Abstracts

Katariina Parhi

Of the Obligation to Support Oneself and One's Family. Correctional Labour Facilities as a Means of Social Welfare Enforcement and a Form of Crime Control from the 1920s to the 1970s

This study analyses the coercive measures related to the collection of maintenance costs, more precisely the use of correctional labour facilities in Finland from the 1920s to the 1970s. In this article I examine a period when the idea of the individual's obligation to pay for the maintenance received was an integral part of Finnish social welfare. I study cases in which detention was seen as justified. My research shows that crime control and social welfare cannot be considered separately in the context of correctional labour facilities. I argue that social welfare created the possibility of interfering in the lives of these people and limiting their freedom. Social welfare thus functioned as a form of crime control.

Jan Westerberg

From strong defence to the nation's viability
- How did Turun Sanomat perceive physical
activity and sports as a means of national
defence during the Continuation War

The press has influenced the establishment of sports culture in Finland. Sports and national defence have supported each other throughout the entire history of independent Finland. As sports policy emerged as an important part of public authority after Finland gained independence, stakeholders in sports were key contributors to safeguarding the country's independence. Sports promoted the fitness of the army to defend the country, therefore contributing to the nation's viability. This article examines how the Turun Sanomat newspaper wrote about the role of sports and physical activity in national defence during the Continuation War.

Juha-Matti Ritvanen A Reluctant Partner. Finland, NATO, and Crisis Management, 1994–1997

This article examines the early stages of Finland's NATO policy between 1994 and 1997. It is based on documents from the archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the personal archives of Presidents Mauno Koivisto and Martti Ahtisaari, and the archives of the Office of the President. The article shows that Finland's engagement with NATO was far from straightforward. It sparked tensions in domestic political debate, which political leaders and civil servants had to take into account. In the initial phase, Finland maintained a low profile in its NATO cooperation, but the Bosnian War became a turning point. The NATO-led crisis management operation in Bosnia was seen as a litmus test for a new cooperative security order.

Antti Okko

Russia, the West, and the Politics of History in Vladimir Putin's Victory Day Speeches, 2012–2024

In this article, I analyse how Vladimir Putin has addressed the relationship between Russia and the West in his Victory Day speeches from 2012 to 2024. In these speeches, Putin has utilised history to build an anti-Western narrative, bending the events of World War II to serve present day political needs. The role of Western allies has been diminished, with Putin even claiming that the USSR fought alone during the most crucial moments of World War II. Putin has constructed a conspiratorial narrative, which portrays Western interpretations of history as attempts to rob Russia of its moral authority and centrality in international politics. This "falsification" of history is linked to the West's general immorality, for example the destruction of "traditional values."

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