

A Canadian Living In Lithuania Past Several Years: Keen and Insightful Observations

“Lithuania Explained”

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<https://youtu.be/TIWH6yLL0Po>

So, I'm a Canadian who has been living in
Lithuania for a few years now prior to
moving here I knew very little about the
country of course now I can say I've
learned a lot about Lithuania its
history and its culture sure there's
always more to learn but I've definitely
come a long way living here I've gotten
the sense that lithuanians have a
special bond with Lans they're neighbors

that share centuries of history and culture and have common linguistic Roots most noteworthy in terms of modern history is the fact that they suffered together under Soviet occupation and Rose up together to demand their independence and so on that note if laia is the best friend of Lithuania then it seems to me that Russia is its worst enemy this is one thing that I feel has become quite clear during my time in the country so why exactly do I think lithuanians hate Russia and even Russian people in general this is a topic I wanted to unpack for today's video

okay so for a lot of people watching it will be such an obvious

topic it's like asking why it hurts when
you fall down or maybe equivalent to
asking why ukrainians hate Russia thanks
Captain Obvious.

For Lithuanians – **and probably a lot of other
people who know their history and
politics and current events** – it will not be a

surprise why there is hatred towards Russia. I'll list just a
few things here; feel free to add more in the comment
section if you think I missed something really important.

- So the Russian Empire occupied Lithuanian lands at the end of
the 18th Century through to 1918.

- Bolshevik **Russian** troops invaded Lithuania on December 1, 1918, prompting an 8-month war
- And then against the will of many [Lithuanians], the Soviets [i.e. the **Russians**] occupied Lithuania for about 50 years between 1940 and 1991.
- The most recent decades-long occupation is still remembered and felt by Lithuanians still alive today. This occupation was characterized by the seizure of property, the deportation of hundreds of thousands of people, and the imprisonment, execution, and or torture of many [Lithuanians by the Russians]. A government history page has this to say: ‘The **[Russian]** Occupation Government and the puppet communist structures it appointed persisted in conducting genocide, although not physical as before except occasional killings, but economic **and cultural to stize colonize and** fully absorb Lithuania into the quote unquote “Unified and External Soviet Union”.

- When Lithuanians rose up and declared independence, [the Russians] Soviets tried to hold on to power and the struggle resulted in the deaths of 14 people on January 13, 1991.
- The year prior an economic blockade by Russia led to crippling shortages of essential items.
- In July 1991 seven Lithuanian officers were shot and killed at the Medan border post by Russian special police forces.
- And in more recent times there have been Russian cyber attacks against Lithuanian State institutions.
- And while Russia's annexation of Crimea and its full-scale invasion of Ukraine aren't direct attacks on Lithuania, the consequences have certainly impacted the country negatively.

Finally, I don't know if it's just something that appears on my YouTube videos as comments or if it's a very common and widespread sentiment, but it sounds like many people are frustrated by generations of Russians living in Lithuania who apparently don't bother to learn or speak the Lithuanian language. *[No wonder MAGA morons love the Russians and hate the Lithuanians. MAGA morons love when people come to America and refuse to learn English instead insisting that everyone learn their language – or, dammit, Putin will annex Alaska next week! – nz]*

And I think given all the negative history with Russia, the insistence of speaking Russian is just a daily reminder of [the] historic trauma, at least that's my take on it.

I know a few Russian people living in Lithuania and I do wonder if there is this tension in their identity and public sentiment. I didn't get a chance to talk to them about all of this, but I did interview **Constantine**

seov of the YouTube channel 'Inside Russia' about his thoughts on being Russian in a time of such turbulent geopolitics where Putin and his military continue to give Russia and Russians this bad reputation.

in case you don't know about the YouTube channel inside Russia Constantine discusses what's going on in the country that Western media may not know about and what Russian media would probably not be able to discuss or make public see how Russian propaganda works the entire KR province is do in fantastic and they Illustrated the story with the shots of a beautiful obviously actively developed City instead of krad they showed Poland the city of El blong

