
Notes on the contents

In his article “Nazi Germany and Nordic morals”, Vesa Vares examines the latest Swedish research in the field, comparing it with the Finnish research tradition.

Anna-Leena Perämäki investigates how diaries written by two young Jewish women in the 1940s portray the human relationship with time. Her article is entitled “Diaries, the Holocaust and time: Our relationship with time as portrayed in the diaries of Héléne Berr and Anne Frank”. As well as considering time in the context of the Holocaust, Perämäki examines the concept as represented in the diaries on a more general level. *Keeping a diary brought routine to Berr’s and Frank’s lives, and it also enabled them to construct and reflect on their life stories at a time when the Nazis were determined to eradicate the Jewish people from history.*

Sulo Nykänen was one of the key figures in the White Terror that occurred after the Finnish Civil War in 1918. Nykänen – also known as the “Executioner of Jaala” – headed the “flying company of Jaala”, which engaged in exceptionally cruel and extensive violence. Many historians have explained the events as resulting from Nykänen’s personality, theorising that his deeds and pro-violence writings reflect a disturbed mind. In his article “The Executioner of Jaala and the discourse on Civil War violence”, Aleksi Mainio examines who this mysterious Sulo Nykänen actually was and what happened in Jaala during the Finnish Civil War.

Eero Kaila discusses Aristotle’s concept of responsibility through three interpretations related to modern ethics and political philosophy. His article is entitled “Deeds, character and nationality: Modern philosophical interpretations of Aristotle’s concept of responsibility”. Kaila examines different perspectives on moral and political responsibility, based on *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*. He pays special attention to the essential role that the Aristotelian concepts of virtue and character play in defining responsibility in terms of both the individual and the state.

Heikki Saxén investigates a trend in Western thought known as the “liberalism of fear”. His discussion is based on the work of the American political theorist Judith Shklar and in relation to the theme of responsibility in the history of Western thought. The liberalism of fear is a modern trend with a long tradition that dates back to the European intellectual culture of the early modern period. Saxén’s article is entitled “We have nothing to fear but fear itself: Judith Shklar’s liberalism of fear and the question of responsibility in the history of Western thought”.

In his article “Floating armies”, Mikko Huhtamies writes about archipelago fleets in the Gulf of Finland in the eighteenth century. Galleys became increasingly common in the Gulf of Finland in the sixteenth century, when Gustav Vasa began to equip an archipelago fleet during the Russian wars. The warships were modelled on the powerful Renaissance galleys of the Mediterranean. During Sweden’s reign as a superpower, however, the galley fleets deteriorated, and the building tradition was discontinued. When Russia’s Peter the Great began to equip his galley fleet in the early eighteenth century, Sweden again needed an archipelago fleet. The first galleys were built in the 1720s, based on information gathered from the Mediterranean. Because of their short range, these warships needed a naval base. The work to build Viapori (Sw. Sveaborg) – the main base for the archipelago fleet – began in 1748. This also marked major growth for Helsinki.

In his article “The concept of independence and its interpretations in the social democratic movement between 1918 and 1924”, Niko Kannisto demonstrates how important an awareness of independence was during the period of reconstruction after the Finnish Civil War. Independence was a source of pride, bringing light to a gloomy reality in Finland. The forms of independence, however, were a matter of dispute. Social democrats, who represented the losing side of the Finnish Civil War, created their own interpretations of independence. Nonetheless, they were willing to build the country on a concept of independence beyond class boundaries – an independence that all Finns were expected to defend.

(Translation AAC GLOBAL Oy)