



The Åland Example and its Role in Finnish Contributions to Peace Making

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The Åland Islands Peace Institute

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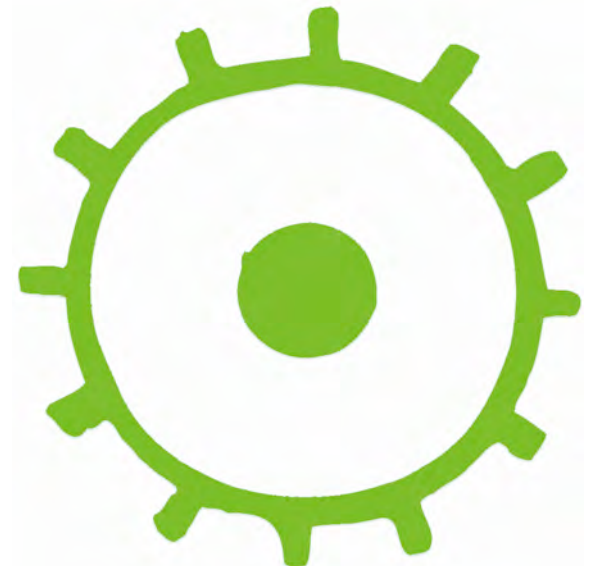


The Åland Example and Its Components – Relevance for International Conflict Resolution

Research project

The Åland Islands Peace Institute

2010 - 2011



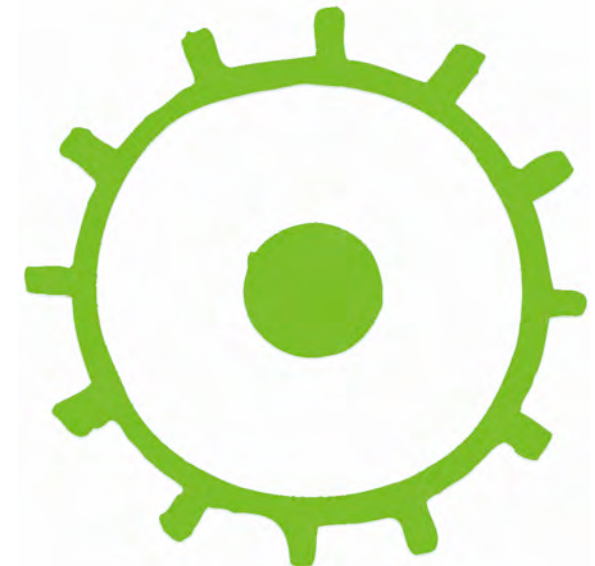


The Three Components of the Åland Example

- Autonomy legislation
- Demilitarisation & neutralisation
- Cultural and language guarantees

Core Research
Question:

Continuity & Change



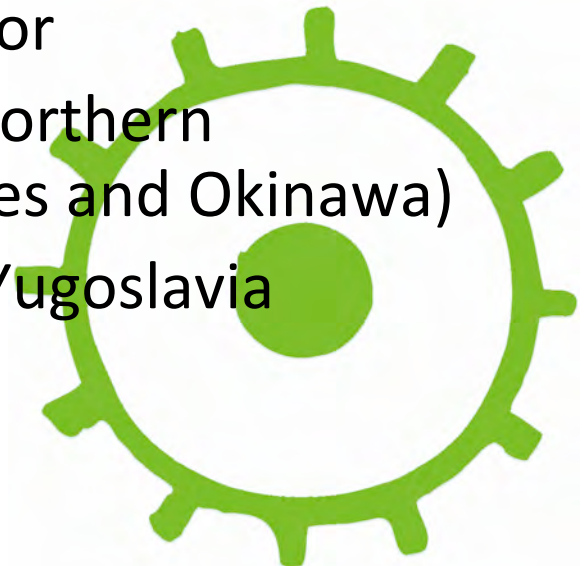


The Use and Relevance of the Åland Example in International Conflict Resolution

Yash Ghai,
Kjell-Åke
Nordquist,
Fujio Ohnishi,
Elisabeth
Naucrér

Autonomy in practice

- Hong Kong, Nagaland, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea/Baugainville
- East Timor
- Japan (Northern Territories and Okinawa)
- Former Yugoslavia