Bravo Russian propaganda people that news video report has been erased from Russia one archive and from all Russian State Control informational space so I was first curious about General support for Putin's War Constantine has since left Russia to live in usbekistan but I still want to get his sense of how his fellow countrymen feel about what's going on my um opinion is subjective you know it's only what I see watching and reading the media you know being a part of inside of Russian society and so forth but the support for war has evolved I think it's diminishing when Russia invaded Ukraine when the war was never declared actually it was just a treacherous attack okay the society started splitting into two parts one

part people were saying what the hell
are you doing this is madness you
attacking Ukraine and another part was
saying well we're Den naify they went
along with the official party line so to
speak and that was the initial General
opinion in Russia society and I remember
clearly that on the day two on February
25th there there was a Chasm born in in
Russian Society I started seeing that
France started fighting over their
positions back then my estimation that
majority of people supported Russia's
Invasion um about 70% 30% clearly
opposed the number of people supporting
the war has been declining but there's a
new group of people is born in Russia
now now there are three groups first
group is steal those who oppose clearly

oppose they're vocal you know a lot of them have left Russia just like myself the estimations vary from million and a half to 3 million people there are a lot still remain in Russia and they oppose and some are vocal some are not so vocal because this group of people is being harassed by Russian government so that's one group and it's still the minority and U those who support the war they still think that Russia is doing the right thing helping ukrainians and all this they have become not the major group they they they cease to be the major group so to speak uh the third group is born I call that group those who live inside their own bubbles The Silent Ones there are so many people that I speak to them every single day

they refuse to think about what's going on in Ukraine because when they start thinking when they start asking questions tough questions they start to think critically they start to may start making their own opinions and you know what it starts hurting they understand the truth they understand what's going on they understand what Russia has done to Ukraine and to itself they understand that the future of their children is gone basically and that's scary and painful and um in my opinion the majority of Russians have become that group right now so that's my take on who supports the War and who doesn't and being someone who covers Russian news I wanted to get Constantine's take on a possible Russian invasion of Lithuania

you see some Lithuanian politicians and Military experts have made headlines saying that a Russian attack is imminent while other lithuanians are responding to this saying you just got to calm down we're fine I tried to communicate this tension and ongoing debate in one of my videos but I wanted to get another opinion I asked Constantine about this as he recently discussed how a Russian official advocated for the annexation of usbekistan that's not a politician but that's a z v z Patriot and official I would say official he's in the public Committee of the uh Ministry of defense and um they people who were so lenient with Russia who were so pro- Russia they started crying wolves so I think that Lithuanian

politicians not just Lithuanian I'm you
know I think it's safe to say it's about
the Baltic State Estonia I and Lithuania
right they're crying wolves for a good
reason I don't think it's they're
overreacting much it's just I feel like
you have nothing to worry about because
you are a part of NATO and that's
exactly what NATO was created for you
are in a very good company because
you're part of NATO and Russia is very
afraid of NATO invoking Article 5 there
was one example

MM ~9:00

there was an accident
one of the unidentified missiles flew
into the territory of Poland like 5 kilm

from my Ukrainian Polish border and fell onto a farm it killed one polish farmer and destroyed a farm and obviously it was a big accident and in Russia oh boy they got scared they were running around the politicians the Z Patriots the propaganda and they were literally screaming it's not us it wasn't us hey don't blame us it's not our missile it's not us okay then they were afraid and of course not got together and they discussed about invoking Article 5 holy moly it was out there in public I just remembered so they are very afraid that article 5 will be invoked uh and I don't think that Lithuania is under threat at least immediate threat for Russians to come in and seize the country that the current circumstances I think it's

impossible but if you weren't part of NATO that would be a completely different story you see historically Lithuania Estonia and Latvia they were on the edge of resisting the Soviet regime they were always considered troublemakers okay uh they were the farthest from from being a part of the you know this communist Empire but they were considered the most disloyal uh republics of the USSR okay and they proved that very much because the Baltic states were the first ones to secede from the USSR and we'll remember that so if you were part of NATO I think the threat would be very real kind of threat that is mounting against Moldova right now Russians Russian politicians are openly saying that uh Moldova is misbehaving

