

THE BLACK BOOK

ЧЕРНАЯ КНИГА

The History
of Finnish and Swedish
Russophobia



КРАТКАЯ
ИСТОРИЯ
ШВЕДСКОЙ И
ФИНСКОЙ
РУССОФОБИИ

RUSSIAN MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE BLACK BOOK
The History of Finnish and Swedish Russophobia

Edited by Mikhail Myagkov, Head of Research
at the Russian Military Historical Society

Moscow
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The Black Book, compiled by the Russian Military Historical Society, is dedicated to the history of Russophobia in Sweden and Finland from the Middle Ages to the present day. Based on facts, the book describes the war crimes of both countries, their support for Nazism and neo-Nazism, their participation in the genocide of the Soviet people during the Great Patriotic War, and the cooperation of the governments and citizens of Sweden and Finland with the Kiev regime during the Special Military Operation. The publication includes illustrations and cartography. It is a follow-up to two poster exhibitions of the Russian Military Historical Society, which took place between 2023 and 2024 in the vicinity of the Swedish and Finnish embassies in Moscow.

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PART I

THE HISTORY OF SWEDISH RUSSOPHOBIA

INTRODUCTION

Today Sweden is one of the most unfriendly countries towards Russia. This Scandinavian Kingdom joined NATO in 2024. Swedish propaganda continues to excite its population with invented accusations that Russian submarines attack their coastline. Swedish neo-Nazis are fighting in the Ukrainian armed forces. Even before the Special military operation began, massive Swedish arms shipments were being delivered to Ukraine.

It is difficult to root out Sweden's hatred of Russia today, as Russia and Sweden have not had a common border for more than a century. Sweden, however, is one of the three countries that in history were the most frequently at war with Russia. Most of these wars were defensive and victorious for us. During the Second World War, Sweden declared itself neutral, but actively cooperated with Hitler's Germany. The Swedes raised their standard of living by supplying the German military industry with raw materials and other supplies.

In 2023, the Russian Military Historical Society held a big poster exhibition on Nazism and Russophobia in Sweden, the country that gifted the world with Pippi Longstocking and pop group ABBA, near the Swedish Embassy in Moscow. As an extension of the exhibition, we will tell you about some dark pages in Swedish history.

THE PRICE OF THE SWEDISH "GLORY"

In 1609, the Russian government of Vasily IV Shuisky made a treaty with Sweden. Shuisky promised Korela to Sweden and in return received military assistance against the forces of False Dmitri II and the poles supporting him.

The five-thousand-strong Russian-Swedish force was led by the Swedish count Jacob De la Gardie. At first the allies did well, but on 24 June 1610 they suffered a crushing defeat to the poles at the Battle of Klushino. Some of the mercenaries defected to the enemy, the others fled north with De la Gardie.

De la Gardie did not wait for the surrender of the Fortress of Korela and captured it after a long siege, but he was not satisfied with this and made a bloody attack on Novgorod. The Swedish occupation lasted until 1617, including brutal looting of Novgorod and surrounding lands and atrocities by former allies against the local population.

The great city was deserted. A Dutch diplomat who passed through Novgorod in 1616

wrote that half the houses and churches were in ruins and burned. Residents died of starvation and disease. By the end of the occupation, a few thousand of the 20,000 inhabitants remained.

The Swedes continued their attack on Russian soil, destroying Tikhvin, Gdov and approaching Pskov. But King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden failed. Pskov's heroic defenders not only fought back, but also defeated his army. The Russian Chronicle described the cowardly escape of the King of Sweden: "He left with shame, many of his men were beaten, others died of hunger, and the troops were dispersed..."

During the Great Northern War in 1706, Swedish general Carl Gustaf Rehnskiöld defeated a Saxon-Russian army at the Battle of Fraustadt. But greater fame than victory was achieved by the barbaric massacre of at least five hundred Russian prisoners at his behest.

The Russian soldiers fought bravely and few were spared unharmed. Rehnskiöld ordered the Saxon, Swiss and French prisoners to be immediately fed and allowed them to enlist in the Swedish army, but the Russians were given no mercy:

"After identifying the prisoners as Russians, general Rehnskiöld ordered them to be brought in front of the formation and shoot each one in the head. It was horrible to watch!" (A quote from the book «Poltava by Swedish historian Peter Englund). In the same year, and especially thanks to the Battle of Fraustadt, Charles XII granted Rehnskiöld the title of Count.

Let us note that in 1709 the Swedish military fortunes ended. A series of setbacks led to the defeat of the Swedish army de facto led by Rehnskiöld at Poltava. Everyone knows about the famous feast that Peter The Great threw for the captured enemy officers:

When Peter the Great celebrates, he is proud, bright, full of glory. His imperial feast is magnificent. In the presence of his own officers, in his banquet tent, he feasts the victors and the vanquished. He thanks the prisoners as his teachers and toasts their health. (Quote from A. Pushkin's poem Poltava).

But even before the wine cups were raised, the Russian Tsar returned his sword to the imprisoned Rehnskiöld. Either The Tsar was not sufficiently aware of the details of the Fraustadt massacre, or he decided to give his "teacher" of the art of war a demonstration of true military honor.

However, Peter I probably needed Rehnskiöld as a valuable booty in exchange for Russian prisoners of war. It is known that in 1718 Rehnskiöld was exchanged for General A. M. Golovin, who had been held by the Swedes. After Rehnskiöld's release, he no longer held high office, sitting only in the ruling Council. In 1722, he fell ill and died without much grief.

THE ROYAL RUSSOPHOBES

Charles XII (1682–1718) remains one of the most popular figures in Swedish history. It is customary to call him either "a knight" or "a viking" on the throne. However, the troubled king never actually sat on the throne. What connected him to the medieval northern knights was mainly a lust for territorial conquest and a fierce Russophobia.

"Fascists were apparently fascinated by the image of Charles XII, not only because Charles intended to slice Russia into separate principalities, but also because he always treated Russians who had the misfortune to fall into his hands with cold-blooded and unspeakable cruelty." (A quote from Yevgeny Tarle's (1874–1955) book "The Northern War and the Swedish invasion of Russia", 1958).

Fate pardoned Charles XII – he did not live to see Sweden acknowledge defeat in the Great Northern War of 1700–1721. Death surprised the king in 1718 during the siege of the Norwegian fortress of Fredriksten. Rumor has it that the bullet that ended his life was a Swedish one...

Hetman of the Zaporozhian Host Ivan Mazepa, who defected to Charles XII in 1708, betrayed Russia and Peter I in particular. When Mazepa ceded Starodub, Baturin, Poltava and other cities to the Swedes, the King Awarded Mazepa the title of "Prince of Ukraine" as a reward. The deal lapsed when Russia defeated Poltava and the majority of the Zaporozhe Cossacks rejected Mazepa and Charles XII.

Peter the Great did not forget Mazepa's betrayal and decorated him in absentia as the only "Knight of Judas" of his kind as "a reward" for Hetman's defection to Sweden in the Great Northern War. The Silver "Knight of Judas" badge weighed 11 pounds and depicted Judas Iscariot hanging himself from a tree. At the bottom of the sign there was a picture of 30 pieces of silver and the caption: "Let the cursed and pernicious Judas suffocate in his greed." Mazepa fled south with Charles XII and died in the Ottoman Empire.

Gustaf V (1858–1950) did not take part in any of the wars fought during his long life and reign. In 1939, he even turned down the titular commander-in-chief of the Swedish army.

Even with such passivity, however, he managed to succumb to the actions of the wrong side of history. Living proof of this is his meeting with Nazi Number 2 Hermann Goering and correspondence with Hitler.

For example, on October 28, 1941, when the Germans stormed Moscow, Nazi-besieged Leningrad was on the brink of famine, and the Auschwitz death camp had

been in operation for over a year, King Gustav V of Sweden sent Hitler the following letter:

My Dear Chancellor!

I felt the need to write openly to you about an issue that concerns me and is very important to me and my country. That's the Russian question. I believe that this is very important for the future, and you can read my view of the heart of this issue. Even after the first World War, I saw the great danger that Bolshevism posed and continues to pose, not only to us in the North, but to Europe as a whole. I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude for your decision to eradicate this scourge by all means possible. I congratulate you on the great success you have already achieved.

I would also like to assure you that the majority of my people agree with me on this point, although it may not have been widely expressed. My action is always aimed at convincing anyone who may still doubt the validity of my views.

I must ask you not to publish this letter, at least during the war (because it would weaken my position and make it more difficult for me to maintain good relations with Germany), and I trust you to understand (I am sure you understand the difficulties that exist under the circumstances of a constitutional monarchy). But rest assured, I will do everything in my power to maintain the good relationship between us.

With heartfelt best wishes and loyalty to you,

Gustav

"NEUTRAL" SWEDEN DURING THE "WINTER WAR"

The terrible, dark days of December 1939. The Germans have activated Swedish Nazis. The city is full of rumors. Some fear us and see salvation in Germany. Others argue that Germany gives us Finland in order to benefit from it after the war. Swedes are full of fear, and the Swedish Nazis take advantage of this: "Sweden's nemesis is in the East –

Soviet Plenipotentiary in Stockholm Aleksandra Kollontai's diary, December 1, 1939

Between 1939 and 1940, 7.975 Swedes fought in the Finnish army. Most of them were members of the Swedish volunteer corps (Svenska frivilligkåren).

33 Swedish volunteers were killed in battle. A Swedish Aviation Regiment (LeR-19) was formed as part of the Finnish Air Force.

All in all, "neutral" Sweden ceded to warring Finland:

- 225,000 grenades
- 17,000,000 rounds of ammunition
- 200 cannons
- 38 aircrafts

In financial terms, Sweden's aid to Finland is estimated at FIM 1.47 billion, while Finland's annual budget was approximately FIM 5.4 billion.

During the "Winter War" between the Soviet Union and Finland, Swedish society was ideologically shaped in an anti-Soviet and pro-Nazi spirit. Soviet Plenipotentiary in Stockholm Aleksandra Kollontai wrote in her diary on December 7, 1939:

Every morning when I open the newspapers, I suffer purely physically. I know that we now have to read column after column of vicious, brazen slurs against us, articles which, in the spirit of the worst Nazism, pour out all the hatred of the Swedish ruling classes – all of these monopolists linked to the economic interests of the capitalist countries – against the Soviet country. We are being bullied more than by openly pro-Nazi newspapers, by the entire Swedish, Danish and Norwegian press, and not just by the Social Democratic press, but more seriously even the wealthy and popular player in the commercial and financial world, Göteborg-Handelstidningen, known for its anti-Hitler bias, has joined the general chorus of slanderers against us.

A few days later, on December 18, 1939, Kollontai made a new entry in her diary:

Despite our withdrawal from the League of Nations, voices in Sweden have grown louder demanding that Finland get "effective" i.e. military aid. The open formation of volunteer forces sent from Sweden to Finland has accelerated. And the coalition government is pretending, contrary to the declaration of neutrality, that recruiting and sending volunteers is a "private initiative" in a country where individual liberty and democracy prevail.

TRADE AND TRANSIT UNDER THE SIGN OF SWASTIKA

On June 18, 1940 (four days before the surrender of France), Sweden allowed German soldiers to pass through its territory.

In mid-September 1940, the Swedish Merchant Navy received permission from Berlin to pass freely through the Danish Straits. German warships escorted Swedish merchant ships through minefields. Now Sweden could easily transport goods (including military equipment) from neutral countries to Nazi Germany.

In late June and early July 1941, the 163rd Wehrmacht Infantry Division was transferred from Norway via Sweden to Finland to take part in combat operations against the Soviet Union. All of this was a gross violation of Sweden's neutrality, which had been declared by Stockholm in April 1940 (see. annex 7).

And that's not the end of it. In October 1941, 7,000 German soldiers, armed to the teeth and in uniform, passed through Sweden to take part in combat operations against the Red Army. By April 1942 12 000 – 14 000 German soldiers and officers were transported weekly to and from Norway via the Swedish Western Railways alone.

In their book "The History of Sweden" (2002), Jan Melin, Alf W. Johansson and Susanna Hedenborg point out the following about the transit of German soldiers through the Swedish territory:

On 20 August 1943, Sweden interrupted the transit of German troops through its territory. By this time, more than 2,140,000 German soldiers and more than 100,000 railcars of German military equipment had passed through Swedish territory. 10 percent of Sweden's road network served Germans. German transit costs amounted to SEK 85 million.

In late 1941, the Swedes signed a trade agreement with the Germans, under which Germany exported 38 million tons of iron ore from Sweden by 1944. This covered the lion's share of the Third Reich's supply of such raw materials. On average, 1/3 of every Nazi gun or tank consisted of Swedish metal.

Through Sweden, Germany received transit from third countries:

- 1,350 tons of copper from Canada (this colony of the British Empire at the time was at war with Hitler);
- 1,100 tonnes of manganese from Argentina;
- From other South American countries, 60 tons of tungsten, 9,000 tons of cotton, 150 tons of wool.

The Nazis obtained goods such as oil, wool, wine, tobacco, etc. by transit from Swedish ports. At the same time, Swedish banking capital provided loans to the largest military-industrial companies and monopolies of the Third Reich for the production of weapons and war equipment.

And what is completely incomprehensible to the anti-Hitler coalition: until the

beginning of 1943, aircraft engines made in USA were exported to Germany via Sweden!

Swedish business circles and the national economy benefited significantly from supplies to Germany. In Sweden, there was little regard for the material being used for the needs of the Wehrmacht and the SS. The range of weapons, materials and raw materials exported by Sweden was the widest possible: parts of guns and weapons, bearings, timber, ferro-alloys, steel, cellulose, artificial fibres, machine tools, electrical equipment, ships.

