

Mirkka Lappalainen



LAURA MALMIVAARA

(b. 1975) is the most distinguished representative of the new generation of historians in Finland. Lappalainen is a Doctor of Philosophy and a docent of Finnish and Nordic history at the University of Helsinki. Her books dealing with the 16th and 17th centuries have collected all the most important Finnish awards: the Best Non-fiction Book prize, the Best Science Book prize, the Best History Book prize, the State Award for Public Information, and several others. Lappalainen's award-winning dissertation has been translated into Swedish, and her latest book *Lion of the North* has been sold to Estonia.

LAPPALAINEN has written about the brutal civil war in Scandinavia during the late 16th century and the cruel famine of the later 17th century, as well as the connection of great power Sweden and turbulent Finland to the European Thirty Years War. She has been praised for fresh perspectives, bold interpretations and vivid language, as well as a sense for juicy details. In her books events in Scandinavia are placed in their European contexts.

WORKS AND TRANSLATIONS:

Pohjolan Leijona

(Lion of the North), SILTALA 2014
(Estonian)

Jumalan vihan ruoska

(The scourge of God's wrath),
SILTALA 2012

Susimessu

(Wolf mass), SILTALA 2009

Mailman painavin raha

(The world's heaviest money),
WSOY 2006

Suku, valta, suurvalta.

Creutzit 1600-luvun Ruotsissa ja Suomessa

(Family, power, great power. The Creutzes in 17th century Sweden and Finland), WSOY 2005
(Swedish)

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:

Best Nonfiction Book 2014 (Finlandia)

Science Book of the Year 2014

Booksellers' Best Book Medal 2014

(Shadow Finlandia)

State Award for Public Information 2013

Lauri Jäntti Prize 2010

The UKK-prize 2010

History Book of the Year 2009

Science Book of the Year 2006

Praise for Lappalainen's work:

"Popular history at its best."

– MATTI KINNUNEN, HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"The manner of representation and the use of language deserve their own comments. The book is throughout perfectly fluent writing, the choice of words extraordinarily colourful and rich in expression, almost unique of its kind."

– HEIKKI YLIKANGAS, THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL

"Lion of the North is again an almost masterfully appealing text. The sentences are clear and striking. Also admirable is the skill with which Lappalainen punctuates her text with small humorous anecdotes, but always maintaining a sense of style."

– KIMMO KATAJALA, HELSINGIN SANOMAT

"Lappalainen's reasoning is mobile and critical. In the book it turns into stylish and humorous sentences; Lappalainen is an insightful writer. She is also a good storyteller. Myths are broken and historical details precisely interpreted with quick and many times ironic punches."

– THE JURY OF THE SCIENCE BOOK OF THE YEAR PRIZE 2006

"The young doctors new book is a sovereign display of skills as an expert of the late 16th century and as a writer. The story flows rugged as a ballad."

– KARI HOKKANEN, ILKKA

"The book sweeps one along with it, and one doesn't know whether one is reading fact or fiction. And yet the facts are correct in every detail."

– KARI VAINIO, TURUN SANOMAT

"With its narrative technique, Lion of the North is an extremely skillful work of non-fiction. It is a book that sweeps one along with it and helps us to understand where we came from and who we are."

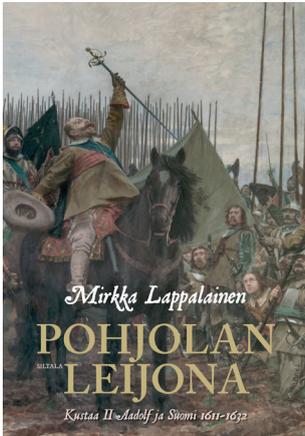
– HEIKKI HELLMAN FOR THE FINLANDIA PRIZE

"The past comes to life when it is written into life. This is a skill that Mirkka Lappalainen possesses."

– JUKKA RUUKKI, TIEDE MAGAZINE

SILTALA

"Pohjolan leijona"



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS was a legendary king of Sweden and Finland, the mythical "Lion of the North", whose armies and their horsemen spread terror in the Thirty Years War and made Sweden into a European superpower.

Gustavus Adolphus and his ingenious chancellor Axel Oxenstierna turned a poor and sparsely populated Sweden into an efficient state, which was able to finance the endless war. The reforms were created for war, but they became the basis of Nordic society and the rule of law.

In Finland, the eastern part of the kingdom, the reign of Gustavus Adolphus was a turning point: In the early 17th century Finland was a chaotic and violent corner of the realm which during the civil war of the 1590s had almost torn loose from Sweden. During the reign of Gustavus Adolphus the land of the arbitrary warlords was tamed and harnessed into part of the superpower. Finland's task was to generate tax revenue and meet the needs of the Swedish soldiers. The ravaged resources of this poor country played a central role in Sweden when it took part in the Thirty Years War between Protestants and Catholics.

Lion of the North gives a picture of 17th-century life, where poverty, roughness and violence confronted sumptuous luxury. Amid the dark and war-torn time the light of a new era was already shining.

**AWARDS FOR
THE LION OF THE NORTH:**

Best Nonfiction Book 2014 (Finlandia)
Science Book of the Year 2014
Booksellers' Best Book Medal 2014
(Shadow Finlandia)

Praise for the Book:

"Lion of the North is again an almost masterfully appealing text. The sentences are clear and striking. Also admirable is the skill with which Lappalainen punctuates her text with small humorous anecdotes, but always maintaining a sense of style."

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– JUKKA RUUKKI, TIEDE MAGAZINE

"A witty and elegant book."

– OLLI BACKSTRÖM'S BLOG

"Lappalainen offers her readers a compelling reading experience of the early 17th century in a gripping and elaborate way"

– JUKKA PETÄJÄ, HELSINGIN SANOMAT