

NIGHTFALL OVER SWEDEN



Written by Kateryna and ANZAC

Kingdom of Sweden Proposal

“Equality is a utopia that is still far from being realised in Swedish society where so much of old class prejudices and real class differences still live on. And it is a utopia that must be constantly re-formulated and constantly re-conquered. Because in a dynamic development there is always the danger that new privileges will be consolidated, new boundaries will be drawn and new divides will be dug up between people. An essential part of socialism's distinctive character and future task lies in the pursuit of equality.”

- Olof Palme

Forewords	3
Initial Statement	3
Themes	3
Zeth Höglund, Nikolai Bukharin, Nils Flyg and Karl Kilbom	3
Social Democrats and National Socialism	4
Chapter I: Sweden in 1938-1939	6
The Stockholm Plan	6
The Start of the Second World War	8
Government Crisis	13
Chapter II: The Winter War	16
Ministär Nothin	16
Sweden In the Winter War	17
After the March Peace	18
Chapter III: The Fall of Norway	19
April 9th	19
The Transit Question	20
Trade Policy	21
1940 Election	22
Chapter IV: Operation Barbarossa	24
The Coming War	24
Midsummer Crisis	25
February Crisis	26
The May Crisis - Operation Sea Lion and Stalin's Coup	26
1944 Election	28
Chapter V: Nightfall	29
The End of the Coalition Government	29
Allan Vougt	30
Möller Becomes Prime Minister	30
The Helsinki Treaty	32
1948 Election	32
Chapter VI: Sweden in the New Order	34
Death of Gustaf V	34
1952 Election	35
The German Crash	35
The 1956 Election	36
Sirius and Vega	36
The Pension Reform Crisis	37
Flow of Skeleton	39
The Early Game	39
Bornholm Affair	39
Nausta Nuclear Test	39
Second Pension Vote	40
1964 SAP Congress - Möller Resigns	40
1964 Elections	41
Borgerlig Victory	41
Finland Crisis	42
The Left Wave	42
SAP 1968 Congress - Möller Resigns	43
1968 Elections	43
Constitutional Reform	44
1970 Elections	44
Oil Crisis	44
German-Swedish Relations	45
Epilogue	45
List of the Prime Ministers of Sweden	46
Characters and In-game Cabinets	48
Initial Note	48
Political Parties	74
National Spirits	76

Forewords

[Mood for reading](#)

Initial Statement

This document is a reworked proposal for the current Swedish starting situation found in TNO. It has been drafted as a result of the previous Swedish designer being removed from their position. Notwithstanding the many differing opinions of the previous design, this document is not intended as a piece of criticism towards what the previous designer had planned. Please do not treat it as a smear piece. The goal is to give clear guidance on what comes next.

Themes

- **Equality at What Cost?** - Swedish society is much more equal in terms of social status, no longer is there a significant disparity between classes as in the past due to Folkhemmet, but this heaven was built off fueling hell, thanks to Swedish iron exports, the German war machine was able to dominate Europe and destroy it.
- **What is Swedish Democracy?** - The question of defining what is Sweden's democracy is one that has been left hanging ever since 1911. The king still holds immense power of government, despite not using it. The election and bicameral system is biased, and one party is able to have a monopoly hold over the country. The player will be the one to answer that question, whether it be a democracy under the eye of the monarch, a democracy of one party for the people, or a democracy of diverse minds and ideas.

Zeth Höglund, Nikolai Bukharin, Nils Flyg and Karl Kilbom

The rise of Bukharin in TNO and the disjointed nature of Soviet foreign policy will cause Sweden to divert from our timeline in their history. Thus I, Kateryna, feel the need to address the elephant in the room, Nils Flyg and the SP (later known as the SSP).

To begin in the 20s with the change of course in Swedish communist history, Zeth Höglund would, together with the youth association, leave the Social Democratic Workers' Party (SAP) in 1917 and form Sweden's Social Democratic Left Party (SSV), which would become Sweden's first communist party, he would become the first leader of the party. Höglund was a good friend of Lenin and praised the October Revolution. It would tie itself to the comintern and be renamed to the Swedish Communist Party (SKP). While Zeth Höglund was removed from the SKP in 1924, with Bukharin in charge this was avoidable, but I have opted to keep him from being forced out of the party and joining the social democrats again. Zeth Höglund was still rebellious against the communist line, this included not wanting to rename the party to include the name "Communist Party" and wanting to keep the old distinction of "Social

Democratic”. But as an extension of Bukharin’s ascension, Karl Kilbom and the "Kilbomarna" faction (which included Nils Flyg) would not get removed from the party in 1929.

The removal of the "Kilbomarna" from the SKP led to them forming their own and more popular communist party which would also hold the name SKP, they were known as the “Kilbomarna” (as I have referred to them previously). Nils Flyg became the leader of this party and his disillusion with Stalin led to Flyg renaming the party to the Socialist Party in 1934. Kilbom remained as the primary ideologue of the party until 1937 when he was kicked out of the party by Flyg. This party would infamously take a pro-nazi stance during Operation Barbarossa. Due to the divergence of Soviet history in TNO, a lot of this is avoidable, meaning that Zeth Höglund, Karl Kilbom and Nils Flyg could remain in the communist party created in 1917 and support Bukharin. Though Zeth Höglund will still be expelled from the Swedish communist party in 1924 like our timeline as I had previously, Nils Flyg will not. There are further reasons to keep Flyg in the communist party, such as his turn to pro-nazism having effectively been his last choice after the participation of the SP in the International Communist Opposition and later the London Bureau further corroborating that this came exclusively from his opposition from Stalin, nothing else.

With this explanation I will make the statement that this proposal introduces the **complete** removal of the SSSP as imagined by the previous designer, and none of its elements will appear. The course of the NSAP/SSS will be different from what was originally imagined. The Swedish far right will be represented by the SNF, NSR and SSS. These three movements have formed a National Front in 1944, which entails a joint electoral list that these three fall under.

Social Democrats and National Socialism

It has been a common statement within the TNO community to describe Sweden as effectively being a crypto-nazi country, and that the majority of the Swedish Social Democrats would support Nazi German foreign policy. I do not blame one person for this, as this has been commonplace for a while, but it is a disrespectful and oversimplistic point of view, as it ignores the complexities and genuine opportunism of what made Sweden act the way it did towards Germany, and mind you while the Social Democrats did lead the government, it consisted of a large coalition government from all sides of the Swedish political spectrum, excluding the far right and far left. The Social democrats did not even hold a majority of cabinet positions within this government. Using the Swedish eugenics program as an example of why the Social Democrats would be pro-nazi is disingenuous, as this program had the support of the wider political spectrum at the time.

It is though important to note that the Social Democrats were open to collaboration as far as it entailed Sweden not being dragged into the war itself, the Swedish government did in fact opportunistically lie to its people about the extent of the transit of German soldiers, equipment et cetera. Several social democratic politicians acknowledged that they broke their

own line of neutrality, these included men such as Prime Minister Per Albin Hansson, Finance Minister Ernst Wigforss, future Prime Minister Tage Erlander, Zeth Höglund and those men that opposed these collaborative politics. Part of this can be traced back to when Allied forces requested permission to transfer troops through Sweden to reinforce Finland, which Sweden rejected on the grounds of neutrality. Thus Sweden accepting such a demand from Germany does entail them supporting Germany and breaking their neutrality, even if it was to a degree unwillingly. As the previously written theme noted, in TNO Sweden is a country built on the dirty strategies it used to survive a potential Nazi invasion. But it's important to note that there was no "pro-german" and "anti-german" SAP, this is a critical misrepresentation and fails to comprehend that each and every member of the Social Democrats had a unique opinion on every collaborative issue with Germany, the more German-friendly Allan Vougt for an example opposed the transfer of Engelbrecht Division through Sweden.

Generally I believe it is optimal to classify Swedish politics during the Second World War into two camps: there were the anti-concessionists i.e those that entirely opposed concessions to Germany. Then you had the concessionists, who were those that could consider making certain concessions to Germany. But what concessions these politicians could accept were dependent on the individual politician's interpretation as previously stated, with Allan Vougt used as an example. There was no real consensus, the only one that existed was to de-facto keep Sweden out of the war. De-jure it remained to maintain neutrality. Generally this debate will not matter as the concessionists will fall out of favour and those more sceptical to Germany were far more likely to succeed. You can reasonably see this with the 1946 SAP congress, where both Möller and Erlander were generally not entirely in favour of the previous policy- with Erlander having written in his Diary that Sweden should have considered cutting its exports to Germany and joining the war on the allied side.

Further information on German and Swedish foreign policy lies in the lore section of the document itself, though due to the large nature of it, I can understand that not everyone will read everything. If you need a description of German-Swedish relations, read page 21, 26 and 45 as the German strategies present there are indicative of what will occur in the skeleton content.

Chapter I: Sweden in 1938-1939

The Stockholm Plan

During 1938 negotiations took place between Finland and Sweden regarding the fate of the Åland convention. It was believed that the 1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement had undermined the convention, because in reality the treaty meant that the English withdrew from the Baltic Sea. This undermined the 1921 Åland convention as it stipulated that the signatories would intervene if the Åland Region's neutrality was violated.



The negotiations resulted in the Stockholm plan¹, which denoted a limited remilitarization of the Åland islands with some islands in the south east being militarised and a guarantee that Sweden would come to the island's defence, with Sweden being permitted to send soldiers to Åland in times of need. When it came time for approval from the signatories of the Åland convention, the European power's effective withdrawal from the Baltic Sea meant they took no issue with the Stockholm plan and approved it. The only nations that could raise objections were the Germans and Soviets. But no such objection from the Germans came. Despite the Soviet Union not being a signatory of the Åland convention, Swedish policy makers still sought their approval, the Soviets' would approve of the Swedish-Finnish plan as it was designed as a countermeasure against Germany. Many foreign policy makers did not view the Soviet Union as a threat at this time, and in fact saw them as a counter balance to Germany, despite their fervent anti-communism. Ernst Wigforss would be disappointed in this decision, believing it to be too provocative.

Opposition would come from the islands' populace themselves, as their opposition to the remilitarization proved to be embarrassing for the Swedish foreign affairs management. The Ålanders showed an almost complete incomprehension of the Swedish-Finnish points of view. Instead of accepting the opportunities of help they had with open arms fought against the plans. The resistance would leave a bitter taste.

Despite these issues, the plan would be put into force and the Åland convention was scrapped.² This would mark a significant victory for Minister of Foreign Affairs Rickard Sandler, as the Stockholm plan was his brainchild. With the plan now being implemented, the Social Democrats are set for a collision course later that year. "The pistol against Sweden's

¹ The Stockholm plan (Stockholmsplanen) is also known as the Åland plan (Ålandsplanen).

² This is the point of divergence (POD). In OTL the Soviet diplomatic protest stopped the implementation of the plan.

heart” has been secured, for now. But scepticism about its implementation remained.

Finland won the national championship in athletics against Sweden at the end of July 1939 at the Stadium with 112 to 102 points. When Hansson thanked the Finnish sportsmen, he asked them to take home to Finland a greeting that the Swedish people wanted "cooperation to become stronger and stronger". But this hope was accompanied by the necessary reservations: he did not want to make any declarations about where "Sweden will stand when the people of the Nordic people needed each other".

On the 30th of July, Rickard Sandler gave a speech in the town of Stocka where he regarded the Åland issue as unaltered. But the question is whether it was not a tactical mistake at this stage to once again remind the people of Nordic obligations and unresolved liabilities. That same day, justice minister Westman held a speech where he expressed his scepticism about the compatibility of the Stockholm plan and Swedish neutrality.

The two ministers' speeches thus gave a hint of a possible rift in the government and served as an uneasy reminder for Hansson. At the ministers' lunch the following day, Hansson mentioned that the two ministers had spoken "too sharply on the Åland issue", the previous day. Wigforss added by saying that "we shouldn't talk about this issue at all at the moment".

Those who were opposed to the Stockholm plan were held back by the risk of being accused of holding Soviet sympathies because they would have assisted the Soviets' opposition to the plan. Furthermore, there was consideration for Finland, what would happen if Sweden pulled back from the Stockholm plan? Wouldn't it lead to those who wanted Finland to give up its nordic orientation gaining the upper hand?

The Start of the Second World War



Per Albin Hansson spoke to the Swedish people on radio on the first of September, announcing that the war has begun:

“Citizens,”

“The terrible event that we had hoped the world would be spared from has occurred. A new great war has broken out. We must acknowledge this dreadful fact, and it serves little purpose to try to express the sorrow and horror we feel at the thought of what this may bring of anguish and suffering to an already wounded humanity. For us Swedes, it is now a matter of calmly and resolutely rallying around the great task of keeping our country out of the war, of nurturing and safeguarding our invaluable national values, and of mastering the challenges of these evil times to the best of our ability. The will for complete neutrality that inspires and unites our people has been officially announced by the government today after consultation with the representatives of the parliament in the foreign affairs committee. No one can doubt its sincerity and the determination behind it. But I want to strongly emphasise once again the obligation that everyone must feel towards the solemn assurance that we have given, and to observe caution and good conduct in all their actions. We value our freedom of speech highly, and no one among us wants to stifle it. Therefore, we have every right to demand a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in the exercise of this precious gift.”

No general mobilisation was carried out in response to the outbreak of war. Instead, on September 1st, the government ordered enhanced defence preparedness. This meant that approximately 50,000 men were called up. Had general mobilisation been ordered, 400,000 men would have been able to be mobilised, of these, however, 185,000 would have belonged to the so-called landstorm³, the predecessor of the Home Guard. The land army's primary weakness was the short training times and the lack of tanks, armour-piercing weapons and ammunition.

On paper the Swedish navy had an impressive number of ships, but the heavy ship materiel was obsolete and in some cases only useful as fixed artillery. Only six destroyers and nine submarines were fully modern. The weakest link in the Swedish defence was the airforce. On the 1st of September could the government only mobilise 72 bombers which 57 were operationally capable and 52 fighters of which 33 were operationally capable.

Hansson would not with an easy heart fall into the role of a leader in a nation with a state of military preparedness. He was uneasy and somewhat unwilling to fulfil this role. Hitler and Mussolini in Hansson's eyes were incorrectly classified as politicians coming from the working class and unwilling to bring the workers into a brutal war. He was bitter over having to give up what he regarded as his life's work: the creation of social security and freedom from want for the working classes which was clearly stated by him:

"It's hell that everything that I and my comrades wanted to achieve must now go to waste. We wanted social equalisation, security for the sick and old and so much more. Now we get to bet everything on military companies, artillery, cruisers and aircraft. Isn't it hell?"

Hansson experienced the bitter irony that he, who had begun his career as a disarmamentist and anti-militarist, was now forced to preside over the most powerful rearmament at that time.

Hansson saw it as his first and foremost task to calm the Swedish people and prevent panicked reactions. A military threat to the Nordics did not exist (yet), the problems that were expected to exist were within the realms of trade policy. When Hansson, therefore, in his speech at Skansen on 27 August, uttered the known words that "the Swedish preparedness was good", it was primarily the people's welfare that he was referring to. He uttered these words with good conscience. The fact is that already in 1928, against a majority within the Social Democratic Party, he had voted for the establishment of the National Commission for Economic Defensive Preparedness.

Through the state's reserve warehouse established in 1937, important goods for the public supply with a total value of 165 million could have been stored. In addition, the 1938 cereal harvest had been good and produced a surplus of almost 390,000 tons, which corresponded to

³ Landstormen was a form of territorial defence force created in 1885. The landstorm was intended "for the defence of the home town" within "own or nearest neighbouring enlistment districts."

roughly one year's milling needs. The 1939 harvest was also expected to yield a surplus. In the matter of sugar and potato production, Sweden was self-sufficient, nor was the supply of cooking fat cause for concern. In addition, there were 20,000 tons of coffee in stock.

The only area of concern, and where the government faced criticism for a lack of storage of liquid fuel. Here the stocks were estimated to last for three months, with hard rationing for perhaps ten months.

