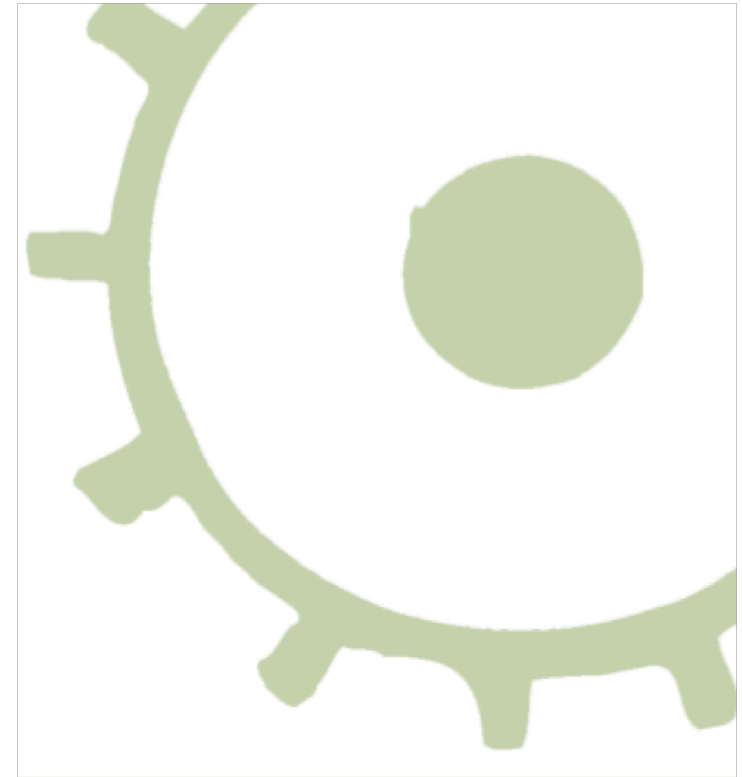


90 years after the Åland settlement

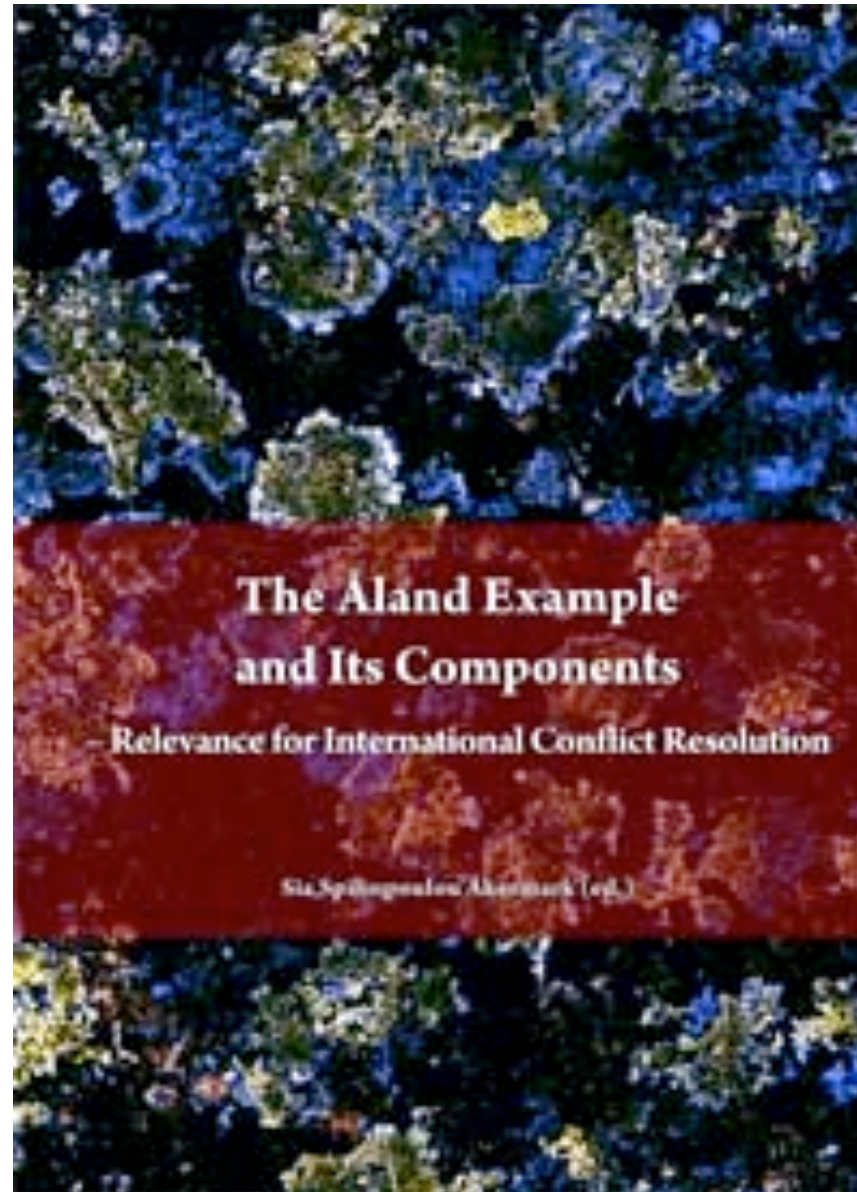
Presentation Geneva 19.06.2012



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Recent research and publication (2011)