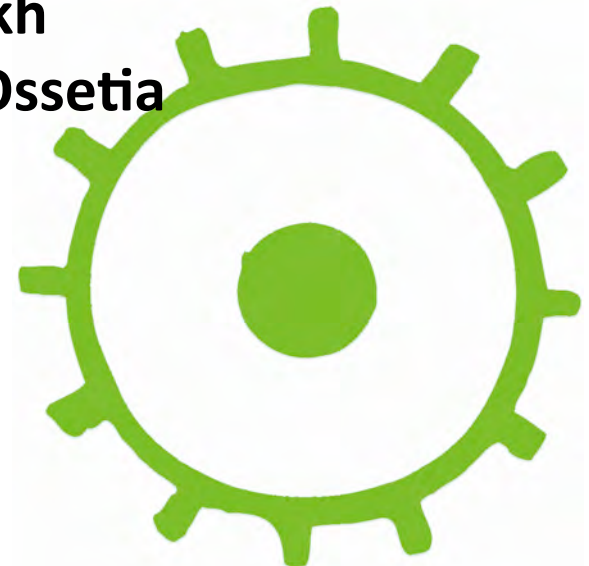
Interviews and Case Studies

Experts interviewed:

Jan Eliasson, Terhi Hakala, Pär Stenbäck,
Thorvald Stoltenberg, Heikki Talvitie, Sten
Widmalm

Case studies:

Nagorno-Karabakh
Abkhazia and South Ossetia
Kashmir
South Sudan
Palestine-Israel



The Autonomy and Its Institutions

1921 Act on Autonomy

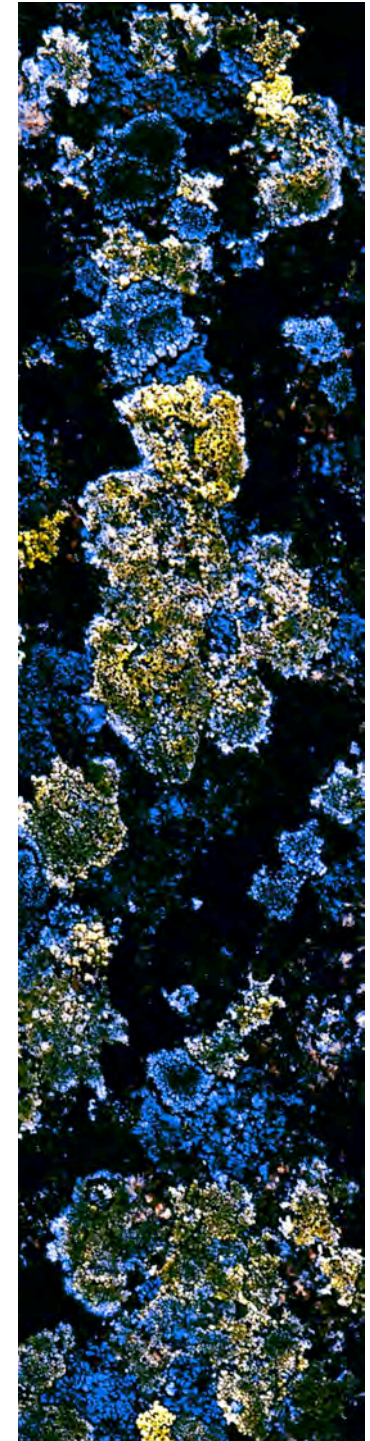
Substantial revisions in 1951 & 1991

3rd revision under preparation

Constitutional as well as as international
entrenchement

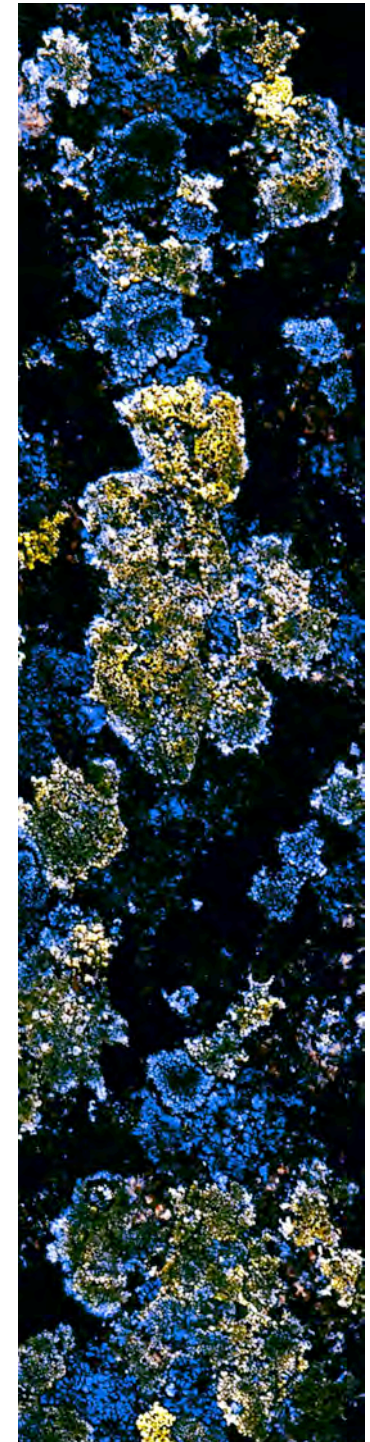
Constitutional and not delegated powers

Combination of legal and political tools for
solving unavoidable tensions and disputes



Continuity and change

League of Nations' guarantees have remained major points of reference while the Act on Autonomy has been adapted to national and international developments (e.g. HR standards, EU membership)



Institutional Design:

Well developed Ålandic institutions

Legislative Assembly, Government of Åland

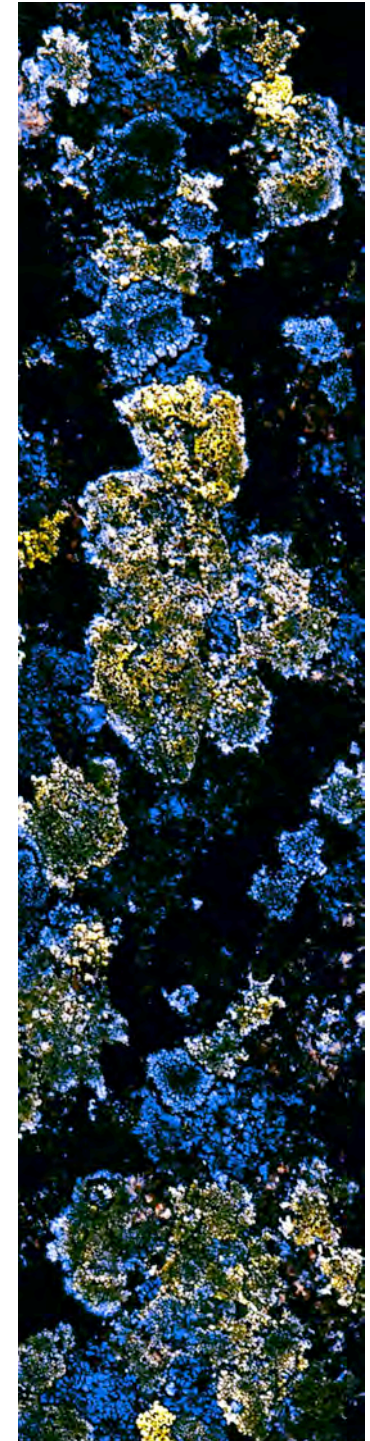
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'Joints'

The President of the Republic, the Governor,
the Åland Delegation, The Supreme Court,
Ålandic MP

+

Continuous and long-term forms of contact on
ministerial level, through Contact Group,
Nordic cooperation & on EU level



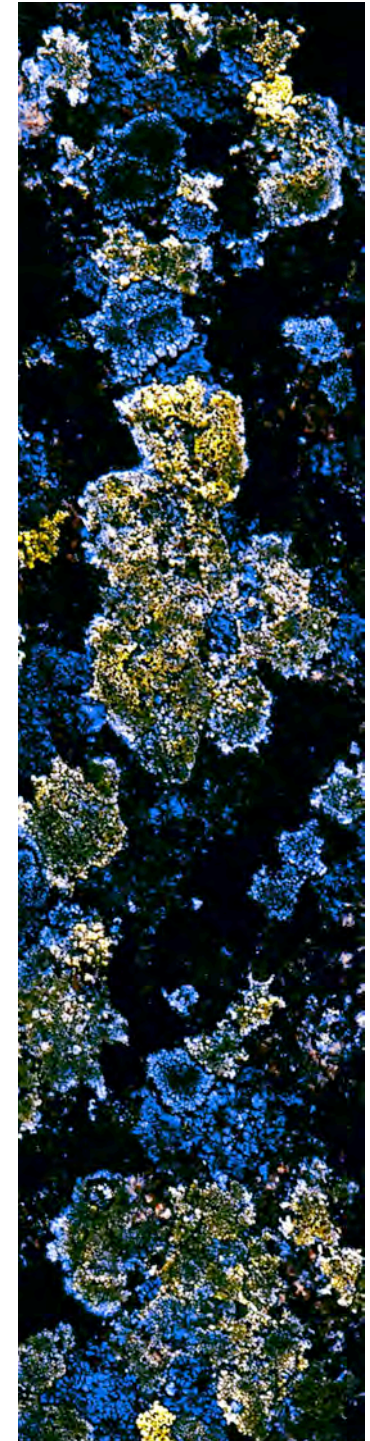
Adaptation of the legal framework

e.g.

