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Pages 849-865 | Published online: 05 Mar 2024

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the evolution of Finland's policy regarding NATO membership from 1994 to 2023, delving into the strategic shifts and adaptations in response to changing regional and global security dynamics. The primary aim is to elucidate how Finland's unique strategic position, domestic considerations, and pre-existing security relationships influenced its pathway to NATO membership. Utilizing a methodological approach grounded in document analysis, the study scrutinizes official government reports, and treaties to trace Finland's journey toward NATO. The findings reveal a multi-phased approach in Finland's policy evolution. Conclusively, the study underscores Finland's strategic agility in adapting its foreign policy amidst changing security environments. This policy evolution, culminating in NATO membership, reflects Finland's response to regional geopolitical shifts and emerging security threats, highlighting the importance of strategic flexibility and alignment in national security policy. The article contributes to a broader understanding of small states' security strategies and alliance politics, offering valuable insights into Finland's unique experience and the dynamics of NATO expansion in the 21st century.

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