There were those who believed that as a result of the Moscow Pact, the Nordic countries had ended up outside the potential warzone. Through it, the most dangerous case of war for Sweden and Finland, that between Germany and the Soviet Union, seemed to have been eliminated. Voices were raised warning that peace in the Baltic Sea region had been bought at the price of a lost balance of power. Already during the summer, there had been speculation from the right, where sensitivity to the Russian danger had long been heightened, that Bukharin might be thinking of "following in the footsteps of Peter the Great." The terms of the Moscow pact slowly revealed itself as the Soviet Union seized control of Eastern Poland and the Baltics.

In a writing dated the 28th of September, general Thörnell had pointed out to foreign minister Rickard Sandler the advanced positions of the Soviets and the danger this posed for the undefended Åland islands. On that same day the Finnish foreign minister made a request for Sweden to create a concrete plan on how the Stockholm plan would be implemented based on the new situation.

Sandler would on October 1st propose a new Åland policy, where Sweden would guarantee Finland's neutrality, among other things. On the 3rd of October Sandler would propose this change of course to the Swedish government. His plans entailed that Sweden would give a more direct guarantee for the defence of Åland, more direct than the one in the Stockholm plan, and in reality would serve as a guarantee in the character of a defensive alliance. With the motivations of scaring the Soviet Union away from any further expansion. The Government's reaction was one of shock.

Defence minister Per Edvin Sköld stated that on principle he supported the plan but he believed it was politically impossible and that they would never achieve unity within the Swedish people for Sandler's plan. Wigforss' argument was that if Sweden refused to go into an alliance with a Great Power then why should it do so with a small nation. Per Albin Hansson himself did not make a comment besides stating that the government would not take a position. His opinion in private though, was of complete opposition.

The reaction to Sandler's proposal showed that there were clear divisions within the Swedish ministry on Finland policy and what policy it would undertake. The Stockholm plan made many in the ministry, including Wigforss, uncomfortable with the prospects that it may drag Sweden into a potential conflict with a Great Power.

The Swedish policy towards Germany during Sandler's last three months as foreign minister were marred by a tense attitude and it would have been even tenser had Sandler gotten what he wanted. An example of this was when Sandler proposed that as a retaliatory action for the Germans' neutrality violations through stopping the export of butter to Germany for a week. Now butter is not the same as iron but the government was worried that this would set a precedent for more drastic actions. Sandler's outing therefore became a hotbed for misunderstanding and mistrust within the government. Revealing his positions on the Åland question would create a situation where even harmless proposals would be met with mistrust, especially from Wigforss who became his primary opponent.

In the long term having a majority of the government distrust Sandler was unsustainable, but Hansson believed that they could ride out the crisis without Sandler having to resign or Sweden having to commit to an "adventure policy." He believed that the split in the government was artificial. So long as the issue stood Hansson would have to balance between Sandler's and Wigforss' positions.

On the 4th of October Finnish foreign minister Eljas Erkko would ask three questions to the Finnish government: Does Sweden object to Finland taking defensive measures on Åland? Did Sweden want to help Finland with equipment? And finally: how would Sweden see through the implementation of the Stockholm plan if the Åland islands were threatened?

The following day the Soviets would invite a Finnish delegation to Moscow for negotiations, which would make Erkko's previous questions hold wider implications than what was originally thought. It was no longer possible to differentiate between the implementation of the Stockholm plan and the question of Finnish neutrality.

Sandler explained what was known about the Soviet invitation to Finland. He mentioned that there were reasons to believe that the Soviets wanted the right to take defensive measures on Åland. Sandler explained that he considered "Sweden's interests in the present and future are best served by Sweden issuing its declaration of solidarity with Finland at the appropriate time".

Hansson attempted to dampen the effects of Sandler's declaration. He explained that for his part he feels "very cold" regarding this issue. However, the ensuing debate shows that there were divergent opinions.

Due to the commitments in the Stockholm plan, Hansson would be unable to make a comment on his positions on sending troops to Finland, as that would potentially sour relations with them. In private he hoped to prevent this possibility as much as possible. Although he personally believed that the Soviets would hesitate to proceed if Sweden sent troops to Åland, it was necessary to think about the risks and consequences of an intervention

The Swedish government would come to the decision based on Erkkö's questions that they would provide military support to Finland and diplomatically in Moscow. But no answer as to how the Stockholm plan may be initiated came. As the split within the government and the social democratic party began to show.

On the 13th of October Sandler would inform the government of the Soviet demands on Finland. Even if the demands made a strong impression, from a strictly Swedish point of view they meant a relief to the extent that no claims concerning the Åland Islands were made. Hansson, who previously opposed further reinforcements, now agreed to the call-up of troops in the north and on Gotland.

Therefore, when Sandler put forward a number of proposals for support for Finland at the meeting on the 20th of October, including that Sweden should carry out the so-called northern mining between Åland and Sweden (which was promised to Erkkö at the head of state meeting), Wigforss immediately stepped up. During the following days the discussion of this matter continued in the government under increasing irritation and affectation. Wigforss explained that he was completely against Sweden carrying out mining operations in the Åland Sea. It could draw Sweden into conflict with the Soviet Union. He declared that he was determined to resign and hand over the responsibility to "the daring" in order to have a free hand to start a campaign to warn the Swedish people.

Wigforss' fierce opposition naturally put Hansson in a difficult situation. On the one hand, he himself had sanctioned the northern mining, and on the other hand, Wigforss's threat of resignation meant not only a threat of a cabinet crisis but also a threat of a split in the Social Democratic Party.

It was with visible effort that Hansson made a summary of discussion at the agitated meeting on the 22nd of October. A cabinet crisis, he declared, would mean an abandonment of the prevailing parliamentary system. He himself was prepared to step back and let, for example, Wigforss take over the leadership, but it was necessary to think through not only the personal but also the general political consequences. The crisis would calm itself as all sides agreed to stand down because the conversation was only hypothetical.

Government Crisis

The Soviet Union invaded Finland on the 30th November and a new horrible reality was bestowed upon Swedish foreign policy, as panic ensued in the cabinet on Sweden being potentially dragged into the war through their commitments to the Stockholm plan.

The crisis within the ministry flared up. When Sköld and the government meeting on November 30 presented a proposal that Sweden should now lay out the northern mining in the Åland Sea in order to fulfil the promise to Erkkö, Wigforss exclaimed: "This immediately tears up the old contradiction."

The message of the Soviet attack against Finland had been received in the morning of the 30th, but the Swedish government did not know whether this was a new phase in the ‘war of nerves’⁴ or whether open warfare had actually begun.

On the 2nd of December the Swedish government responded to a request from Finland regarding the implementation of the Stockholm plan and denied that it would send troops to Åland. Which is also seen as a rejection of a military intervention in Finland, which Hansson stated that he does not believe it is possible to differentiate between an intervention and sending troops to Åland.

The decision on the 2nd of December would be the start of a ministerial crisis, as it would lead to the immediate resignation of foreign minister Rickard Sandler, as the decision meant the rejection of his Finland policy and the death of the Stockholm plan. Sandler would refuse to communicate the decision to Finland, thus Hansson would have to do it himself. But on the 2nd of December, Hansson was forced to acknowledge that he had received two impending resignations, one from Sandler and one from defence minister Sköld. The defence minister’s reason to hand in his resignation had to do with the Swedish government’s previous standing in regards to the mining of the seas around Åland.

The Stockholm plan would make the mining question keep its problematic character⁵, and Hansson would defer to Wigforss’ position on it despite himself leaning in favour of it. The opposition was caused by the belief that the mining could be perceived as a step in the direction of siding with Finland in the war.

Hansson already foresaw on the 30th of November that the current coalition government’s days were numbered and on the afternoon the same day he sought contact with the party leaders of the Right Party (HP) and People’s⁶ Party (FP) to form a unity government. But suspicions remained rampant that Hansson’s offers to the right party were ingenuine, and his goals were to pull the FP into the government and isolate the HP and label them as Finland activists. There was also an extreme anger over the violation of the Stockholm plan by the right party, who were fully in support of it.

On principle Hansson wanted the right to be part of the government, on the 5th of December he explained that the government program was clear from the beginning so that no conflicts arose after the government was formed. If it turned out impossible to include HP, he considered, however, that an expansion of the government by including representatives of only the People’s Party was conceivable, but one had to then give an explanation to remove the impression of deep divisions in parliament. The need to include the HP in government is

⁴ a contest etc in which each side tries to win by making the other nervous, by for an example bluff, rather than by actually fighting

⁵ Unlike our timeline, Sandler’s resignation made the mining question lose its problematic character and the government would rule in favour of committing it, leading to Sköld rescinding his resignation.

⁶ Note: this is a social liberal party, not a left wing one.

also caused by the King's position, as he wanted them included. There was also a personal interest from Hansson's side to prevent the HP from turning into an "activist"⁷ party.

The German-friendly newspapers of Aftonbladet and Stockholmstidningen, both owned by Torsten Kreuger, agitated against both Rickard Sandler and Per Albin Hansson. With them stating that Hansson should be replaced by a "strongman" at the head of a national government consisting of the most competent and capable. They also had a suggestion regarding who this strong man would be: Torsten Nothin.

On the 10th, Hansson had a visit from the governor general of Stockholm, Torsten Nothin. He came with a message to Hansson that he came directly from the King. The King requested that should Hansson fail to form a coalition government consisting of all four major parties, then Nothin would be requested to form a "true coalition government" instead. This did not surprise him, as a few days prior Hansson was met by a challenge from the right and the King to replace him with Torsten Nothin. When he was asked by the King if he wanted to be included in a Nothin government, he rejected it.

After much hesitation within the HP regarding whether they should be a part of the government or not, they had in the end refused Hansson. This comes from the position that the government would have to heed the Stockholm plan and thus follow Sandler's line, which Hansson refused to do. Hansson would attempt to form a government including only the Farmer's Party and People's Party, but the King would refuse as this did not constitute a full unity government. This failure would cause the resigned defence minister Sköld to begin calling for Hansson's resignation, as would the governor general of Stockholm Torsten Nothin. The escalation in the government crisis would cause the FP to back out of their arrangement with SAP, thus the government proposed to the King on the 13th of December could not be negotiated with.

Hansson met with party leadership on the 14th of December, where he informed them of Nothin's message on the 10th. In the end he'd accept that he needed to hand in his resignation to the King, which would be given the following day. Torsten Nothin would be immediately called in to form a government and meetings would be had with all the leaders of the parties, but the negotiations would drag out as they had with Hansson, as the Stockholm plan remained at the heart of the issue. The King's position on the inclusion of the HP could not be ignored, and their position was the implementation of the Stockholm plan as requested by Erkko. The right would not give way and hold steadfast on their seemingly developing activist position as feared by Hansson.

After much deliberation, all parties would give in to the demand set by the HP on the implementation of the Stockholm plan, as the atmosphere of fear that was created by the King's rejection had caused the different party leaders to not want to destroy the formation of

⁷ Finland activism was a buzzword people threw around at this time to accuse a politician of holding a pro-interventionist position towards Finland

a unity government. On the 18th of December, Nothin would hand in his proposed government to the King, which would be accepted and thus the end of Hansson's rule had now come.

Chapter II: The Winter War

"It is palpable that the reaction has aired morning air and from that direction, they have purposefully exploited the situation to push us back as far as possible. The discussion surrounding the government reshuffle had a palpable tendency: when the knots are on fire, the parliament is incapable of providing Sweden with the government it needs. If the purpose is achieved and the parliamentary line is not maintained, this would be used against democracy in the future. Also, our stance in the Finnish-Russian campaign will be exploited in this reactionary campaign. We are willing to go very far when it comes to allowing volunteers. But if something irreversible happens in Finland, they will accuse us of not providing Finland with enough support."

- Gustav Möller

Ministär Nothin

The Nothin government would consist of a minority of SAP ministers, but they would still hold the important posts of defence minister, finance minister, minister of social affairs and minister of supply. Gustav Möller became minister of social affairs, Hansson replaced his friend Wigforss as finance minister and Sköld would return to the post of defence minister. Another notable pick is the appointment of Christian Günther as foreign minister. The other parties wanted a specialist to hold the position instead of a political appointment. Günther supported Sandler's position and was suggested to Nothin by Sandler himself.

Christian Günther's goal was to improve Sweden's relationship to Germany, marking a significant change from Sandler's policy, significant work would have to be made as Hitler strongly disapproved of the Swedish government and initially no noticeable progress was made on his objective. Part of the reason for this was to prevent a war with Germany.

Erkko would once again request the implementation of the Stockholm plan, which would be accepted by the Nothin government and 6500 Swedish soldiers would be sent as garrisons to defend Åland on the 2nd of January 1940, the promised mining of the seas around Åland is executed and Sweden begins to send even larger support to Finland, including some heavy weaponry. Wigforss would begin a mass protest against the actions of the new Nothin government, as he believed it to be the start of the so-called "adventure politics".

Sweden in the Winter War

The Soviet response to the Swedish provocations would be harsh, as Sweden's status as a non-belligerent country would be torn up as the Soviet foreign minister would openly declare the deployment of Swedish troops in Åland as the Swedish entrance into the war. Soviet bombers left their airbases and began to strike critical Swedish industries and Stockholm itself on the 10th of January. Many within the Swedish government would have to enter bomb shelters as the dark reality had occurred, and war reached Sweden itself.

The next day Prime Minister Nothin would quickly hold a speech on the radio, a general mobilisation would be called within Sweden, but most men called up would assume defensive positions inside Sweden as a landstorm. Many of the previous opponents to the Nothin government opted to stay silent, including Wigforss, fearing that they could be labelled as Soviet sympathisers. The Swedish communists led by Nils Flyg would back the Soviet invasion, leading to wide reaching condemnation and their numbers would rapidly decline in the following elections,

20.000 Swedish soldiers were sent to Finland, falling under Axel Oscar Rappe's command, closely cooperating with Mannerheim. Many of them would arrive in Finland to reinforce Lapland and the Karelian isthmus. The Swedish reinforcements would greatly assist the Finnish forces in the defensive, but eventually Iona Yakir's offensive towards Viipuri would catch both the Swedish and Finnish forces off guard and lead to the Soviets' reaching the city.

The military failures in February and March led to the start of the peace process, as the Swedish government wanted out but also an end to the conflict between the Soviets and Finland. Initially Finland would seek the help of the western Great Powers, wanting 50 thousand troops to arrive in Finland. Sweden received the request to permit the transfer of the Allied soldiers through Swedish territory, but the government rejected it, as they believed this would entail a potential German invasion and the Winter War turning into a frontline within the World War.

Swedish pressure would mount on the Finnish government to accept the harsh Soviet peace offerings, including the potential of Sweden signing a separate peace with the Soviets and leaving Finland to its own devices. The Ryti-Tanner government would give in and the Moscow Peace Treaty was signed on the 12th of March and ratified on the 21st of March, leading to the end of the war between Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union. The peace treaty would act as an effective white peace between Sweden and the Soviet Union, with the Soviets promising not to attempt to take control of Åland. Finland meanwhile was forced to cede 8% of its territory.

After the March Peace

The reaction to the Moscow Peace would be met with anger by the activists within Sweden, Nothin would receive a call on the telephone on the 13th of March where an outraged voice demanded that Nothin should resign and that he had betrayed the entire Nordics. Afterwards came the unkind letters and telegrams. Some Finland meetings would be transformed to protests against Sweden's betrayal.

The opinion critical of the government could be linked to the bitter speech Tanner gave in connection with the end of the peace, where Sweden was more or less directly accused of having forced Finland to accept the harsh peace, by threatening to leave Finland completely if the peace wasn't accepted.

Though the dominant mood within the country was a sense of ease of the fact that peace had come with the Soviet Union, and that the Swedish troops could return home from their positions in Åland and the front. Though there existed a need for the government to explain its policy in the war, on the 1st of April Nothin explained in a Riksdag debate the reasons for why the government acted as it did.

Near the end of the Winter War, Tanner had successfully induced Nothin to give a promise that he would bring up the question of a defensive alliance. Finance Minister Hansson stated that a defensive alliance would have held the Soviets back from attacking but that the question was intricate. The discussions of an alliance would fall flat but it served as an example for the Nordic sentiments to such an alliance, setting the stage for further negotiations between Finland and Sweden later on. During the talks of a Nordic alliance, Gustav Möller pinpointed that a defensive alliance couldn't just orient itself against the Soviet Union, but that for the current moment the threat from Germany constituted a larger one than the Soviets.

