

# Funding the Future

## The question for those on the left who are still trying...

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I [post this thread](#) from a left-wing activist from Finland because it seems to be very relevant to me - and speaks directly to the 'confused left' in countries like the UK:

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Greetings from a Finnish leftist! The international situation has apparently left many people in the English-speaking countries confused. I write this thread in the hopes of sharing a perspective I believe is widely if not unilaterally shared in Finland, most leftists included.

9:02 AM · Feb 22, 2022 · Twitter Web App

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**Janne M. Korhonen** +🇫🇮🇪🇺🇺🇸🇫🇮 @jmkorhonen · Feb 22

Replying to @jmkorhonen

What we see happening in #Ukraine right now is, to put it bluntly, Russian (or more precisely, the Kremlin's) imperialism. If no other evidence convinces you, I beseech you to read a translation of Putin's speech yesterday.

78 1,910 15.2K

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This has very little if anything to do with NATO, and almost everything to do with Putin's desire to reinstate the Russian Empire. He has consistently maintained in public that it was a "mistake" to "allow" the former Soviet republics to become independent.

79 2,173 16.4K

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Now he said out loud that Lenin made an error in 1917 when he let the former Russian territories "go." One of the countries that gained independence from Russia in 1917, by the way, was Finland.

48 1,705 15.8K

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What Putin seems to fear the most, rightly so, is that democratic revolution reaches Moscow. Thus, democracy itself is a threat to him.

78 1,929 15.7K

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He is not really afraid of NATO military forces: we can objectively demonstrate that the deployment of NATO forces to countries close to Russia used to be laughably minuscule before 2014.

15 650 9,492

**Janne M. Korhonen** +🇫🇮🇪🇺🇺🇸🇫🇮 @jmkorhonen · Feb 22

Only after Putin's blatant 2008 and 2014 breaches of post-World War II convention of not redrawing the map of Europe with a sword did NATO even step up military deployments. Still, the deployments were mostly cosmetic.

Hat tip to Mike Parr.

The question is really fairly;y simple for the left: it is imperialism, or not?

And yes, I am aware that neoliberalism delivers its own form of hegemony, with which there is much to disagree.

But that's not the argument here. Please do not confuse the two.