



Tallinn – Sparkling Middle Age City and Cold War Wonder

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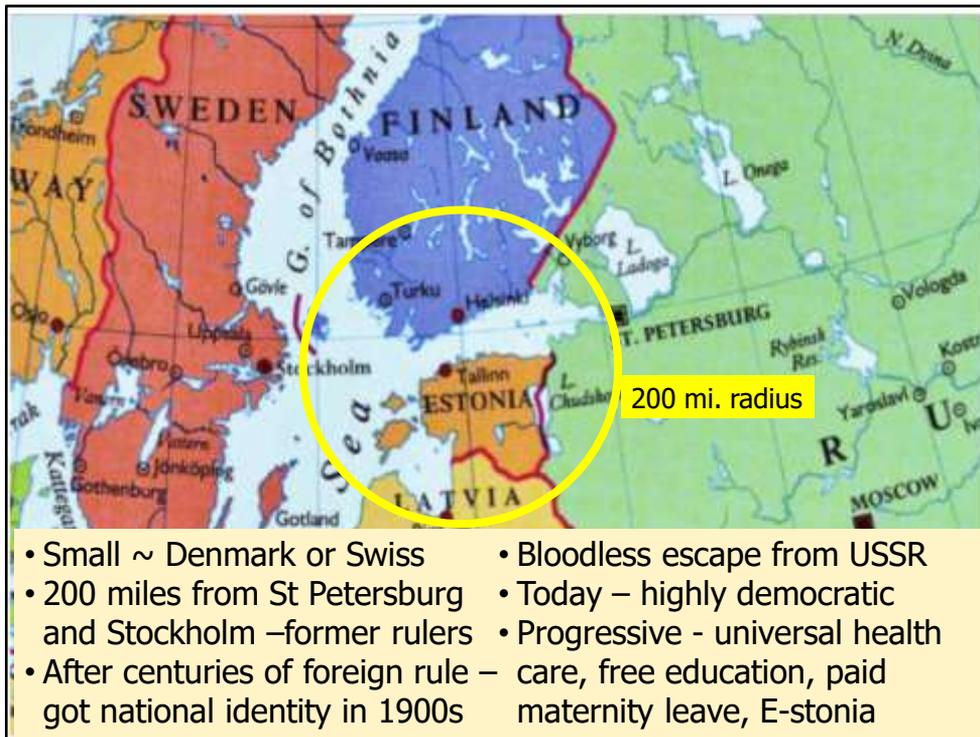
An exemplar of civic spirit, spunk, and Middle Age architecture. Estonians sung their way out of USSR Cold War domination and now is a successful former Soviet satellite in EU

- Welcome – thanks for coming
- Today our topic is Tallinn, Estonia – a beautiful Middle Age City that suffered under USSR rule during the Cold War but cleverly sung its way out of Soviet clutches and has made remarkable progress as a free and open society
- That’s the reason I titled this lecture “Tallinn – Sparkling Middle Age City and Cold War Wonder”
- Tallinn, although largely unheralded, is an exemplar of civic spirit, spunk, and Middle Age architecture. Estonians formed a massive human chorus that literally sung its way out from under the Soviet’s Cold War domination and is now one of the most successful Eastern European countries.
- I believe you will be pleasantly surprised by Tallinn
- Unknown by most, it’s increasingly being recognized by tourists a peaceful place to visit
- It has an admirable national spirit and pride
- It’s a spunky, sparkly and progressive city
- Especially uplifting is the amphitheater where they hold patriotic song fests
- You will also see shocking memorials its downtrodden Cold War past in the museum and the dull gray section of the city where the Soviets lived and the terrifying KGB headquarters



Terrific Tallinn - a Baltic Tiger

- Tallinn is capital and largest city of Estonia
- Has population of 450,000
- Due to its strategic location on the Baltic, was a major trade hub of the Hanseatic League
- Tallinn's Old Town is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe and is World Heritage Site
- The city's architecture reflects its 5 different occupiers – Danes, Poles, Swedes, Germans, and Russia
- Wondrous – especially spark and spunk
- Slipped Soviet shackles by singing and holding hands across borders
- Independence won bloodlessly
- Using fruits of freedom to flourish



Estonia

- Small country about same area as Denmark, Netherlands and Switzerland
- Only 1.3 million with water on 3 sides
- Located on Baltic with Tallinn only 200 miles from St Petersburg and Stockholm – it's former rulers
- After centuries of successive rule by Germans, Danes, Swedes, Poles and Russians, a distinct Estonian national identity began to emerge in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- It got independence from Russia in 1920 after a brief WW I
- During World War II was repeatedly contested and occupied by the Soviet Union and Germany, ultimately incorporated into USSR
- Today it's a democratic unitary parliamentary republic and an advanced, high-income economy that has been among the fastest-growing in the EU
- Is a democracy – in fact ranks about the US on the Democracy index for 2018
- Estonians are provided with universal health care, free education, and paid maternity leave

