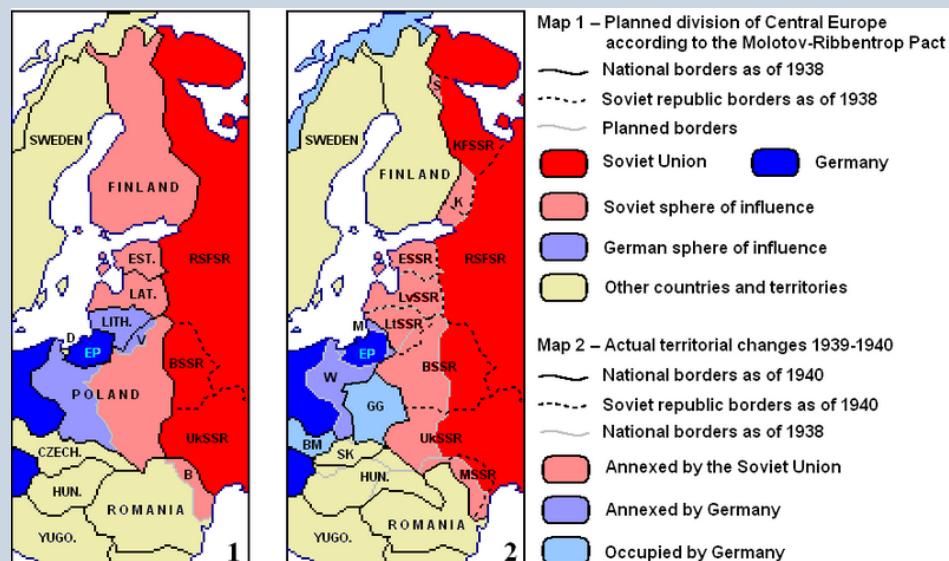


20 YEARS OFF LEASH: BALTIC STATES AND RUSSIA GEOPOLITICS OF HISTORY



THE BALTIC STATES FROM 1944 TO 1990/91



Abbreviations:

B – Bessarabia, BM – Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, BSSR – Byelorussian SSR, Czech. – Czechoslovakia, D – Free City of Danzig, EP – East Prussia, ESSR – Estonian SSR, Est. – Estonia, GG – General Government, Hun. – Hungary, K – Karelia, KFSSR – Karelo-Finnish SSR, Lat. – Latvia, Lith. – Lithuania, LtSSR – Lithuanian SSR, LvSSR – Latvian SSR, M – Memelland (Klaipėda Region), MSSR – Moldavian SSR, RSFSR – Russian SFSR, S – Salla, SK – Slovakia, UkSSR – Ukrainian SSR, V – Vilnius Region, W – Wartheland, Yugo. – Yugoslavia



SINCE 1991:

BALTIC VERSUS RUSSIAN MEMORY/HISTORY

- **Baltic States:** Russia tries to „whitewash“ the past, particularly Stalinist repressions and forcible annexation of the Baltic States
- **Russia:** Baltic States are „revising“ history, „glorifying“ or „rehabilitating“ Nazism

- *„Above all, we should acknowledge that the collapse of the Soviet Union was a major geopolitical disaster of the century. As for the Russian nation, it became a genuine drama. Tens of millions of our co-citizens and compatriots found themselves outside Russian territory.“*

President Vladimir Putin (April 25, 2005)



- May 9 celebration



- „Bronze Soldier crisis“ (2007)

POINTS OF CONFLICT

- Politics of Memory: liberation vs. Occupation

„If the Baltic States had already been absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1939, then the Soviet Union could not occupy them in 1945 because they had already become part of its territory.“
(Vladimir Putin, 2005)

- Border dispute (Peipsi, Abrene region)
- Citizenship / language
- Crimes during occupation (Stalinist deportation, Medininkai massacre)