Chapter III: The Fall of Norway

April 9th

Torsten Nothin was awoken on the 9th of April at 5 o' clock with a message from the phone that the German action had begun and that the German minister, the Prince of Wied, had visited Günther and announced that he would return with a note in a few hours. The government met on 9 in the morning and immediately went to the King's private floor to discuss the German note.

The German demands were: strictest neutrality, no more mobilisation, right to use the Swedish telephone network to Norway, maintenance of ore deliveries, no Swedish naval activity outside of their territorial waters. The mobilisation demand was the most difficult, as a mobilisation had already been conducted in conjunction with the Russo-Finnish war and Sweden's direct involvement in it, though a demobilisation was occurring with the war's end. The rest of the requests Sweden had no issues with.

Crown Prince Gustav Adolf took part in the discussion and believed that Sweden should immediately call upon another general mobilisation and that the Germans should receive a displeased answer to their note. The king had a far more cautious approach and believed that Sweden shouldn't be rash. The answer that Sweden gave to the German note was a compromise, where they explained that Sweden would hold steadfast to neutrality but that they also held all powers to take the measures necessary to protect this neutrality.

What characterised the Swedish feeling was vulnerability. The whole of southern and central Sweden was practically undefended. The conscripted soldiers who were in Norrbotten were being demobilised. But it was of little use in this situation to lament a lack of foresight. The lack of soldiers in the south also served as a calming effect to the Germans, reassuring them that Sweden had no intentions of attack.

At the Riksdag's secret meeting on the afternoon on the 9th of April there were several members of parliament that criticised the Swedish answer to the Germans believing it to be too soft. Westman believed that many members believed that foreign minister Günther gave the impression of considering a capitulation to Germany entirely.

Sweden would not provide any support to Norway and would stand on the sidelines, as it did not wish to trigger a German response that would drag it into the World War. And fear began to promulgate about a potential German request to allow the transit of German troops through Sweden to reach Norway. German bases on Swedish territory for warfare against the Allies were never considered. An invasion against Sweden could therefore only become relevant as part of Germany's defensive policy should Sweden begin provocations. Germany's primary interest was that Sweden stayed neutral.

The Transit Question

On Göring's insistence, a Swedish delegation led by Fabian Tamm met Hitler on the 16th of April. The primary German unease was centred round how committed Sweden was to its neutrality, especially after the winter war. They believed that Sweden intervening in the invasion of Norway was a real possibility. On direct inquiry, Tamm declared that the Swedish king as well as the government and the people stood firmly behind the policy of neutrality. After this statement, Hitler noticeably calmed down.

During the next few months the question of the German transit through Sweden continued to bother Sweden and was central to German-Swedish relations. The Swedish government on the 18th of April gave the Germans permission to send a "humanitarian" convoy of medical supplies and foodstuffs to Narvik, with the transport of these materials could be considered as falling under the rules of neutrality. The Germans took this pretext to send no less than 34 fully loaded railway wagons together with 39 medics. This decision gave way to rumours that Nothin had given in to the Germans regarding the transit question. The decision was met with significant protest in a party meeting a few days later where some believed that the concessions towards Germany could cause Sweden to be dragged into the war on the German side. The protests caused the foreign ministry to no longer dare to allow whole German trains to pass through Sweden, and that the transit had to be conducted in singular carriages under the pretext of a trade between a German and Norwegian company.

Sweden's fate depended on the developments of the war in Norway. The allied powers pulled away its forces from the Trondheim area but concentrated its forces on Narvik to secure a foothold on Norway, and a base for potential attacks on the Swedish mines supplying the German war effort.

Ribbentrop would take over the German affairs to Sweden from Göring, and bring up the transit question again which following a discussion on May 17th, led to a no. Though already after the decision sentiments began to waver, for example the Commander in Chief, general Thörnell, believed it to be necessary to avoid war with Germany at all costs due to Sweden not having the ability to hold off a German invasion for long enough.

Two groupings would begin to form within the Swedish cabinet, there were those who believed that accepting the German demands in the transit question was equivalent to giving up Sweden's independence, while the other group believed that Sweden could not lock itself and that it was necessary to be open even in the transit question.

The news of Norway's capitulation came on 11 June and was seen as a dark day by the Social Democratic leadership. While the surrender entailed an easing of the tensions in the Narvik area, Sweden's status as a neutral and democratic state had worsened. The consequences of this came quickly on 15 June when Ribbentrop called Richert to his office and informed him that since the fall of Norway it was seen "as a matter of course" that Sweden would allow the transit of both war material and soldiers with permits. If the Swedish government refused to

agree to this, it would be considered a "directly unfriendly act". The response came quickly, with the recent events in the war knocking wind out of the "No" camp, Sweden accepted the German demands on 18 June.

The SAP would quickly take the position that those who wanted Sweden to answer the German demands with a no wanted war. This threat of war would be exaggerated to the fullest in an attempt to avoid the government being portrayed as friendly to the Germans and their war cause.

Trade Policy

Already under the Norwegian campaign the Germans had sent a negotiator to negotiate the new regulation of trade that would now become necessary in the circumstances present. The new agreement entailed among other things, an abandonment of the so-called normal trade principle that was fundamental to the 1939 trade agreement. But there were no other alternatives unless Sweden wanted to enter economic disorganisation. Since the trade routes to the west were cut, it was necessary to attempt to compensate for the lost western trade.

During April the exports were cut in half. As the country was cut off from trade to the west, barely more than a quarter of Sweden's former export markets were open. The Swedish forest and paper industry were expected to be the hardest hit. It was also necessary to find replacements for the lost imports, primarily coke and coal.

Sweden's trade position was considered to have been weakened by the German takeover of the ore mines in Lorraine. For the Swedish negotiators it was important to expand the trade with Germany without fully falling into the German sphere - in exchange for an unrestricted export of iron ore to Germany, Sweden received in exchange an import of coal and coke albeit to heightened prices. But the increase in Swedish reliance on German trade will become a deciding factor in the German-Swedish relations, and the Swedish leadership no longer feared the threat of an invasion but the threat of trade repercussions from Germany.

Sweden would attempt to find new avenues of trade, at first they attempted to use the Petsamo port in Finland, but the Germans would force that to stop. They also negotiated a trade agreement with the Soviet Union that went through on the 7th of September. This agreement gave nowhere near what Sweden needed but it clearly showed the Swedish will for independence in trade. In February 1941 Sweden successfully gained the warring parties permission to open a small trade corridor through the Skagerrak which came to be known as "Lejdtraffiken."⁸

⁸ Lejdtraffiken entailed a trade corridor that started in Gothenburg and gave Sweden limited access to the west, past the blockades the allied forces imposed on Germany that had by extension affected Sweden.

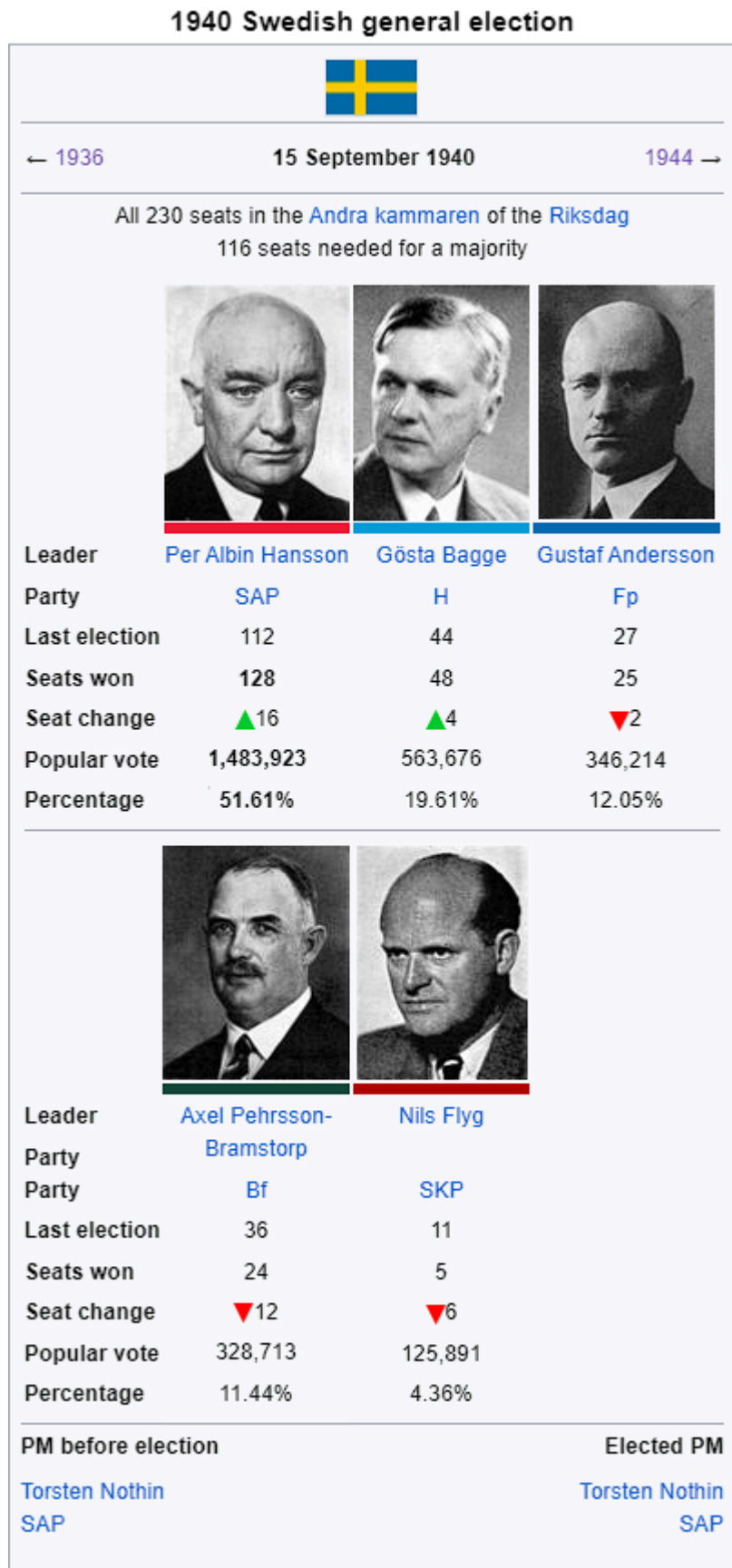
1940 Election

The perspective on what had happened in Sweden during the past year was complicated, the activists position on Finland had won out and Sweden intervened, though the results of this intervention was middling- Finland remained as an independent nation but with significant territorial concessions, though Åland was secured. The lack of Swedish intervention in Norway also further deepened the double standard it showed towards Germany and the United Kingdom in its neutrality.

Hansson was no longer head of government but remained the party leader, with the objective of it being to uphold the SAP identity. Disagreements between Nothin and Hansson were commonplace, with one being a strongman and the other mediator during their respective rules. One thing was for certain that the party leader's prestige was in tatters.

Initially the discussion was whether the elections should be delayed or not, Hansson remained firmly opposed as he believed it was important that people got out to vote. Nothin used his attitude to strengthen Hansson's argument and ensure that the elections occurred.

The elections overall were a success for the Social Democrats, with them getting a majority in both chambers of parliament. Bagge's activist position would pay off and his party gained seats. All other parties would suffer losses, the most significant of these being the Farmers' Union and Communist Party, with the latter falling to 4% of the vote from 7% due to the Winter War.



The party with the most severe reaction to their losses was the Farmers' Union, where discussions were had regarding leaving the coalition government outright. After some convincing from the King and foreign minister they backed down, though not without extracting concessions in agricultural policy.

Chapter IV: Operation Barbarossa

The Coming War

During a walk in Stockholm on the 8th of February 1941, Jacob Wallenberg informed Foreign Minister Christian Günther that during his latest visit to Berlin, he was told by his friend, the former Lord Mayor of Leipzig, Carl Goerdeler, who had good connections with high German military officials, that Germany was planning an attack on the Soviet Union which would probably be launched at the end of May. Günther burst out laughing and said “Sometimes you get lucky!”.

To understand Günther’s reaction you have to understand his two goals in foreign policy: to prevent the Soviet Union from seizing control of Finland and to ensure a relaxation of relations between Germany and Sweden. A Soviet-German war would engage German soldiers in the east, relaxing the German threat on Sweden but also eliminating the Soviet threat on Finland, and to Günther a German victory was inevitable.

Wallenberg’s information also led to a different question: what would the Swedish role be in a Soviet-German War? Germany had shown itself prepared to accept Swedish neutrality in the conflict with the United Kingdom, at least for now, but should the Swedes even be neutral in a German war with the Soviets? Would it not be perceived as an insult on the German side if Sweden took a strictly neutral stance in such a conflict, especially considering the anti-Russian public opinion that emerged during the Winter War, especially with Sweden’s own intervention in the war exacerbating this sentiment? These were the questions that would affect Sweden foreign policy from now on.

On 21 April, Commander in Chief general Thörnell presented his thoughts to the government on what Swedish foreign policy should be in the event of a Soviet-German war. Thörnell’s position was that Sweden should intervene on the side of the Finns that were seen as being inevitably a part of this offensive. His position enraged the Social Democrat ministers and even the activist Gösta Bagge considered his presentation to be “unpsychological”. Defense Minister Sköld even called into question Thörnell’s position as Commander in Chief. Even Günther was disinterested by Thörnell’s position, he agreed that Sweden should not end up at war with Germany in regards to the question of the transfer of troops, but permission for the passage of troops to Finland he did not want to accept either. Though a concession had to be made, to avoid a government crisis the government agreed upon sending a garrison to Åland in the event of a Soviet-German war.

Sweden’s increased rejections of the increase of the transfer of German troops to Norway also changed the German plans for Sweden in the event of Barbarossa, where it originally foresaw Sweden as the base for which Germany will transfer its soldiers to Finland.

Midsummer Crisis

Nothin was informed at 5 in the morning that the Germans had begun their assault on the Soviet Union, 3 hours later Günther was informed by Schnurre and Wied of the request of the transfer of the Engelbrecht division through Sweden to Finland. After the conversation with the Germans, Günther went to the King and informed him of the German request. Dragging the king into the foreign policy process that hadn't been seen before during the Second World War.

At half past 10 the King called Nothin to him and in their meeting informed him that he believed that a yes answer was necessary to avoid war with Germany, he would rather prefer to take his position under consideration than reject the demand.⁹ The King's clear position put those who wanted a no answer under a significant disadvantage. In a government meeting the next day Günther informed that Finland had stood behind the German demands and thus continued to push for a yes position. The Social Democrat members expressed their opinion that the continued German demands meant that if Sweden gave in to these demands then that entailed that Sweden had taken a position favourable to Germany in the war. The government itself was split, with the Right and Farmer's Union being in favour while Rasjön, the People's Party leader was uncertain and wanted to wait for a meeting with the Riksdag. Finance Minister Hansson did not take a position either.

Nothin himself pushed for a yes answer, in part because of his relationship with the King¹⁰. At 12 o' clock on the 24th of June, members of the SAP and the foreign department met and discussed the German demands, much to the displeasure of many the decision ended up being a yes. That the Social Democratic Riksdag group was against the transfer there was no question of, but Ernst Wigforss pushed Hansson to hold a vote on the issue, much to Nothin's dismay. In that vote 98.75% of the Riksdag group voted no.

It was clear that from Hansson's purely practical point of view the first vote was not satisfactory. It was a no which, due to his knowledge of the domestic political situation, most likely meant a yes, but a yes would need another meeting to confirm. Statsminister Torsten Nothin and party leader Hansson met and agreed to hold another meeting based on Hansson's thought process, thus he later proposed that one should vote under the assumption that one wanted to take all the consequences of a no, i.e. in reality a government crisis. The re-vote had the result where 44.7% of the Riksdag group voted yes, 36.6% for no and 18.7% abstained.

When Nothin presented the results of the vote to the government, the other parties refused to back down and seeing that no route could be taken, a decision was made to allow the transfer on the specific conditions that no more concessions would be made.

⁹ And unlike OTL with Hansson he will not interpret the King's position as a threat to abdicate.

¹⁰ They were quite close and many believed Nothin was influencing him.

February Crisis

The Midsummer decision led to Sweden rejecting German requests to transfer troops through the country far more often, with tensions slowly mounting. These tensions would boil over in February 1942.

