

Notes on the contents

■ In his article “Vasaran ja alasimen välissä. Vuoden 1968 Tšekkoslovakian kriisin seuraukset puolueettomuutta vaaliville Itävallalle ja Suomelle” (“Between the hammer and the anvil. The repercussions of the 1968 crisis in Czechoslovakia on Austria and Finland, which sought to protect their neutrality”), Thomas Fischer states that Austria and Finland were reminded of the vulnerability of their position when the member countries of the Warsaw Pact interfered in events in Czechoslovakia in August 1968. The conflict between East and West meant that the Brezhnev Doctrine – the Soviet policy that socialist states had limited sovereignty – also had an impact on Austria and Finland. What made the Western allies respond to the Brezhnev Doctrine with a Brussels resolution on ‘European satellite states’, and to what extent did Finland and Austria seek security from the West after the Warsaw Pact’s invasion of Czechoslovakia?

The radical changes that swept across Europe during the 17th century, and the Thirty Years’ War in particular, are held to be a major watershed in the history of international relations. The Swedish-Danish War of 1643–45 has often been overlooked during historical research, even though it was one of the conflicts of the Thirty Years’ War and led to significant changes in the Bal-

tic region. In his article “Suursodan pohjoinen näyttämö. Ruotsin ja Tanskan kamppailu Itämeren hallinnasta 1643” (“The northern theatre of the Thirty Years’ War. Sweden and Denmark’s battle for control of the Baltic, 1643”), Mika Mickelsson analyses the factors behind this territorial conflict and the decision-making process in Sweden that preceded the outbreak of war.

In her article “Mitä palvelijat palvelevat 1900-luvun alun kirjallisuudessa?” (“What purpose did servants serve in literature at the turn of the 20th century?”), Kukku Melkas studies the depiction of serving girls in Finnish literature. Maids and other female servants were perceived as a social and symbolic threat. Bourgeois women’s movements held servants as a moral danger to the nuclear family, while working class women’s movements were worried about the threat posed to female servants by bourgeois family men. The ‘servant question’ remained an area that would permanently divide women’s movements.

Antti Malinen’s topic is rent control (“Talonmistajat vastaan virkamiehet. Kiistely vuokrasäännöstelystä 1910- ja 1920-luvun vaihteessa” – “Landlords versus civil servants. Disputes over rent control in the late 1910s/early 1920s”). During the drafting of the Rent Control Act, there was copious public debate over both the necessity of the law and its effect on society. Civil servants based the need for control on market disturbances caused by the war,

while landlords emphasised the ruinous consequences of rent control and the advantages of a free market. Civil servants demanded moderate profit seeking ‘in the common interest’, while landlords appealed to the property and entrepreneurial rights laid down in the Constitution of Finland.

Jaana Laine examines the wages of foresters and log drivers during and after the Great Depression (“Elämiseen liian alhaiset palkat. Metsä- ja uittotöiden palkkatarkkailu 1932–39” – “Less than a living wage. Oversight of foresters’ and log drivers’ wages, 1932–39”). The depression of the 1930s was a trying time for forestry workers. In parts of Finland, the wages of foresters and log drivers were insufficient for them to support themselves and their families. In order to alleviate the situation and raise the wage level,

the government initiated the nationwide oversight of foresters’ and log drivers’ wages in 1932.

In the 1880s, there was lively debate on how Finnish agriculture would adapt to changes in the world economy. Dairy production saw brisk growth and customs duties were imposed on margarine to protect butter production. The introduction of customs duties on cereals was also proposed. In his article “Suomen maatalous käännekohdassa 1800-luvulla” (“The 19th century – a turning point in Finnish agriculture”), Jari Niemelä examines the direction that Finnish agricultural policy took in the late 19th century largely from the perspective of the later dominance of dairy farming.

This issue of the Historical Journal also considers the relationship between research and politics, and examines the

position held by the scientific community in Finland today. Kimmo Katajala believes that the political nature of history cannot be discussed without taking into account ethical premises and the impact of research (“Historiantutkimus, politiikka, vaikuttavuus ja eettiset ratkaisut” – “Historical research, politics, impact and ethical solutions”). Ulla Aatsinki examines working communities, working cultures and their impact on society. The examples she uses are forestry workers in Lapland a century ago and today’s IT workers (“Tutkija – tämän päivän tukityömiestä?” – “The researcher – today’s logger?”). Ville Kivimäki ponders the nature of university funding in his column “Huiputusta” (“What a sham”).

(Translation: *AAC Noodi Oy*)