Indeed, the culmination of Swedish cynicism and moral decay is the fact that the Nazis deposited not only money in Swedish banks, but also confiscated gold and jewellery in occupied European countries. It is understood that among the donations were valuables taken from civilians who died in the gas chambers of Hitler's concentration camps.

SWEDES IN THE SS AND THE WEHRMACHT

Before the outbreak of World War II, there was only one Swedish citizen in the SS, but from July 1941 Sweden began recruiting volunteers for these Nazi forces. The recruitment took place openly in the building of the German embassy in Stockholm.

In the second half of 1941, Soviet representatives in Stockholm reported to Moscow that after the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the Germans, through their agents in the Swedish army, had begun recruiting soldiers for SS special units. Those in charge of this work were in constant contact with the German embassy. Among them were high-ranking officers in the Swedish army, including anti-aircraft.

The Swedish newspaper Social-Demokraten wrote on August 30, 1941:

For some time now, Sweden has been recruiting volunteers not only for the Swedish volunteer forces in Finland, but also for the security detachments of German SS troops sent to Norway. Recruiters say volunteers will be used in the fight against Bolshevism – –

The first group of recruits left as early as August 24. Among those leading the recruitment are a number of Swedish nationals – – Persons involved include businessman Olof Odian, who represents the German steel fund Rheinmetall-Borsig in Sweden, banker Högman, owner of Stockholm-based Svea Riks publishing house Carlberg. There are at least three recruitment agencies in Stockholm. Recruitment takes place mainly among officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Swedish army.

Most of the Swedes were concentrated in the Swedish battalion of the SS Division "Nordland", where the Scandinavians smeared themselves with massacres of civilians and prisoners of war. The Swedes participated in the siege of Leningrad and the destruction of Yugoslav partisans in Croatia.

In addition, subjects of the Swedish crown and ethnic Swedes from other countries were found in SS units Totenkopf, Wiking, Nord, Hohenstaufen, Nederland and Charlemagne. They are known for their destructive activities in the occupied territories, for shooting innocent people and for destroying entire villages with their inhabitants.

The rank of officer in the Nazi forces was awarded to 20 Swedes. Citizens of the Scandinavian kingdom who excelled in atrocities were usually sent to study at the SS Officer School in Bad Tolz, Upper Bavaria.

Of the 315 Swedish volunteers who served in the Waffen-SS, 45 died.

In addition, about 200 Swedish soldiers served in the Wehrmacht.

During the fighting on the Eastern Front, the Soviets captured 72 Swedes. They all returned to their homeland before 1949.

Swedish citizen Nils Rosen volunteered for the German army "to fight Bolshevism". In the ranks of the German 3rd Panzer Division, Rosen was seen fighting against the Red Army in Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, and Austria. He was awarded the Iron Cross of the II and I classes by the Nazi regime. He was responsible for the murder of several Russian soldiers and civilians.

After the defeat of Germany, Rosen managed to get through Denmark to Sweden. No one persecuted him for participating in the war on the side of the criminal regime. Moreover, he was held in high esteem and respect by Swedish citizens. Rosen excelled in the Swedish army and retired in 1951 as a captain. Then he taught at the military academy, the institute of military psychology, etc. As noted in Swedish publications, he worked hard in the field of developing military affairs in the kingdom. In addition, this "fluffy fascist" spent many years lecturing at universities and colleges on public transport and the benefits of cycling. He passed away in a warm bed surrounded by family and friends in 2009 at the age of 88. But until the end of his life he regretted that the Soviet Union won World War II: "It saddens me greatly that Stalin was among the victors".

RACIAL DOCTRINE AND NAZISM IN THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Western European racial doctrines placed Swedes at the highest level in the human racial hierarchy. This is probably why the

Nazi idea was so popular in Sweden.

In 1921, the state Institute of race biology (Statens institut för rasbiologi) was established in Uppsala. The mission of the institute was to study the national character of Swedes from a racial and biological perspective. Data on height, eye colour and hair were recorded and skulls were measured. The measurements were taken on servicemen, schoolchildren, and patients and prisoners in psychiatric hospitals. The institute did not close until 1958. However, Swedish genetics-based race research continued at Uppsala University.

A 1934 law made sterilization of "retarded" residents voluntary but recommended. A year later, it became mandatory. The last forced sterilization operation was performed in 1976 on a mentally disabled woman. In total, more than 60,000 people were sterilized during the law's term.

One of the active supporters and propagandists of the Swedish practice of forced sterilization was Alva Myrdal – diplomat, politician, sociologist, who even won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982 for "humanitarian services to mankind" (!)

At the same time, Myrdal published an accompanying manifesto calling for a fundamental change in the approach to sterilising the disabled:

Society is interested in limiting the reproductive freedom of the inferior – Even if we set aside the long-term benefits of improving the nation's genetic foundation, society will breathe a sigh of relief when such individuals cease to be born.

There were dozens of Nazi organizations in Sweden. Among them, the most widespread was the "Swedish Socialist Association" – Svensk socialistisk samling (short for SSS). It is symbolic that it was founded in 1933, when the Nazis came to power in Germany. The party program was carefully modelled on Hitler's NSDAP. Most of the Swedish Waffen-SS volunteers had SSS membership cards. Some high-ranking Swedish soldiers sympathized with the organization, leading to several scandals since the end of World War II. The party existed until 1950.

In 1924, the Swedish national-socialist league for freedom was founded. It advocated the most radical anti-semitic and anti-communist slogans written into its programme. The membership consisted mainly of small traders and wealthy peasants. In 1926, the organization was renamed the Swedish national socialist peasants' and workers' party. National socialist leaders demand:

A common danger threatens our fatherland, our people and our culture at this time – – Our duty as one of the most racially pure Aryan peoples is to lead the fight against the forces of death and to seek a way out of them – – We implore

all decent Swedes to join in the common fight for our ancient freedom and tribe, for social justice and for the legacy left to us by our ancestors.

The party's popularity was not great. In 1930, the Nazis made up of Swedish "peasants and workers", merged with the Swedish national socialist people's party to form a new Swedish national socialist party.

Nazi sentiment became widespread in Sweden. Germany's ideas were openly promoted in several Swedish newspapers and magazines. The number of supporters of Nazism also increased.

In 1933, the Swedish national socialist workers' party was founded. In fact, it was a copy of the German national socialist workers' party (NSDAP) led by Hitler. The Swedish party papers simply repeated what was written in Germany's Nazi papers. The Nazis in Sweden also had their own youth organization, whose structure and slogans were taken from the programme of the Hitler youth. Swedes did not shy away from the use of the Hitlerite swastika on their party's emblems and election posters.

Many prominent members of Sweden's military elite were also close to the Nazis. For example, General Nils Rosenblad managed to serve in the Swedish general staff, command a regiment, and lead an entire military district during World War II. At the same time, he owned a portion of the pro-Nazi Swedish newspaper Dagsposten, which received financial support from Nazi Germany.

It was only after the end of World War II that the Swedish government was forced to pay attention to pro-Nazi soldiers in office. In 1946, the so-called. Rosenblad case. In this respect, the political Department of the Leningrad Military District, which was following the development of the internal situation in Sweden, stated in May 1946:

Rosenblad case

General Rosenblad is accused of being a fascist, and calls for his dismissal are made in a petition to the Swedish government signed by 348 Swedish soldiers. The claim is based on a law banning Swedish soldiers from taking part in political activities – –

General Rosenblad is the commander of the Boden military district on the Finnish border. He stirred up soldiers and officers with fascist ideas, supported the Swedish Nazi newspaper Dagsposten and announced that he would open the gates to the Nazis if Germany invaded Sweden. When General Jung, the commander of the Swedish Defence Forces, learned of the petition, he ordered the arrest of its signatories, signifying solidarity with fascist elements in the Swedish military leadership – –

In their report, the political officers of the Leningrad military district cited some of the responses of the Swedish press to the Rosenblad case. Göteborgs handelstidning wrote on 20 February 1946:

Rosenblad's kind favours to Hitler's agents have only recently become public. But it cannot be said that the military leadership or the national government were unaware that Rosenblad was among the "chosen Aryans". Apparently this was even his credit. – – The General owned 50 shares in Dagsposten publishing. This explains his political sympathies – –

Dagens Nyheter wrote on February 27, 1946:

The government began to process the military appeal, and it seemed that the authors of the petition, loyal to their patriotic feelings, would not get into trouble. But the authorities made a serious mistake. Days after the complaint against Rosenblad, the commander-in-chief ordered an investigation into the situation and began questioning the complainants. This bizarre spectacle ended with disciplinary actions and all kinds of bullying – – Defense Secretary Vougth did not defend the patriots who signed the petition. No wonder. As soon as the question of our military leadership's political views comes up, it becomes clear how incompetent Vougth is in his position. Like Rosenblad, he is a suspected Nazi sympathizer. – –

Nazism heavily polluted Swedish society during World War II and in the decades that followed. Its toxic mess confounded cultural influencers as well as businessmen. Such as Ingvar Kamprad (1926–2018), the founder of the Swedish furniture group Ikea, who lived a long life – at one point he was considered one of the richest people in the world. Kamprad was respected by both influencers and ordinary consumers around the world. But today in Sweden it is not customary to talk about the unattractive other side of this two-faced person.

As a matter of fact, in the early 1940s, according to Swedish security police records, he was a Nazi activist.

During World War II, Kamprad was a member of the "Nysvenska Rörelsen" organization, which proclaimed the ideology of fascism, corporatism and ethno-nationalism. He was personally involved in recruiting new members to pro-fascist cells and collecting donations for them. At the same time, Per Engdahl, the leader of the "neo-Swedes", published an open letter to the government in 1941, in which he called for solidarity with Finland and closer relations with Germany.

Even after leaving the party, Kamprad continued to keep in touch with his former brothers of thought. He later confirmed the information and stressed his deep regret at this point in his biography.

A little later, when the dust settled, Kamprad's remorse was gone, and in an interview he stated that the Swedish Nazi chief Per Engdahl was a great man, and the Ikea founder never gave up on this opinion.

THE DARK PAGES OF ASTRID LINDGREN'S DIARY

Stockholm-born children's author Astrid Anna Emilia Lindgren, os. Eriksson (1907–2002) is known around the world. We think we know everything about her life and work. But we do not. Some pages of her biography may upset some friends of Scandinavian children's literature. Of course, we are talking about the period, when the Nazis were in power in Germany.

Astrid Lindgren herself was never a member of Nazi organizations. However, she later admitted that she had voted for the far right at least once. But that's not all.

It is a fact that even this famous children's author was exposed to the Nazi propaganda and Russophobia that literally "lit up" Swedish society in the 1930s and 1940s. The following are excerpts from her diary during World War II:

June 18, 1940. A weakened Germany can only mean one thing to us Nordic countries – that we will be invaded by the Russians. And I'd rather spend the rest of my life saying 'Heil Hitler!' than let it happen. It's hard to imagine anything worse.

January 1, 1942. In fact, the situation does not look bright for Germany at all. They can't hide how bad things have been in Russia for some time. For better or for worse, we can only sigh and hope: Germany must bring Russia under control! Because what would happen otherwise?

January 24, 1943. – – the situation has become even worse for the Germans. – The German army is surrounded at Stalingrad, which they have fought tooth and nail for. In Germany, funeral music is played on the radio in honour of the heroes of Stalingrad. Every day there are reports of new Russian breakthroughs. In the Caucasus, the Germans are retreating as planned. The poor soldiers of Stalingrad hide in dugouts, the entrances of which are targeted by Russian snipers. The weather is very cold in Russia now. Poor people, I cannot help feeling sorry for the German soldiers who suffered so terribly, even though I hate Nazism and all the cruel crimes committed by the Germans in the occupied countries.

NAZI SYMPATHIES IN SWEDISH DOMESTIC POLITICS

When the Soviet soldier triumphed in the fields of Europe and Hitlerism collapsed, becoming a Nazi went out of fashion in Sweden. Pro-Nazi officers were gradually

purged from the army, and far-right parties lost popularity. But as is usually the case, untreated diseases tend to recur stronger than ever.

In 1988, SS veteran Gustav Ekström became one of the founders of the far-right Sweden Democrats party. The logo of the party bears the abbreviation "SD", like a copy of the abbreviation of the Reichsführer SS security service. In the 2022 general election, the party won 1.3 million votes, or 20.54 percent of the vote (73 delegates), and emerged as the largest on the right wing, which has a large following among young people.

Björn Söder (who served as deputy speaker of Sweden's Riksdag in 2018), one of the SD party leaders, said that Swedish Jews should not be considered full-fledged Swedes, but as a separate minority. The history of Nazism repeats itself in Sweden!

SWEDISH IRON AND BLOOD FOR NEO-NAZISM IN UKRAINE

Sweden is among the leading supporters of the neo-Nazi regime in Kiev. NLAW anti-tank missiles have been used by Ukro-Nazies for a long time. The Swedes handed over to the Ukrainian army a batch of the CV90, a "gem" of modern Swedish engineering. By the way, these and other weapons can be seen in the Russian army spoils exhibitions.

According to the documents, on 24 March 2022, the Swedish parliament approved the delivery of mine clearance equipment and anti-tank weapons to Ukraine worth a total of SEK 205 million. These arms supplies were disguised as exports of "defensive weapons".

Moreover, Sweden is in fact insisting on covering up the truth about the delivery of weapons, for example not to make public the information in Section 2: 7,62/95 PRJ ammunition 3,000,000 pcs and 7,62/95 SLPRJ ammunition 470,000 pcs.

The arms delivery documents signed by Andrei Plakhotnyuk, the Ukrainian ambassador to Sweden, were sent to the deputy foreign minister in Kiev and a copy to the president's office.

In 2024, Sweden handed the Kiev regime a major arms aid package. It included two surveillance and control ASC890 aircrafts. At the same time, the Swedish government stated that the equipment in question opens up new opportunities for Ukraine's air control and command systems at sea and in the air.