Estonia: From 800 years of rule to 30 year miracle

- 1219: Denmark captures Tallinn
- 13th–15th Centuries: Hanseatic trading point
- 1346: Danes sell to Livonian Order
- 1558–1583: Swedish rule after Livonian War
- 1710: Under Russian Empire and Peter the Great
- 1918: During WW I declares independence
- 1940–1944: Annexed to USSR – Mass deportations
- 1941: Nazi invasion & holocaust
- 1945–1991: Soviet occupation, behind Iron Curtain
- 1987–1988: “Singing Revolution”
- 1991: Declares independence & transformation
- 2004-11: Joins EU, NATO & Eurozone

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Fairytale Charm of Medieval Town



Built in 13-16th centuries when was Hanseatic

Fairytale Charm of Medieval Town

- Built in 13-16th centuries when Tallinn was a thriving member of Hanseatic trade league
- Colorful, gabled houses and grandiose churches
- Surrounded by old city wall and dotted with guard towers
- "Exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a medieval northern European trading city"

Hanseatic League 13-17th centuries

- Alliance of trading cities & merchant guilds
- Dominated Baltic & North Sea in 13th–17th centuries
- Hanseatic had own legal system and protection
- Reval (Tallinn) buildings still of Hanseatic style



Tallinn Town Hall

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Tallinn – part of Hanseatic League 13-17th centuries

- Economic alliance of trading cities and their merchant guilds that dominated trade that stretched from the Baltic to North Sea 13th–17th centuries
- Purpose was to protect commercial interests and privileges granted by foreign rulers in cities and countries the merchants visited.
- Hanseatic cities had their own legal system and furnished their own protection and mutual aid.
- German cities achieved domination of trade in the Baltic with striking speed over 13th century
- German colonists in the 12th and 13th centuries settled in numerous cities on and near the east Baltic coast such as Reval (Tallinn), which was a member of the Hanseatic League and some of the buildings still bear the style of their Hanseatic days

800-year seat
of power:
Toompea
Castle & Tower

- Estonia's Parliament
- Symbol of nationhood
- 1989 Estonian flag replaced the Soviet



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800-year seat of power: Toompea Castle & Tower

- Now home to Estonia's Parliament
- Pikk Hermann Tower, a symbol of Estonian nationhood
- Belief that whichever power flies its flag here rules Estonia
- In 1989, Estonian flag replaced the Soviet's flag -- a symbolic victory for independence

St. Olaf's Church: Catholic of Norway



Legend: Carving of Olaf the builder who died in fall from top and had a snake and toad crawl out of his mouth



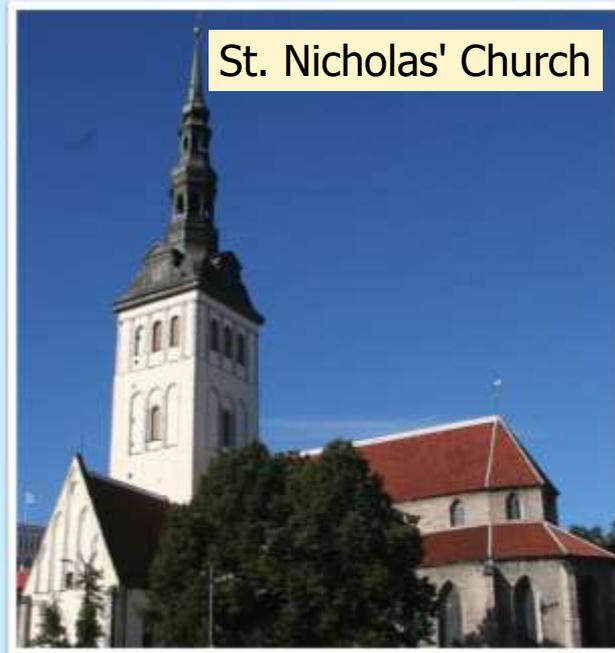
Soviet spy tower

Tallest in world 1549-1625

St. Olaf's Church – Scandinavian legacy

- Built in 12th century at center of Scandinavian community
- Dedicated to catholic Saint Olaf of Norway
- Legend: A carving of Olaf the builder who fell to his death from atop the tower had a snake and a toad crawl out of his mouth on adjoining chapel
- Tallest church in world 16th century
- Soviet KGB used spire as a radio tower and surveillance point
- Now an active Baptist church

