



Ukraine – a view from Poland and the Baltic States

Dr Paul Monk

Tuesday 27 February 2024: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine came as a shock to many but not all Western states: the Baltics and Poland have long feared that Russian assertiveness in Eastern Europe could lead to conflict in their region.

Poland and the Baltic states – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania – have been some of the most ardent supporters of Ukraine in its defence against Russia.

Polish and Ukrainian leaders have pledged to bolster their alliance against Russia's invasion, putting aside differences over the recent Polish blockade of Ukrainian trucks trying to enter the European Union. On 22 January, in his first visit to Kyiv since being elected prime minister of Poland, Donald Tusk described Ukraine's defensive war against the Russian invasion as a "battle" between "good and evil," adding, "Poland will do everything to increase Ukraine's chances of victory in this war. The security of the Polish nation and the Polish state is also at stake in this fight." Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia agreed on 19 January in Riga to set up a common Baltic defence zone on their borders with Russia and Belarus amid growing security concerns.

As the world heads into a year of elections, it is pertinent to ask what Western leaders can learn from the Polish and Baltic approaches to Ukraine. How do they see the conflict?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Paul Monk, recently returned from meetings in Warsaw, Vilnius and Riga, to discuss the Ukraine war as seen from Poland and the Baltic States.



***Dr Paul Monk** was inducted as a Fellow of the London and New York-based Institute for Law and Strategy in 2022. Since 2019, he has been a Fellow of the Rationalist Society of Australia and an editorial board member of its online journal Rationale, in which his essays, on a wide range of topics, have appeared for the last half dozen years. After completing a First-Class Honours degree in European History (University of Melbourne) and a PhD in International Relations (Australian National University), Paul served as an intelligence analyst on East Asia for the Defence Intelligence Organisation, between 1990 and 1995. He headed the Japan and Korea Desk by 1992 and the China desk from 1994. He spent several years teaching Chinese politics and strategic affairs in leading universities, before co-founding a consulting company in 2000, specialising in applied cognitive science and structured argumentation.*

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