

B. Crowd control

Keeping crowds peaceful may demand tyranny but sometimes other types of methods prove to be more successful in enforcing law and order. Read on to find out what kind of approach Danish police commissioner Kai Vittrup used for riot control in Kosovo where tensions between the Albanians and the Serbs were running high.

Kai Vittrup's approach to riot control is less provocative than that of his predecessors in Kosovo, who often deployed international riot squads in Robocop mode with helmets, bulletproof vests, batons and shields. Vittrup, by contrast, invites protest organizers to coffee to find out what they're angry about. He tells them he plans "to support them, not fight them." Closing the psychological gap between demonstrators and police is the thrust of a thick tactical guide known as "Kai's Bible" that Vittrup wrote for the Danish Police Service. But rapport between these natural adversaries does not come easy, even in Denmark. Before 15,000 antiglobalization demonstrators converged on Copenhagen in 2002 to protest the expansion of the E.U., Vittrup met the organizers, who issued a press release saying, "We suggest that Kai Vittrup calm down and think twice before he chokes on a donut and declares war."

They need not have worried. Only 100 arrests were necessary and there were no injuries, compared with 560 arrests, 90 injuries and three police shootings at a similar event in Gothenburg the preceding year. Still, the protesters denounced Vittrup, claiming he condoned brutality and broke his word by sending undercover officers to infiltrate their ranks. He found his critics likable.

"I much prefer demonstrators to the young people who sit at home watching TV and eating potato chips," he says.

But is Vittrup's tolerant strategy appropriate to blood-soaked Kosovo? At first Vittrup's deputy Jill Muncy thought not. "When he came in and said that we're not going to wear bulletproof vests anymore, and that we're not going to have shields because they just incite people, I thought, 'Geez, our guys are going to get pelted. What if they start shooting at us?' But he was right. It turns out these people are angry, but they are not homicidal toward the police if we don't give them a big, fat target."

When 10,000 Albanians marched through Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, to demand the release of three alleged war criminals, Vittrup's subordinates nervously recalled the anti-Serb frenzy of eight months before where 61 police officers and 11 Nato soldiers were injured. To be on the safe side, the new commissioner readied massive force at a distance, but sent in only small, mobile squads of lightly equipped Kosovars to watch out for provocateurs. The result: as it befits a budding democracy the demonstrators had their say, with no arrests and not a windowpane broken.

An extract from Walter Gibbs' article in Scanorama

A. Coffee or batons

Have another look at your text and answer the questions in Finnish.

1. Miten Kai Vittrupin toimintatavat eroavat hänen edeltäjiensä toimintatavoista? (2 asiaa)
2. Miksi globalisaation vastustajat olivat kokoontuneet Kööpenhaminaan?
3. Millä tavoin Kööpenhaminan mielenosoitus onnistui paremmin kuin Göteborgissa aikaisemmin pidetty?
4. Mistä asioista globalisaation vastustajat syyttivät Kai Vittrupia?
5. Mitä Vittrupin apulaispäällikkö pelkäsi? Miksi?
6. Miten Vittrup hoiti albaanien mielenosoituksen turvajärjestelyt?