*Doubled as a
fortress
*Survived
reformationist
looting
*But not WW II
bombs
*Restored as
museum and
concert hall



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13th-Century Church of German Merchant/Settlers

- St. Nicholas' Church (Niguliste Museum)
- Dedicated to St. Nicholas, patron of fishermen and sailors
- Doubled as a fortress
- Survived reformationist looting of 1523, but not WW II bombs.
- Restored in 1980s as museum of religious art and concert hall



- Russia defeated Sweden & became power of Baltic
- Sweden lost Estonia to Russia, but retained Finland
- 80% Tallinn dead as a result

Great Northern War (1700–21)

- War of Peter the Great of Russia and coalition against Swedish Empire
- Russian coalition eventually defeated Sweden, leaving Russia new dominant power in the Baltic
- It marked rise of Peter the Great of Russia and fall of Swedish Empire
- Russia gained access to Baltic and began a 200 year expansion
- Sweden lost Estonia to Russia, but retained Finland
- 80% Tallinn dead as a result

Peter the Great's Legacy of 1700s



Kadriorg Palace, now President's residence

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Peter the Great's Legacy of 1700s

- Built by Peter the Great for his wife Catherine in 1718
- Russian royalty abandoned in late 18th and 19th centuries
- In 1930s Estonia's 1st president restored and became presidential residence
- Now grounds include the Foreign Art Museum, President's Residence and sculpted gardens

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

- Saint of ROC & St Petersburg Street
- Built during Russian Empire
- Faces to intimidate parliament



Symbol of hated Russian oppression

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Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

- Saint of Russian Orthodox Church and name of main street in St Petersburg
- Completed in 1900 when in Russian Empire
- Built to face and intimidate the national parliament
- Symbol of hated Russian oppression during Cold War

'Sea of Tears' – Commemoration of deportation in June 1941 to Russia



- On Aug. 6, 1940, Estonia was annexed by the Soviet Union.
- Estonia commemorates the anniversary of the June 13, 1941 deportation of 95,000 people from the Baltic states
- Stalin's regime destroyed local rural economies and forced the collectivization of farms
- Targeted the political, military, financial, and cultural elite and Jews
- Estonian farmers were systematically robbed of their property.
- Mass deportation begins June 13, 1941
- Armed units were given lists of 11,102 people listed in Estonia. Given one hour to get ready and not allowed to take anything as Soviets moved into their homes
- Hauled in trucks to 490 freight cars - men were separated from their families.
- Hundreds were shot. For thousands given prison sentence
- Soviets returned in autumn 1944 and more purges followed.

Lasnamäe: Reminder of past occupation & current Russian 25% presence of population



Estonianization - thousands changed their original family names in 1930s

Lasnamäe: - Where Russians lived

- Suburb of mostly Russian-speaking
- Built in 1970–1990s of pre-fabricated concrete apartments
- Stirred calls 'stop Lasnamäe' - slogan of Singing Revolution
- Now apartment blocks and hypermarkets have been built
- Massive campaign of civil resistance against Soviet and concern remains especially with Putin's tough talk about protecting Russians and using that as excuse to reclaim Crimea and parts of Ukraine

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasnam>

Reminder of Nightmarish of Nazi & Soviet Occupation:
10% deported to Russia

Museum of Occupations



Displays horrors of both Nazi and Soviet occupation and brutality

Reminder of Nightmarish USSR Occupation

- Following the secret Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 of Germany and Soviets, Red Army in June 1940 occupied Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
- Installed pro-Soviet governments, held rigged elections and then applied to "join" and were incorporated into USSR
- Repressions, executions and mass deportations and forced use of Russian Language followed
- 10% of adult Baltic population was deported or sent to labor camps
- Soviet control was interrupted by Nazi invasion in 1941 and initially, many Estonians considered the Germans as liberators and hoped for independence
- But Germans ruled until 1945 and also carried out discrimination, mass deportations and mass killings
- After WW II, USSR forced collectivization of agriculture and mass deportation
- Half-century of Soviet occupation left an indelible mark, not only on landscape, but psyche
- KGB HQ Pikk 59 – Most feared building in Soviet times of interrogation before being shot or sent to Siberia.

