**Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies**

[**European University Institute.**](https://www.eui.eu/en/home)

“In the 18th episode of the 'Understanding the War', Prof Alexander Stubb responds to the claims of Prof John Mearsheimer about what led to the war in Ukraine.

Prof Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago, who recently gave a lecture at the EUI's Robert Schuman Centre, argues that Russia had no other choice but to attack Ukraine following aggressive behavior by the United States and Europe, driving Ukraine, Georgia and other countries on the Eastern flank towards NATO and EU membership. In this episode, Alex Stubb presents five arguments against this thesis.”

[**Why Mearsheimer is wrong about the war in Ukraine**](https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=alex-stubb-on-why-mearsheimer-is-wrong-about-the-war-in-ukraine)

Prof. Alexander Stubb, 8 July 2022

“I believe that Russia is an imperialist, revisionist, expansionist, and aggressive State. And, it has always been like that.”

[**Understanding the war in Ukraine**](https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=understanding-the-war-in-ukraine-19-conclusion)

Prof. Alexander Stubb, 28 July 2022

“Why did this war happen? (1) Russian imperialism, (2) Putin’s legacy, and (3) fear of democracy.

How did we react to it? (1) Ukrainian resilience, (2) Western unity, and (3) global split.

What are the ramifications? (1) New European Security Order (new iron curtain), (2) New World Order (multipolar), and (3) regionalization of globalization (stagflation).

Conclusion: (1) right balance between Peace and Justice? (2) what will mean the end of the war? and (3) who will foot the bill of the reconstruction?”

[**Professor Alexander Stubb**](https://www.eui.eu/people?id=alexander-stubb) is the Director of the School of Transnational Governance as of 1 May 2020. He has served as Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Foreign Minister, Trade and Europe Minister of Finland (2008-2016). He was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2008 and national parliament (2011-2017). He was the Chairman of the Finnish National Coalition Party (Kokoomus) from 2014 to 2016 and Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) from 2017 to 2020.