- clear enumeration of Autonomy vs. State powers (1951 & '91)
- 'Åland Protocol' to EU Accession Treaty (1994)
- right to vote in municipal elections extended to foreign residents (1995 & 2006)
- changes in system of tax equalisation (1991)

& institutional set-up

- extended role of the Åland Delegation
 - establishment of an EU Unit
- Ålandic representative at Perm. Rep of Finland in Brussels
- 'coalitions' on party level with counterparts on the mainland and in Brussels
 - Ålandic representation in Nordic cooperation
 - contact group





The Demilitarisation and Neutralisation of the Åland Islands

- Continuity ensured by longstanding and reaffirmed international agreements
- Deviations during periods of war and prewar from the regime
- The Ålanders (the regional authorities, the Åland Parliament as well as the general public) are the most keen supporters of the regime: identity shaping factor



The Demilitarisation and Neutralisation of the Åland Islands – current trends

- The 'invisibility' of the demilitarisation in practice
- Challenges to demilitarisation due to technological developments, intensified military cooperation in the region, the grey zone between military and non-military activities and economic efficacy

The Cultural and Linguistic Safeguards

Four areas of regulation

1

Language used by public authorities

2

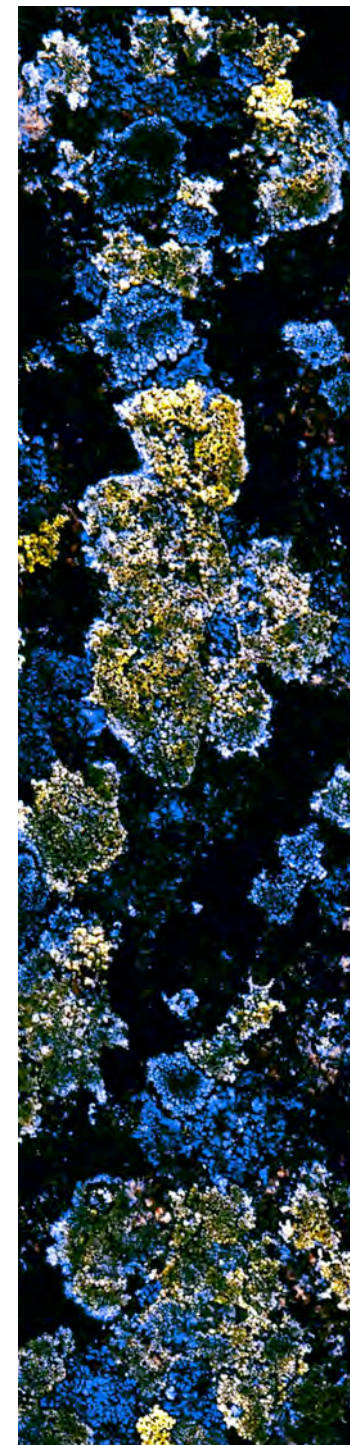
The right to vote and stand in elections

3

Language used and taught in public schools

4

Access to land and resources

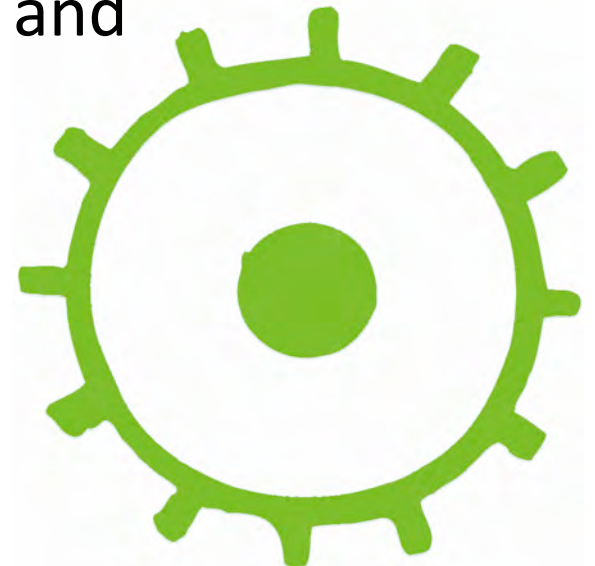




Summary of Conclusions

Theoretical framework concerning the robustness and longevity of autonomy solutions