Ingenious Culture of Estonia - Song Fests



- Influences from Finnic, Baltic, Slavic and Germanic
- Rivalry of west vs. Europe
- Catholic, Protestant & Orthodox
- Musicianship
- Serfdom, but ended 1816
- Rural lifestyle

Culture of Estonia

- Influences from Finnic, Baltic, Slavic and Germanic peoples plus former dominant powers, Sweden and Russia
- Traditionally, an area of rivalry between western and eastern Europe
- Multiple Christian traditions: Western Christianity (Catholic, Protestant) and Eastern Christianity (Orthodox Church)
- Heritage of egalitarianism arising out the ideals of closeness to nature and self-sufficiency
- Respected for musicianship – many world-class conductors and singers
- Centuries of the serfdom until 1816
- Commitment to the ideals of the welfare state
- Protestant work ethic and free education is prized
- Fondness for a rural lifestyle - vacation in countryside



Singing Revolution

- The Singing Revolution refers to the events between 1987 and 1991 that led to the restoration of independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Sept 11, 1988, "Song of Estonia" – ¼ of all Estonians sang
- In late 1980s a massive campaign of civil resistance against Soviet rule, known as the Singing revolution, began. On 23 August 1989, the Baltic Way, a two-million-strong human chain, stretched for 500 miles from Tallinn, Estonia all across Latvia to Vilnius, Lithuania
- Independence declared on August 20, 1991
- Soviet attempt to storm TV tower thwarted
- Regained independence without bloodshed
- Gorbachev concluded that departure of the Baltic republics had become "inevitable"
- This contributed to dissolution of USSR by setting a precedent for others to secede
- USSR recognized the independence of Baltics on 6 September 1991 and withdrawal from started in August 1993 and ended in August 1998

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_states

Baltics Joining Hands (Chain of Freedom)



- Two million Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians joined hands in a human chain of demonstration Aug 23, 1989, spanning 370 miles
- Held on 50th anniversary of Soviet-Nazi secret agreement to occupy Baltics
- Moscow didn't react, so Baltics declared independence

wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_Way

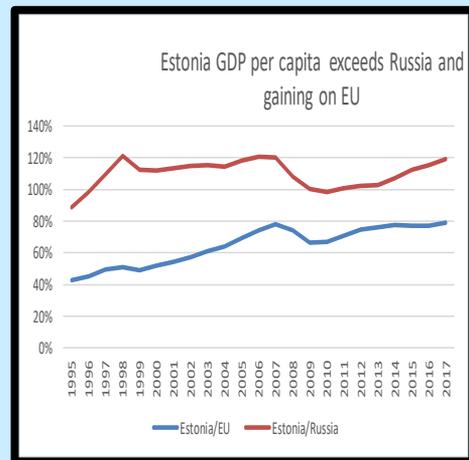


Digital City Tallinn e-stonia: Silicon Valley of Europe

- Tallinn called “the Silicon Valley of Europe”
- Has the highest number of startups per person in Europe and is a birthplace of many international companies, including Skype.
- It’s among the top 10 digital cities in the world and hosts the Digital Summit
- Each person has digital IDs and main way of interacting with others, but not as worrisome as China’s “Social Credit System” that monitors citizen conduct – both good and bad deeds and rates trustworthiness
- Saves some 2% of GDP and 1,00 gov’t employees – keeps Estonia’s gov’t lean, flat and responsive – others such as Finland are exploring it
- Has e-residency so foreigners can do business and pay business taxes
- Named ‘the most advanced digital society in the world’
- Estonia held the first elections over the internet
- Skype, centered in Tallinn, was sold to Microsoft in 2011 for \$8.5 Bil
- A downside was cyberattacks began 27 April 2007 and targeted websites of Estonian parliament, banks, ministries, newspapers and broadcasters
- Blamed on Russia amid their anger of the relocation of the Bronze Soldier of Tallinn.

e-stonian Miracle

- Stable multi-party democracy
- NATO, EU, euro
- High economic freedom
- Low debt
- Rapid GDP growth
- 183-mile border with Russia & 25% Russian
- Small & declining population



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Modern Miracle: Stable Multiparty Democracy



Tallinn totally transformed since communist days,
now e-government (Tax form takes 5 minutes!)

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Modern Miracle: Stable Multiparty Democracy

- Radical reforms totally transformed since communist days
- 1st former communist country to become a "free" economy
- Leader in technology and e-government (Tax form takes 5 minutes!)
- Spirited, small, surprising, city

Summary: Miracle of Estonia's Independence



- Subjugated but now democratic miracle
- Centuries of occupation and exploitation by Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Germany, Russia ...
- Russia ruled for 250 of past 300 years until Estonians sang their way to 1991 bloodless independence
- First impression: fairyland medieval town, but then grasp its modernization and fruits of independence

