

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1991-92

History 578

Mr. Hamalainen

Contemporary Scandinavia and International Relations

Course Description

The course will explore the role of the Scandinavian or the Nordic states in international relations both as active agents in their own right and as objects of the policies of other powers. It will emphasize their role in the major international issues and conflicts of the twentieth century, their security policies and their participation and impact in the international organizations.

Organization of the work

The class will be conducted as a colloquium. It will meet once a week to hear and to discuss presentations of either an introduction to a general topic or a report on a topic of a more specific nature which falls within the boundaries of the general topic to be explored at the weekly meeting. After having completed the general introductory core reading required of all participants in the course, students are expected to concentrate on topics of their choice. They are expected to prepare brief reports on the topics of their choice which will serve as a basis for subsequent discussion in class. These reports should raise questions and issues which will stimulate an exchange of views. The students will also serve as commentators on each others reports. The course will involve no examination, the grading is based on the quality of the reports, their presentation, and general participation in class.

Introductory readings

Bengt Sundelius, ed., Foreign Policies of Northern Europe, Boulder, Col., Westview Press, 1982, pp. 9-142.

Week I - pp. 9-32

Week II - pp. 33-72

Week III - pp. 73-142

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The machinery for making foreign policy in Scandinavia  
The First World War and Scandinavian neutrality

Finland's Civil War of Independence

Territorial disputes

- Aland Islands question
- The Schleswig question
- The Eastern Karelia question
- The Spitzbergen question
- The Greenland case

Scandinavia and the League of Nations

Security and disarmament in the 1920's

Renewed search for security in the 1930's

Security and military strength in the 1930's

The Second World War and Scandinavia

- The Finno-Russian Winter War
- The Anglo-French Expeditionary Corps
- German invasion and occupation of Denmark and Norway
- Swedish neutrality
- The Finno-Russian Continuation War
- Iceland and Greenland in the War

Economic consequence of the War

Scandinavia and the economic blocs

Postwar patterns of Scandinavian foreign trade

Search for postwar security

- Economic and military strength
- The abortive Scandinavian defense alliance
- Swedish armed neutrality
- Denmark, Norway and Iceland choose NATO
- The Finno-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance

Defense policies

Scandinavia and the United Nations

Scandinavia and European integration

Inter-Scandinavian cooperation

Scandinavia and the EEC

Scandinavia and nuclear weapons and power

Scandinavian security and military strength

Scandinavia and a surprise attack

Soviet-Scandinavian relations

Keflavik

Kola Base System

Soviet Northern Fleet

Northern Seas

Environment