Year History of Its Lands, Sea and Peoples*. Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2019. https://cam.idls.org.uk/vdc_100079802915.0x000001.
Buzan, Barry. *An Introduction to the English School of International Relations: The Societal Approach*. 1st edition. Cambridge: Polity, 2014.
Grainger, John D. *The British Navy in the Baltic*. NED-New edition. London: Boydell & Brewer, 2014. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7722/j.ctt6wpbsq>.
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Ikenberry, G. John. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*, New Edition. New Haven: Princeton University Press, 2019. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691192840/after-victory>.
North, Michael. *The Baltic: A History*. Translated by Kenneth Kronenberg. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2016.
Seger, Paul. "The Law of Neutrality." In *The Oxford Handbook of International Law in Armed Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1093/law/9780199559695.003.0010>
Simms, Brendan. *Britain's Europe. A thousand years of conflict and cooperation* London, Allen Lane, 2016.

Theoretical Works (for additional stimulation only, not to be considered a definitive framework)

Acharya, Amitav. "The Emerging Regional Architecture of World Politics." *World Politics* 59, no. 4 (July 2007): 629–52.

Adler, Emanuel, and Patricia Greve. "When Security Community Meets Balance of Power: Overlapping Regional Mechanisms of Security Governance." *Review of International Studies* 35, no. S1 (February 2009): 59–84. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210509008432>.

Ferro, Luca, and Nele Verlinden. "Neutrality During Armed Conflicts: A Coherent Approach to Third-State Support for Warring Parties." *Chinese Journal of International Law* 17, no. 1 (March 1, 2018): 15–43. <https://doi.org/10.1093/chinesejil/jmy011>.

Steinmo, Sven, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth. *Structuring Politics Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis / Edited by Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, Frank Longstreth*. Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Week 1: The Rise of Sweden, 1600-1701

Primary sources

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- Andreas Bureus, *Orbis Arctoni Nova et Accurate Delineatio*, 1626 (map).

Secondary sources

- Fedorowicz, J. K. *England's Baltic Trade in the Early Seventeenth Century*. Cambridge UP, 1980.
- Grosjean, Alexia. *An Unofficial Alliance: Scotland and Sweden 1569-1654*. Northern World ; v. 5. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
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- Martin, Nathan James. "Anglo -Swedish Foreign Relations during the Reign of Elizabeth I." *ETD Collection for University of Nebraska – Lincoln*, 2008, 1–181.
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- Murdoch, Steve. "'Breaching Neutrality': English Prize-Taking and Swedish Neutrality in the First Anglo-Dutch War, 1651–1654." *The Mariner's Mirror* 105, no. 2 (April 3, 2019): 134–47. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00253359.2019.1589112>.
- Roberts, Michael. "Cromwell and the Baltic." *The English Historical Review* 76, no. 300 (1961): 402–46.
- Venning, Timothy. "Cromwell and the Baltic, 1656–8." In *Cromwellian Foreign Policy*, edited by Timothy Venning, 202–17. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1995. https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230376830_14.
- Zins, Henryk. *England and the Baltic in the Elizabethan Era*. Translated by H. C. Stevens. 1st Edition. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1972.

Week 2: Commerce and Neutrality, 1701-1779

Primary Sources

- Pamphlet of George Mackenzie, British Envoy to Poland (1710-14), and Russia (1715).
- Catherine II of Russia's Nakaz on Britain and international commerce, 1767.

Secondary sources

- Andersen, Dan H., and Hans-Joachim Voth. "The Grapes of War: Neutrality and Mediterranean Shipping under the Danish Flag, 1747–1807." *Scandinavian Economic History Review* 48, no. 1 (January 2000): 5–27. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03585522.2000.10419821>
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- Evans, Chris, Owen Jackson, and Göran Rydén. "Baltic Iron and the British Iron Industry in the Eighteenth Century." *The Economic History Review* 55, no. 4 (2002): 642–65.
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- Roberts, Michael, *British diplomacy and Swedish politics, 1758-1773* (Minneapolis, 1980)
- Rönnbäck, Klas, New and old peripheries: Britain, the Baltic, and the Americas in the Great Divergence. *Journal of global history*, 5(3), pp.373–394
- Warde, Paul Trees, Trade and Textiles: Potash Imports and Ecological Dependency in British Industry, c.1550–1770. *Past & present*, 240(1), 2018, pp.47–82.

Week 3: Intervention and Conflict, 1780-1815

Primary Sources

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- John Bull embracing the pie man or a friendly visit to Zeland (caricature of bombardment of Copenhagen, 1807).
- Castlereagh to Liverpool, 20.4.1814 in C.K. Webster, *British diplomacy, 113-1815*. Select document dealing with the reconstruction of Europe (London, 1921). pp. 178-179.

Secondary Sources

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Week 4: The Geopolitics of a Backwater, 1815-1914

Primary Sources

- Speeches by Disraeli and Earl Russell on German-Danish War, 27.6.1864 In Plumb and Wiener, I, pp. 449-462.
- Swedish export statistics from the Crimean War, taken from G. Fridlitzius, 'The Crimean war and the Swedish economy', *Economy and History*, 3:1, 56-103, 1960

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Week 5: The World Wars, 1914-1945

Primary sources

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- Päts - tema elu ja töö. Kaasaeglaste meelest (K. Päts - his life and work. Memoirs by contemporaries), Tallinn 1934 and Johan Laidoner, 'Inglaste Tulek' in *Mälestused iseseisvuse võitluspäevilt; I köide: revolutsioon ja okupatsioon 1917-1918*, 1927

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Secondary Sources

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Week 6: The Cold War and the Baltic, 1945-1991

Primary sources

KGB reports on SIS activity in Baltic States

Report on speech by [Margaret Thatcher](#) 1990

Secondary sources

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Week 7: NATO and EU, 1992-2021

Primary sources

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