Hitler's general distrust towards Sweden, the English raids and the less favourable attitude led to rumours being spread of Germany preparing invasion plans against Sweden. Despite the massive increase of warnings, the Swedish government responded relatively calmly - though they did meet the increased German pressure by calling in 75 thousand men to the army, and mobilising the airforce and coastal artillery. A political campaign began to convince the Germans that their distrust towards Swedish neutrality was unfounded. Diplomats, politicians and military men made it clear to Germany that Swedish neutrality was to be trusted and on this matter the king even wrote a personal letter to Hitler that Sweden would continue to be neutral. Hitler's response was that Germany would not undertake any actions that would violate Sweden's neutrality, which was seen as Hitler indirectly admitting that there was no grounds for an invasion. The Germans themselves believed that an invasion and seizure of the iron mines in Sweden to be far more costly than maintaining the current trade relationship.

The February crisis was a turning point for Swedish-German relations, where the clear declaration of neutrality led to a relaxation of relations between the two countries. After this phase the Germans began to behave less aggressively towards Sweden, and tried to present their positions from a legal and judicial perspective rather than one of aggression.

The May Crisis - Sea Lion and Stalin's Coup

With German gains in the east rapidly increasing, Sweden's military continued to be strengthened, in part with materials imported from Germany. At the same time as this occurred Sweden's neutrality became more valuable to the Germans- had they previously considered demanding more than neutrality from the Swedes, the Germans were now completely satisfied with the neutral position from Sweden's side. Sweden began to assert its sovereignty while the idea of Sweden giving in to a German ultimatum became unthinkable. Any concept of a "Danish solution" was dead.

By January 1943 Nothin informed the referral debate that all warring nations were satisfied with Sweden's position in the conflict. This would be completely shattered in the coming months as Germany went on the definite offensive.

As Germany secured Stalingrad, Stalin in turn launched a coup and overthrew Bukharin, centralising the Soviet government around the Centre faction. Many in Sweden were relieved at the recent developments as it meant that the Bolshevik threat was definitely neutralised, but within the Swedish communist party it led to a schism. The SKP leadership headed by Nils Flyg and Karl Kilbom completely opposed the coup and denounced Stalin's seizure, but

a strong minority in the party unconditionally supported Stalin and thus in response the party leadership shut out the Stalinists from the party, which in turn led to them forming their own Swedish Communist Party. The communists had now been split in two and were effectively neutered as a threat, with there being two parties: the “Kilbomare” and “Sillénare”.

The real shock came as S-Tag came and Nazi Germany executed Operation Sea Lion, during Spring of 1943. As the situation worsened for the allied forces as the Germans secured a beachhead, the English would pass a list of demands to the Swedish foreign ministry demanding the complete end of iron exports to Germany in an attempt to hamper the German war machine. This led to what came to be known as the May crisis as the Swedish government would fall under heavy debate. Many in the foreign ministry department such as Sandler and Undén would support enacting the British demands in hopes of forcing the end of the German invasion of Britain, but others like Nothin and Günther opposed this. The Swedish public had effectively become convinced that Germany was going to win the war and so did many in the Swedish government.

The primary fear was that of allied reprisal: were allied bombers going to hit the Swedish mines? In a conversation between Nothin and Hansson, they came to an agreement that the allied cause was lost and that falling under the threat of German invasion after the 1942 detente was not worth it. Thus the government denied all British demands, and reprisal did come as in response the Allied forces ended the Lejdfrafiken and thus Sweden's trade with nations outside Europe, causing Sweden to fall under a total trade reliance on Germany. With this the May crisis came to an end.

The vacuum caused by the fall of the communist party and Germany's newfound successes led to renewed attention on the Swedish far-right, which spurred the formation of a national front and joint electoral list between the Rütger Essén's corporatist SNF and Sven Olov Lindholm's national socialist SSS, leading to votes also being syphoned from the Swedish right, especially from H as the SNF was a splinter from them. Certain cases of the participation of Per Engdahl's New Swedish movement also occurred, as members of it were found to be participating in the electoral lists of the SSS in Skåne. Germany itself economically backed the SNF, viewing it as a financially stable party compared to the instability and economic mismanagement of the SSS.

During 1944 the Social Democrats would choose to implement a new party platform, one which would rid it of the many marxist influences that existed in the 1920 party platform. The new program was a compromise, where parts of the socialist rhetoric remained but the mention of exploitation was removed.

1944 Election








The elections in 1944 was primarily one about determining the fate of Sweden in post war Europe. Generally the results of the election were already set in stone in 1943 with the split of the Communist party eliminating any challengers from the left, and general activist positions began to become unpopular as Germany's victory was now imminent.

The Farmer's League and People's Party attempted to call into question the Social Democrats' planned socialisation of the business sector in which the Social Democrats pointed to their successful handling of the great depression. Many economists believed that post war Europe would lead to another economic downturn and the SAP pushed that they were the ones prepared to handle this incoming crisis.

The right party in the meantime were struggling as a new flank had been opened by the reinvigorated Swedish Far-Right, and thus they had to attempt to keep their voters from turning to them and especially the SNF.

The results showed a huge victory for the SAP, while the right wing would see losses overall, aside from the Farmer's League who made gains. The Swedish far-right national front would for the first time enter the Swedish parliament, worrying many that the Swedish populace was radicalising towards a new direction.

1944 Swedish general election

			
← 1940 17 September 1944 1948 →			
All 230 seats in the Andra kammaren of the Riksdag 116 seats needed for a majority			
			
Leader	Per Albin Hansson	Gösta Bagge	Axel Pehrsson-Bramstorp
Party	SAP	H	Bf
Last election	128	45	24
Seats won	135	33	33
Seat change	▲7	▼12	▲9
Popular vote	1,688,202	423,276	414,804
Percentage	54.73%	13.74%	13.44%
			
Leader	Gustaf Andersson	Sven Olov Lindholm	Nils Flyg
Party	Fp	National Front	SKP (Kilbomare)
Last election	25	–	4
Seats won	25	2	2
Seat change	–	<i>New</i>	▼2
Popular vote	395,347	87,340	50,784
Percentage	12.81%	2.83%	1.63%
PM before election	Elected PM		
Torsten Nothin	Torsten Nothin		
SAP	SAP		

Chapter V: Nightfall

The End of the Coalition Government

The end of the war inevitably led to the end of the coalition government formed by Torsten Nothin, despite the calls to keep the government going as the threat of Nazi Germany and the rise of the National Front in Sweden grew, the coalition government came to an end. With the formation of a pure Social Democratic government, the party leadership also wanted to see the return of the party leader Hansson as prime minister, thus Nothin would hand in his resignation marking the end of his rule.

The third Hansson government would take force on July 31 and with it Ernst Wigforss returned to the finance ministry, other notable choices included Allan Vougt as foreign minister, and he would come to define Sweden's foreign policy in the immediate post-war Europe. Gustav Möller returned as minister of social affairs, and continued his policy of expanding the Swedish welfare state.

The commission for post-war economic planning (SOU 1944:57) had feared an economic recession after the war, but that was not what occurred. The new macroeconomic approach established in the early 1930s was now widely recognized and the demand for an active labour market policy had grown.

In 1945 the Social Care Committee presented a new pension report (SOU 1945:45), the report had outlined three different alternatives for how the pensions could be constructed. All three options included that the pension amounts were to be freed from contribution payments. The pension contribution simply became a pure tax and the pension level would be so high that pensioners would not need supplements from poverty welfare and that the retirement age would be, as before, 67 years old. The proposal for universal pension is the one Möller would back, but the government would remain sceptical, but he'd win over the support of the social democratic parliamentary group and became the victor in the circle of government. In 1946 the Riksdag would pass the new pension laws and Möller would see it as one of the happiest days of his life. The reform took effect on January 1 1948.

Allan Vougt

Allan Vougt is a curious figure and his appointment allows him to bring about his foreign policy with Germany. Back in summer 1940 he wanted to specify the conditions for a *modus vivendi* between Nazism and social democracy. Generally Vougt wanted to create a potential co-existence between these two ideologies. With Vougt, these lines of thought only became possible by correlating them with a deterministic view of history, where industrialization and democratisation was seen as connected.

Vougt believed that in all modern industrial states there existed a natural tendency that with rising prosperity, society developed in a democratic direction. In Germany the “social question” hadn’t been solved which led to Nazism. But with Germany once again growing, social tensions would decrease. Thus, democracy would once again finally emerge and in the end Democracy would emerge victorious. Vougt insisted that “the people always strive for increased freedom”.

The tactical element behind Vougt cannot be understated. One of his biggest concerns was for the future unity and freedom of the Nordic countries. The premise for Vougt was that Sweden could not conduct a policy where the freedom of Denmark and Norway would be obstructed. The idea of nordic cooperation could not be abandoned despite the fact that Denmark and Norway were occupied. Vougt especially followed the developments in Denmark closely and sent the party board several internal reports about his visits there. With the establishment of the NS-led republic in Norway, hopes for the return of a democratic government to Norway were shattered, thus, Vougt would centre his attention in regard to the Nordics on the end of Werner Best’s rule in Denmark and the deepening of cooperation with Finland.

Finland would become a key piece in Sweden’s strategy of preserving its neutrality and preventing an over reliance on Germany, and many wanted to stop it from fully falling under Germany’s thumb. The Murmansk and Petsamo ports would provide Sweden an alternative route to the German controlled Skagerrak. For Vougt’s foreign policy, Sweden and social democracy was to co-exist with Nazi Germany, not be dominated by it.

Möller Becomes Prime Minister

Hansson, despite claims of pain in his left arm to finance minister Enrst Wigforss, remained in a good mood on the fateful day of the 5th of October 1946. As he returned home from talks with his Finnish counterparts, he got off the tram at the Ålstensgatan stop, when he got a sudden heart attack and dropped dead on the ground that instant, ending his year long third government.

A party congress would be quickly called where Möller initially saw himself as a self-appointed successor, supported by notably Torsten Nothin and Gunnar Myrdal. For him, his record spoke volumes: Möller was elected by the party's executive committee as vice-chairman, he had a long and successful time as party secretary behind him, he had been the leader of the Riksdag group in the first chamber and finally he believed that he was the one who more than anyone else personified the social democratic social policy, the social democratic government's characteristic and pride. But Möller had misjudged the mood within the party. Some would think of Möller as a transitional candidate and intended for him to resign after the 1948 elections, but he insisted that he would be here to stay. Per Edvin Sköld and especially Ernst Wigforss were horrified by the idea of a Möller premiership. They tried to resort to threats of Wigforss standing up to get him to stand down, but he refused. Many in the party began to attempt to unite behind the younger Tage Erlander to succeed Per Albin Hansson, but in the end he refused. Thus Wigforss himself stood up for the position, despite

the wish for a generational shift within the party, but the resistance towards Möller was for naught and he narrowly fought off this challenge. Möller personally noted that many in the party voted against him out of fear of catching Wigforss' "fatal eye"; he'd hold a grudge towards Wigforss and Sköld because of this resistance.

Möller's government kept a lot of the previous cabinet positions in Hanssons government. The primary focus would continue to be on the wide reaching social reforms that had been planned since the early 40s. For the social democratic government, full employment was an overall goal for the post-war period and the prerequisites for Gustav Möller's reform program were the full utilisation of the country's productive resources as this created the income needed to finance the reforms. According to Möller, full employment is the pillarstone for civil security.

It is important to note the influence the Beveridge report had on Möller, during the interwar period he was primarily inspired by the Danish system and deeply impressed by it, but after the war his primary inspirations would be taken from Beveridge's report. That Möller was inspired by William Beveridge there was absolutely no question about. Already in 1943 did he praise the report and it was on Möller's initiative that the report was translated into Swedish. Möller's secretary Per Nyström himself admitted that they were strongly inspired by the report. Though it is important to note that the lack of an implementation of the report in TNO will lead to Möller having no nation to look to and a lot of his interpretations will be taken from himself.

It is also important to note that Möller himself had his differences with the Beveridge report despite it being a role model for him. For the liberal Beveridge, co-payments were an important part of the financing (that people would be cost-conscious), while the social democrat Möller invested in tax financing which then also entailed a certain equalisation of income. Möller's emphasis on tax financing will prove to be difficult in Sweden, and Möller would not begin a pause on reforms in 1948 and would continue his social policies uninterrupted. Möller was not a man used to opposition but was not afraid to jump and battle for his reforms.

It was at this time when foreign minister Vougt would negotiate for a referendum on Sweden's entrance into the newly formed German European Economic Community, and peg the krona to the Reichsmark instead of the US dollar. Thus integrating Sweden into Germany's economic framework.

During 47, the sudden increase in inflation and other economic issues would surprise the government, but the resolution would not come from Finance Minister Ernst Wigforss. As he had predicted himself he believed that Möller coming to power would eventually lead to Wigforss having to resign due to their disagreements. They'd be unable to come to a conclusion on how to resolve these economic issues and thus Wigforss' resignation came in quick. Gunnar Myrdal, ally of Möller, would be appointed as finance minister taking

Wigforss' place, but his inability for proper formulations made his position untenable, but the economist solved the problems at hand and prevented a currency crisis from unfolding.

The end of the war also saw other leadership changes in the political scene, Gustaf Andersson i Rasjön was replaced by the professor Bertil Ohlin. The continually pressured Right Party opted to choose Fritiof Domö to replace Gösta Bagge.

The Helsinki Treaty

Hewel replacing Ribbentrop as foreign minister some time prior brought on a set of uncertainties in Swedish policy making as they feared what shifts this would have from the post February Crisis consensus. Fear of a potential armed invasion in the government began to run rampant and was so determined to be so serious that Möller called Foreign Minister Vougt, Defence Minister Sköld and Interior Minister Eije Mossberg on the state of military preparedness. The state of the Swedish army was in disrepair and rapidly needed to be expanded and invested into.

Fears also were targeted at the potential of Finland fully falling under German influence and fully closing Sweden in, and steps were needed to prevent this possibility. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf among others began to push for a defensive alliance with Finland. Gustav Möller himself insisted on pursuing this and thus contact was made with the Finnish government, which was reciprocation. July 1948 Finnish and Swedish diplomats met in Helsinki to sign a new treaty that would replace the Stockholm plan from 1938.

Negotiations would drag out until early September when the Helsinki treaty was signed and ratified by both parties, this treaty replaced the Stockholm plan and entailed a defensive alliance between the two nations with Åland no longer being demilitarised, it also included economic agreements that allowed Sweden free access to the Murmansk and Petsamo ports, and Åland would no longer be demilitarised. Both nations would from here on out be committed not only to the defence of Åland but each other. These new circumstances entailed that Sweden was now roped into the affairs of Finland's newly captured territories in the east and now Petsamo and especially Murmansk would become core parts of Swedish foreign policy as it allowed Sweden to diversify its trade routes, no longer needing to rely upon the German controlled Skagerrak.

As part of his Nordic policy, Vougt himself was very happy to move forward with this arrangement and worked towards it, hoping that this would serve as a cornerstone towards a broadening of the Helsinki Treaty to include a potential alliance with a free Denmark and Norway.

1948 Election

The campaign for the elections began far earlier than normal as the right wing parties believed it to be the golden opportunity for a shift in government. Some members of the

Social Democrats were preemptively preparing for an election loss in 48, notable example being Per Edvin Sköld who believed that the party should prepare for a defeat in 1948 and a return to power in 1952.

The 1948 election would turn out to be one of intense debate, as Gustav Möller would face pressure from the right as they had wide criticisms of his programme, Ohlin and the liberal Peoples' Party were at the forefront of this debate due to their strong opposition to the Social Democrats, though their party programs were closer in nature than they were different, with both seeking a wide social program.

The election was characterised by the planned housing debate, where the opponents to the Social Democrats' housing policy gained the name of the "PHM-ists" by Per Albin Hansson. The PHM-ists insisted that the SAP had abandoned its reformist course and that the socialists would now take power in society, further spurred by the rise of Gustav Möller as prime minister, taking the party into a more left-wing direction. The Social Democrats' post-war program generally scared the right-wing opposition but also the business life in Sweden.