Sweden is also moving a batch of armored personnel carriers to the Ukrainian armed forces to form Ukrainian army units. We're talking about hundreds of vehicles. In addition, Ukraine's neo-Nazi aid package includes air-to-air missiles, 155 mm

artillery shells, fuel transport equipment, maintenance equipment, satellite terminals and more.

Historical experience tells us that the fate of this miserable alliance between Sweden and Ukraine is inevitably the same as that of its predecessors, who were defeated in 1709 near Poltava.

While the Swedish government is supplying arms and ammunition to the Kiev regime, Swedish neo-Nazis are fighting in Ukraine in the name of Bandera's beastly ideals. Obviously, they see similarities between their kingdom's "glorious" past and the present Ukro-Nazi gang.

Caroline Nordengrip, a former Swedish MP, recently became a mannequin for Ukro-Nazi gang's foreign mercenaries. Nordengrip represented the right-wing Sweden Democrats party in the Swedish parliament, serving on the defence committee.

A Swedish neo-Nazi girl became indignant when she was required to file a pile of papers to enlist in "war against Russia". Nordengrip became a sergeant in the 47th mechanized brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces. "I went there, passed the probation, after a few months they were happy with my job – – I like to work with them, it's a great team – – I'm in the infantry, I mean a rifleman. That's what I did in the Swedish army."

In 2023, Svenska Dagbladet published information about subjects of the kingdom who had signed up to the so-called Ukrainian foreign legion to kill Russians.

In this regard, the embassy of the Russian Federation in Stockholm issued a statement stating clearly that all mercenaries of the Kiev regime will be punished sooner or later. The bulletin stated that mercenary activity is a criminal act. If the mercenaries are helping the Banderite neo-Nazis at the same time, the issue is all the more serious. "All foreigners, including Swedes, who decide to accept blood money from the Kiev regime will be punished in accordance with Russian laws and international law," a spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Stockholm announced.

Subjects of the kingdom of Sweden are now returning home in coffins as killed mercenaries fighting for the Kiev regime. In 2022, Edward Selander Patrignani paid for the wrong choice of profession with his life. In his homeland, he was reportedly an economist and a philosopher. But he decided to report to the foreign section of the Ukrainian army's special forces. Patrignan planned to create an entire Swedish contingent to serve Ukraine. I guess it didn't work out...

PART II

EPISODES OF FINNISH RUSSOPHOBIA

INTRODUCTION

Russia and Finland share one of the longest land borders in Europe. A thousand-year common history unites their peoples.

Finland received its own state status only in connection with Russia. By the will of Emperor Alexander I of Russia, it became a Grand Duchy. The imperial administration gave Finland the widest possible autonomy. The Finnish people, who lived for centuries as part of the Swedish superpower, finally achieved prosperity and their own cultural consciousness. The Finns ceased to be the cannon fodder and raw material supplement for Stockholm's war adventures.¹

The whirlwind of the revolution separated Finland from Russia, which became Soviet Russia. Its government was the first in the world to recognise Finland's independence. The Finns responded with pitch-black ingratitude. Finland provoked four military conflicts between our countries in the first half of the 20th century.

On the other hand, in the second half of the 20th century, after the defeat of fascist Finland on Hitler's side, there was probably no other capitalist country in Europe with which the Soviet Union had better neighbourly relations.

The modern era has been overshadowed by Finland's participation in the collective

¹ When the Grand Duchy of Finland was established in 1809, it is important to notice that before that Finnish nation nor state did not exist, but now Finland was donated both by the Emperor and the Grand Duke of Finland Alexander I. This means that the act of the Russian Emperor at the Porvoo Diet in 1809 was an Oktroy, in which he granted specific rights, privileges and lands to the Finnish Estates and people according to their oath of allegiance to Emperor personally. This means that the secession of Finland to the Russian Empire was based on the personal union between Russian Emperor and the Finnish people, meaning that Finland was under the special protection of the Emperor and principal Finnish matters were also personally presented to him. Russian Emperors developed not only Finnish statehood and economy, but culture and identity as well. The Russian Emperors also build a capital for the new nation state, Gelsingfors (now Helsinki), and generously funded the university, called Imperial Alexander University (now University of Helsinki), the main building of which is located on a street called Union Street commemorating the eternal personal union between Russian Emperor and Finland. The Emperor also granted new territories to his Grand Duchy, such as the Old Finland in 1812, including such famous cities as Vyborg, Hamina, Lappeenranta and Savonlinna, that were incorporated into Russia already with the Treaty of Nystad in 1721, but now donated to Finland. Under Russian rule and with the Emperor's blessing, the Karelo-Finnish National Epos Kalevala was collected and published. This book, which contains nothing Swedish, had a tremendous influence on the development of Finnish language and literature. Before joining Russia, the Finns did not have nor had the possibility to pretend own nation state, identity, privileges, language rights and culture. Actually, it would be correct to say that under the Swedish rule, the Finns did not have a possibility to know nor understand that they were Finns. – J.B.

West's illegal sanctions against Russia and its accession to the military alliance NATO. Now Finns should ask themselves whether they have the prerequisites to retain their place as "the happiest country in the world".

THE POOR COLONY OF SWEDEN

Under Swedish rule, Finland was a poor province and a de facto colony of the Kingdom of Sweden. Swedish rule was established in Finland already in the late 1200s.

The Swedes occupied the future territory of Finland during the Northern Crusades. The German nobility and the Catholic Church wrested the lands from the Finnish pagan tribal chiefs. Neither the Finns nor the Sami were consulted. Conflicts between colonialists and the colonized inhabitants continued for centuries. The right to fishing and land ownership was given to the Swedes. The only official language was Swedish. In Sweden, it was considered that Finns as a conquered people did not have equal rights.

Swedish Kings rarely visited Finland, with the exceptions of hunting, fishing and entertainment. In Swedish Chronicles, Finns were described as primitive semi-animals and their language was considered to be underdeveloped. Most of the taxes collected in Finland were sent to Stockholm when Finns were forced into destitution and poverty.

In the early 1700s, the Swedish government tried to implement a cultural "cleansing" in Finland, in which Finns were deprived of both language and nationality. The Finnish-hostile professor Israel Nesselius proposed the "swedenisation" of the backward province. It was based on the thesis that "the winner is always right" and the conquered must learn the winner's language and Customs. According to the plan, the catechism and sermons should be read only in Swedish, the use of the Finnish language should be banned in court proceedings, and more people should be moved from Sweden to Finland in order to increase the number of Swedes in Finland. Even a native Finnish tradition such as the sauna was wanted to be banned because it consumed a lot of firewood and the custom was foreign to the Swedes.

Fortunately for the Finns, these racist plans did not come to fruition, thanks to Russia, which, after the cession Finland, implemented a completely different policy. According to the Treaty of Nystad in 1721, which ended the Northern War, the Karelian Isthmus and Ladoga regions were united with Russia (see. Annex 1).

Then there were two more wars between Russia and Sweden, in 1741–1743 and 1788–1790, caused by Stockholm's desire to regain lost territory. But of no avail. The Swedes lost both wars miserably.

According to the Treaty of Wereloe, signed by Russia and Sweden in 1790, the inviolability of the previous treaties was confirmed. Swedes were also allowed to buy duty-free bread, grains and flour worth 50,000 rubles and hemp from Russia's Baltic ports. At the same time, Sweden rejected an alliance with Turkey. The agreement shocked Britain, Prussia and Turkey, which supported Stockholm.

However, this did not mean that the Swedish Kings and nobility had not given up their revanchist ambitions towards Russia. Stockholm sought to turn the weakening of the Russian Empire in foreign policy to its advantage.

THE BIRTH OF THE FINNISH STATE AND THE "ETERNAL" UNION WITH RUSSIA

The Russo-Swedish war of 1808–1809 began mainly because of Sweden's deep-seated Russophobia and Swedish demands on Russia. Russia was supported by France and Denmark, while Sweden was backed by Great Britain. Swedes cherished the dream of avenging territorial losses along the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland. After the Treaty of Tilsit with Napoleon in 1807, Russia, in turn, had to join the continental blockade of Great Britain. There was a rift between London and St Petersburg – the embassies were reciprocated. King Gustav IV of Sweden drew closer to Great Britain and prepared to help it in its war against Denmark. Meanwhile, Stockholm itself cherished a dream of conquering all of Norway from Denmark.

London wanted to weaken Russia, and in February 1808 concluded an agreement with Sweden under which it promised to pay Stockholm the costs of war against the Russian army: during the fighting, about one million pounds per month during the hostilities. The money transfer period may have been arbitrarily long, but there was no time limit. All these circumstances lead to the argument that the next Russo-Swedish war would be of great benefit to the British.

Fighting between Russian and Swedish forces continued for a time with varying degrees of success. At that time, however, the Russian army drove the Swedes out of Finland and brought them to the brink of total defeat.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, on March 20 (April 1), 1808, Emperor Alexander I issued a manifesto on the conquest of Sweden's Finland (see annex 2) and uniting her with Russia (see annex 3). At the same time, the Russian Emperor allowed the Finns to keep their religion, laws and other privileges. The manifesto on Finland's conquest and uniting with Russia forever stated:

This land, thus conquered with Our weapons, We shall henceforth and forever unite with the Russian Empire, and as a result We have ordered to take from the inhabitants an oath to the faithful subjection of Our throne.

Russia needed a peaceful and self-sufficient Finland under the protection of the Russian Emperor. The area was named the Grand Duchy of Finland. It had a special autonomous status within Russia. Without the consent of the Finnish parliament, the Emperor had no right to pass new laws, change old ones or impose taxes, etc. The police of the Principality consisted of Finns alone.

The Finns were no longer slaves to the Swedes, but, as the manifesto states: one of Russia's "precious nations". Alexander I wrote:

People of Finland! May these truths be indelibly sealed in your hearts. The fortunes of many peoples who rest by Our throne are just as precious in Our heart; in joining together in the whole of Our Empire you have also acquired the same equal rights with them.

The peace treaty between Russia and Sweden was signed on 5 (17) September 1809 in Fredrikshamn. Sweden ceded Finland to the Russian Empire. The capital of the principality was initially Abo (now Turku) and then Gelsingfors (now Helsinki).

In March 1809, the Diet of Porvoo was opened in the Grand Duchy of Finland. It was the first gathering of representatives of the peoples of Finland. Alexander I, who addressed the Diet, promised to donate a constitution to the Grand Duchy. Members of the Diet swore an oath of allegiance to the Emperor. The Emperor signed a manifesto according to which the leadership of Finns takes place in matters concerning local government in accordance with Swedish laws.

The Diet of Porvoo allowed the Grand Duchy of Finland to enjoy a wide degree of autonomy within the Russian Empire. Thus the foundation of the Finnish nation and its statehood was laid. All the rights and privileges of the estates and the status of the Lutheran church were preserved.

THE FREE TRADE ZONE: FINLAND IN 1809–1856

As part of Russia, Finland was in fact a free trade area with its own parliament and the possibility to engage in extensive economic and commercial activities. The personnel of the police and customs services were Finnish.

Taxes collected in the Grand Duchy of Finland were used for the development of Finland. Finns were allowed to trade duty-free throughout the Russian Empire and had the right to trade directly with other countries.

This led to abuse. Finnish smugglers illegally acquired foreign goods in order to sell tax-free to other parts of Russia for a large profit. This resulted in a large loss of Russian state coffers. Russian border guards struggled against Finnish smugglers. The date of the foundation of the Tretyakov Gallery is considered to be 1856, when Pavel

Tretyakov acquired the painting "A scene with Finnish smugglers" by artist Vasily Hudyakov.

The painting depicts the capture of smugglers in the Grand Duchy of Finland. Finnish criminals carried goods across the Russian border. For example, coffee, salt, cognac and white English tin were illegally passed through Finland at the time.

Finland bounced from colonial feudalism directly into capitalism, besides enjoying unprecedented privileges. The Cursed "Tsarism" was present only in the formal position of the Russian emperor – he was called, among other things, "Grand Duke of Finland". Vyborg County, which belonged to Russia for over a hundred years and which Peter the Great had conquered in the 1700s in the Great Northern War, was donated to Finland in 1811.

The Finns also received their own elite army, the Finnish Guards' Rifle Battalion, which was formed from Finns in 1818. The unit distinguished itself especially in suppressing the Polish rebellion in 1831. The Finns also fought on the Balkan front in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878.

At that time, the formation of the Finnish nation began. A Fennoman movement was born that proclaimed the existence of Finnish identity. Interest in Finnish culture and the Finnish language grew.

At that time, the songs of Kalevala, the Karelo-Finnish poetry epos, were collected and organized. They were compiled by Finnish linguist and folklorist Elias Lönnrot. Born into a poor and chronically needy Finnish family, Lönnrot graduated from the Imperial Turku Academy in the Russian Empire and rose to prominence. In 1876, he became an honorary academician of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg.

THE GRAND DUCHY OF FINLAND: A TIME OF REFORM AND THE RISE OF NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS 1856–1905

During the reign of the Emperor Alexander II, Finland flourished both economically and culturally. As a tribute to their Emperor, the Finns erected a monument to him in Helsinki. In 1863, Alexander II opened the Diet of Finland with the following words:

Based on Constitutionally limited imperial power, which the sentiment of the Finnish people favours and united with the laws and institutions of the country, I want, with the aforementioned proposals, to expand the right of taxation that the Estates now have under the Constitution, as well as to give the Estates back the right to present legislative initiatives in the Diet that they have had from time immemorial, reserving to myself alone the right to raise the question of amending the Constitutions.