- The Åland Example: components, continuity and change
- The use (or not) of the Åland Example by diplomats and experts in conflict management



Learning processes re. Åland

Principles

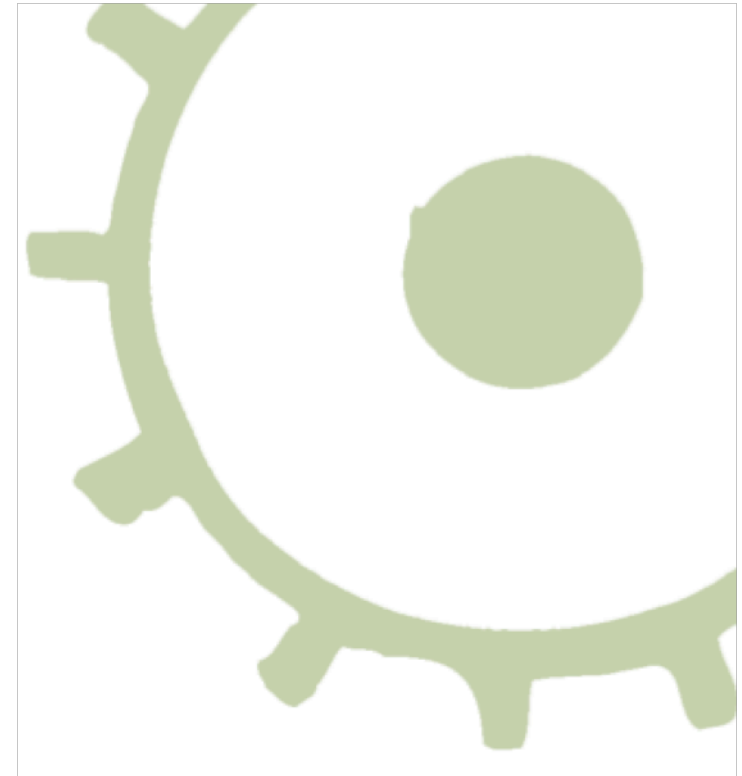
- It has taken 150+ years for the system to mature and of course it is still open to failure
- The double tongues of statehood are not equipped to meet complex multi-level decision-making
- International society as supporter and guarantor of domestically developed proposals rather than as 'creator' of solutions?
- Minorities need to be accommodated
- Kinstates to keep a low profile
- It takes two to tango (and good music around)

Institutional design

1. Issues of security: demilitarisation
2. Issues of power sharing: autonomy
3. Issues of identity and culture protection and support: language guarantees

Plus:

- Issues of economy addressed early on, allowing for the viability of the system (even at a time when Finland was not rich)



The Three Components of the Åland Example

I. Demilitarisation and Neutralisation

1856 – 1921 – 1940 – 1947 – 1994

- The security issue addressed early
- The international career of Åland takes off
- Police is exclusive competence of Åland (but...)
- Border and coast guard is exclusive competence if Finland

II. The Åland Autonomy

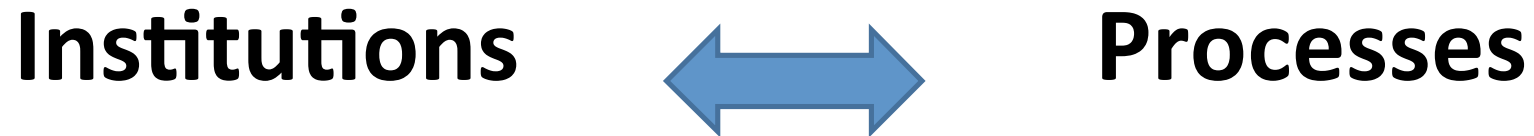
- The status issue and political power sharing issue managed
- 1921 – 1922 – 1951 – 1991 – 2004 – ???
- List of exclusive competences in Law on Autonomy
- Multiple entrenchment: constitutionally and internationally
- Governor enjoys the trust of both sides and is appointed in cooperation between Åland and Finland

III. Language and Culture Protection Regime

- The identity issue managed
- 1921 – 1922 – 1951 – 2004
- Swedish as the official language and as language of education
- As language of communication with public authorities on mainland Finland
- Right to domicile
- Right to establish business
- Presupposes the bilingual state of Finland



Some conclusions



The Åland Example is not about isolation or separation. It represents a **web of contacts** and interactions at local, regional, national and international level.