Debates also occurred regarding Sweden's entrance into the EEC and especially the pegging of the Krona to the Reichsmark, which the right accused the Social Democrats of abandoning Sweden's democratic commitment to the west whilst also failing to make any proper attempt at repairing the relationship with the United States that was ruined by the 1943 May crisis, and they felt that abandoning the Dollar was indicative of this. The Molander affair would also embarrass the government further.

The end results of the election would result in the Social Democrats falling to around 50% of the vote, with the SKP(S) returning to the Riksdag. The big winner of the election was Ohlin's Peoples' Party, gaining over 10% more votes and becoming the second biggest party, while the Swedish far right would further syphon votes from the Right party. Möller still came out of the election with a more than comfortable majority and the Möller I cabinet would continue uninterrupted.

Möller wanted to throw out Allan Vougt from the ministry due to his generally weak performance but also their core disagreements over the policy towards Germany, Möller allowed it for now as the king, with all his sympathies towards Germany, was in favour of the continuation of the current foreign policy conducted by Vougt since 1945.

The elections itself would be a massive loss for the Right Party which suffered massive losses to Ohlin's Fp and more minor ones to the National Front, falling under 10% of the vote. Fritiof Domö would stay as party leader for 1 more year until announcing in late 49 that he was resigning which went through in January 1950 with Hjalmarson being chosen to succeed him. The party at this time was in crisis mode and with many even believing that this was the end of H completely. The young and charismatic Hjalmarson would reinvigorate and save the party from this disaster.

Chapter VI: Sweden In the New Order

Death of Gustaf V

“His Majesty King Gustaf V, King of Sweden, Göte and Vende, has today, October 29, 1950, at 08.35 in the morning at the age of 92 and in his 43rd year of reign peacefully passed away at Drottningholm Palace. The royal grief sinks deep over the country, warm and heartfelt is the gratitude for the late father of the country's act of kingship marked by chivalry, wisdom and a living sense of responsibility.”

The death of the king entailed an important shift in Swedish foreign policy, one that may not have been noticeable at first sight. The Swedish monarchy as an institution was primarily anti-German, albeit Gustaf V was an exception to this rule with his pro-German sympathies. The new king Gustaf VI Adolf was a liberal and democrat, and entirely against Germany, albeit he was far more relaxed about his position compared to his wife, Louise, who was entirely opposed to the Nazis and openly called them barbarians. Möller would be called to the King's palace a week after Gustaf V's death, here the new king would request that Möller pressure Allan Vougt to resign, informing him that he could not rule over Sweden while they appeased Germany like this. Möller gladly obliged his request, having been part of the members of SAP that opposed the concessions to Germany. Vougt would be informed of the king's request and quickly resign in early september 1950, his replacement being Östen Undén. Thus the Social Democratic government assumed a far less apologetic route to Germany, while avoiding confrontation.

The Italo-German split was raging at this time and the change of Swedish foreign policy seemed to be part of the wider current of change that occurred in the wake of the split, even if it did not affect Sweden itself. The currents of this time would lead to an even larger military expansion within Sweden, straining its budget further with Möller's social reforms taking place, including the implementation of his health insurance policy in 1950, despite wide reaching opposition. This period would be marred by the clear foreign policy disagreements that have been boiling over the years, especially in regards to Germany, with fierce debates over Sweden's role in the world being commonplace. The only consensus that exists between the different parties is that Sweden will remain a neutral nation, but what that entails is subject to each party's interpretation.

Though a scandal was brewing as the restaurant owner Kurt Haijby, who claimed to have had a homosexual affair with the now dead king Gustaf V, wrote a large number of letters to several different authorities regarding the legal abuses he claimed he had been subjected to. The Chancellor of Justice (JK) Olof Alsén received a request from the government on 28 September 1951 to carry out an investigation to find out if there was any basis for Haijby's claims that various officials had been guilty of very serious misconduct. In May 1952, the JK investigation was complete: it showed that Haijby's accusations of his supposed homosexual relationship with Gustaf V were largely unfounded, but it was also clear that the court paid

out large sums and took other measures with the apparent aim of silencing him. The Haijby affair as it came to be known would be subject to significant debate at this time, especially with Haijby being charged with “gross extortion”. The scandal would continue to be debated over the years.

1952 Elections

The 52 elections would not be anywhere near the heated nature of the 1948 elections, with the main point of contention being Vougt’s foreign policy towards Germany. The Farmers’ League would fall under heavy criticism for its agricultural proposals, with all sides of the spectrum accusing them of wanting to enrich their own voter base.

The results entailed a political consolidation and resulted in the rise of the Right party at the expense of the Fp and National Front, but this would be offset by them making gains against the SAP, but Möller’s government would continue to hold a comfortable 47% of the voter base. While the losses were significant they are explained by the fact that two communist parties consolidated and were regaining ground.

The German Crash

Two years after the elections, Möller reached the age of 70 and many voices in the government and party would call on him to resign and allow a generational shift. However, in the end, Möller relented and stayed in government, his position in the first chamber would also be saved despite the imposed retirement age within SAP.

With 1954 rolling around, an economic crisis hit Germany causing a wider European economic crash, and Sweden got the short end of the stick. The exportation of iron ore, essential for the Swedish economy since the dawn of the new order, fell well over 30%, and many mining companies, including the LKAB, had to receive a government bailout to not cease operations, all the while many miners and workers were being laid off in order to cope with decreasing profits, generating unemployment and poverty for the first time since the end of the Great Depression. Unlike many in his government, Möller would not see this as an ominous apocalypse hitting Sweden, but rather an opportunity to restructure the economy to further internalise his interpretation of the Folkhemmet model, as the government ramped up its spending, dipping into a deficit balance for the following years where government public works would begin in mass, the unemployment support almost doubled, public housing was expanded, and the interest rate was artificially set really low to encourage economic activity to battle this recession. In the end these efforts paid off, as Möller and his ministers commemorated the success of their policies while Sträng remained dissatisfied, with the GDP increasing at a rate of 5.2% at the end of that year, and the poverty rate reaching record low at 1.3%, all this at the cost of the government contracting great sums of German debt in order to fund its economic ventures.

On the initiative of Defence Minister Torsten Nilsson, the cabinet met in November 1955 and decided to pursue nuclear weapons in secrecy, the decision nearly caused finance minister Gunnar Sträng to resign. The Commander in Chief Nils Swedlund would be informed a few hours later of the decision made by the ministry.

Sven Andersson would a few months later reluctantly pursue negotiations with the Italian government in regards to nuclear cooperation, leading to Swedish and Italian scientists secretly collaborating on their respective nuclear programs.

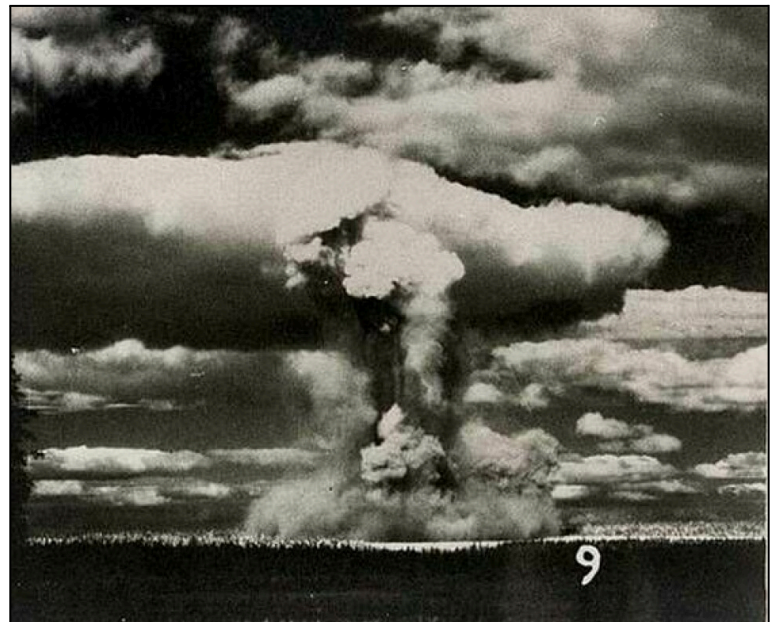
The 1956 Election

The 1956 elections would be marred by the foreign policy and economic failures of Möller and see the Social Democrats take hits in all directions, with the far right also suffering severe losses. What saved the SAP from being entirely defeated was the government's successful measures to stave the economic crisis from developing into a depression.

The 1956 elections entailed strong showing for the right wing opposition where they could hypothetically form a government, but the socialists (SAP, SKP(K) and SPK(H)) held a solid majority in the first chamber compared to the right wing opposition's second chamber majority, thus Möller began negotiations with Hedlund's Farmers' League on the formation of a coalition government, which would be successful and result in the formation of the second Möller cabinet. During the negotiations, SAP and Bf also agreed on a change to the electoral system: instead of the previously used d'Hondt method, they switched to a modified Sainte-Laguë method.

Sirius and Vega

The decision to pursue nuclear weapons in 1955 led to the Swedish government conducting nitro charged bomb tests to simulate a nuclear explosion. The first, code named "Sirius" with 5000 kg and the second, code named "Vega" with 36000 kg. The goals of these were to simulate the potential disruptive effects a nuclear explosion could have on the environment etc. The government at this time also approved the construction of the Saab 32 bomber plane, capable of carrying nuclear weapons weighing 800kg.



The Pension Reform Crisis



As the crisis of 54' passed and several inquiries had occurred into pension reform since 1944, Möller would oppose the direction the party board and Erlander envisaged for the reformation of the pension system, in this case the implementation of supplementary pensions (ATP). Möller after discussions with Erlander diverted the question into the hands of the Ministry of Commerce, as he believed that this question was not a matter of the Ministry of Social Affairs and not part of his social policy. From this point onward Möller was spearheading this policy.

He would push for his dream of a basic pension that would be sufficient and equal for everyone, while supplementary pensions were to be decided by the Unions. Several people in the government would call for a referendum to be held on different proposals on the pension question. Möller completely opposed a referendum and refused to allow one to occur as according to him, there was no important issue that was less suitable for a referendum than the current topic of pensions. This would also prevent the right and the opposition to Möller's reform from forming proper lines. Möller's aggressive politicking on this issue would result in the fall of the second Möller cabinet and the coalition with the newly renamed Center Party (formerly the Farmers' League) as they could not fundamentally agree on the direction of the pension reform, leading to the formation of the third Möller government.

The fall of the coalition government led many to worry that Möller rejected the calls for a new election and hoped to pass the laws with the current seats SAP had, while betting on Peoples' Party defections and communist support as no other position had presented their policies on the issue. The government laid forward its proposal on the 13th of March 1959

and despite rumours of the liberal Ture Königson potentially abstaining, which would allow the policy to pass as Sweden operated on negative parliamentarism, this would not pan out and Möller would be soundly defeated.

The reaction from Möller's side was nothing short of shock, despite the tight circumstances he believed that the lack of a unified or even presentable alternative to Möller's basic pension would lead to the policy being passed. He'd begun to consider a potential resignation from his position as party leader and prime minister, but after talks with Erlander regarding the dire straits SAP is in, he came to the conclusion that the party cannot have a leadership election at this time.

The 1960 election campaign would be relatively tame, until the SAP weaponized the lack of a developed alternative from the right to the pension reforms presented in 1959, which put pressure on the right wing opposition and handed Social Democrats some small gains in the election, allowing Möller to potentially pursue another attempt at his basic pension. But whether the party board can handle such moves from him remains to be seen, or if Möller gives in to the party board demands and operates on the ATP principle and sends the proposal through the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Flow of Skeleton

The Early Game

Möller's government at game start is one which continues to implement reforms such as a 4 weeks vacation, while he can either give up on his dreams of a basic pension and follow the party board on the implementation of ATP, or once again arm wrangle the party and force a vote with the Riksdag group, which he is sure to win. While Möller with the communists hold a majority of 117 seats (Möller heads a minority government, as the right did not win enough seats to form a government) excluding the SAP speaker, his constant arm wrangling may cause SAP defections should he not choose to follow the party board on ATP.

The Kampfzeit will trigger an economic recession in Sweden once again, the partial decoupling in the crisis of 56 would not be enough to stem the new crisis due to Sweden's membership in the EEC, leading to calls for Sweden to leave the EEC rising, strengthening the right party (H) which has been the most outspoken party against the EEC.

Bornholm Affair

Bornholmsaffären

The Bornholm affair occurs after the suppression of the Bornholm uprising by either the Danish or Germans (depends on what occurs in the Denmark skeleton). Several Danish resistance members will escape from Bornholm to Sweden, intending on escaping to America. The most notable of these men is Sigurd Ømann, the initial instigator of the uprising. The Danish Efterretningstjeneste will immediately request a list of people they've been informed are present in Sweden, and the Swedish police will be called to detain them. Though with the (1957:668) extradition law the responsibility of deciding whether someone will be extradited or not lies on the Swedish government, thus leaving it to the Swedish ministry to decide the fate of several men, sparking protests urging the government to reject extradition.

Whatever decision Sweden undertakes will have widespread domestic reactions either way and it'll be an important variable to the coming elections.

Nausta Nuclear Test

Naustasmällen

The Swedish government conducts its first nuclear test weighing 20 kilotons on Nausta in January 1964 codenamed 'POLARIS', triggering an immediate German response.

(This part of the document will be left blank, as the diplomatic crisis between Sweden and Germany will be part of Kampfzeit development, whenever it starts up as the decisions the Germans make will be a make or break for the foreign department).

Second Pension Vote

Andra Pensionsrösten

With the elections rapidly approaching, the Möller government will with its majority seek to implement a new pension law, either to bring back the one shot down in 1959 or compromise and seek to pass the ATP. The right though has their own proposals at hand now, promising an alternative should the vote fail.

Möller chose ATP: with his decision in 62 to work with the ATP proposal, the SAP Riksdag group becomes sceptical. They've always been Möller's largest supporters and seek to push through the basic pension, several rounds of votes will have to go through with them until a compromise can be met. Should Möller and the party board fail to convince the Riksdag group, the ATP is killed then and there and Möller has once again failed to pass his biggest reform yet, which'll lead him to resign as Prime Minister and party leader.

Should a compromise be met with the Riksdag group, the ATP will pass the Riksdag without issue and become law, reforming Sweden's pension system 5 years after the initial proposal was shot down.

Möller chose his Basic Pension: the party board will be outraged and Möller will have to once again threaten resignation and force the policy to be sent to the Riksdag group, which will approve his proposal with flying colours. But one dissenting voice in the Riksdag group may completely topple the policy. If this occurs and the policy is shot down then Möller will resign as Prime Minister and party leader.

Should Möller's proposal pass then all pensions in Sweden will be equalised with supplementary pensions being left up to the unions to argue for.

1964 SAP Congress - Möller Resigns

Should Möller resign, a SAP congress will be immediately called to elect the next party leader and by extension Prime Minister as the Social Democrats are the only ones capable of forming a government. Möller's resignation has completely shocked his supporters and the initiative falls firmly under those who are more concerned with budgeting and moderation.

Despite their strained relationship, Wigforss will approach Gunnar



Sträng and call upon him to become party leader. Sträng is effectively a compromise candidate, though one of more moderate nature due to his beliefs in the need to balance the budget. Despite Sträng's initial hesitance, he opts to run for the party leadership due to the dire nature of the party. He'll win the congress and form a new Government.

Sträng's government is one of strong moderation from Möller, but Sträng as a leader is well equipped to take back the electorate, and Bertil Ohlin viewed him as the most dangerous debater in the ministry. Now he stands at the top, renewing confidence in the party, but if it is enough to stop the right-wing opposition from forming a government remains to be seen.

1964 Elections

The 1964 elections will be one of intense political and media debate, one to rival the 1948 and 1956 elections. The actions of the Möller III government will be the determining factor of the result, even if Sträng has come in and partly rescued the party's campaign.

If the Social Democrats' only succeeded at $\frac{1}{3}$ crises then polling numbers will show a knockout for them at 42% of the vote, but the intense nature of the election also increases turnout, which will favour them. If the SAP fails at all crises then they will not be re-elected.

This election will also be the Peoples' Party's last chance at forming a government led by Ohlin, as he'll end up resigning the party leadership otherwise in 3 years and effectively throw the party into decline, but they remain for the 64 elections second in the race, unless Hjalmarson's Right Party has a sudden upset and wins more votes than them.