You know My nature of thought and how dear to Me is the happiness and success of those peoples whom the Creator has entrusted to My care. No act on My part should have been able to disturb the trust that is necessary between the Ruler and the people. May this trust be between Me and the honest and loyal people of Finland, from now on as it has been until now, the strong bond that unites us. It will then powerfully help to increase happiness in this people, which will always remain dear to My heart, and it will give Me a new reason to invite you to the periodic Diets.

Legislative work was active in Finland in the second half of the 19th century. Especially worth mentioning is the Criminal Code of the Grand Duchy of Finland. It contained a number of provisions reflecting the particular autonomous nature of the region. The preparation of the issues reflected the moods of Finnish society and brought out ideas about national statehood. All of this met with the Emperor's approval.

In 1884, a codification committee was established to draft the constitutions of the Grand Duchy of Finland. The committee was chaired by N. A. Neklyudov. The result was a bill on the form of government of the Grand Duchy and the statutes that formed the Finnish constitutions.

In February 1899, Nicholas II signed a manifesto for the organization of lawmaking in Finland. The Russian Emperor stated:

The Grand Duchy of Finland, which since the beginning of this century is part of the Russian Empire, has – – special institutions in respect of its internal administration and legislation – – but – – while ruling the Empire other lawmaking issues concerning Finland arise, which, in view of their close association with the general interests of the Empire, cannot be dealt with exclusively by the institutions of the Grand Duchy. The existing legislation does not contain any specific guidelines on how these matters should be resolved, and the lack of these has caused considerable harm.

Nicholas II maintained the laws of Finland, but strengthened the General Laws of the Empire:

Although we maintain in force and in effect provisions for the adoption of local decrees which exclusively refer to the needs of Finland, we have also considered it necessary to reserve the right to determine more precisely the objects of the general legislation of the Empire.

It was a perfectly logical step, since living under the same roof of the Empire required concerted action on various issues of security, economics, trade and education.

The first Finnish-language schools were established in Finland after the mid-1800s. In 1858, the first Finnish-language secondary school Gymnasium was opened in the Grand Duchy of Finland. Uno Cygnaeus – "father of the Finnish Elementary School " – developed his own educational standards. He was an explorer, a teacher and a priest, as well as the superintendent of Finnish public schools.

Uno Cygnaeus provided a prominent place in its educational system for craft classes, which later became a practice in many countries of the world. Craft skills, he said, taught children respect for the skills of the hand and how to learn them.

Finnish was adopted as an official language. The Finnish markka was removed from the Russian rouble. The Bank of Finland was placed under the supervision of Finnish officials.

In 1860, the manifesto of the Russian Emperor and Grand Duke of Finland, Alexander II, introduced a special currency in Finland, the markka, equivalent to a quarter of the Russian silver rouble. The Finnish markka consisted of 100 penni. In 1865, the Senate of Finland recognized its own metal coin as legal tender in the Grand Duchy.

At the same time, the rights of a Russian citizens arriving in Finland from other parts of the Empire were restricted by local laws. He could not work as a civil servant without knowing Finnish or Swedish.

In 1898, Nikolai Ivanovich Bobrikov was appointed governor-general of Finland, who pushed for the broad harmonisation of Finnish and Russian legislation. He particularly resented Russophobia in Finnish educational institutions. At that time, Russophobia increasingly permeated the internal politics of the Grand Duchy of Finland, which was part of Russia.

The Finns saw the governor's disapproval as tsarist "oppression" and brutally shot him in the stomach.

FINNISH RUSSOPHOBES AGAINST THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE 1905–1917

Whereas in 1810 immediately after the cession to Russia, the population of the Grand Duchy of Finland was only 863,000, in 1910 it was already almost 3 million. The Finns multiplied at a phenomenal speed, despite the "Tsar's yoke".

The Finnish liberal intelligentsia loathed the Russian Emperor and took an active part in the 1905 revolution. Finnish social democracy was closely linked to local nationalism. In the Grand Duchy of Finland, local law enforcement authorities were more than tolerant of Russian revolutionaries. The reason was simple: these radicals wanted, one way or another, to wipe out historic Russia.

In Finland, Lenin quietly hid from the police and occasionally secretly visited St. Petersburg for party meetings. In the same Grand Duchy, the social revolutionary terrorists called Esers were preparing an assassination attempt on the Russian prime minister Pyotr Stolypin. The terrorist attack claimed the lives of 27 people, and Stolypin's daughter was seriously injured.

The Russian government could no longer tolerate such terrorist activity. Some restrictions were placed on the rights of Finnish self-government. Stolypin introduced a bill "which does not infringe the rights of small Finland, but protects our closest and dearest, the historical Great Power rights of Russia".

However, the "cursed Tsarism" personified in Emperor Nicholas II did not put further pressure on his Finnish subjects. Russia did not treat its numerous peoples in the same way as the British did the Scots and Irish, or the French did the Vendée rebels, not to mention the atrocities committed by European colonial powers in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Therefore, despite Russophobia and the separatist sentiments of Finnish society, the Russian emperor allowed parliamentary elections in the Grand Duchy of Finland in March 1907. Finnish women were the first women in Europe to gain the right to vote and stand for election.

When the Emperor abdicated in the February Revolution of 1917, all Finnish privileges were restored, the parliament was also convened. However, despite its revolutionary and liberal nature, it was also important for the Provisional Government that Finland did not achieve independence immediately. There was a great war going on, millions fighting on the front lines. Without Finland, Germany would directly threaten Petrograd. However, the Bolsheviks who came to power in October 1917 thought otherwise.

FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE ON THE "BONES" OF THE HISTORIC RUSSIA

Shortly after the October Revolution in Russia, on 6 December 1917, the parliament (Riksdag) declared Finland independent. Finland was now a "sovereign republic". All this fits with the Bolshevik national policy, which gave all the peoples of the Russian Empire the right to secede and become independent. December 6 is now Finland's most important national holiday, The Independence Day of Finland.

Already on 18 (31) December 1917, the Soviet government under Lenin in Petrograd was the first in the world to declare Finland's independence.

The quick decision is also explained by the fact that Lenin, like many other members of the Council of people's commissars, had close working relations with the Finnish Social Democrats. From time to time, Finns helped them move westward or arranged

housing to hide from the police.

However, shortly after the independence was recognized, civil war broke out between red and white Finns. Such was the logic of the revolutionary struggle under the conditions of the explosive growth of nationalism in the former Grand Duchy. At the same time, the white Finns, relying on the support of the German troops, managed to gain the upper hand. The number of fallen reds was very high, the number rose to several thousand.

The victory of the white Finns was overshadowed by one of the most tragic episodes in the history of Russian-Finnish relations. Today, Finland has almost forgotten the massacre in Vyborg in April 1918. An eyewitness recalled:

At about 6 a.m., the whites attacked the town from Coin hill, shouting that they would shoot the Russians. They broke into apartments, kidnapped and killed, took people to ramparts and fired machine guns at them. They killed mostly men, but there were also children among them.

Ethnic cleansing had begun. Finns scoured houses in search of their victims. The detainees were dragged to Vyborg Castle and shot there. One day, April 29, 1918, hundreds of Russians and red Finns were brutally murdered. In total, between 3,000 and 5,000 Russian workers, demobilized soldiers, officers and their family members were murdered in 1918.

Former General of the Tsar C. G. Mannerheim led the Finnish white army and ordered the suppression of all resistance from the Russian World without pity. Another eyewitness spoke of that time:

At two o'clock in the morning, a group of armed men broke through the door into my apartment. They immediately grabbed the Ukrainian engineer and fired two bullets at him.

At the time, Russian speakers reported that Finns had shot even those who did not speak Finnish properly.

FIRST ATTEMPTS TO CREATE "GREATER FINLAND" FROM 1918 TO THE EARLY 1920S

It took less than three months since Finland become independent, when in March 1918 the newly formed state invaded Russia. The Finnish leadership used it as an excuse to punish the red Finns in Soviet Russia.

However, the real purpose of the Finnish invasion was the creation of so-called "Greater Finland". To the East, its boundaries were to extend to the White Sea

and Arkhangelsk, further to Onega Lake, then along Svir and the Neva rivers. Especially the enthusiastic fennomans (Finnish intellectuals) of the Academic Karelian Society wanted to occupy the entire southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, Estonia, part of Latvia, and Russian lands as far as the Northern Urals.

By the end of 1918, Finns supported by the Entente States occupied a large part of Soviet Karelia. However, the losses caused by the Red Army forced Helsinki to restore some of its conquests and sign the Treaty of Tartu with Soviet Russia in October 1920.

Soviet Russia granted territorial concessions: Finland gained the Petsamo area and parts of the Rybachy and Sredny peninsulas in the Arctic region. The Finns also took over the Karelian Isthmus and Vyborg, which had already been transferred to Russia in the Treaty of Nystad with Sweden in 1721.

In October 1921, however, Finland invaded Russia again without a declaration of war. The Finnish invaders not only fought against units of the Red Army, but also killed civilians supporting the Soviet regime, broke the tracks of the Murmansk railway and staged ambushes. It was not until February 1922 that Finnish troops were driven out of Soviet Karelia.

In March 1922, after the defeat of the Red Army, the Finns were forced to sign a new treaty with Soviet Russia on the recognition of borders. The economy of Soviet Karelia had suffered badly as a result of the attack. Finns and their anti-Soviet supporters vandalized schools and libraries and looted the property of ordinary citizens. In the wake of the civil war, the Finns plundered 15,000 poods (246 tons) of bread from starving Russia, whose economy was in ruins. Finnish soldiers killed thousands of peaceful people. The Red Army alone lost nearly 1,500 men.

In other words, before 1939 Finland twice attacked Russia, seeking to separate territories from it in order to create a "greater Finland". Thus, the north-western border of the Soviet Union was far from peaceful. The Finnish leadership and the "elite" continued raving about "greater Finland". The situation at the Finnish border was constantly tense. Later, the Finns wanted to tear up Russian territories with the help of third countries. First there was a settlement with Japan, then with Nazi Germany.

Prime minister and later President of Finland P. E. Svinhuvud liked to say that every enemy of Russia is a friend of Finland. The Finnish mass media carried out active propaganda against the Soviet Union. On the Soviet-Finnish state border, provocations by Finnish troops were constantly observed. The Germans established in Finland their own intelligence centre (Büro Cellarius) against the Soviet Union.

Finnish historians like to present as proof of their peaceful 1930s policy the construction of the "Mannerheim line". This massive fortification system was claimed

to protect against "Russian aggression". But Finnish scientists and politicians forget that by the beginning of 1939, the airport network they had built (with the help of the Germans) could accommodate 10 times more aircraft than the Finnish air force had. In addition, the symbol of the Finnish air force and tank corps was a swastika. The Finnish and her allies' aircraft were able to bomb Leningrad, Soviet Karelia and other Soviet cities by relying on Finnish airfields.

Moscow was not without reason afraid that Finland could prepare a new attack on Russia, this time with the help of third countries – Germany, England or France.

THE SOVIET-FINNISH "WINTER WAR" 1939-1940

The "Winter War" began on 30 November 1939 and ended on 13 March 1940. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Soviet Union had to secure Leningrad, which was only 32 kilometers away from Finland. In other words, if the Soviet Union were to be attacked from a north-westerly direction, the city of Neva could be immediately targeted with artillery.

During negotiations with the Finnish delegation in Moscow in the autumn of 1939, Stalin proposed moving the border to the Karelian Isthmus. It was a few dozen miles. The Soviet leader tried to explain to the Finns that the Soviet Union could not "move Leningrad" and asked them to move the border from the city slightly to the northwest to protect it from possible accidents. In return, the Soviet Union was willing to cede to the Finns twice as much of territory in Soviet Karelia. But the Finns categorically refused. The Helsinki government clearly intended to use an appropriate excuse if necessary to seize territory from the Soviet Union in order to build its "Greater Finland". The trade was mainly about who to do it with – German, English or French. In any case, the main enemy of the Finns was in the East.

Moscow was under the impression that the Finnish leadership was deliberately trying to provoke a military conflict. In the autumn of 1939, the bombardment of Soviet territory by Finland became more common. Finally, on 26 November, the "Mainila incident" occurred: Moscow recorded a new Finnish artillery attack and reported fallen Soviet soldiers. The Soviet Union gave Finland an ultimatum to withdraw its troops, and after Finland refused, to take active military action on 30 November.

The "Mannerheim line" of the Karelian Isthmus consisted of hundreds of bunkers. The first attempt to break through was foiled, but a better-prepared second attack in February-March 1940 led to a breakthrough and brought the Finns to the brink of disaster.

On 12 March 1940, negotiations between the Soviet Union and Finland, prompted by the losses of the Finnish army on the front, ended with the signing of a peace treaty on Moscow's terms. By the afternoon of March 13, the fighting stopped. The

historical Russian heir, the Soviet Union, returned the Karelian Isthmus and Vyborg, North Ladoga as well as parts of the Rybachi and Sredny peninsulas. The Soviet Union also leased Hanko (Gangut) for 30 years for the establishment of a naval base (see. Annex 4).

In April 1940, after the Soviet-Finnish war called the "Winter War" in Finland, Stalin gave a presentation to Soviet army commanders on the causes of the conflict. He also addressed the shortcomings of the Red Army at the time. The importance of heavy artillery, mortars, and aviation in modern warfare was emphasized. (See Annex 5.)

FINLAND ATTACKS THE SOVIET UNION 1941–1944

On the day the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union began – June 22, 1941 – Hitler's radio address announced that German troops were marching against the Soviet Union "in alliance with Finnish brothers in arms". Since 1940, the Finnish and German armies had been conducting detailed negotiations for a joint invasion of Russia. The Nazis considered in Finnish troops as their most reliable satellites.

German arms deliveries to Finland began in the summer of 1940. In September, agreements were signed between Germany and Finland on the transit of German troops via Finnish territory to Norway. The deployment of German troops soon began in Finland and the country became the north-western bridgehead attack base to the Soviet Union.

