

Abstracts

Ilona Pikkanen

Kasimir Leino's Jaakko Ilkka and Klaus Fleming (1901) in Turn of the Century Historical Culture

The article examines Kasimir Leino's historical play "Jaakko Ilkka and Klaus Fleming" (1901) and its theatrical performances. The focus is on newspaper reviews, particularly the interpretation of the character Jaakko Ilkka. The research provides context for the emergence of the "new Ilkka" around the 1900s, which is related to the political disputes of the Russification era, especially concerning Finland's political status as part of the Russian Empire. The portrayal of Ilkka during this period is discussed in relation to the concept of the ideal citizen associated with the voting reform and societal modernization. Ilkka is depicted as a justified champion of legality, resonating with the Finnish-speaking educated middle and upper classes. Simultaneously, Ilkka became an identifiable component of the socialist class struggle imagery.

Essi Jouhki, Liisa Lulu & Ville Soimetsä
Power Struggles and Gender Roles. Evaluating the Historical Image of the Finnish Union of Secondary School Students

In this article, we evaluate how the historical image of the Finnish Union of Secondary School Students (FUSSS, 1939–83) has been constructed and remembered. We assess how FUSSS activists from different backgrounds have participated in the construction of their organization's historical image, and why certain themes are emphasized over others. Specifically, we focus on two themes: the period of intense party politics during the 1970s and the significance of gender. The historical image of FUSSS has evolved over several decades, yet the predomi-

nant narrative has centred around party politics and power struggles among young men. This has overshadowed other significant phases and accomplishments of FUSSS, including the emergence of young women as active participants in society.

Kari Alenius

"Is this the Estonia we wanted?" Competing Interpretations of Re-Independence in Estonia's Leading Newspapers

This article analyzes the image of Estonia's re-independence and the subsequent social development conveyed by Estonia's three largest newspapers (Postimees, Eesti Päevaleht, Õhtuleht) in 2001, 2011 and 2021. Although these newspapers are officially unaffiliated, this article argues that they nonetheless provide three different politicized interpretations and images of history. Postimees supported the right-wing market liberal politics practiced in Estonia and therefore saw the social development after 1991 as positive. It also supported the national conservative interpretation of Estonia's struggle for independence. Eesti Päevaleht sympathized with left-wing interpretations, which resulted in nearly the opposite view. Õhtuleht was positioned between these two newspapers in terms of the image it conveyed, but was more similar to Eesti Päevaleht.

Antero Holmila

European Parliament, Transnational Cultural Memory, and the Holocaust

In this article, I examine how and, above all, why the Holocaust became a central tenet of transnational and pan-European memory politics. The development of the cultural memory of the Holocaust is interpreted through Jan Assmann's framework of cultural memory. The central

source material consists of documents from the European Parliament. The first part of the text explores the contexts of European integration, particularly how "identity integration" became an increasingly significant part of integration policies from the 1990s onwards and why the Holocaust was given such a prominent role in shaping identities. The second section utilizes the perspective of Assmann's cultural memory and elucidates how and why the European Parliament instrumentalized the Holocaust at the core of its memory politics.

Ville Kivimäki & Tuomas Tepora
Cultural Trauma as a Manifestation of Collective Memory

Wars are in a central role when people and communities define their historical identities. Remembering past wars is not only about heroic stories, but collective memory is also engaged with the violence's destructive and traumatic meanings. By combining the cultural memory perspective of Egyptologist Jan Assmann with the concept of "chosen traumas" by psychiatrist Vamik D. Volkan and the definition of cultural trauma by sociologist Jeffrey C. Alexander, the article deepens our understanding of how and why human communities remember war-related experiences of violence and loss. The article drafts a theoretical model to investigate the memory cultures of war, especially in democratic societies where dealing with the past is more multivocal and complex than in authoritarian, strictly state-controlled memory cultures.

Pia Olsson
The Sleeping Bear and the Power of Prayer. The Emotions Evoked by the War in Ukraine in the Memory-Ideologies of Finns

The article examines the interpretations Finnish people have regarding the war in Ukraine and the emotions attached to them. The analysis is

based on an affective reading of a written collection of personal narratives, titled "War in Ukraine," organized by the Finnish Literature Society in 2022. The narratives provide insight into how the past and present is seen in connection with one another, and the role emotional memories play in this process. Affective patterns consist of personal and shared memories, as well as shared and conflicting historical interpretations. These are accompanied by bodily experiences where emotions physically affect the narrator. The writings are multi-layered commentaries on societal discourses, linking together the moment of writing, personal experiences as well as history and memory politics.

Aalto ja Ylimaunu
On the Genderedness of Remembrance Culture – A Perspective on Finnish History

In this essay we examine the genderedness of public memory and memorization in Finland. We have conducted research on memorials related to the medieval period in Finland and have concluded that they are strongly associated with a masculine image of the past and a narrative of history that was created especially in the 1920s and 1930s. We give examples of this and a short overview regarding which women have been granted a public memorial or a memorial plaque.

Heidi Kurvinen
Perspectives on women's history and the use of history in second-wave feminism

This article is about the use of history within Finnish feminism of the 1970s and 1980s. The text focuses on grassroots activism and the formation of the academic field of women's history in Finland.

Markku Hokkanen
**Contested Return of Empire in
Contemporary Britain**

The history and memories of empire, colonialism and slavery have been contested topics in Britain, increasingly so during the past decade. Statues, museums and other cultural institutions, as well as scholarly and popular accounts of history and legacies of the British empire, have been debated at times fiercely. These debates stem partly from the gradual dissemination of topics that have been discussed among scholars for a while. At the same time, both academic research and public discussion about empire are under notable political and societal pressures. In this essay I consider some of these trends, debates and statements in recent publications and the media, drawing from select notable works on history and memories of the empire.

Kati Parppei
**The State's Monopoly on History and
Historical Awareness in Russia**

In this essay, contemporary Russian politicization of history is contextualized within the ambiguous concept "historical awareness". Selected examples are used to examine how the state aims to control the understanding and conceptualizing of the past and to steer collective remembering amongst its citizens.