Borgerlig Victory

Should the Swedish right win in the elections the process of forming a coalition of three parties will occur, the Centre Party (Cp), Peoples' Party (Fp) and Right Party (H). The responsibility of prime minister will fall on either H or Fp, depending on who came second place in the elections.

The coalition will struggle to stay unified, as it's a broad one of centrists, social liberals and anti-welfarist conservatives. H's dream of significantly cutting down on Folkhemmet is impossible with Fp and Cp completely opposing any moves aside from balancing the budget. H will still in part seek to implement its policy of an "Ownership Democracy"¹¹ should it lead the government. The Peoples' party will seek to protect Sweden's welfare policy wherever possible but it accepts the need to cut down on spending.

¹¹ Fancy term for privatisation

Finland Crisis

Finlandskrisen

Unlike the December crisis of 39, political consensus on defending Finland is far stronger. Thus all governments will commit to defending Finland by the time the Murmansk revolt occurs, though the Sträng government will be less committed. Initially Sweden will commit 3 volunteers (2 if Sträng) to represent a limited armed intervention, though should Russia push too far then Sweden will declare a general mobilisation and fully commit to the conflict.

It's in Sweden's vested interest that Finland maintains control over the Murmansk and Petsamo ports, as Sweden uses them as alternative ports to the Gothenburg port which requires ships to pass through the Pakt controlled Skagerrak strait. This is why Sweden, aside from its treaty commitments to Finland through their defensive alliance, needs Finland to regain control of Murmansk. A defeat in this regard will be significant and in a way draw Sweden closer to Germany, as one of its routes around the Skagerrak has now been lost.

The Left Wave

Vänstervågen

Despite the lack of May 68 in France and the general new left, Sweden will still have its own wave of left-wing sentiment, albeit never to the same extent of other western countries like OTL. The initial starting point being the reunification of the SKP, triggered by C-H Hermansson who succeeded Hilding Hagberg, he slowly began to come to the conclusion over time that Swedish communism cannot survive this division if it continues. Thus a reunification conference begins and both parties vote to reunify, but a minority in both parties oppose the merger and split away, forming several small communist and left-wing activist parties.

In 1968, both SAP and the Swedish right will lay forward an education reform, be it UKAS or something else, which will lead to significant student protests in Stockholm, with students occupying the Corps House at Stockholm University, and in every path but Sträng's, the Stockholm City Theatre, Concert Hall, Opera and Central Station as well. Calls will begin to ring out for the ruling Prime Minister to resign (if Möller is prime minister he will resign at this point). The occupation will eventually fizzle out, but if Hjalmarson is in power, the police force will force them apart.

An extension of what occurs in 68 is the great miners' strike of 69-70, also known as the LKAB conflict. The strike occurred in the state mining company LKAB (Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag) which involves more than 4,500 miners in Kiruna, Luleå, Malmberget and Svappavaara, with several demands being thrown out by the strikers. Eventually infighting due to the political diversity of the strike leads to them standing down. But the 3 months of strikes will significantly affect Sweden's main export of steel, crippling the economy, something future Sweden content will put in the agency of the player to solve and end the strikes.

1970 will be a year of several more strikes, including the The Port Workers' Union's wild strike in the Port of Gothenburg in 1970 and 100 others, which will severely weaken the ruling government's chances of winning the next elections, especially for the right wing. The ruling government will be pressed to pass urgent reforms in this sector.

While the effects on Swedish society aren't huge, the developments do not favour the Swedish right and they'll need to moderate their policies to survive the new landscape. Some within the Right party will attempt to get it renamed to the Moderate party, but this will fail.¹²

This eventually leads to Landsorganisationen (LO) in Sweden, which is heavily connected to SAP, having a congress in 71 demanding the institution of Lönetagarfonder (Employee funds). This policy aims to redistribute economic power from private business owners to the employees by having parts of the companies' profits be consolidated into funds controlled by the trade union movement.

SAP 1968 Congress - Möller Resigns

The end of Möller's government has come and now a new party leader needs to be chosen, the frontrunner is Olof Palme, education minister, he represents another shift to the left to rival Möller's. But Möller and co will back a new up and coming candidate in Sten Andersson, party secretary, who seeks to keep the course Möller set. Despite the circumstances Palme remains the favourite.

Should Palme win, a significant shift in Swedish foreign policy will occur as much of Anderssons and Palme's own personal anti-authoritarianism and scepticism towards America will become the forefront of SAP policy, which includes a strong distaste for both Germany and Japan as well.

1968 Elections

Matching the intensity of the 64 elections, the elections in 1968 will be one of intense political debate, especially in the background of the student protests in May. Should the right wing have failed to win in 64 then the Centre Party will rise to the forefront and become the primary opposition to the Social Democrats, though H still has a chance to clinch a victory. Should Sträng be prime minister this'll also serve as a final vote of confidence after SAP's failure in the 66' local elections in his path and he'll resign from party leadership should he lose.

¹² Unlike OTL

Constitutional Reform

Författningsreform

The process to reform the Swedish constitution has been ongoing since the 50s with the Sandler commission, and has overall widespread support over the political spectrum. The process will properly take off in the 69-75 period. The goal with the reforms is to make the Swedish political system far more equal, hence why the right wing are the ones primarily pushing for it, with most in the Social Democrats being in favour (some aren't, as SAP benefits heavily from the current system).

The reforms include changing the Riksdag to be a unicameral parliament with 350 seats (incase of H, 300 seats). Other reforms include the shortening of the parliament expiration to 3 years and the amount of seats given being proportional to the amount of votes the party got (with the requirement of winning at least 4% of the popular vote to get in the Riksdag). In this regard not much will change between the paths as these reforms had broad political consensus. These reforms lead to the Torekov compromise in 1971 becoming the basis for the 1974 form of government. New elections will be called for 1970.

1970 Elections

The 1970 elections is the last one before the Oil Crisis begins and the first with the new constitution. Many of the important issues include rent and the government's handling of the 1970 strikes including LKAB. Several new party leaders will also be present and heading a campaign for the first time as the leader of their respective party. It serves as the final check on the ruling government's capability to rule the country. The Centre party will change their abbreviation from "Cp" to "C"



Oil Crisis

Oljekrisen

Sweden's reliance on oil has been rapidly increasing from being 40% of Sweden's energy to being 75% in 1970. The government debt from the shock will double as well.

A campaign headed by the government for the individual Swede to begin rationing on their own accord will occur. Things like not using warm water when it isn't necessary, keeping the oil consumption low etc will be highly advertised. The goal of this campaign is to keep the country's reserves large enough for the winter of 1971, and to avoid the government needing to itself begin rationing. A special agreement between the state and the oil companies that the latter would significantly reduce oil deliveries to their customers will also be agreed upon.

The government will agree to constitute the ongoing event as a crisis and allow for crisis laws to be passed. A few weeks after the beginning of the oil crisis, some twenty bans on the use

of electricity comes into force. The contemporary name for these are the electricity restrictions. These bans concerned electricity for both lighting and heating. In several cases the prescribed regulations detail what end users are not allowed to do. Should the reserves not be enough, the introduction of rationing of fuel, fuel oil and district heating will become necessary. In the worst case scenario the government will be required to ration electricity. Should the Center party be in power, their opposition to Nuclear power will fall under heavy criticism.

German-Swedish Relations

While the core of how things would function were discussed in the forewords section, generally the relationship will be maintained as is by the Social Democrats should they come to power, with Palme making things more frosty though not entirely- it's mainly his strong criticism of foreign interventions, be it American, Japanese or German that may cause issues. But overall the trade relationship would be uninterrupted. Germany has no intentions of invading Sweden and will not develop any, should Sweden act unruly it will resort to economic and diplomatic pressure to get its way.


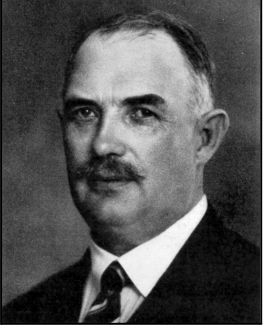


The election of a liberal or right wing government will completely offset the balance of the relationship between Sweden and Germany, especially if Hjalmarson forms a government. Högerpartiet are astringent sovereignists and will want to pull Sweden out of the EEC immediately and if they are in power they'll trigger a referendum, which Germany will have to tamper with in a Jamaica-style proxy between it and Sweden. Both Fp and H will seek to increase trade outside of the EEC with countries in southern Europe, LATAM and the United States itself. It'll seek to solve Sweden's labour crisis by taking in foreign workers from primarily Finland.




Epilogue

As the year reaches 1973, Sweden's skeleton will have its closing events. Gustaf VI Adolf will pass away a day before the 73 elections and be replaced by Gustaf Adolf Oscar Fredrik Arthur Edmund, now crowned Gustaf VII Adolf.¹³ The day after the 73 elections will occur and will be the last ones modelled. 2 months later, should Fälldin be the party leader of the Centre party (C), will attempt a merger with the Peoples' Party (Fp) which if the vote in the Centre party succeeds on November 19th, the merger will go through 2 days later. This new merged party will hold the name "Liberala Centerpartiet" (Liberal-Centre Party, LC) Per Ahlmark (Fp member) will reject the merger and form his own liberal party named "Frisinnade Folkpartiet" (the Free-Spirited Peoples' Party, FFp).

¹³ He will not pass away in a plane crash in Denmark in 1946 and thus remain next in line to the throne with our current king Carl XVI Gustaf being the heir to the throne after Gustaf VII's coronation.

List of Prime Ministers of Sweden

Photo	Name		Cabinets
	<p>Per Albin Hansson (SAP)</p>		<p>Hansson I (1932-1936)</p>
	<p>Axel Pehrsson-Bramstorp (C)</p>		<p>Pehrsson-Bramstorp I (3 Months)</p>
	<p>Per Albin Hansson (SAP)</p>		<p>Hansson II (1936-1939)</p>
	<p>Torsten Nothin (SAP)</p>		<p>Nothin I (1939-1945)</p>

	<p>Per Albin Hansson (SAP)</p>		<p>Hansson III (1945-1946†)</p>
	<p>Allan Vougt¹⁴ (SAP)</p>		<p>Hansson III (5 days)</p>
	<p>Gustav Möller (SAP)</p>		<p>Möller I, II, III (1946-Present)</p>


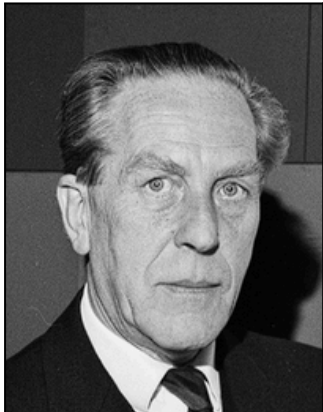
¹⁴ After Hansson's death, Vougt served as acting prime minister (based on the 1809 form of government), in his capacity as the government's second excellency and minister for foreign affairs, until Möller was sworn into office.

Characters and In-game Cabinets

Initial Note

Any characters that have nothing written for them and are not marked with “tbd” will not have anything written for them (some people have little to no info or usually cause we are lazy).

Due to the previously mentioned 1809 form of government, Sweden did have a deputy prime minister (Ställföreträdande statsminister). The person who was second in line to the succession was at this time the Foreign Minister, and thus the Head of Government slot will be held by the Foreign Minister. The other 3 minister slots will be held by the most relevant ministers and will not follow the designations set in the code (secmin, ecomin, formin).

THE MÖLLER III GOVERNMENT	
<i>Regeringen Möller III</i>	
	<p>Gustav Möller Reformist Socialism Statsminister Partiordförande of SAP</p> <hr/> <p>Gustav Möller is part of the second generation of Social Democrats and is the father of Sweden's welfare system. As the former Minister of Social Affairs, he drove through his policies in the Hansson governments with minimal opposition. These credentials landed him the top job as party leader of the SAP and Prime Minister, as he successfully fought off opposition from Wigforss and Sköld's men. Möller continued with his welfarist policies and balanced Sweden with the new order in Europe, but he'd fail to pass his pension reforms in 1959, leaving a mark on his rule. Now in 1962 he is ageing, and the new generation of Social Democrats wish to see a younger Social Democrat as Prime Minister.</p>
	<p>Sven Andersson Reformist Socialism Utrikesminister</p> <hr/> <p>The appointment of Sven Andersson came after the resignation of Allan Vougt with him taking the seat representing a notable shift in Swedish foreign policy from his predecessor. A vocal critic of colonisation, Andersson has been far less favourable to Germany much to Möller and the King's delight. But many in his party feel as his foreign policy is not one that is proper for the cold war, wishing that it instead sought to keep relations cool with all great powers. It is not only Germany that does not like the man, as America too distrusts him. Whatever's next for Andersson remains to be seen.</p>



Tage Erlander

Reformist Socialism
Socialminister

Erlander's rise has been a sudden one and he has remained one of Möller's closest friends since his promotion to secretary in the social department in 38, working closely with Möller. Many saw him as the perfect successor to Per Albin Hansson and hoped to see him as the tillbringer of a generational shift, but he steadfastly refused to become party leader and prime minister.

He would be considered by Möller to become Minister of Social Affairs in 46, but he opted to appoint Per Nyström instead. With Nyström's resignation in 1950 the role of Minister of Social Affairs finally fell upon Erlander's shoulders, and he has served Möller's government since. How Erlander will continue to handle his position remains to be seen, especially in light of his own problems with self confidence.



Gunnar Sträng

Reformist Socialism
Finansminister

Sträng's appointment in 1949 succeeding Myrdal was not an easy one, many opposed it due to the man's attitude. He'd quickly prove himself to be a fierce debater and effective minister, with Bertil Ohlin viewing him as the most dangerous in the cabinet. Sträng is far more conservative on the budget, leading to his relations with Möller being uneasy, and they are on an inevitable collision course.

Sträng is an opponent of Sweden's nuclear weapons program and hopes to see it dismantled, something not many other people in the cabinet can support. Though many in SAP are supportive of the man and see him as a potential future prime minister, whether he's interested in such a position remains to be seen, though Sträng seems unwilling.



Torsten Nilsson

Reformist Socialism
Förvarsminister

There were some in the party in 1946 that thought Torsten Nilsson could be the next prime minister, but when questioned about the idea he dismisses it and he quickly tries to change the topic. Party Secretary and Minister of Communications are positions the man held before ascending to the position of Defence Minister, taking over in a time where the Swedish Military required expansion to not only serve as a reliable ally to Finland, but also to try and counter German influence. His voice has also been crucial in furthering Sweden's nuclear weapons program, pushing hard for it.

THE STRÄNG GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Sträng



Gunnar Sträng

Reformist Socialism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of SAP

The man who did not want to be prime minister stands at the top. Sweden's longest sitting Finance Minister has now been tasked with saving the Social Democrats' election in 1964 after Möller's sudden resignation. Soon after his appointment, Sträng and Ohlin met in Vasaparken for a widely televised debate, where Sträng masterfully deconstructed his opponent.

A man deeply concerned with the budget, whether this position will appeal to voters or not remains to be seen.



Dag Hammarskjöld

Neocorporatism
Utrikesminister

Andersson requesting to be made finance minister was a great relief for Sträng. This allowed him to appoint the Swedish Ambassador to the United States, Dag Hammarskjöld, to foreign minister.

His personality has traits of his father's coolness and restraint, but also his mother's more humane Christian outlook. The future of Swedish foreign policy will be one different from Andersson and Möller.



Sven Aspling

Reformist Socialism
Socialminister

When Sträng tried to approach Erlander to once again take upon the position of Minister of Social Affairs, it was clear he had entered another slump and needed a break from the spotlight. In times like these a new man is needed to carry the torch, and who else than Erlander's deputy? Erlander himself agreed.

Not everything will be easy for Sven, he is fully intent on carrying Möller's torch and his social policy. Something that may upset Sträng.



Sven Andersson

Reformist Socialism
Finansminister

Despite Andersson's efficient job as foreign minister, he was always more knowledgeable in the finance and defence departments, with Sträng ascending to the position of Prime Minister, Andersson requested to be made Finance Minister which Sträng gladly accepted.