In Germany's options for invasion of the Soviet Union, Finland was invariably given an important role. It was about the participation of the Finns in the conquest of Murmansk and Leningrad. Hitler's Barbarossa Decree No. 21 of 18 December 1940 stated that Finland should arrange for the concentration and deployment of German troops passing through its territory from Norway to the Soviet border, as well as military operations in cooperation with them. Finland was also tasked with attacking the Soviet naval base on the Hanko peninsula (see Annex 6).

By the beginning of June 1941, the German and Finnish High Command agreed on the special tasks of the Finnish army in the war against the Soviet Union. The Helsinki command promised to transfer one corps to the German army of Norway and carry out an attack in the Ladoga region in order to establish contact with the German army group Nord. This was supposed to happen after the Germans crossed the Western Dvina river. The Finns also agreed to prepare troops to encircle Leningrad from the North. In addition, the Finnish leadership assigned its airports to the Luftwaffe. Finland's preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union were to be completed by 28 June 1941.

The Finns immediately began to trade with the Soviet areas. A Finnish government memorandum sent to Berlin after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union made several

demands on Germany in exchange for Finland's participation in the invasion. The document referred to the annexation of Soviet Karelia and the Kola peninsula to Finland, and the plan to expel the Russians from the Soviet territories occupied by the Finns was described as "justified", as Finno-Ugric peoples were supposed to live there. Helsinki, however, calculated to present the war as a "defensive" battle for "lost territory" or a "Continuation War" for the winter campaign of 1939–1940.

As it turned out, in 1941 a German-language brochure entitled "Finnlands Lebensraum – Das geographische und geschichtliche Finnland" ("Finland's Living Space – The geographical and historical Finland") was published in Berlin, commissioned by the president of Finland Risto Ryti and the Institute of State Information (Valtion Tiedoitustuloslaitos or VTL). This racist "pearl" was created by the historian Eino Jutikkala, the geographer Väinö Auer and the ethnographer Kustaa Vilkuna. The editor of the book was the VTL representative in Berlin, the famous Finnish anthropologist Yrjö von Grönhagen. He knew Himmler personally, and even before the war was active in the notorious Ahnenerbe society (officially the "association for the study of ancient German history and ancestral heritage"). Established as early as 1935, the purpose of this Nazi structure was to explore the traditions, history, and heritage of the northern race in order to promote the heyday of Nazi Germany.

The book "Finland's Living Space" was presented as a "scientific" publication. At the same time, Finnish propagandists used pseudohistory and pseudo-ethnography to justify Finland's territorial claims by asserting that eastern Russian Karelia is an integral part of "Greater Finland" in terms of geography, history, ethnography and culture. To please their ally, the Finns used the term "living space" in the title of the book, a pure Nazi term used in Hitler's ideology to justify claims to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The leadership clique of Helsinki was apparently enthusiastic about their future departure to the "crusade" to the East like the Nazis, seeking "Lebensraum im Osten", meaning "living space in the East". The book was donated to the leadership of the Third Reich, apparently in the hope that Hitler would heed the wishes of his ally.

On June 22, 1941, the Germans, together with the Finns, began to lay mines along the Soviet Coast. German aircraft attacked Soviet troops and ships from Finnish territory. It was not until June 25 that Soviet air forces carried out a counterattack against German aircraft concentrated at Finnish airports. At that time Finland openly declared war on the Soviet Union and began an invasion deep into Soviet territory.

As already mentioned, the Finnish government announced that it would wage a "Continuation War" for the "Winter War". But that was a lie. By the end of 1941, Finnish troops under Mannerheim had taken Petrozavodsk, reached Svir and occupied almost the entire Karelian Isthmus. The Finns, together with a German army group from Norway, attacked Murmansk, but were stopped by the Red Army.

Leningrad in particular was in a dangerous situation. By September 1, after bloody battles on the Karelian Isthmus, the Finns pushed the Soviet troops back to the Soviet-Finnish border in 1939, but Mannerheim did not stop there. In many places, Finnish units broke deeper towards southeast. Only the courage of the Soviet troops defending the City of Neva calmed Finland's enthusiasm in this direction. By September 7, 1941, the front north of Leningrad had stabilized.

In early September 1941, however, Finnish troops continued their offensive east of Ladoga Lake. This time they managed to reach Svir and capture the bridgehead on its southern shore. Meanwhile, on September 8, the Germans captured Shlisselburg and besieged Leningrad from the South. Two fronts were now besieging the northern capital: Finns from the North and Germans from the South, accompanied by European collaborators. The German army group Nord was only a few dozen kilometers from the Finnish divisions.

The genocide of the peaceful civilian inhabitants of Leningrad is perpetrated by both Finns and Germans. In 2022, a St. Petersburg court confirmed this. Attempts by Western (including Finnish) postwar historiography to present Mannerheim and the Finnish army as innocent of crimes against the inhabitants of Leningrad do not stand up to criticism. Both Finns and Germans dreamed of defeating Leningrad through a hunger blockade. This is evidenced by the following facts:

When the Finnish attack on the northern suburb of Leningrad stopped, the Finnish Karelian Army continued its advance towards Svir. There, the Finns hoped to unite with the German Army Group Nord and establish a second cordon around the city. There is no doubt that the success of this attack would have meant the destruction of Leningrad and the death of its inhabitants.

The American historian H. Peter Krosby stressed in his book "Finland and Operation 'Barbarossa': The Making of a German Cobelligerent, 1940–1941" that the facts of the coordinated actions and aggression of Finland and Germany towards Leningrad cannot be questioned. Finland was ready to attack Leningrad both on the Karelian Isthmus and east of Ladoga.

The Germans received approval from Finland for the plan to destroy Leningrad. Göring told the Finnish ambassador in Berlin that the Finns will also get St. Petersburg, which, like Moscow, must be destroyed. In September 1941, President Ryti of Finland announced that the Neva river would be the best border for Finland on the Karelian Isthmus when Leningrad ceases to exist as a major city.

On 25 November 1941, Finland joined the anti-Komintern pact. So the Finns ignored the pleas of Great Britain and the United States not to cross "old" state borders. The Finnish leadership and Mannerheim invested in the capture of Leningrad and the defeat of the Soviet Union in the war against Germany. As a result, on 5 December 1941 Finland was at war with Great Britain and Helsinki's relations with Washington

deteriorated significantly.

In early June 1942, Hitler flew to Finland to meet Mannerheim in person. The Wehrmacht high command's chief of staff, Wilhelm Keitel, and other military personnel were on the convoy. The Chief Nazi wanted to strengthen German-Finnish military cooperation by giving it more momentum. The meeting was held in a special train car. Mannerheim himself later wrote that there was no discussion of military or political issues, which raises great doubts among historians. The famous Russian scholar Nikolai Baryshnikov wrote that Hitler and Mannerheim discussed at the Mikkeli headquarters the activation of the Finnish army against Leningrad and Eastern Karelia. The soldiers who accompanied Hitler also negotiated with representatives of the Finnish general staff, Erik Heinrichs, Aksel Airo and W. E. Tuompo, among others.

At the end of June 1942 Mannerheim rewarded Hitler with a return visit. Führer himself sent his own private plane to pick up the Marshal of Finland, which was considered a sign of friendship. Mannerheim grabbed a Finnish "Suomi" submachine gun as a present. During the renegotiation, involving Keitel, Chief of the General Staff of the army Franz Halder, Göring and others, Hitler announced his intention to move troops and heavy siege weapons from Crimea to the sea off Leningrad. He thought it was obvious that the city of Neva would soon be taken.

Clearly, Germany developed its plans for the summer war of 1942 by taking Finland into account, with the Finns eager to take the city of Neva. Finnish newspapers wrote: "Brotherhood in arms strengthened" (Uusi Suomi, 11.7.1942); "The Murmansk railway lost its importance in the summer. Now the main question is the fate of Leningrad. The Germans are approaching the city" (Helsingin Sanomat 11.7.1942).

"THANK YOU ALLIES": FINLAND AND GERMANY AT WAR WITH THE SOVIET UNION 1942–1944

After the defeat of the Wehrmacht near Moscow in the spring of 1942, the Finnish leadership wondered whether it was still necessary to follow Germany. Who gets the ultimate victory? In Helsinki, it was still hoped that an alliance with the Nazis would help them create a "greater Finland". As for the Soviet Union, the Finns thought that after the war it would be so weakened that it would not be able to reclaim the territory it had lost in Karelia.

To the Germans, the Finns were essentially "cannon fodder". The Nazis closely followed the development of front events in their ally Finland, but were primarily concerned with their own military and political interests. The chief of operations of the Wehrmacht general staff, Colonel General Alfred Jodl, stressed in November

1943:

The Finnish front is the northern stronghold of the European defence system, the northernmost wing of the Eastern Front and at the same time the protection of the rear of the Norwegian front. The total length of the front is about 1,400 km, or 1/3 of the total length of the Eastern front – because of the large length of the front, a huge number of German forces – the 20th mountain Army – are tied up here – 176,800 people.

Berlin's leadership did not shy away from opportunities to further drag Finland into its destructive orbit, by involving it in actions that would make the country an entirely unsuitable negotiating partner for the Western allies. In many ways it was for this reason that in the summer of 1942 Hitler and Mannerheim met, and preparations were made for the landing on Sukho island of Ladoga in October 1942. The latter was a complete failure thanks to the selfless actions of the Soviet garrison and air force.

The brazen shamelessness of the "great Finns" was brought to an abrupt end by a major Red Army offensive in the summer of 1944, when, as a result of the Vyborg-Petrozavodsk operation, the Finnish stations on the Mannerheim line and in Soviet Karelia were razed to the ground. Even the German units sent to Hitler's rescue did not help Finland.

As they fled the Soviet territory, the Finnish leadership issued an order to destroy everything in their path. This was the "scorched earth" tactic that Hitler's Germany also implemented in the Soviet Union. Thus, before leaving Petrozavodsk, the Finns blew up a power plant, set fire to a sawmill, destroyed and rendered unusable 660 residential and administrative buildings. However, the soldiers and officers who liberated the capital of Soviet Karelia were most shocked by the sight of civilian prisoners released from concentration camps built by the Finns. By the end of 1944, more than 20,000 Soviet citizens, mostly women, the elderly and children, had languished behind the Finnish barbed wire for more than two and a half years. More on this below.

In August 1944, it became quite clear to Helsinki that the continuation of the war against the Soviet Union threatened Finland with immediate and complete collapse. The country faced a deep military, economic and political crisis. The chances of opposing the Red Army were largely pessimistic. The chief operating officer of the headquarters, lieutenant general Airo, made the most clear. His report indicated that Finland could last no more than three months, even under "favourable conditions".

The position of the Wehrmacht on the Soviet-German front deteriorated sharply in July 1944. In these circumstances, Helsinki would have been naive to expect further aid from Berlin. The Finnish leadership had to choose priorities on which the fate of the country literally depended. It was pointless for the Finns to prolong the fight against the Red Army.

On the first of August, President Ryti, who had previously promised the Germans to continue the fight against the Soviet Union, resigned. A few days later he was replaced by Mannerheim, who continued as commander-in-chief. On 17 August, one of Hitler's most trusted men, field marshal Keitel, arrived in Helsinki to investigate the situation on the ground. The Finns informed him that Finland would henceforth act in accordance with its national interests.

The way was open for the resumption of peace talks with Moscow, which were interrupted several times in 1943 and 1944 due to Finnish action. The goal of the Soviet Union was not to deprive Finland of state sovereignty in 1940, nor now. Soon the Soviet ambassador to Sweden, A. M. Kollontai, received a message from the Finnish government asking Moscow to receive their delegation to negotiate an armistice. In response, the Soviet government demanded that the Finns first break off relations with the Third Reich and expel German troops from the country.

In preliminary negotiations between representatives of the Soviet Union and Finland, an armistice agreement was signed concerning the Soviet-Finnish part of the front, which entered into force on September 5, 1944. The Finnish delegation arrived in Moscow on September 7. A week later, negotiations began, which ended with the signing of the armistice agreement on September 19 on terms offered by Moscow.

The terms of the Treaty of armistice signed in Moscow on 19 September 1944 (in which Great Britain also acted as an ally of the Soviet Union) provided for the disarmament of German troops in Finland and their internment from the country; compensation of 300 million dollars by the Finns in various goods; reduction of the Finnish army to peacetime levels; severing diplomatic relations with Germany and its allies; returning Petsamo to the Soviet Union; abolition of all pro-fascist organizations; search for and prosecution of war criminals; Leasing the Porkkala peninsula to the Soviet Union in exchange for the construction of a new Soviet military base. (See also annex 8).

Thus, Finland had to withdraw its troops behind the 1941 border and disarm all German troops on its territory. The Finnish Army followed the retreating German units.

This was not an easy journey for the Finns. Germans left behind minefields, ruins, but not just them...

In their retreat through Finnish territory, the German forces used the familiar "scorched earth" tactic of destroying 4,500 bridges and 725 km of railways, sinking 1,000 ships, blowing up dozens of factories and plants, laying 100,000 mines and burning tens of thousands of homes. In a devastated Finnish village, the Germans left a "humorous" wall inscription: "Thank You Allies".

In October 1944, Soviet troops liberated Petsamo from the Nazis on the coast of the Barents Sea in a strategic offensive against Petsamo-Kirkenes, and in March 1945 Finland declared war on Germany.

In the war against the Soviet Union between 1941 and 1944, Finland lost 82,000 soldiers. Such is the price paid by Finns for their this far latest attempt to create a "Greater Finland".

FINNISH WAR CRIMES 1941–1944

Finnish soldiers committed numerous war crimes on Soviet territory between 1941 and 1944.

