

## **Abstract**

The thesis focuses on the so-called Åland Question, the Finnish-Swedish conflict over Åland islands in the period of the post-first-world-war years, which was ultimately solved through the League of Nations in the way that the Islands were confirmed to belong to Finland, under the condition of being granted autonomy and of their neutral status being confirmed. The goal of the thesis is to conclude why the conflict was solved precisely in the way it was, this being based on the analysis of motivations of the main states party to the conflict. The thesis regards this conflict as a dual one. The first part of the conflict is military-strategic and concerns the neutrality of the Islands. From a Baltic point of view, the Åland islands are a very strategically important area in case of a war. For this reason the Islands were neutralized as of 1856 and all states party to the conflict wanted them to stay so. The second part of the conflict is an ethnic one and concerns the question to which state the Islands should belong. The inhabitants of the Ålands speak Swedish and they made themselves heard that they wanted their land to belong to Sweden. However, Finland was not willing to let the Islands go. Backstage negotiations took a long time until the problem was brought before the League of Nations, which ultimately came with a pro-Finnish solution. Such pro-Finnishness was, as the thesis concludes, due to a combination of circumstances, both structural and momentary, that include Finnish military strength, unacceptability of application of the self-determination principle in this case, or existence of a weak temporary government in Sweden in the decisive moments.