Torsten Nilsson

Reformist Socialism
Förvarsminister

THE OHLIN GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Ohlin

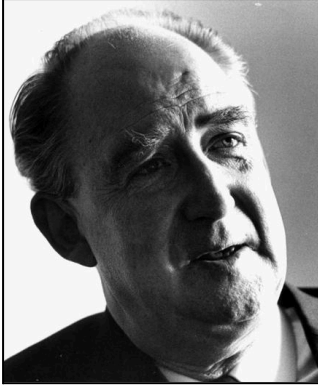


Bertil Ohlin

Social Liberalism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of Folkpartiet

"He's crazy, absolutely crazy!" Bertil Ohlin is a renowned economist known for his studies with his professor Eli Hecksher and his leadership of Folkpartiet. Ohlin has been the face of the anti-socialist opposition for over a decade, a moderate in many forms, social liberal, and the defender of small businesses.

Now he finally stands as Statsminister over a right-wing coalition government. Whether Ohlin bends to Högerpartiet on welfare policy and budgeting or successfully cuts them out to form a centrist government remains to be seen.



Sven Wedén
Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister

Much like Bertil Ohlin had Eli Hecksher to look up to, so had Sven Wedén to his mentor Bertil Ohlin. A frail and shy man, Wedén is not known for his oratory prowess, the art of persuasion, or rhetoric; rather, he is a man of technical matters. A crude analyst, Wedén seeks to prove his worth through his competency and tangible results rather than vain words, in hopes of somewhat living up to his mentor.

Serving as the foreign minister of the first right-wing government since the 20s, Wedén has the crude task of managing a two-way crux, to both draw Sweden closer to the free-allies found in the OFN and abroad, and to reassure confidence in the Germans that Sweden will still be a reliable partner of the Reich.



Gunnar Hedlund
Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister

Gunnar Hedlund has seen through a significant transformation of the Centre Party from what the populace saw as a class party appealing to the farmers. While Hedlund always saw the party as a socially radical party in the centre appealing to all Swedes, with the flight of farmers from the countryside, the Centre was in need of reform and a name change from the “Farmer’s League”.

The Center party of today is one that stands in close partnership with Ohlin’s Peoples’ Party, with a joint policy of “mittenpolitiken” being promoted by both parties. Hedlund has now returned to the position of Minister of the Interior after the failure of the SAP-C coalition in 1956-1957, and the party now stands in firm opposition to the Social Democrats.



Gunnar Heckscher
Liberal Corporatism
Finansminister



Jarl Hjalmarson

Populist Conservatism
Förvarsminister

A traditionalist, the vox populi, or the man fighting back the Keynesian tide? If you were to ask anyone which of these descriptions fit Jarl Hjalmarson the best, they would say all of them. This flamboyant bowtied politician is an outsider of the Swedish political game, as Hjalmarson stands against all that defines the Swedish society under the Folkhemmet model, with the ambition of turning the country upside down with his ambitious conservative and free-market ideas that seemed to have died out all over the globe.

THE HJALMARSON GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Hjalmarson



Jarl Hjalmarson

Populist Conservatism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of H

A traditionalist, the vox populi, or the man fighting back the Keynesian tide? If you were to ask anyone which of these descriptions fit Jarl Hjalmarson the best, they would say all of them. This flamboyant bowtied politician is an outsider of the Swedish political game, as Hjalmarson stands against all that defines the Swedish society under Folkhemmet, with the ambition of turning the country upside down with his ambitious conservative and free-market ideas that seemed to have died out all over the globe.

With the electoral success of the H in the 1964 election, Hjalmarson has been made the first right-wing prime minister since the 30s, and the pressure on his government is quickly piling. His dream of creating an “ownership democracy” where the people are the ones controlling the economy, not bureaucrats of the state is within his grasp, but the fact he needs to appease his coalition puts many of his plans on the backburner in order to properly govern.



Bertil Ohlin

Social Liberalism

Utrikesminister

"He's crazy, absolutely crazy!", Bertil Ohlin is a renowned economist known for his studies with his professor Eli Hecksher and his leadership of Folkpartiet. Bertil Ohlin has been the face of the anti-socialist opposition for over a decade, a moderate in many forms, and the defender of small businesses.

Serving as Hjalmarson's foreign minister Ohlin will have to walk a tightrope blindfolded. He needs to make sure that the H government in fact works with the coalition and does not go astray with its own ambitions, since Ohlin is aware that Hjalmarson intends to make his party the dominant in the coalition. Ohlin also needs to break bread with the Germans over the debt issue, assure that iron will still be exported at the targeted prices, and make overtures to the OFN to pull Sweden away from the Reich. However, the EEC question, which has been flared up after the election of Hjalmarson, may prove to be the coalition's ruin if Ohlin does not properly deal with the Germans.



Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism

Inrikesminister

Gunnar Hedlund has seen through a significant transformation of the Centre Party from what the populace saw as a class party appealing to the farmers. While Hedlund always saw the party as a socially radical party in the centre appealing to all Swedes, with the flight of farmers from the countryside, the Centre was in need of reform and a name change from the "Farmer's League".

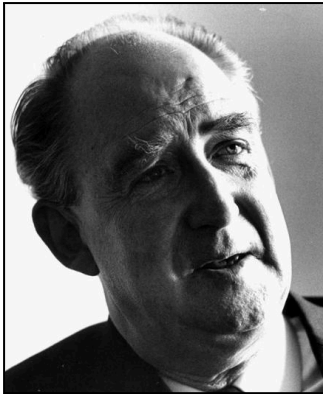
The Center party of today is one that stands in close partnership with Ohlin's Peoples' Party, with a joint policy of "mittenpolitiken" being promoted by both parties. Hedlund has now returned to the position of Minister of the Interior after the failure of the SAP-Cp coalition in 1956-1957, and the party now stands in firm opposition to the Social Democrats.



Gunnar Heckscher

Liberal Corporatism

Finansminister



Sven Wedén

Social Liberalism
Handelsminister

Much like Bertil Ohlin had Eli Hecksher to look up to, so had Sven Wedén to his mentor Bertil Ohlin. A frail and shy man, Wedén is not known for the oratory prowess, the art of persuasion, or rhetoric, rather he is a man of technical matters. A crude analyst, Wedén seeks to prove his worth through his competency and tangible results rather than vain words, in hopes of somewhat living up to his mentor.

THE PALME GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Palme



Olof Palme

Social Democracy
Statsminister
Partiordförande of SAP

Olof Palme's rise goes back to his great skills in speech writing, when Erlander needed a new personal secretary to lessen the pressure, there was Palme. Much of what Minister of Social Affairs Tage Erlander said can be traced back to Palme.

Knowledgeable in the finance, social and defence sectors. To the populace Olof Palme is a young, fresh and new politician with the ability to engage people. Quick to understand problems and come to conclusions, Palme represents a new Social Democratic party, one that is guaranteed to take a more radical direction.



Sven Andersson

Social Democracy
Utrikesminister

The appointment of Sven Andersson came after the resignation of Allan Vougt with him taking the seat representing a notable shift in Swedish foreign policy from his predecessor. A vocal critic of colonisation, Andersson has been far less favourable to Germany much to Möller and the King's, and now, Palme's delight. But many in his party feel as his foreign policy is not one that is proper for the cold war, wishing that it instead sought to keep relations cool with all great powers. It is not only Germany that does not like the man, as America too distrusts him. Whatever's next for Andersson remains to be seen.



Sven Aspling
Social Democracy
Socialminister

A close friend of Palme, spending their skiing holidays in the mountains together with their families, the appointment of Sven Aspling to the Social Department was no surprise, and the man now vows to continue Gustav Möller's legacy.



Gunnar Sträng
Social Democracy
Finansminister



Torsten Nilsson
Social Democracy
Förvarsminister

THE ANDERSSON GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Andersson



Sten Andersson

Reformist Socialism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of SAP

Sten Andersson, known by his colleagues as Sten, has had an extremely sudden rise, from party secretary to Prime Minister. Energetic, ambitious and intelligent, the man was able to convince the party that he was the right man to carry Möller's torch.

Andersson is a firm anti-colonialist, with many observing his unabated support for Palestine. Where Sten drives the party next remains to be seen.



Torsten Nilsson

Social Democracy
Utrikesminister



Sven Aspling

Reformist Socialism
Socialminister



Gunnar Sträng

Reformist Socialism
Finansminister

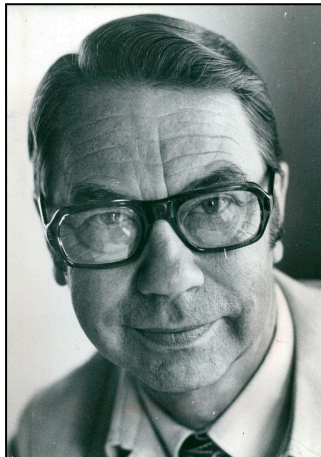


Olof Palme
Reformist Socialism
Försvarsminister

tbd

THE HELÉN GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Helén



Gunnar Helén
Social Liberalism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of Folkpartiet

tbd



Ola Ullsten
Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister

tbd



Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister



Gunnar Heckscher

Conservatism
Finansminister



Jarl Hjalmarson

Populist Conservatism
Förvarsminister

THE HECKSCHER GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Heckscher



Gunnar Heckscher

Liberal Corporatism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of H

Heckscher and his opponent, Cassel, were sitting outside on the steps reading to each other their acceptance speeches while the party was voting on who would become the next party leader and potential prime minister after Hjalmarson's resignation. Heckscher sees himself as irreligious and a plain conservative, however he's a clear leader of the light blue faction in H, espousing a moderation in policy to make right wing cooperation simpler.

But he lacks the charisma, capabilities, and to some, the intelligence of his predecessor. All of this isn't helped by the fact that the man is of Jewish descent, resulting in him receiving anti-semitic calls everyday.



Yngve Holmberg

Liberal Corporatism
Utrikesminister

The new vice party chairman and now foreign minister, many were surprised that H were able to gain this ministerial position. The party was internally worried that Heckscher's ancestry may lead to his position being unstable.

With an enchanting smile, the jurist now enters the stage. The man commonly resorts to one liners to try to get his point across, sometimes lecturing his own interviewers.

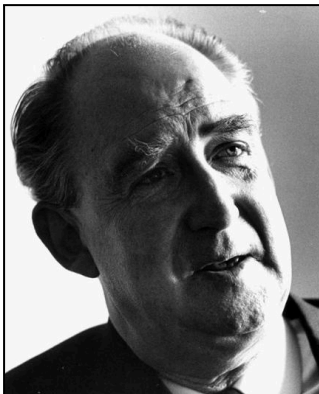


Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister



Bertil Ohlin
Social Liberalism
Finansminister



Sven Wedén
Social Liberalism
Handelsminister

Much like Bertil Ohlin had Eli Hecksher to look up to, so had Sven Wedén to his mentor Bertil Ohlin. A frail and shy man, Wedén is not known for the oratory prowess, the art of persuasion, or rhetoric, rather he is a man of technical matters. A crude analyst, Wedén seeks to prove his worth through his competency and tangible results rather than vain words, in hopes of somewhat living up to his mentor.

With the failure of the coalition government, Wedén needs to ensure that the plans made for the expansion of Sweden's trade network is somewhat complete in order to deliver some of the expectations laid on the new Hecksher government

THE CASSEL GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Cassel



Leif Cassel
Conservatism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of H

TBD



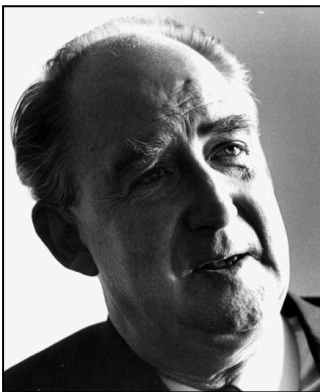
Bertil Ohlin
Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



Gunnar Hedlund
Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister



Gunnar Heckscher
Liberal Corporatism
Finansminister



Sven Wedén
Social Liberalism
Handelsminister

THE BOHMAN GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Bohman



Gösta Bohman

Liberal Corporatism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of H

tbd



Ola Ullsten

Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



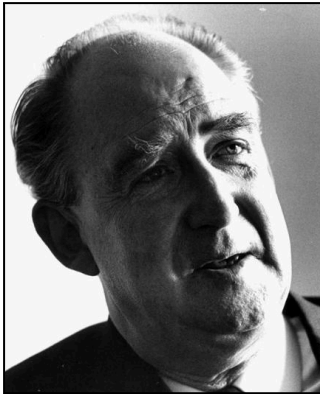
Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister



Ingemar Mundebo

Social Liberalism
Finansminister



Sven Wedén

Social Liberalism
Handelsminister

THE HEDLUND CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Hedlund



Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of Cp



Thorbjörn Fälldin

Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



Rune Gustavsson

Liberal Agrarianism
Socialminister



Johannes Antonsson

Liberal Agrarianism
Civilminister



Torsten Gustafsson

Liberal Agrarianism
Försvarsminister

THE HEDLUND GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Hedlund



Gunnar Hedlund

Liberal Agrarianism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of C

tbd



Ola Ullsten

Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



Thorbjörn Fälldin

Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister

tbd



Gösta Bohman
Liberal Corporatism
Finansminister



Johannes Antonsson
Agrarian Liberalism
Civilminister

THE FÄLLDIN GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Fälldin



Thorbjörn Fälldin
Liberal Agrarianism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of C



Ola Ullsten
Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



Johannes Antonsson
Liberal Agrarianism
Civilminister



Gösta Bohman
Social Liberalism
Ekonomiminister



Ingemar Mundebo
Social Liberalism
Budgetminister

THE ANTONSSON GOVERNMENT

Regeringen Antonsson



Johannes Antonsson

Liberal Agrarianism
Statsminister
Partiordförande of C



Ola Ullsten

Social Liberalism
Utrikesminister



Thorbjörn Fälldin

Liberal Agrarianism
Inrikesminister



Gösta Bohman
Liberal Corporatism
Ekonomiminister



Ingemar Mundebo
Social Liberalism
Budgetminister

OTHER CHARACTERS



Siegfried Kasche

German Ambassador to Sweden

Kasche was at Göring's mercy during the Night of the Long Knives, and thus his appointment as German ambassador to Sweden came at Göring's behest. Formerly Reichskommissar of Moskowien until his conflict with the SS resulted in his dismissal, his appointment to Sweden is seen as a relatively irrelevant one.

Nobody would foresee the oncoming Kampfzeit and Sweden's brazen nuclear display, now opposing political forces to Göring may be eyeing up Kasche's dismissal again, in an attempt to take over the handling of the diplomatic crisis with Sweden.

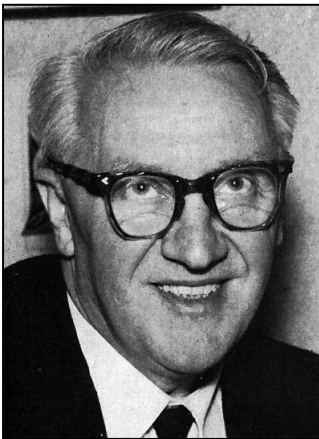


Nils Flyg

Bolshevism

Leader of Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti (Kilbomare)

Nils Flyg was part of many in the Social Democratic Party that he attached themselves to the radical wing of the party, and eventually joined Zeth Höglund's marxist splinter in 1917. As the SSV transformed into the SKP and with Höglund's eventual expulsion in 1924, Nils Flyg was now at the helm of the party with Karl Kilbom as the main theorist. Flyg's leadership since then has been nothing short of tumultuous. The Stalin coup in 1943 split the SKP in two with Flyg finding himself as the leader of the more popular and legitimate party. Kilbom has since passed away in 1961 and Flyg himself is feeling his age come to him.



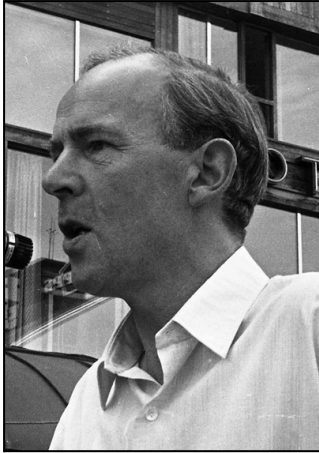
Hilding Hagberg

Marxism-Leninism

Leader of Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti (Hagbergarna)

Hagberg is a man that maintains his allegiance to the marxist-leninist line of thought, rejecting Bukharin. Having joined the SSV the year it was formed, in 1917. Hagberg became the editor in chief of Norrskensflamman in 1930 and a member of the Riksdag in 1933, maintaining his seat until the 1944 election, only to return in 1948.