Information about Finnish barbarity began to emerge already during the war. In August 1944, Red Army units found the bodies of 400 Soviet soldiers in a walled basement in Patoniemi, Vyborg. The Leningrad front commission reported: "The Finns suffocated the Soviet prisoners of war alive by putting them in a sealed basement."

In 2019, exhumations by the Russian Military Historical Society in Sandarmokh near Medvezhegorsk found evidence of the executions of Soviet citizens who were working on Finnish fortifications. Of the 16 bodies found, nine were identified as women. Buttons decorated with a star and other objects found in the remains of clothing suggest that some of those executed were Red Army soldiers. The casings found in the graves came from Colt revolvers, which only Finnish army used in Karelia.

During the war, Finland took 64,000 Red Army soldiers as prisoners of war, 19,000 of whom died from exhaustion, illness, cold, torture and executions. The Finns treated Soviet prisoners of war worse than cattle. From 1941 to early 1942 the provisions were below the standard required for survival. The sick and wounded received virtually no treatment. According to modern scholars, the fate of Soviet prisoners of war at the hands of the Finns was the same, or in some cases even worse, than in German camps.

From the documents of the Soviet officers from December 1943, we know that the Finns deliberately starved Soviet prisoners of war. For example, J. Viitaniemi, a Finnish soldier taken prisoner from the front line, told about a POW camp in Vyborg: "Many people died of hunger there every day, Russian prisoners eat cats and crows," the Finn testified.

Further research and an accurate legal assessment are needed of the brutal medical experiments carried out by the Finns with prisoners of war. The Swedish Folksviljan paper reported on December 5, 1943:

In Finland, medical tests are carried out on Russian prisoners of War – – Finnish doctors use Russian prisoners to determine how much air can be injected into a person's blood until death – –

The Finns did not treat Soviet civilians any better. Almost all Russians living in Soviet Karelia were put in concentration camps soon after the occupation began. The Finns founded 14 large concentration camps and dozens of small ones, in which thousands of civilians died. The exact figures have not been worked out. But according to Russian researchers, Finnish fascists alone held 30,000 people in Petrozavodsk concentration camps. Of these, around 16,000 perished in terrible conditions under torture, or were simply killed. The death toll in the concentration camps set up by the Finnish glass occupier in Soviet Karelia may be twice as high.

These acts which followed racial doctrines can be classified not only as war crimes, but also as evidence of the genocide committed by Finland against Soviet citizens.

The seven Russian concentration camps in Petrozavodsk (later called "transfer camps" by the Finns) housed young men and women, the elderly and children. The slightest violation, such as not following a work schedule, resulted in severe punishment from the Finnish guards – public flogging or shooting. Finnish guards were allowed to kill if a child prisoner took a piece of bread passed through barbed wire from compassionate people.

The memoirs of Soviet prisoners who survived Finnish concentration camps are terrible to read, so full of their words are pain and suffering:

Lenina Makeyeva:

The Finns forced us into barracks that were already surrounded by barbed wire. Our family had grown. There were five of us, and grandma and grandpa were brought in from the village. We were housed in a 15-square-foot room with five families, for a total of 21 people. In conditions of hunger, cold and lack of medicine, whole families died. We too did not escape this grief. Grandma and grandpa died in a row. My mother's health deteriorated, suffering from night blindness and anemia. My younger sisters Galya and Nina died from lack of breast milk – –

Raisa Filippova:

When I turned 11, my family and I were sent to Petrozavodsk camp no. 6 Perevalka district. We had to flee to the city so we wouldn't starve to death. Sometimes we were given something from a kitchen or the barracks. Once we were returning to camp. The guard who had let us out did not resist and let us through the gate, but when we returned there was a different guard who handed

us over to the commandant's office. We were taken to a shed, laid on long benches, and whipped 15 to 25 times with a rubber whip. After the flogging, our mothers carried us back to the barracks in their arms. Some of my brothers and sisters died because they could not cope with hunger and the cruel life in the camp – –

Aleksandr Vostryakov:

The camp, fenced with barbed wire, was surrounded by patrols, and there were guard towers. There were 16 of us in the room. Many died, especially in late 1941 and early 1942 – we only had 100 grams of bread a day and 300 grams of potatoes, some grits. Our clothes and shoes were so worn that we walked barefoot and half-naked. This childhood was not only difficult but painfully humiliating. Children were subjected to forced labour at the age of 12 and subjected at all costs. The Red Cross maybe helped someone, but neither our family nor others in our barracks saw this help. Only after the crushing defeat of the Germans in Stalingrad did the Finnish attitude towards the campers change somewhat – –

To Finns, Russians were inferior people. Neither the Finnish authorities nor the army, including Mannerheim, were moved by their suffering and death. As for Soviet-Jewish prisoners of war, the Finns preferred to hand them over to the Germans for immediate execution.

However, the Finnish fascist leadership considered in full accordance with racist theory that the Finns themselves were racially superior to other Finno-Ugric peoples. This was fully reflected in the attitude of, for example, the Ingrian Finns who lived from ancient times at the southeast of the Gulf of Finland. During the German occupation of the Leningrad region, they were transported from the German occupation zone to Finland at the suggestion of the Finnish leadership. In other words, Finland as well as the Third Reich exploited foreign forced labour even though the Finns did not call them foreigners.

The Ingrian Finns are a people who lived in the Leningrad region south of the city of Neva before the war. Their total number reached 150,000 by 1941. When German troops approached Leningrad from the south in August-September 1941, about 80,000 Ingrian Finns ended up in the German occupation zone. Soon it was agreed to take them to Finland.

Between 1942 and 1943, about 60,000 Ingrian Finns (adults and underaged Soviet citizens) were forcibly relocated to Finland. They were mainly used on private farms. Although Ingrian Finns were considered a kindred people, in Finland they were treated as second-class citizens. According to documents found in Russian archives, their conditions of forced labour were extremely poor. After the armistice between the Soviet Union and Finland in 1944, the Ingrian Finns were returned to their homeland.

By the beginning of December 1944, Ingrian Finns abducted to Finland submitted 46,327 applications for their return to the Soviet Union at the Soviet assembly centre on the border with Finland.

According to accounts of their lives in Finland, the Ingrian Finns were treated like cattle by their Finnish hosts, beaten and harassed constantly.

Even before the start of the war against the Soviet Union, in March 1941, an agreement was reached between Helsinki and Berlin to offer Finnish volunteers the opportunity to go to special camps in Germany for military training. On the basis of this decision, a special battalion was established in Finland, which then took part in battles against the Soviet Union as part of the SS-Wiking division.

In 1941, about 3,000 Finns expressed their desire to serve in the SS Volunteer Unit. Many Finns welcomed the participation of Finnish SS men in the "fight against Bolshevism" on the Eastern Front. However, there was great concern in the United States that the Finns, with whom the United States still maintained diplomatic relations, were resolutely fighting for the interests of the Third Reich. The inconvenience of the situation began to be felt in Helsinki.

In the summer and autumn of 1942, the Finnish SS battalion participated in combat operations in the North Caucasus as part of the division SS-Wiking. The Finns suffered significant losses, but did not achieve great success. Finnish SS men and their "colleagues" from other countries attracted attention mainly by the cruel treatment of the Soviet population and prisoners of war. It was not until June 1943 that a decision was made in Helsinki to repatriate the Finnish SS battalion.

There is evidence that Finnish "volunteers" served not only in this separate SS battalion, but also in other SS extermination units on the Soviet and German fronts. From the documents of the Finnish War archive, we know that there were many Finns in the SS-Nordland Division among other Scandinavians.

The participation of Finns in the fight against Soviet partisans and punitive measures against the civilian population in Pskov, Novgorod, Kalinin and other occupied territories of the Soviet Union was known to the Soviet leadership as early as the end of 1941. A number of document sources on the subject are kept in the of the Russian defense ministry central archive.

In particular, reports from the partisan section of the northwest front (since 1942 the operative group of the partisan movement) said that "Finnish executioners" were seen in December 1941 in the village of Vyazovka near Staraya Russa. There was a garrison of up to 300. At the same time, in December, German officers organized a punitive expedition of over 4,000 soldiers against detachments of the 2nd partisan brigade led by comrade Vasilyev.

In addition to German units, various formations of Latvians, Estonians and Finns took part in the anti-partisan struggle and massacres of civilians in the Novgorod region. Between 1 and 7 December 1941 alone, one of these terror groups burned 20 Russian villages completely and 19 partially, and hanged 101 party activists, Soviet officials or ordinary collective farm workers. The Soviet partisans managed to retreat into the forests of Novgorod, but were able to fight.

In August 1942, German officers ordered a new extermination campaign against the partisan areas of Novgorod and Pskov. Once again, Finnish departments were involved. This became clear during the battles of the 3rd partisan brigade led by Comrade German against the Penal expeditions in the area of the village of Vyazovka. Both German and Finnish identity documents were found on the enemy soldiers killed. Fighting in this section was particularly intense and resulted in significant losses for both sides. The participation of Finnish soldiers in the August 1942 punitive expedition, during which many civilians were murdered, is confirmed by the interrogations of captured German soldiers. According to a corporal of the 8th panzer division captured by partisans, a 250-strong force was pulled from the direction of Leno village in Holm city, including 40 Finnish executioners.

The conclusion is that as an ally of Hitlerite Germany, Finland not only participated in the division of Soviet lands together with Nazi Germany, but also directly and immediately participated in the Nazi genocide policy against the Soviet people. The Finns carried out ethnic cleansing and sent the Russian population of Karelia to concentration camps, which were in fact death camps. In June 2024, the first deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, Rashid Nurgaliyev, commented on these events as follows:

Finnish documents from 1940-1941 confirm that an unprecedented genocide was planned in Finland against the Russian people. On 8 July 1941, the day before the attack by Finnish troops on the Northern Ladoga Lake, Gustav Mannerheim, a former general of the Imperial Russian Army, issued the headquarters order No. 132, the fourth paragraph of which states: "The Russian population must be imprisoned and sent to concentration camps." Thus, the fate of the Russian population had been determined even before the invasion of the territory.

HOW THE SOVIET UNION FORGAVE AND REVIVED FINLAND

In the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947, Finland accepted the new Soviet-Finnish border and the demilitarized status of Åland. Later, as a goodwill gesture, the Soviet Union renounced the lease of the Porkkala military base.

For some reason, the "bloody dictator" did not demand that the Finns hand over their war criminals, as stipulated in the Moscow armistice of September 19, 1944. A fair trial would surely have taken Mannerheim and his henchmen to the gallows. But all

Moscow needed was Finland's neutrality and loyalty.

Stalin did not care about the domestic politics of the Finns, but the Soviet Union opened its own internal markets to Finland. In 1948, the Soviet Union and Finland signed a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, which defined the relations between the Soviet Union and Finland for years to come. Finland's position as a neutral and capitalist country but friendly to the Soviet Union gave rise to the term "Finlandisation" in the West.

Bilateral or clearing trade existed between the Soviet Union and Finland, in which import and export volumes were equal. Neutrality, cheap raw materials from Russia and a market economy allowed Finland to flourish.

Nikita Khrushchov, First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, repeatedly visited Finnish sauna with the president of Finland Urho Kekkonen. Such "sauna diplomacy" became one of the symbols of the confidential relations between the Soviet Union and Finland.

ADVANTAGES OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY IN THE 1970S AND 1980S

In the 1970s, the Soviet Union became Finland's most important trading partner (25 % of Finland's foreign trade). At the same time, Finns exported to the east what they could not sell to the west: various ships, food, textiles and consumer goods. In return, Finland received energy resources (oil, gas), other mineral resources and wood at reduced prices. This is how the Finnish economy was supported.

Thanks to the Soviet Union, Finland avoided both rising unemployment and the economic crises caused by rising world oil prices in other industrialized countries. At the same time, Helsinki signed agreements with both the EEC and Comecon.

Finland and the Soviet Union built factories that provided livelihoods and work for thousands of Finns. An example is the construction of the Kostomuksha mining and processing plant in Karelia.

Finnish citizens not only lived well, but also drank well at the expense of the Soviet Union. For many people in Leningrad, the Finns of the 1960s–1980s were primarily associated with "vodka tourism". On weekends, Finns came to Leningrad in groups, got drunk on cheap alcohol and crammed back into buses that delivered them home, almost unconscious. The "alcohol trails" of Finns in the Soviet Union never closed due to the high prices of their own alcoholic beverages.

"GREATER FINLAND" IN THE 21ST CENTURY

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Finland fell into recession. Finland's gross domestic product fell 11 % by 1993. But as Russia got back on its feet, mutually beneficial relations between the two countries revived.

Russian tourists fell in love with Finland. In 2013 alone, 5.5 million Russians visited Finland, leaving billions of euros. When the Finns closed the border with Russia, the tourism industry suffered losses of three billion euros a year.

After Crimea rejoined Russia, Finland joined the sanctions against Moscow. Since the start of the Special Military Operation, the Finns have supplied the neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine with weapons and military equipment worth more than 1.5 billion euros. Finnish "volunteers" take part in military operations with Ukro-Nazi armed forces against Russian troops.

Everything is similar to what happened during the Great Patriotic War, when SS "volunteers" from Finland fought against the Red Army and the peaceful Soviet population.

Finland became a member of NATO in 2023. Now more than 1,300 kilometres of the once peaceful border between the two countries has been turned into a potential attack bridgehead for the North Atlantic bloc.

NATO military exercises are taking place on Finnish territory. Finland's foreign ministry today does not rule out sending Western troops to Ukraine.

Finland's actions today weaken international security and increase the risk of global war. Is it possible that Finland's weak-headed leadership will revive the dream of a "greater Finland" under NATO's wings? In fact, quite a few Finnish leaders would like to see the Finnish eastern border located somewhere far away, all the way to the Urals.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. TREATY OF NYSTAD BETWEEN RUSSIA AND SWEDEN, AUGUST 30, 1721 (extracts)

An agreement that was made at the congress of Nystad by authorized ministers — — for eternal peace between two states.