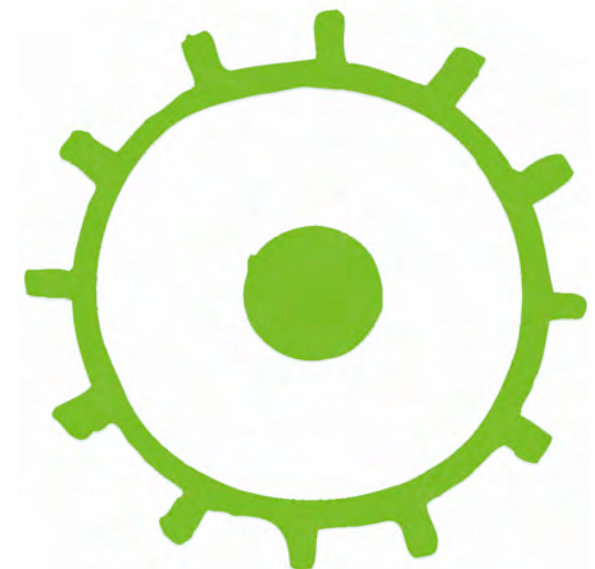
- 1) Timing
- 2) Nature of the dispute
- 3) Democratic requirement
- 4) The role of external actors, including parties to disputes and 'kin-states'
- 5) Institutional design





The use of the Åland Example in practice

- Upon demand, rather than promoted
- As temporary or as permanent solution
- Usage at three levels:
 - As a set of principles (will to compromise, minority accommodation)
 - As an example of evolving institutional design
 - As a physical and a symbolic meeting space

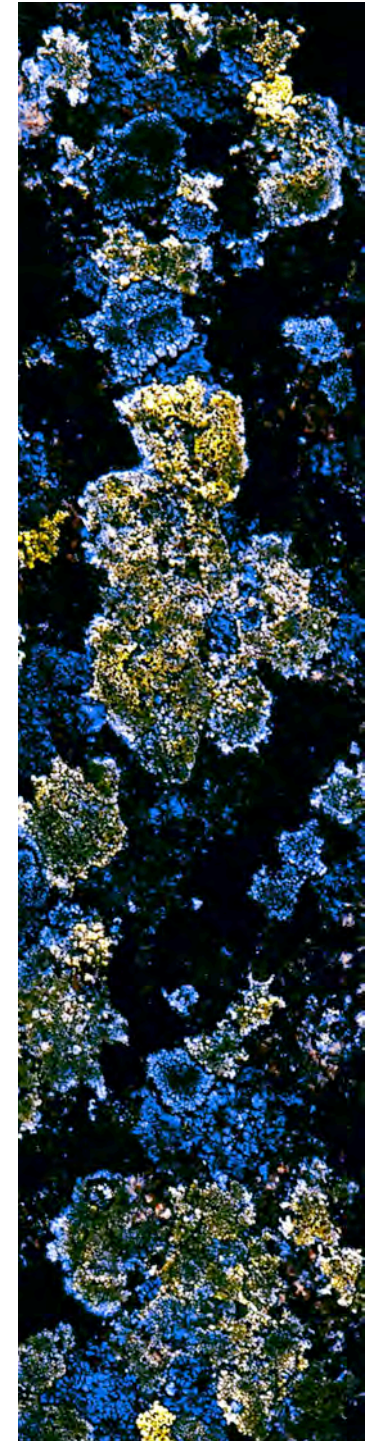


Re. Finnish mediation and peace making strategies

Managing diversity in an increasingly globalised world

Polycentric decision-making and multilevel-governance require new structures of accountability

Mediation by (non-idealised) Example?
Experiences of multilingualism, minority protection and the Åland Example as strong assets for Finland





Reconceptualising the lessons of the Åland Example

The Åland regime can be looked at as a network of multi-level contacts rather than as a tool of isolation

Issues of security need to be addressed early

All those concerned need to be involved in the negotiation and implementation of peace projects

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