



FINNISH MIGRATION

-This presentation has two aims

1) To show that there has always been both emigration from and immigration to Finland

2) To argue that the nowadays view and practice of “closed Finland” was primarily a product of Cold War.

-By “closed Finland” I mean

-the common opinion held nowadays that Finland has been, was and is typically “Finnish”, relatively untouched by other cultures and people

-politics and practices according to opinion that “others” are not welcome and that there are good reason not allow them in or at least make the coming as difficult as possible



EMIGRATION

In the Beginning

- "Savonian expansion" ([Map](#))

- From Savonia and North Tavastia from 1580's onwards (people who farmed land with burn-clearing technique [kaskeamalla]: new technology, new and more prolific rye, know how to live in forests

- Finnmarken (nowadays in Sweden and Norway)

- 1500/1600 ca. 10 000–12 000 people ($\approx 4\%$ of population)

- Kexholm County, Ingria (parts of the Swedish kingdom 1617–1721)

- 3/4 of the Ingrian population was Finns in 1695

- Estonia (Swedish 1629–1721)

- estimation: 20% of the population Finns in 1637

- New Sweden along the Delaware River (1638–1655)

- altogether ca. 1000 emigrants, some proportion of them Finns

- This all was governmental actions, population policy of the Swedish kings



West, North, East, South

To Sweden (until 1809 nowadays Sweden and Finland were parts of the same kingdom)

- from medieval times: Stockholm and its surroundings
- war refugees 1700–1809 (Great Northern War, Hats' Russian War, Finnish War): some of the refugees stayed in Sweden
- 1861–1945 ca. 35 000 – 40 000 people went to Sweden (how many were emigrants, how many were seasonal workers is not known)

- War time transplantation was not considered as emigration
 - To Sweden during WW II
 - 70 000 war children (children sent from Finland to have shelter in Sweden (and also in Denmark))
 - estimation: ca. 15 000 war children stayed: adoptions
 - + moving back to Sweden as grown ups
 - 4 500 people, who were crippled in the war
 - 55 000 evacuated people mainly from Lapland

- Great emigration to Sweden starts after WW II: Sweden did not take part in the war and its industry needed manpower
 - creation of common Nordic labour market with free and unlimited migration, completed 1954
 - no staying permits or passports required
 - no work permits required
 - Nordic migration documentation was introduced in 1969
- estimation 1945–1994: the sum total of those who went to Sweden (including seasonal workers) 700 000 – 800 000 of which ca. 250 000 – 300 000 stayed there permanently
- top years: 1960's and the late 1970's (after oil crises)



Great Emigration to America 1860–1930

- ca. 350 000 people went to America (USA & Canada: 80% / 20 %)
- top years 1899–1914: 230 000 Finns emigrated
- emigrants left mainly from Ostrobothnia
 - over half of the emigrants from Province of Vaasa
 - THE region to emigrate was Southern Ostrobothnia: 1/3 of the emigrants (120 000 people) were from there



Russia(n Empire) ([Map](#))

-estimation: before WW I (mainly 1809–1914) 50 000 people went to Russia

-Ingria, St. Petersburg, but also Siberia

-red refugees from Finland (spring 1918) ca. 10 000

-1920/1930 ca. 10 000 defectors (loikkari) and 6000–8000 recruited Finns from North America, went mainly to Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (part of the USSR) ([Map](#))



North

Finnmark (Ruija, [Map](#))

- migration began in the beginning of 18th century, mainly from the North
- peak years 1830–1860
- Norwegian census of 1910
- counted Finnish born population, ca. 4000 people

South

- Southern America in the beginning of 20th century
- Australia and New Zealand esp. after WW II (there were recruiters in Finland in 1960's)
- Europe, esp. after WW II
 - women: to work (e.g. nurses in hospitals), au pair,
 - youth travelling (interrail, hitch hiking)
 - studying
 - => often marriages, women stayed there, men came back
- 1995 joining the EU
 - freedom of mobility => the amount of Finns in other EU countries is not known



IMMIGRATION

-There has been immigration to the Finnish soil ever since the last ice age melted down, ca. 9 000 B.C. (11 000 years ago)

-Today's Finnish population is a "local mixture" (brewed here) of all the people who ever came here (genetic "Gesamtkunstwerk")

Some main groups of people

-Swedish speaking population has been moving in "forever", for example to the coastline. When Sweden and Finland were parts of Swedish Kingdom (from 13th century till 1809): mainly army officers and expert workers

-during the 13th – 15th centuries Finnish cities (6 cities) were heavily under the control of Hanseatic League: Germans (merchants and related experts)

-during the 16th century gypsies came: some through nowadays Sweden, others through Baltic (nowadays there are ca. 10 000 people strong gypsy population in Finland)

-during 16th and 17th century Swedish Kingdom "pre-industrialised", e.g. ironworks and glassworks were founded and there were expert jobs available

-during the 19th century experts from Europe: among them were also founders of big industry

-Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain: Fazer, Paulig, (von) Rettig, Finlayson

-Subjects of Russian Emperor

-during the Grand Duchy of Finland (1809–1917)

-Jews, Tatars, Russians, Poles, Estonians



- After the Bolshevik Revolution and during the Russian Civil War came refugees (White Emigrants, refugees after Kronstad rebellion, refugees from East Karelia etc.)
 - the maximum amount of refugees residing in Finland was ca. 33 500 (1922)
- during the Continuation War (1943–1944) ca. 63 000 Ingrians were evacuated from a German Camps in Estonia to Finland
 - After the peace with Russia (fall 1944), 55 000 were return (deported) to Russia



CLOSING DOWN OF FINLAND

-The Republic of Finland started to close down for right after its birth. For example the Jewish population was firstly denied citizenship. Some reasons for the “closed borders” -politics

- the Finnish Nationalism (called Fennomania) has been stressed the (pure) “Finnishness”. In the 1920s it went over the top and transformed to “True Finnishness” (aitosuomalaisuus): it demanded

- “foreign influences” should be cleared out from politics (no to Sweden, no to Russia), culture (ikkunat kiinni Eurooppaan!), society (no to Swedish language, no to Russian language)

- the last decades of Russian regime were felt as “years of oppression” while the Russian regime tried to connect the Autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland more closely to the Russia

- anti-Russian sentiments, no citizenship for Russians

- Russian Empire turned into Soviet Russia => fear for Russia + fear for Bolshevism (Communism)

-One outcome of the WW II for Finland was the loss of Karelia to Soviet Russia, with Karelia we lost

- Viborg, 2nd largest and the most cosmopolitan city

- Cosmopolitan Karelian Isthmus, e.g. suburb of cosmopolitan St. Petersburg

-The Cold War divided the Europe by Iron Curtain: Finland was in the “curtain zone”

- after the WW II the immigration to Finland literally stopped: nobody came here and we did not want anybody to come here

- the world opened slowly:

- Finns started to travel abroad

- ASLA Fulbright programme started 1952: grants to study in the USA

- First car ferry started 1959



- trips to Canary Islands started 1965
- Interrail 1972

-Others started to come here

- to study
- to work

-The first identifiable immigrant groups in post WW II Finland were refugees => nowadays very commonly immigrant = refugee (or humanitarian immigrant)

- refugees from Chile 1973
- refugees from Vietnam, first group 1979
- refugees from ex-Yugoslavia 1990
- refugees from Somalia 1990
- “refugees” from (Soviet) Russia, Ingrians 1990

-Finland joins European Union: free movement

-in the beginning of 21 century: work related immigration, study related immigration and intimate relationship related

- humanitarian immigration is not so important than those three other factors