1. From now on, land and sea shall have a lasting eternal, true and inviolable peace, with a genuine agreement and an inviolable eternal obligation of friendship — —
2. Both countries will implement a general amnesty and will forever forget all that

was carried out and done during the ongoing war with either country, whether hostile or damaging, whether armed or otherwise, so that it will never be mentioned again –
–

4. His Majesty The King of Sweden hereby cedes to the complete, absolute and eternal control and ownership of the Russian state the provinces conquered with arms from the Swedish crown in this war: Livonia, Estonia, Ingria and part of Karelia along with Vyborg County, – – and the cities and fortifications of Riga, Dunaminda, Pernava, Reval, Dorpat, Narva, Vyborg, Korela, and all the other cities, fortifications, ports, places, districts, beaches of the above provinces, and the islands of Ösel, Dago and Mön, and all the others from the border with Courland on the coasts of Livonia, Estonia and Ingria, and on the eastern side of the route from Reval to Vyborg, on the southern and eastern side of the islands, with all the same as in the above provinces, cities and towns; and places with their inhabitants and population centres and, in general, all of them – – with rights and interests in everything, without ruling anything out, on how the Swedish crown owned, used and exploited them – –

9. His Imperial Excellency promises that all inhabitants of the Livonian and Estonian provinces and the island of Ösel, both nobles and non-nobles, as well as towns, magistrates, guilds and councils in these provinces, which are subject to Swedish rule and which have privileges, customs and rights, will be maintained and protected continuously and without wavering.

10. similarly, such ceded lands should not introduce the compulsion of conscience, but rather preserve the evangelical faith, churches and schools, and related matters on the same basis as under the last Swedish government. However, the faith of the Greek confession can and can be spread freely and unhindered in them. – –

14. On both sides, prisoners of war, regardless of their nationality, rank or status, will be released immediately after the subsequent ratification of this peace treaty without ransom. – – This also applies to all people who have been taken from either side during this war and who can and will remain at their own discretion or return to their homes freely – –

Source: Под стягом России: Сборник архивных документов. М., Русская книга, 1992.

ANNEX 2. THE MANIFESTO OF EMPEROR ALEXANDER I ON THE CONQUEST AND UNITING OF SWEDEN'S FINLAND FOREVER WITH RUSSIA 20 MARCH 1808

From the declarations made at the time, we know the righteous reasons that led us to break away from Sweden and send our troops to Finland of Sweden.

The security of our Fatherland required us to take these measures.

The Swedish King's apparent penchant for a hostile power against us, his new alliance with it, and finally a violent and unbelievable act against our ambassador in Stockholm, an event that was offensive to our Empire, also contrary to all the rights held holy in the enlightened countries, turned the military precaution into a necessary pause and made war inevitable.

The Almighty has backed up our cause with his righteous help.

With their usual courage, Our troops fought the obstacles and overcame all the difficulties in front of them, worked their way through places hitherto considered impenetrable, met the enemy everywhere and bravely defeated him, conquered and occupied almost all of Sweden's Finland.

This land, thus conquered with Our weapons, We shall henceforth and forever unite with the Russian Empire, and as a result We have ordered to take from the inhabitants an oath to the faithful subjection of Our throne.

In announcing this union to Our faithful subjects we affirm that, sharing our feelings of appreciation and gratitude to the throne of the Almighty, they will pour out their warm prayers that his Almighty power may bring our brave army in its future feats, that it may bless and crown our weapons with successes and remove from the borders of our Fatherland the calamities with which the enemies tried to upset it.

Issued in St. Petersburg, March 20, 1808

Signed by Emperor Alexander I and certified by the minister of Foreign Affairs Count Nikolai Rumyantsev

Source: Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание первое. Том 30. 1808-1809. СПб., 1830.

ANNEX 3. MANIFESTO OF EMPEROR ALEXANDER I ON THE UNITING OF FINLAND 5 JUNE 1808

By the grace of God We, Alexander the First, Emperor and Autocrat of all Russia, etc. et al. et al. To our loyal subjects, to the people of newly united Finland, regardless of rank and status.

According to the destinies imposed by the omnipotent who blessed our weapons, after we have forever united Finland to Russia, we have seen with joy the solemn vows made by the inhabitants of this country of loyal and eternal subjection to the Scepter of Russia.

Together with this we have assumed for ourselves a sacred obligation to preserve this heritage entrusted to us by providence in all its inviolability and continued and eternal unity with Russia.

Among the nations under the Scepter of Russia and forming a united empire, the inhabitants of a united Finland have henceforth taken their place forever.

Nothing can tear them out of this grand assembly against the will and predetermined decisions of the Supreme. The same providence that helped our brave army in the possession of this country protects us in its unbroken respect.

People of Finland! May these truths be indelibly sealed in your hearts. The fortunes of many peoples who rest by our throne are just as precious in our hearts; in joining together in the whole of our Empire you have also acquired the same equal rights with them.

In addition to the ancient facilities that characterize your country and that we hold sacred, a new field of activity and diligence is opening up.

Under the strong shield of Russia, your agriculture, your trade, your craftsmanship, all the sources of national wealth will breathe new life and expand.

We will soon recognize all your needs, and we will not hesitate to lend a helping hand and support.

Our weapons will protect your borders from any encroachment and repel all enemy attacks if they ever dare to disturb your peace.

Commitment, unity and unwavering loyalty are the only compensation we demand and expect from you for all this.

People of Finland! Do not let rumors and temptations distract you, even if our enemies, against all odds, try to spread them among you.

The fate of your country is irrevocably decided. Any talk of restoring Swedish power would be a futile fallacy aimed solely at your detriment. The willingness and participation of residents in such proposals would lead to their inevitable destruction.

We know that some of your countrymen are still serving in Swedish forces and are arming themselves against you. Until now, we have patiently waited for their remorse and submission. Their long-standing resistance has already ended our expectations; but bowing to the fate of the families they have left without a care, we are still ready to accept them as our loyal subjects and erase their mistakes forever from our memory if, within six weeks of the date of publication of this manifesto, they rush to

return.

From now on, may they stop working for a foreign power. Let them return to the bowels of their fatherland, but let them return at once at the appointed time. After that time, and after their repentance, there is no place left.

Faithful people of Finland! Be firm and unwavering in your dedication to Russia. Our word of maintaining your unity is unchanged, and in our imperial grace we are always sympathetic to you.

St. Petersburg, June 1808

The original is signed by His Imperial Majesty in his own hand as follows:

Alexander

Confirms: Minister Count Nikolai Rumyantsev

Source: Шиловский П. Акты, относящиеся к политическому положению Финляндии. СПб., 1903.

ANNEX 4. PEACE TREATY BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION, 12 MARCH 1940

The government of the Republic of Finland, on the one hand, and the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR, on the other, desiring to put an end to the military activities established between the two states and to establish lasting peaceful relations between them, and convinced that the establishment of strict conditions for mutual security, including the security of the cities of Leningrad and Murmansk and the Murmansk railway, is in the interests of both parties, to that end, they considered it necessary to conclude a peace treaty – –

Article 1. Military operations between Finland and the USSR shall be terminated without delay in accordance with the order laid down in the protocol to this treaty.

Article 2. The state border between the Republic of Finland and the USSR shall run along the new line of demarcation, so that the whole Karelian Isthmus, with the city of Vyborg and the Bay of Vyborg with its islands, the western and northern coastal area of Lake Ladoga with the cities of Korela and Sortavala, and the village of Suojärvi, a number of islands in the Gulf of Finland, the area east of Märkäjärvi, and the village of Kuolajärvi, and part of the Sredny and Rybachi peninsulas – according to the map annexed to this treaty – –

Article 3. Each party undertakes, in turn, to refrain from any attack on the other and

to make no alliances or take part in coalition alliances directed against either party.

Article 4. The Republic of Finland agrees to lease to the Soviet Union for thirty years the peninsula of Hanko and the surrounding sea area – – a number of islands included in it – – for the purpose of establishing a military naval base capable of defending the mouth of the Gulf of Finland against aggression, in addition to which, in order to defend the naval base, the Soviet Union is granted the right to maintain at its own expense the necessary number of armed land and air forces.

Within ten days of the engagement of this treaty, the Government of Finland shall withdraw from the Hanko peninsula all its military forces and the Hanko Peninsula and its associated Islands shall enter into the administration of the USSR, in accordance with this article of the treaty.

Article 5. The USSR undertakes to remove its troops from the area of Petsamo, which the Soviet Empire voluntarily ceded to Finland in the 1920 year peace treaty.

Finland undertakes, as stipulated in the peace treaty of 1920, not to keep any warships or other armed ships in the waters of the Arctic ocean under its ownership, with the exception of vessels smaller than one hundred tons, which Finland has the right to keep without restriction, and no more than fifteen pieces of warships or other armed ships, none of which have a bearing capacity greater than four hundred tons.

Finland undertakes, as stipulated in the same treaty, not to keep any underwater ships or armed aircraft in those waters.

Finland also undertakes, as stipulated in the same treaty, not to build on this coast any ports of war, naval bases and repair shops larger in scope than is necessary for the said ships and their armament.

Article 6. The Soviet Union and its citizens, as provided for in the 1920-year treaty, are granted the right of free transit through the territory of Petsamo to and from Norway, in addition to which the Soviet Union is granted the right to establish a consular office in the territory of Petsamo.

Goods transiting through the territory of Petsamo from the Soviet Union to Norway, as well as goods transiting through the same territory from Norway to the Soviet Union, shall be exempt from inspection and control, except for the control necessary for the organisation of transit traffic; neither customs, transit or other charges shall be levied. – –

Citizens of the Soviet Union travelling through the territory of Petsamo to Norway and from Norway back to the Soviet Union are entitled to free transit with a passport issued by the relevant Soviet authorities.

By complying with the general regulations in force, unarmed Soviet aircraft have the right to maintain air traffic between the Soviet Union and Norway through the Petsamo area.

Article 7. The Finnish government grants the Soviet Union the right to transit goods between the Soviet Union and Sweden, and in order to develop this transit along the shortest railway, the Soviet Union and Finland consider it necessary to build a railway connecting Kandalaksha with Kemijärvi in their respective territories, if possible during the 1940 years.

Article 8. Under the terms of this Agreement, economic relations between the contracting parties shall be renewed and, to this end, the contracting parties shall enter into negotiations with a view to concluding a trade agreement.

Article 9. This peace agreement will enter into force as soon as it is signed and will have to be ratified at a later date. The exchange of the instruments of ratification will take place within ten days in the city of Moscow.

This treaty was drawn up in two originals, in the Finnish, Swedish and Russian languages, in the city of Moscow, on 12 March 1940.

ANNEX 5. STALIN'S SPEECH ON THE EXPERIENCES OF THE WAR WITH FINLAND, APRIL 1940

Speech by Joseph Stalin at a meeting of the Central Committee and the General Staff of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the experiences of the war against Finland, 14. –17. April 1940.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to address a number of issues which were either not addressed in the speeches or which were raised, but which were not sufficiently addressed. The first question concerns the war with Finland. Did the government and the party act correctly in declaring war on Finland? This issue concerns the Red Army in particular.

Could war have been avoided? I don't think so. Without the war, we would not have survived. The war was necessary because the peace negotiations with Finland had not yielded any results, and the security of Leningrad had to be guaranteed, of course, because its security is the security of our motherland. Not only because Leningrad represents 30–35 % of our country's defence industry, and therefore the fate of our country depends on the integrity and security of Leningrad, but also because Leningrad is our second capital. Breaking into Leningrad, occupying it and, for example, forming a bourgeois government there, a white Guard government, means creating a rather serious basis for an internal civil war against the Soviet government.

So here is the defensive and political importance of Leningrad as an industrial centre and as the second capital of our country. That's why the security of Leningrad is the security of our country. It is clear that since the peace negotiations with Finland did not lead to any results, it was necessary to declare war in order to organize, consolidate and strengthen Leningrad and, by extension, the security of our country through military force.

The second question is, didn't our government and our party rush to declare war in late November and early December? Could we not have delayed this question, waited two, three or four months, prepare and then struck? No. The party and the government acted correctly, without postponing the matter, knowing that we were not yet fully prepared for war under Finnish conditions, and started active military action at the end of November, at the beginning of December. All this depended not only on us, but probably on the international situation. There, in the West, the three main powers are at each other's throats as to when the Leningrad issue should be resolved. In such circumstances, when the hands are busy, we see a favourable situation for beating them at the moment.

It would be great stupidity and political short-sightedness to miss the opportunity and not try to raise and resolve the issue of security in Leningrad as soon as possible, when the war is going on in the West. Postponing this issue by two months would mean postponing this issue by 20 years, because you cannot anticipate everything in politics. There's fighting, but that war is kind of weak, you don't know if you're fighting or playing cards.

What if they suddenly make peace, which is not impossible? Thus, a favourable situation for the defence of Leningrad and for the maintenance of the state is lost. This would be a big mistake.

That is why our government and our party were right not to postpone this issue but to start military operations as soon as the negotiations with Finland had broken down — —

A few more questions. You know that after the initial success of our forces, as soon as the war began, we noticed inconsistencies in all areas. They were discovered because our troops and the officers of our troops were unable to adapt to the conditions of the Finnish war.

