

## Lecture 7

I was looking forward to this lecture the most because of the topic – I had not heard of the Lapuanliike until recently. My MPhil and PhD focused on Nazi fascism and I've always been, in general, fascinated by fascist movements in Europe and in the U.S. I think this lecture, like most of the lectures on this course, could have spent a bit more time defining fascism and placing the Finnish fascist movement into the broader change of the 1920s. There was some contextualisation, but I suppose when you're an expert (of some degree) on an area you're expecting even more! It's a shame there's such a limited amount of time as I really wanted to hear more about the ideological foundations of the movement, what types of written sources are used to study the movement. Also, how does Finnish historiography interpret this movement? These were some questions I had about the lecture.

The second half of the lecture focused on the climax and political fallout of the Lapuanliike. This was very interesting to me, and a topic that I wish to explore further at some point in the future. One of the main points of the lecture was importance of political legitimacy in Finland, and how culturally ingrained is the concept of legality and constitutionalism. I think this was a nice way to tie the main points of the lecture together, as it shows the long-term impacts of Finnish politics.

One main area of interest in this lecture for me was the rise of the rural idyl in Finland and what that means in the context of a quickly modernizing nation state. Unfortunately, there was little time during the lecture to explore this theme, but I hope to return to this theme in my research project. Another interesting topic was gender and marriage, again this could have been its own lecture, but it was nice to have it at least mentioned. I think there could have been more direct links made to the impacts of World War I and the civil war on gender roles and marriage rates, as in continental Europe WWI had a massive impact on birth rates in the 1920s and 1930s.