Russia cannot let Mova become NATO and
you all heard that Transnistrian

Senators deputies whoever they are you
know they got together and asked Russia
for protection and that usually how it

starts and finally I was curious about
how Constantine felt as a Russian person
living abroad is he treated differently

with his Russian passport maybe as a
Russian national yeah how does he feel
about all of this internally too A lot

of people are happy that Russians came
to Uzbekistan they're saying hey Welcome
to our country uh as long as you behave

in respect our traditions and culture

you know you're welcome to stay here and

um please give us your experience give

us your knowledge of expertise you know

work for companies and so forth so we

have not had any problems here in
usbekistan Kazakhstan is a different
story so I crossed uh a border and
walked into Kazakhstan and I was
immediately approached by a fellow and I
thought he was he would be offering me a
taxi cab ride or something like that you
know exchange money but I was with my
wife and with my son and he started
asking me why'd you come to usbekistan
you're Russian what what are you doing
here go back to go back home I said well
where is my home said I don't care go
back to Moscow fight there said hide
defend your country uh it just he was
not happy that I was Russian I came to
Kazakhstan I traveled to Turkey met
quite a few ukrainians there who didn't
know what my stand about the war didn't

know who I am they were very civil
basically not not obviously not friendly
but very civil very like very normal
people okay I never hid that I'm Russian
and I speak Russian at first I wasn't
feeling easy about that but hey and then
later I decided you know I I'm not going
to hide it and if I get heat for that if
I get insults or whatever then um beat
hey my country is doing this to Ukraine
and this price for pay and I am
partially responsible because I wasn't
doing much for 22 years I was paying
taxes I was I saw my country getting
ruined in front of my eyes so I'm
partially responsible same as other 140
million Russians no one has a problem
with me uh as a person in some countries
I feel uneasy that you know Russian's

not really welcome yes that is the case
this is probably the best time to
mention that Constantine is the creator
of the Tashkent International Breakfast
Club a group where Russians and
ukrainians meet regularly to support one
another make amends and heal in light of
everything that is going on with the
invasion

Constantine actually has some relatives
living in Lithuania and has been here in
the past so wrapping up our interview I
gave him the opportunity to send a
message out to Lithuania and
lithuanians I'd like to say thank you
very much to lithuanians you are
absolutely awesome people many
lithuanians come to the channel to the
live streams of inside Russia and they

send warmest words of uh gratitude and encouragement to me this is fantastic I've been to lithu once I have relatives distant family living there since 1930s when they were oppressed by the Soviet regime and sent to Lithuania so there are three generations of that family I visited them in 1988 I found kipa being fantastic place just excellent excellent City in general I think that you're fantastic people and thank you very much for you being you as I Was preparing this video a story appeared from the TV show 60 minutes discussing the situation of Anastasia shevchenko a Russian dissident living in vness leaving her home country for Lithuania after being charged for being part of a pro-democracy group she would

be thrown in prison if she ever tries to
return to Russia when I came here to
Lithuania step by step I was working to
be free when I speaking to be that much
Brave to say that war is war and Putin
is a criminal if it was impossible to
say that in Russia that as soon as I
cross the border I'm going to be
imprisoned you can't go back I can but
I'm going to be arrested so I have huge
respect for Constantine and Anastasia
for the work that they do and I think
all of this is a very clear reminder
that there are Russian people that
despise the current government as much
as many people in the west I think it
takes a lot of courage to speak out in
the way that they do on a regular basis
and and that recent Hammer attack in

Lithuania against an ally of the late
Alexi neli underscores how real the
threat can be even outside of Russia's
borders and so if you want to check out
more of Constantine's work on his
YouTube channel inside Russia I'll leave
a link in the video description I think
the story of how he escaped Russia was
the video that first caught my attention
and he does a great job in continuing to
discuss everything that's going on
inside Russia and for the Lithuanian
word of the day let's go with mingas
which means Rebel m us thanks so much
for watching and I'll see you next
time