The question is, what prevented our troops from adapting to the conditions of the Finnish War? It seems to me that they were particularly hampered by the earlier psychological campaign created among the troops and command staff that beating Finland is no big deal. The Polish campaign caused us terrible damage; it spoiled us. Whole articles were written and speeches were made that our Red Army was invincible, that it had no equal, that it had everything, that there was no shortage of anything — — this boasting must be brought to an end once and for all. We must instill in our people the notion that there is no invincible army — — We must instill in our

people, from officers to rank-and-file, that war is a game with the unknown, that there can be casualties in war. And that's why we have to learn not only to attack, but to retreat. — —

What prevented our military from organizing and adapting quickly to real war rather than picnic — — I think the cult of tradition and the experience of the civil war prevented that. This is how we assess officers: did you take part in the Civil War? If not, go to hell. And did he participate? Yes, he did. Let them come here, he has a lot of experience etc.

I have to say that the experience of the civil war is of course very valuable, the traditions of the civil war are also valuable, but they are totally inadequate. It is the cult of civil war tradition and experience that must end, it prevented our officers from immediately re-organizing in a new way, on the tracks of modern warfare — —

The traditions and experience of the civil war are completely inadequate, and anyone who considers them adequate will surely be destroyed. A commander who believes he can fight and win, relying only on civil war experience, is destroyed as a commander. It is imperative that he supplement his experience in the civil war with that of today.

And what is modern war? Interesting question, What does it take? It will require lots of artillery — — anyone who wants to prepare for the new and modern must understand that artillery will determine the fate of war — —

Second, the air force, a hundred planes are not enough, thousands are needed. Here's the deal: anyone who wants to fight a new war and win a modern war can spare no bombs. Nonsense comrades, the enemy must be bombarded more so that he loses consciousness and his cities turn upside down, then we will achieve victory. The more grenades and shells, the less people we lose. If you save grenades and ammunition, there will be more casualties. You have to choose. When you add more grenades and ammunition, save your army and your strength, there will be far fewer casualties, or would you prefer to save grenades and ammunition.

Then tanks, third, and absolutely, we need a lots of tanks, not hundreds, but thousands. Armoured tanks-that's enough. If the tanks are thick-skinned, they will do wonders with our artillery and infantry. We need to fire more grenades and bullets at the enemy, that is how we save our own people and maintain the strength of the army.

Fourth, mortars, there is no modern war without mortars, you need heavy mortars. All corps, all companies, battalions, regiments must have mortars, definitely 6-inch and 8-inch. This is extremely necessary in modern warfare. These are very effective mortars and very cheap artillery. A grenade launcher is a great thing. Don't spare the mortars! That's our slogan. Spare your people. If you save bombs and grenades, you will not spare your people, people will die. If you want to fight a war with little blood, spare no mortars — —

Do you think we had such an army when we started the war against Finland? No, we didn't. — —

Source: Зимняя война 1939–1940. М., 1999. Кн. 2. И.В. Сталин и финская кампания (Стенограмма совещания при ЦК ВКП(б)) / Отв. ред. Е. Кульков, О. Ржешевский. М., 1999.

ANNEX 6. EXCERPT FROM THE BARBAROSSA PLAN, 1940

Excerpt from Directive no. 21, plan "Barbarossa", 18.12.1940 (paragraphs concerning Finland).

1. In the war against Soviet Russia on the flank of our front, we can count on the active participation of Romania and Finland.

The supreme command of the armed forces will agree and confirm at the appropriate time the form in which the armed forces of both countries will be subordinated to the German leadership when they join the war.

2. Romania's task is to support the German attack on the southern flank with its selected forces, at least at the beginning of it, to bind enemy forces in areas where German troops have not yet been taken into battle, and otherwise to perform support service in the rear.

3. Finland is to take care of the concentration and deployment of a separate German northern group from Norway (as part of the 21st Army) and conduct combat operations together with them. In addition, Finland is responsible for capturing the Hanko peninsula.

Source: Безыменский Л. А. Особая папка «Барбаросса». М.: Издательство Агентства печати Новости, 1973.

ANNEX 7. DRAFT REPLY TO THE SWEDISH MEMORANDUM OF 11 AUGUST 1942

Draft memorandum approved by Stalin in response to the Swedish government's memorandum of 11 August 1942 on the violation of Swedish neutrality

The Soviet government, having read the memorandum issued by the Swedish government on 11 August, cannot consider satisfactory the explanations in the memorandum on the facts concerning the violation of Swedish neutrality — —

As can be seen from the memorandum of the Swedish government, it does not itself dispute, inter alia, the following facts:

- a) Transit of a division of German troops through Swedish territory with the permission of the Swedish government in the summer of 1941 to Finland after Finland had joined the German offensive against the Soviet Union;
- (b) Transportation through Swedish territory of so-called "German vacationers", i.e. German officers and soldiers involved in the war against the Soviet Union and its allies;
- (c) The formation of so-called "volunteer" detachments on Swedish territory and their deployment to Finland under the command of Swedish officers to participate in the war against the Soviet Union.

The mere recognition of these facts fully confirms the validity of the statement of the Soviet government concerning systematic violations of neutrality in Sweden, regardless of the fact that the Swedish government attempts to deny other facts mentioned in the statement of the Soviet government concerning the violations found.

- - The Soviet government has received further information regarding the transport of German troops to Norway and Finland through Swedish territory for military operations against the Soviet Union.

So this year 37 trains carrying German troops passed north through Helsingborg on 15 June – 1 July; 21 trains carrying German troops passed through the same place on 1 July – 10 July; 4 trains carrying German troops passed through Trelleborg on 6 July – 11 July; 7 June – 7 July Boden passed through Finland with 75 wagons carrying German troops and 720 wagons carrying German troops to Norway.

In addition, German troops are transported via Sweden to Finland by sea, in some cases the Swedish navy escorts German military transports for the front carried by German troops. Thus, on 3 July, 11 transport vessels with a displacement of 5,000 tonnes or less, loaded with German troops, left the port of Gävle for Finland, escorted by Swedish military vessels. At the end of July this year, six German troop transports advanced into Swedish waters near Melsten and Nynäshamn, escorted by Swedish military vessels.

As can be seen from these mass transports of German troops through Swedish territory and Swedish waters, we are talking about a systematic and gross violation of Sweden's declared neutrality.

At the same time, the Soviet government cannot ignore the facts of the systematic and massive transport of German military equipment and weapons to the German army via Swedish territory to Finland and Germany-occupied Norway. The Soviet

government also has several new information on this matter. For example, between 15 June and 1 July this year, 59 wagons with aircraft, 32 wagons with guns of different calibre, 25 wagons with searchlights, 293 vehicles with military equipment and 178 wagons with military vehicles passed through Helsingborg to Norway; 1 July and 10 July. in the period between Helsingborg passed through 170 wagons of ammunition, 80 wagons of Guns, 55 wagons of cars, 16 wagons of armoured cars, 13 wagons of Tanks, 14 wagons of searchlights, 23 wagons of aircraft and 1 427 wagons of military equipment for the German and Finnish armies; between 6 July and 11 July 141 wagons of ammunition, 45 wagons of guns, 24 wagons cars and 653 carloads of military equipment to Norway. This year between 7 June and 7 July, 120 carloads of guns, 6 carloads of searchlights, 2 150 carloads of different military equipment passed through Boden to Finland, and 6 carloads of light guns, 80 carloads of heavy guns, 35 carloads of aircraft, 75 carloads of searchlights and 2 700 carloads of different military equipment passed through Norway.

The government of the Soviet Union states that by allowing the mass transport of German military equipment and weapons to the German army through Swedish territory and by providing means of transport and securing such transport, the Swedish government has thus deviated from its declared policy of neutrality and has begun to actively assist one warring party in its military operations against the other warring country.

In view of the above, the Government of the Soviet Union fully maintains its objection against violations of the Swedish neutrality act and the relevant standards of international law and expects the Swedish government to take measures to put an end to these violations.

Archival reference

АВРР РФ. Ф. 06. Оп. 4. П. 26. Д. 284. Л. 23-25

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ANNEX 8. TREATY OF ARMISTICE OF THE SOVIET UNION, GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND WITH FINLAND, 19. SEPTEMBER 1944

Since the Government of Finland has accepted the pre-condition of the Soviet government for the cessation of relations with Germany and the withdrawal of German troops from Finland, and considering that the conclusion of the future peace treaty will be facilitated by the inclusion in the Armistice of certain terms of this peace treaty of the Government of the USSR and His Majesty's government in Great Britain and Northern Ireland acting in the name of all United Nations in a state of war with Finland, on the one hand, and the Government of Finland, on the other, have decided to conclude this armistice agreement, the implementation of which will be

overseen by the Supreme Military Command of the Soviet Union, which will also act on behalf of the United Nations in a state of war with Finland, and which will be later referred to as the "Supreme Military Command of the Allies (of the Soviet Union)".

On the basis of the above, the representative of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, Colonel General A. A. Shdanov, and the representatives of the Finnish government – have signed the following terms and conditions:

1. In connection with the cessation of military operations on the Finnish side on 4 September 1944 and on the Soviet side on 5 September 1944, Finland undertakes to move its troops beyond the 1940 Soviet-Finnish border, as laid down in the annex to this treaty – –

2. Finland undertakes to disarm the German land, sea and air forces remaining in Finland after 15 September 1944 and to hand over their personnel to the Allied (Soviet) High Command, whose task the Government of the Soviet Union will assist the Finnish Army in carrying out.

The Finnish government also undertakes to intern German and Hungarian citizens on its territory – –

3. Finland undertakes, at the request of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, to make the airports on the south and southwest coasts of Finland, with all their equipment, available to it as Soviet air bases for the period necessary for air operations against German troops in Estonia and German naval forces operating in the north of the Baltic Sea – –

4. Finland undertakes to put its army on a peacetime position within two and a half months after the signing of this treaty – –

5. Finland, which has severed all relations with Germany, also undertakes to sever all relations with German vassal states – –

6. The terms of the peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Finland signed in Moscow on 12 March 1940 will be restored with the amendments resulting from this treaty.

7. Finland shall return to the Soviet Union the territory of Petsamo voluntarily ceded to Finland in accordance with the peace treaties of 14 October 1920 and 12 March 1940, as defined in the annex to this treaty and shown on the map following the treaty – –

8. The Soviet Union renounces its lease rights on the Hanko peninsula, which were granted to it by the Treaty of peace between Finland and the Soviet Union of 12 March 1940, while Finland undertakes to lease to the Soviet Union land and water in

the Porkkala peninsula areas for the establishment of a naval base there. – –

9. The terms of the agreement between the Soviet Union and Finland of 11 October 1940 on the Åland Islands are again put into effect in all respects.

10. Finland undertakes without delay to hand over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all Soviet and Allied prisoners of war currently held by it and also those citizens of the Soviet Union and allied nations who have been interned and forcibly brought to Finland for return to their homeland.

From the time of signature of this treaty until repatriation, Finland undertakes, at its own expense, to provide all Soviet and Allied prisoners, as well as forcibly removed and interned citizens, with the necessary food, clothing and medical care in accordance with medical requirements and also to provide transport facilities for their repatriation.

At the same time, Finnish prisoners of war and interned persons who are now on the territory of Allied nations will be handed over to Finland.

11. Finland undertakes to compensate the Soviet Union for the damages caused by Finland as a result of the military actions and the occupation of the territory of the Soviet Union in the amount of USD 300 million to be paid in the form of goods (timber, paper, cellulose, sea and river vessels, various machinery) over six years.

Finland shall also, at a later date, compensate for the damage caused to the property of other allied nations and their citizens in Finland during the war, in which case the amount of compensation shall be fixed separately. – –

12. Finland undertakes to restore all the legal rights and interests of the United Nations and their citizens in the Finnish territory as they existed before the war, as well as to restore the property of these states and their citizens in full good condition.

13. Finland undertakes to cooperate with Allied Powers in the arrest and conviction of persons accused of war crimes.

14. Finland undertakes, within a period fixed by the Allied (Soviet) High Command, to return to the Soviet Union all valuables and goods transferred from its territory to Finland during the war belonging to the state, public and cooperative organisations, production facilities and agencies or to private citizens, such as plant and plant machinery, locomotives, railway wagons, seagoing vessels, tractors, motor vehicles, historical monuments, museum valuables and all other property in perfectly good condition.

15. Finland undertakes, as spoils of war, to surrender to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all military property belonging to Germany and its vassals on Finnish

territory, as well as warships and other vessels belonging to these countries and in Finnish territorial waters.

16. Finland undertakes not to permit the export or forced removal of any property (including valuables and currencies) belonging to Germany and Hungary, their nationals or persons residing in their territories or in the territories occupied by them, without the consent of the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

17. Finnish merchant vessels, except those already under Allied Control, shall be placed under the control of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for use in the general interests of the Allies.

18. Finland undertakes to turn over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all ships belonging to the United Nations and in Finnish ports, regardless of who holds them, for use by the Allied (Soviet) High Command for the duration of the war against Germany in the general interests of the Allies. These ships will be returned to their owners after the war.

19. Finland shall also make available to the United Nations such supplies and products as these nations may require for war-related purposes.

20. Finland undertakes to release without delay, regardless of nationality or nationality, all persons held in detention on account of their activities for the benefit of the United Nations or their compassion for the cause of the United Nations or their racial origin, and also to abolish all discriminatory laws and restrictions resulting therefrom.

21. Finland undertakes to immediately disband all organisations of a Hitlerist (fascist) political, military and military nature operating on its territory, as well as other organisations that carry out propaganda hostile to the United Nations and especially to the Soviet Union, and in future not to allow such organisations to exist.

22. this treaty requires the formation of an Allied Control Commission which, until peace is made, shall be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of these treaty terms under the command of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, acting in the name of the Allied Powers; – –

23. this Agreement shall enter into force from the date of signature.

Made in Moscow on 19 September 1944 in a single copy, to be handed over to the government of the USSR for safekeeping, in the Russian, English and Finnish languages, in which case the Russian and English texts are authentic. – –

A. Zhdanov

Authorised by the government of Finland

C. Enckell, R. Waldén, E. Heinrichs, O. Enckell