

Finnish history in a nutshell

The Swedish reign
Grand duchy of Russia
Independent Finland

THE SWEDISH REIGN

- Peace treaty of 1323: only eastern Finland to Novgorod (Russia), western and southern parts of Finland to Sweden
- Swedish legal and social systems
- Finland's most important centre was the town of Turku
- Finland was merely a group of provinces - not a national entity



Languages: Finnish and Swedish

- The Reformation set in motion a great rise in Finnish-language culture
- The New Testament was translated into Finnish in 1548
- Swedes were often appointed to high offices in Finland, which strengthened the position of the Swedish language

FINLAND AS A GRAND DUCHY OF RUSSIA (1809-1917)

- Russia conquered Finland in the war with Sweden
- Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy, Russian Emperor as the Grand Duke.
- Finland's highest governing body was the Senate, whose members were Finns.

Extensive autonomy created the Finnish state

- Alexander I (Grand Duke of Finland in 1809-1825) gave Finland extensive autonomy thereby creating the Finnish state.
- The Lutheran Church retained its position in Finland
- Swedish as the official language
- Helsinki was made the capital of Finland



The Finnish national movement

- Kalevala 1835
- Finnish became an official administrative language
- National romanticism in arts

THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC

- On December 6, 1917, Parliament approved the declaration of independence
- At the same time, the breach between the parties of the left and the right had become irreconcilable
- Civil War 1918
- Finland became a republic in 1919



Finland in war

- In 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non aggression pact: Finland to the Soviet sphere of interest
- Finland refused to allow the Soviet Union to build military bases on its territory: attack to Finland in 1939
- The Winter war > southeastern Finland to the Soviet Union
- When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, Finland entered the war as a cobelligerent with Germany
- The 'Continuation War' > Petsamo to Soviet Union

The lost areas



From "finnlandisierung" to EU

- The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance with Soviet Union
- *Finnlandisierung?*
- The end of the division of Europe, the collapse of the communist system and the dissolution of the Soviet Union: liberalized atmosphere also in Finland
- Finland became a member of EU in 1995