

**Valtteri Ahtamo**

**Grabbing Ukrainian land – by force, but with persuasion**

This article analyses the Russian Government's justifying operation of the annexation of Crimea in 2014. By analysing chronologically Russian policymakers' speech acts and governmental media representations in relation to key events and agents' actions through a discursive-rhetorical geopolitical reading, the paper sheds light on the campaign's reactive implementation and the basis of its persuasive power. The Kremlin managed to derive from the Ukrainian internal conflict firstly *juridical* and *security-invoking* intervention discourses, campaigning with them for the home audience and Crimean *compatriots* before the military occupation. During the formal annexation, the Kremlin added discourses such as *Crimean and Russian historical unity* and *the hypocritical West that is subjugating Russia*. The analysis highlights the cumulation of rhetorical elements in which the Russian regime formed a geopolitical image favouring the Crimean land grab. The image had an obvious weight in ensuring targeted audiences' support for practical action.

**Simo Laakkonen & Jesse Hirvelä**

**Development and importance of Soviet water protection**

Although urban, industrial and agricultural wastewater treatment plants have been the main instrument for water protection in all industrialised countries, no multidisciplinary and comprehensive national study has been conducted on the environmental history of water protection in any of the major industrialised countries. This also applies to the Soviet Union. Most studies deal extensively with Soviet environmental themes, leaving presentations of even large individual sectors, such as water protection, superficial. For this reason, the aim of our article is to try to create the first overview, written in Finnish, of the environmental history of water protection in the Soviet Union in 1917–1991. We focus on three sub-themes: the press debate on water pollution and protection, the environmental history of scientific research on water pollution, and the construction of wastewater treatment plants. We also present the main stages of the normative control of water protection. In addition to research literature, we have reviewed professional reports, articles and books by natural scientists and engineers, as well as the Soviet press (*Pravda* and *Izvestiya*). Methodologically, our research represents a new school of thought on the study of the environmental history of authoritarian societies, with the goal of looking more openly at countries representing different social systems through multidisciplinary approaches and empirical source data. According to our results, water pollution became the most significant and widely recognised environmental problem in the Soviet Union, and water protection became its oldest, largest, and perhaps most effective sector of environmental protection.