
Notes on the contents

■ This issue of *Historical Review* (1/2004) deals extensively with recent political history. The subjects are the relations between Finland and the Soviet Union, as well as those between Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet superpower. In addition the discussion column deals with the background to the Peace of Moscow as Ohto Manninen, Seikko Eskola and Martti Häikiö (see pp. 96–110) respond to Heikki Ylikangas' published statement *Välirauha 1940 – minkä sodan odotuksessa* ('Truce 1940 – Waiting for War') (*Hist. Rev.* 4/2003, p. 562). In this issue, Ylikangas also looks at Elina Sana's *Louvetutut. Suomen ihmislouvetukset Gestapolle* (2003) ('Deported. People handed over by Finland to the Gestapo') based on research into deportations during the Continuation War.

Raimo Väyrynen deals with Fenno-Soviet relations between 1968 and 1973 from the perspective of the latest research in *Pabeet kasvavat: Suomi ja Neuvostoliitto 1968–1973* ('Rising Evil: Finland and the Soviet Union, 1968–1973'). The pressure directed at Finland by the Soviet Union was, according to Väyrynen, a consequence of its internal development, of the fears created in Moscow by the development of détente and the idea that Finland might break away from its unofficial sphere of influence through the EEC agreement. That is why Finland was asked about its readiness to realise the orders of the Agreement of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance and postpone the EEC agreement. The Soviet Union's political line hardened, which was seen, for example, in the appointment of ambassadors, although there were inconsistencies in the line, as the details concerning the initiatives of military co-operation show.

Hannu Soikkanen reviews the second part of the memoirs of Finland's longest serving prime minister, Kalevi Sorsa, in his article *Sorsan näkökulma* ('Sorsa's perspective'). The memoirs tell about, for example, Kekkonen's election as president by emergency law, the phases of the EEC agreement and Sorsa's first government.

Research into Finnish political history has shed much light on the government crisis of autumn 1958. Ville Jalovaara clarifies, in his article *Suomen kirkon yöpakkaset* ('Night frosts' of the Finnish Church'), how the Church acted at the end of the 1950s in the crisis situation caused by the foreign policy embroilment.

Anssi Halmesvirta inspects in his article *Järjestelmänvaihdos ja Unkarin 1900-luvun historian myytit* ('A change of system and the myths of Hungary's history in the 1900s') the myths which recent Hungarian writings have begun to demolish. Their appearance created opportune ground to transfer the country from socialism to a market economy: freedom of expression advanced the use of history as a political weapon and the politicisation of historians.

Charta 77 was a significant opposition movement in Czechoslovakia in the 1970s and 1980s. Even though the movement is mentioned in nearly every work handling the recent history in Central Europe, and the name is familiar to everyone interested in the subject, its actions and aims are not so widely known. Jouni Järvinen examines the development leading to the birth of the movement, the operations and its transformation in *Charta 77 – ihmisoikeuksia ja poliittisia vainoja*

Tsbekkoslovakiassa ('Charta 77 – human rights and political persecution in Czechoslovakia').

Virpi Mäkinen looks at the early stages of European individualism beginning in the Middle Ages in *Individualistisen ajattelumuodon keskiaikaiset juuret* ('The mediaeval origins of Individualism'). Examples of the theories of mental philosophy, criminal justice and moral philosophy show that individualistic thought appeared as early as the 13th century as part of the European history of ideologies.

Kari Palonen deals with the theory on the research of political thinking by Quentin Skinner, the famous historian of ideology, and the opportunity to study theoreticians as politicians and politicians as theoreticians in *Politiikan ajattelu politiikan ulottuvuuksina* ('Political thinking as an extension of politics'). Jussi Kurunmäki says in *Käsitteiden venyttämisestä* ('On the stretching of concepts') that Skinner is not only an historian, but also a researcher of rhetoric and a politician of theories, who, while researching the history of the concept of freedom, participates in the current discussion dealing with freedom.

(Translation: Valtasana Oy)