After Linderot's resignation in 1950 he took over the stalinist-aligned SKP and has maintained the course of the party since then.



Carl-Henrik Hermansson

Marxism-Leninism, later Bolshevism

MP of SKP(H)

Potential Leader of Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti
(Hagbergarna)

Hermansson's political participation dates back to his membership of the SSU in the 30s, until his membership in Clarté led to him being thrown out of SAP and led to him joining the SKP. At the event of Stalin's coup in 43, Hermansson joined the pro-Stalin contingent in the formation of a new SKP, and he remained a convicted stalinist through the 50s. Now his belief in the Marxist-Leninist line is waning, and he is beginning to come to terms with the idea that both SKP parties need to unite to revive Sweden's communist movement.



Rütger Essén

Corporatism

Leader and MP of Sveriges Nationella Förbund

Rütger Essén is nothing short of a right-wing extremist and his leadership of the SNF solidifies him as a convinced anti-semite. Essén may not necessarily subscribe to the national socialist ideology, as the SNF is an inconsistent blend of far-right thought but his admiration of Germany is unquestionable. Essén has been the SNF's leader since 1941, and the party has now become Germany's preference in Sweden's far right compared to the economically mismanaged SSS, with funding of the SNF by the Ausland SD being the norm. While they believe Germany's support comes from a wish for the SNF to take power, the real goal is for the SNF to act as a sabotaging piece to prevent Sweden's moderate right from taking power.



Sven Olov Lindholm

National Socialism, later Bolshevism

Leader and MP of the Svensk Socialistisk Samling

Sven Olov Lindholm's activities goes as far back as his membership in Birger Furugård's SNSP, after a failed attempt to take over the party, Lindholm and his faction was forced out of the party resulting in the creation of the NSAP. The 36 elections were a triumph for the NSAP, defeating the SNSP electorally resulting in its dissolution. Overall the elections were a failure for the NSAP resulting in several members leaving and the party renamed itself to the Swedish Socialist Gathering (SSS) to separate itself from Nazi Germany, but make no mistake the party still looked up to Germany. Lindholm has continued to serve his party until the present day, but his own loyalty to the ideology he fostered may be faltering.



Lewi Pethrus
Christian Conservatism
Potential MP of H
Former Leader of KSA

A leader with the Pentecostal movement, Lewi Pethrus has been pushing for christian values in Swedish politics and was one of the men that founded the Kristet Samhällsansvar, an organisation promoting Christian values and politicians in Swedish politics.

Jarl Hjalmarson has himself observed this movement and directly participated and offered Lewi Pethrus a chance to become an MP for H, while he initially rejected he has since made up his mind and merged KSA directly with H. Whether they are able to transform H into a Christian Democratic Party remains to be seen.



Per Engdahl
Fascist Populism
MP of SNF
Leader of Nysvenska Rörelsen

A member of the SNF, Engdahl is also the founder of the New Swedish Movement, something that has commonly caused him to get into conflicts with the SNF and initially led to him leaving the party in 1941. Engdahl returned to the SNF in 1947 after an agreement was made to integrate the NSR into the wider structure of the National Front.

The NSR itself is not a political party but a movement. Per Engdahl stated in a speech in 1941 that the difference between German National Socialism and his new-Swedishness consisted, among other things, of that the new-Swedish movement placed less emphasis on blood and soil, because for them it was self-evident and did not need to be particularly emphasised, the NSR instead emphasises more strongly the uniqueness of the individual human being. Engdahl further claims that, unlike National Socialism, the New Swedes were not supporters of dictatorship.



Otto Hallberg
National Socialism
Potential Leader of the Svensk Socialistisk Samling

A man of many connections, after Lindholm's treachery someone capable was needed to take the mantle, that man is Otto Hallberg. While many in the country don't want to admit it, they know who this man is.

Former editor of the party newspaper Den Svenske Folksocialisten, Hallberg knows his way with words. A sly and cunning man, Hallberg had previously fought in Finland and seen combat. While the scandal with Lindholm will reverberate across the halls of politics throwing the SSS off the stage, Hallberg's party will remain dangerous.



Inga Thorsson

Reformist Socialism

MP of SAP

Leader of Sveriges socialdemokratiska kvinnoförbund

Inga Thorsson is an independent politician that doesn't wait for the mother party to take positions, something she has not been afraid of. She has made her opposition to the idea of Sweden developing nuclear weapons clear, little does she know a decision had already been taken in secret.

When she turns on her television and witnesses the Polaris nuclear test, her shock will be palpable and she'll be the first in protesting while some accuse her of being a pawn of the Germans, she sees herself as an advocate for peace and Sweden's future.



Gustaf VI Adolf

King of Sweden

Gustaf VI Adolf is a liberal and his dislike for Germany is clear to just anybody, while more relaxed than his wife, he has still significantly influenced Swedish foreign policy since his coronation, a strong departure from his German-sympathising father and a blessing in disguise for Gustav Möller who all those years ago opposed Sweden making concessions to Nazi Germany. The Germans themselves are not happy with the king, and are biting their time to see if his influence will wane.



Nils Swedlund

Commander In Chief

Nils Swedlund, also known as "Stora Bullret" is a charming and humoristic man, many can attest to the fact that Swedlund is a rare force of nature and a leader with great authority.

He had been through many promotions before his rise to the position of Commander in Chief in 1951, and since 51 he has seen through the continued modernization and expansion of the Swedish military in the wake of the Germans victory. Having himself seen combat in Finland during the Winter War, the man knows the costs of war and he wishes to see Sweden become a nuclear armed nation, with a potential nuclear arsenal to him being the final guarantor of Sweden's freedom.



Gunnar Myrdal

Governor of the Riksbank

Sick and tired of the political landscape, Myrdal and his family decided to step down from the political game. This does not mean that, however, he would lose his interest in the field of finances and economics, with Möller bargaining Myrdal to become the governor of the Riksbank, the Swedish central bank, to serve as Möller's right hand man on the financial world.

Myrdal is getting old and the calls for a new governor are being made in the upper echelons of the finance ministry, Möller will eventually have to find someone fitting to succeed his loyal ally. Either this or a new leader will come to decide on a more fitting governor for the Riksbank.

Political Parties

Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti (Hagbergarna) (SKP(H)) - Hilding Hagberg - Communism (Marxism-Leninism) - 2%

Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti (Kilbomarna) (SKP(K)) - Nils Flyg - Communism (Bolshevism) - 2%

Socialdemokratiska Arbetarpartiet - Vänsterfalangen (SAP-V) - Gustav Möller - Progressivism (Reformist Socialism) - 23%

Socialdemokratiska Arbetarpartiet - Högerfalangen (SAP-H) - No Leadership - Progressivism_1 (Reformist Socialism) - 23%

Centerpartiet (Cp) - Gunnar Hedlund - Liberalism_1 (Agrarian Liberalism) - 13%

Folkpartiet (Fp) - Bertil Ohlin - Liberalism (Social Liberalism) - 18%

Högerpartiet - Ljusblå (H-Lb) - Gunnar Heckscher - Conservatism 1 (Liberal Corporatism) - 7%

Högerpartiet - Mörkblå (H-Mb) - Jarl Hjalmarsson - Conservatism (Populist Conservatism) - 9%




Högerpartiet - Kristet Samhällsansvar (H-KSA) - Lewi Pethrus - Conservatism 2 (Christian Conservatism) - 1%



Nationella Fronten/Sveriges Nationella Förbund (NF/SNF) - Rütger Essén - Fascism (Corporatism) - 1%

Nationella Fronten/Sveriges Nationella Förbund (Nysvenska Rörelsen) (NF/SNF (NSR)) - Per Engdahl - Fascism_1 (Fascist Populism) - 0%

Nationella Fronten/Svensk Socialistisk Samling (NF/SSS) - Sven Olov Lindholm - National Socialism - 1%





National Spirits

Starting National Spirits	
	<p>Folkhemmet</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inflation rate +0.5% - Social Costs Modifier +20% - Healthcare Policy Monthly Rate +0.25% - Stability +15% - GDP Growth +3% - Poverty Monthly Rate +0.2% - Monthly Population +10% <hr/> <p>Notes: Universal, cannot be changed in skeleton</p>
	<p>Frozen Isolation</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade to Germany +20% - Trade from Finland +15% - War Support -15% - Stability -5% - Production Units to GDP Ratio Modifier 5% <hr/> <p>Notes: Replaced by Western Aligned Neutrality if the Opposition takes power, if SAP loses power and returns then this comes back.</p>
	<p>Sailing in Unknown Waters</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Costs Modifier +5% - Inflation rate +0.5% - Monthly Credit Rating Progress -0.5 - Political Parties Policy Monthly Rate +0.1% - Public Meetings Policy Monthly Rate +0.1% - We cannot continue like this <hr/> <p>Notes: Removed after the pension reform succeeds or fails</p>



	<p>Konjunkturläget - Stagnation</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDP growth -1% - Stability -10% - Inflation rate +1% <hr/> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Universal, initially replaced by Systemic Shock. Comes back in March 1965.</p>
	<p>Maximum Capacity Employment</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inflation rate +1.5% - - <hr/> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Removed once the incumbent government makes a deal to bring immigrants to the country to solve the shortage of workers</p>
	<p>Kärnwapenprogrammet (hidden)</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misc costs +\$1.083 Million (monthly tick) - Security Policy Monthly Rate +0.1% - Research speed +10% <hr/> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Universal, reveals itself when the Polaris test occurs, gets deleted if Sweden disarms</p>


Skeleton National Spirits

Universal National Spirits
Those gained by all PMs at some point in time


	<p>Konjunkturläget - Systemic Shock</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDP growth -5% - Misc costs +\$1 Million (monthly tick) - Stability -15% - Inflation rate -1.5% - Monthly Credit Rating Progress -0.5 - Employment Policy Monthly Rate -0.25%
	<p>Konjunkturläget - Stagnation</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDP growth -1% - Stability -10% - Inflation rate +1% <hr/> <p>Notes: Universal, initially replaced by Systemic Shock. Comes back in March 1965.</p>
	<p>Konjunkturläget - Recovery</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDP growth +1% - Inflation rate +0.5% - Monthly Credit Rating Progress +0.5% <hr/> <p>Notes: Replaces Stagnation</p>
	<p>Konjunkturläget - Oil Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDP growth -2.5% - Misc costs +\$5 Million (monthly tick) - Stability -20% - Inflation rate -1.5% - Monthly Credit Rating Progress -0.5 - Fuel Gain Factor -20% - Trade Opinion Factor -20% <hr/> <p>Notes: Replaces the generic oil crisis spirit</p>


	<p>Kärnvapenprogrammet</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research speed +5% - Security Policy Monthly Rate +0.1% - Misc costs + \$1.083 Million (monthly tick) <hr/> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Universal, gets deleted if Sweden disarms</p>
	<p>Vänstervågen</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -


<p>Hjalmarson government</p> <p><i>National spirits of the Hjalmarson government</i></p>	
	<p>Ägardemokrati</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stability -15% - GDP Growth +2% - Inflation -1% - Social Costs Modifier -10% - Construction Speed +15% - Healthcare Policy Monthly Rate -0.3%
	<p>The Hjalmarson Gambit</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily Political Power Gain +0.10 - Ideology Drift Defence -10% - Political Parties Policy Monthly Rate -0.1% - Public Meetings Policy Monthly Rate -0.1%

	<p>Western-Aligned Neutrality</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade to Germany +10% - Trade to the United States +10% - Trade from Finland +25% - War Support -10% - Stability -10% - Production Units to GDP Ratio Modifier +2.5%
---	--

Ohlin government
National spirits of the Ohlin government




	<p>Ohlin's Free Economy</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbd
---	--

	<p>A Disharmonious Orchestra</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbd
---	---

	<p>Western-Aligned Neutrality</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade to Germany +10% - Trade to the United States +10% - Trade from Finland +25% - War Support -10% - Stability -10% - Production Units to GDP Ratio Modifier +2.5%
---	--



Sträng government


National spirits of the Sträng government


	<p>Bleeding Heart Effects: - tbd</p>
	<p>Reformpaus Effects: - tbd</p>
	<p>Beating Heart Effects: -</p>


Möller government


National spirits of the Möller government




	<p>The Kingmaker</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political Parties Policy Monthly Rate -0.1% - Public Meetings Policy Monthly Rate +0.1% - Stability +10% - tbd
	<p>The Hourglass</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -

<p>Palme Government</p> <p><i>National spirits of the Palme government</i></p>	
	<p>Controlled Radicalization</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -

	<p>To Set Man Free Effects: -</p>
	<p>På Ska Lina Effects: -</p>




<p>Heckscher/Holmberg/Hedlund Government <i>National spirits of the chaos period of Sweden</i></p>	
	<p>Hjalmarson's Folly Effects: -</p>

	<p>Heckschermordet</p> <p>Effects:</p> <p>-</p>
---	--

<p>Hedlund/Fälldin/Antonsson Governments</p> <p><i>National spirits of the Hedlund/Fälldin/Antonsson governments</i></p>	
	<p>Mittenpolitik</p> <p>Effects:</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>The Three Headed Hydra</p> <p>Effects:</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>Western-Aligned Neutrality</p> <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade to Germany +10% - Trade to the United States +10% - Trade from Finland +25% - War Support -10% - Stability -10% - Production Units to GDP Ratio Modifier 2.5%



Helén Government

National spirits of the Helén government

	<p>Mittenpolitik Effects: -</p>
	<p>A Disharmonious Orchestra Effects: -</p>
	<p>Western-Aligned Neutrality Effects: - Trade to Germany +10% - Trade to the United States +10% - Trade from Finland +25% - War Support -10% - Stability -10% - Production Units to GDP Ratio Modifier 2.5%</p>

Cassel Government

National spirits of the Cassel government

	<p>Following on the Jarl's Steps Effects: -</p>
	<p>Res Publica Effects: -</p>

Economic stuff

Base Inflation Rate 1962/1963: **4.250%**

Credit Rating: A-

GDP: \$15,421,910,479

Government Debt: \$6.17 B

Debt-to-GDP: 40%

Sources

Books

Agrell, W. (2011). Svenska förintelsevapen.

Berggren, H. (2018). *Landet utanför : Sverige och kriget 1939-1940.*

Blomqvist, H. (1999). *Gåtan Nils Flyg och nazismen*.

Boëthius, M-P. (1991). *Heder och samvete*.

Cassel, L. (1973). *Så vitt jag minns*.

Gilmour, J. (2010). *Sweden, the swastika and Stalin : the Swedish experience in the Second World War*. Edinburgh University Press

Edebalk, P G. (2021). *Gustav Möller : en legendarisk socialpolitiker*.

Hadenius S. (1988). *Swedish Politics During the 20th Century. [Stockholm] : Swedish Institute*.

Harrison, D. (2018). *Jag har ingen vilja till makt : Biografi över Tage Erlander*.

Harrison, D. (2021). *Olof Palme*.

Johansson, A. W. (1988). *Per Albin och kriget*.

Linder, J. (1997). *Andra världskriget och Sverige: historia och mytbildning*.

Linderborg, Å. (2001) *Socialdemokraterna skriver historia: historieskrivning som ideologisk maktresurs 1892-2000*.

Ljunggren, S-B. (2004). *En konservativ i skjortärmarna*.

Lööv, H. (2016). *Nazismen i Sverige 1924-1979*.

Möller, T. (2004). *Mellan ljusblå och mörkblå : Gunnar Heckscher som högerledare*

Ohlsson, P. T. (2012). *Sveriges statsministrar under 100 år. Rickard Sandler.*

Stenfeldt, J. (2019). *Renegater: Nils Flyg och Sven Olov Lindholm i gränslandet mellan kommunism och nazism.*

Älmeberg, R. (2017). *Gustaf VI Adolf : regenten som räddade monarkin.*

Final Credits

Proposal written by Kateryna and ANZAC

Special thanks to Lamounier and BlackTiger for their contributions to outlining German-Swedish relations

Daffy for his cooperation with Denmark-Sweden relations

Foka for letting us steal Kasche