
Notes on the contents

■ Juha Vartiainen reviews Juha Siltala's latest book *Työelämän buonontumisen lyhyt historia* (2004) (The Short History of the Deterioration of Working Life) in his article 'Turbokapitalismin helvetinäyt' (Infernal visions of turbo-charged capitalism). Vartiainen says Siltala's work should be read as a dramatic collage of the fates of those who have suffered the worst in working life. Contrary to the belief of many critics, the writer hardly intended to give a representative, comprehensive picture of relations at workplaces. Siltala's book is neither a scientific study nor a pamphlet, it is something else entirely. Although its perspective is deliberately one-sided, it echoes the humanist spirit of the social reports of the 1970s, giving a voice to those who have not enjoyed success in life.

The central theme of this issue of the *Historical Journal* (4/2004) is the wars of 19th and early 20th century, discussed from the perspective of everyday history and the private individual. Maria Lähteenmäki writes about the local events

of the War of Finland in the municipalities of Tornio and Alatornio in 'Tautinen sota. Suomen sota paikallisena ilmiönä' (Poxy War. The War of Finland as a local phenomenon).

In his article 'Suolaa ja diplomatiaa. Suomalaisten kokemuksia Krimin sodasta' (Salt and Diplomacy. Finns' experiences of the Crimean War), Oiva Turpeinen describes how the salt trade in Finland observed the principle of supply and demand 150 years ago. The War of Åland, unlike the popular Finnish song claims, was not horrific, but nonetheless an important milestone for Finland as well as Europe. With the demilitarisation of the Åland Islands, the situation in Northern Europe was stabilised for a long time to come.

In 1876, Sten Anders Wallin, a stable groom from Kisko, took up a new occupation and enlisted as a soldier in the Finnish Guard. After less than a year's service, he was sent to the Balkans to fight against the Turks. Wallin's unpublished memoirs reveal what it was like adapting to life in the garrison and how a common soldier saw the war. Pirkko Leino-Kaukiainen tells Wallin's story in 'Turkin sodan tuntematon sotilas' (The Unknown Soldier of the Russo-Turkish War).

Risto Marjomaa discusses the psychological warfare in 'Psykologien sotaanmarssi. Sotapsykologian synty ensimmäisen maailmansodan aikana'

(Psychologists march to war. The emergence of war psychology during the First World War). When the First World War broke out, few were familiar with the concept of war psychology. The horrifying conditions on the Western front soon led to such serious psychological symptoms in soldiers that the armies both side of the frontline were forced to introduce psychologists to military medical service and training. As a result, military institutions were obliged to give up some of their independence in areas they had held to be essentially theirs.

This issue also discusses the general parcelling out of the land which began in 1757. Earlier research has held the view that it was a national reform which yeoman farmers were reluctant but forced to accept. Latest Swedish research indicates, however, that the yeomen's attitudes were mainly positive towards parcelling. Their reactions have so far gone unexplained. It is not known whether the yeomen accepted the grounds given to justify the process or whether there were some other motives for their conduct. Heikki Ylikangas discusses the compliance of yeoman farmers through an individual case, the parcelling of land in the parish village of Lapua 1760–70 in 'Miksi talonpojat hyväksyivät isojaon?' (Why yeoman farmers accepted the general parcelling out of land).

What will happen to Finland's independence in the European Union that has its own currency, central bank, military and constitution asks Risto E.J. Penttilä in his column 'Kohti uutta autonomiaa' (Towards a new autonomy). Martti Favorin analyses the German policies of Finland and other small countries in 'Viattomuuden diplomatiaa – Saksan demokraattisen tasavallan taistelua asemastaan' (Diplomacy of innocence – how the Democratic Republic of Germany fought for its position). Ari Helo and Jussi Pakkasvirta discuss the foundations of US foreign policies from the perspective of the history of ideas. In their article 'Yhdysvaltain terrorisminvastaisen sodan aatehistoriallinen perusta' (The historical-ideological basis of the American war against terrorism), the authors point out that the moralist stance of US foreign policies is based on the view that by virtue of its constitution the United States holds a special position as the interpreter of modern individual rights.

Simo Muir discusses in his article 'Fenno-jidica. Suomi ja jiddishinkielinen kirjallisuus' (Fenno-jidica. Finland and Yiddish literature) the relationship of Yiddish literature and writers with Finland and introduces Mordechai Chosid, a Helsinki-based Jewish writer.

(Translation *Valtasana Oy*)