

Abstracts

Mikko Kohvakka & Alina Kuusisto
Regional Foreign Relations in an Expanding Europe – Finland and 1990s Regional Co-Operation

The article deals with cross-border cooperation between Finland and Russia in the 1990s, which has received little attention in the study of our country's recent history. The geopolitical and economic upheaval of the era creates an interesting context for regional cooperation: as Finland built its relations with a new Russia, the nature of the economy became globalized and the importance of regions in relation to nation states grew. Likewise, tensions arose between transnational, national and regional actors. These tensions have been examined in the article through so-called societal logics, the most significant of which are the traditional logic of the state, the logic of the local community and the logic of the market. The article evaluates the goals of cross-border cooperation and the public debate about it from the perspectives of these logics, Finland's European policy of the 1990s and the policy of the Northern Dimension. It also examines cross-border cooperation from the perspective of the relationship between the region (North Karelia) and the state. Parliamentary minutes and other material, the newspaper articles of Karjalainen and material produced by regional organizations have been used as sources.

Kati Katajisto
Biographical Study of Johannes Virolainen and Transnational Politics of the Cold War – A Finnish Friend and Foe of the Soviet Union

This article explores how a systematic study of a person's life and career can be revealing of larger political processes, for instance the dynamics between states and political actors during the Cold War period. The biographical method uti-

lised in this article – the study of Finnish long-term politician Johannes Virolainen's archive – enables the discerning of illogical and contradictory features in the behaviour of the Soviet Union. Thus, using this method, phenomena can be observed, which might otherwise be difficult to identify. The article highlights multi-polar-multilevel interactions of the Cold War: 1) how the Soviet Union could ignore medium level political actors from small states, such as Virolainen, and 2) how the balance between Cold War blocs in Europe was truly a conundrum for the Soviet Union, which created interesting scopes of action for political actors.

Karoliina Puranen-Impola
Abused Children in Foster Care as Depicted by the Finnish Press in Post-World War II Finland

In this article, I examine the journalistic writings about abuse in child protection foster care. The sources used in the study consists of newspaper articles stored in the digital archive of the National Library of Finland. All the articles examined reported on abuse in foster care from around 1948 to 2020. As the article shows, cases of abuse became particularly public in the 1950s. However, in the 21st century, abuse in institutional care continues to occur and has not been eradicated. In this article, I analyse the routes through which these cases have come to the attention of the public and examine the factors that may have contributed to the silence surrounding the phenomenon. I also draw attention to the extent to which children in-out-of-home care and their stories have been otherised and marginalised. I will consider how this othering contributed to the silence surrounding the abuse and its protracted nature.

Anssi Halmesvirta
College of Europe, John Bowle and New
European History

*In this essay author Anssi Halmesvirta analyses English historian John Bowle's (1905–1985) *The Unity of European History*, first published in 1948. The book was the first comprehensive history of Europe written since the catastrophic Second World War and during times of postwar crisis. Bowle's work demonstrates that despite disruptions, mainly warfare, (re)unification had been a leading theme of European history since the Middle Ages and that the process should continue in the future. Notably, the book does not yet use the term 'integration'. Bowle was the first Director of The College of Europe, established in 1949. Based in Belgium, the institute was founded by the Council of Europe with the aim of educating a progressive elite who would administer European integration in years to come. *The Unity of European History* was on the College of Europe's curriculum and was used to depict to students a coherent image of European history and the continent's future. The institute has educated many contemporary public figures: for example, Finnish former Prime Minister and Member of the European Parliament, as well as candidate in the 2024 presidential election Alexander Stubb is its alumnus.*
