

US RESEARCH DAY 2018:

## U.S. FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES UNDER TRUMP: A DOCTRINE IN THE MAKING?

Monday 26 November 2018, at 10:00 – 12:00  
Auditorium of the Annex Building of the Parliament,  
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki

Donald Trump's presidency has instigated a widespread debate over the essence of his foreign and security policy. Some observers view the President's approach as devoid of coherence, some speak of a grand-strategic shift, and yet others observe a semblance of continuity with past presidential administrations. In the aftermath of the midterm elections with almost two years of Trump's first presidential term elapsed, it is high time to enquire to what extent the President and his administration have managed to forge a "Trump doctrine" – a more or less coherent approach to the world. What are its key components in the military and economic spheres? What kinds of principles inform the doctrine? How does this Trumpian approach to the world reflect relevant trends on the international and domestic political arenas? What are the future prospects of Trump's foreign and security policy against the backdrop of the midterms, and the approaching countdown to the presidential races?

The US Research Day 2018 is organised by the Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP) at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA).

*Opening remarks:*

**Bart Gaens**, Senior Research Fellow, Project Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

*Keynote speaker:*

**Andrew Michta**, Dean of the College of International and Security Studies, Marshall Center

*Comments:*

**Risto E. J. Penttilä**, CEO, Nordic West Office

**Heidi Fransila**, Director, Blic

**Ville Sinkkonen**, Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

*Opening words and Chair:*

**Mika Aaltola**, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers' biographies 

## Biographies



**Andrew A. Michta** is the Dean of George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. His areas of expertise are international security, NATO, and European politics and security, with a special focus on Central Europe and the Baltic States. Prior to coming to the Marshall Center he was Professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College, an Adjunct Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Europe Program) and an affiliate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. From 1988–2015 he was the M.W. Buckman Distinguished Professor of International Studies at Rhodes College. From 2013–14, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington, D.C. where he focused on defense programming. From 2011–13, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS) and the founding director of the GMFUS Warsaw office. He holds a Ph.D. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University.



**Risto E.J. Penttilä** is the CEO of Nordic West Office. Previously, he was the CEO of Finland Chamber of Commerce (2010–2017). He is the Secretary General of the European Business Leaders' Convention since 2002 and a member of the International Advisory Board of Oxford Analytica. Penttilä is a former member of the Finnish parliament (1995–99) and former Director of the Finnish Business and Policy Forum EVA (2002–2010). He has also worked for the World Economic Forum, Oxford Analytica and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Oxford University.



**Heidi Fransila** joined Blic in January 2018 after having served as a Civil Servant in the Finnish Ministry of Defence. Her areas of expertise include national and international defence policy, defence cooperation and analysis of the security environment. During her career, she has reported to and advised the government's top leadership on bilateral defence relations and multinational defence cooperation with organisations, such as EU, NATO, UN and the OSCE. She has also served as Defence Counselor at the Embassy of Finland in Washington and as Exchange Officer in the UK Ministry of Defence.



**Ville Sinkkonen** is a Research Fellow at the Center on US Politics and Power at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His research interests include United States foreign policy, United States Middle East policy, norms, values and power in foreign policy, changing constellations of global power and trust in international politics. Sinkkonen obtained a Master of Social Sciences (Political Science) from the University of Turku (2013). His publications include *A Comparative Appraisal of Normative Power: The European Union, the United States and the January 25th, 2011 Revolution in Egypt* (Brill 2015) and "Understanding the Trust-Distrust Nexus between the United States and Egypt" (Routledge, 2018).



**Mika Aaltola** is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. Dr Aaltola is a visiting professor at the Tallinn University since 2011 and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere. He has been a visiting researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (fall 2013) and at the CERI Sciences Po (fall 2011). He obtained his PhD in social sciences from the University of Tampere in 1999. He has been a Member of the Board of the Finnish International Studies Association since 2005 and a Steering Committee Member of the Standing Groups of International Relations of EISA since 2010.