Thank You – Hope to see you on future cruises

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Summary

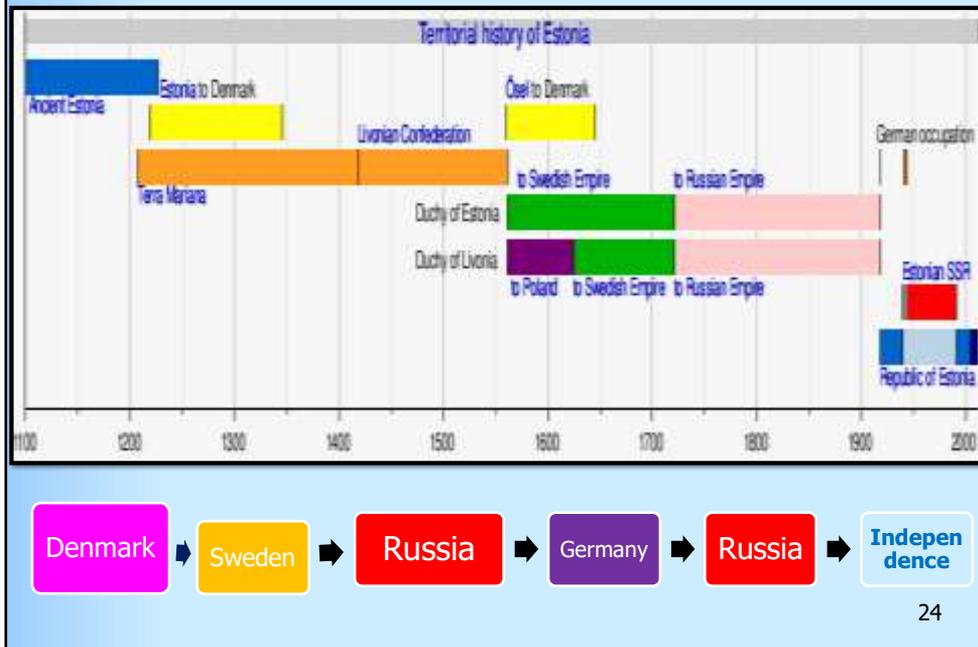
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- Thank you

Appendix
Supplemental slides with
with background
information and data

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800 of 1,000 years outside foreign rule



Estonia's millennium of musical chair rule

- I. 12-14th centuries: Conquered by Danes and Germans
- II. 1418-1562: Part of Livonian Empire and Hanseatic League
- III. 1562-1721: Swedish Empire that ended with 80% of Tallinn dead
- IV. 1721-1750: Swedish ceded to Russia but German nobles administered
- V. 1750-1840: Estonian Enlightenment, freeing serfs
- VI. 1889 -1917: Russification ends with 1917 Russian Revolution
- VII. 1917-20: WW I, coup, German occupation, and war of Independence
- VIII. 1920-40: Independence and reforms descended into autocracy and WW II
- IX. 1940-44: German occupation WW II
- X. 1945-91: Russian occupied, behind the Iron Curtain
- XI. 1991: Independence, miraculous democratic and economic progress

Major periods of Estonia's History

- I. Ancient Estonia
- II. Middle Ages
- III. Danish Estonia
- IV. Reformation Period
- V. Division of Estonia in the Livonian War
- VI. Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth
- VII. Estonia in the Swedish Empire
- VIII. Estonia in the Russian Empire
- IX. German WW I occupation
- X. Independence (1920-40)
- XI. Soviet occupation (1940)
- XII. German WW II occupation (1941–1944)
- XIII. Estonia behind Iron Curtain (1945-91)
- XIV. Independent Estonia (1991- to date)

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Tallinn Town Hall

Pikk Hermann Tower and Toompea Castle

- First part was built in 14th century and rebuilt the 16th
- Literally "The Danish castle" is a castle on the limestone hill of Toompea
- The first wooden castle built on the hill by 11th century
- In 1219, the castle was taken over by Danish crusaders
- It houses the Parliament of Estonia.



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Tallinn Scenes



Tallinn, Estonia – The flower market, street vendor, statue of conductor, Palace Gardens, and the Song Festival grounds for the chorus of 30,000 voices.



Tallinn Scenes



Tallinn, Estonia:
Artists displays
on Old Town
Walls, St.
Nicholas' Church,
Town Hall and
Alexander Nevski
Cathedral

Tallinn TV Tower

- Completed in 1980, height of 1,030 ft.
- Built to provide better telecommunication services for 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics regatta event
- Offers spectacular views Tallinn and Gulf
- Bullet holes from Soviet Coup attempt of 1991 are still visible at the base of the tower
- Radio operators in 1991 risked their lives to protect the free media of the reborn Republic of Estonia.
- They placed a matchbox between the elevator door and frame in such a manner that the elevator wouldn't work, forcing Soviet troops to climb every one of approximately 1,000 tower steps.

