

## OTHER NATIONS

*'Finlandization'  
in Finland*

"Substance and Appearance: Finland" by Max Jakobson, in *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1980), 438 East Preston St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

To many Westerners, Finland's foreign policy seems a vain effort to postpone Soviet conquest by cravenly following Moscow's lead in international affairs. Finland's reluctance to serve as a conduit for escaping Soviet dissidents, its silence concerning the invasions of Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan, and its 1948 agreement to repel any attack on the Soviets through its own territory are seen as proof that the country's "independence" is already a sham.

Jakobson, former Finnish Ambassador to the UN, argues that Finland [population: 4.7 million] has followed the only realistic course open to a small nation bordering a superpower.

In 1939, when Stalin's Red Army invaded Finland, Britain and France offered what the Finns considered only token assistance. Finland ceded territory to the Soviets in 1940 but put up enough resistance during the "Winter War" to avoid outright conquest. To this day, Jakobson notes, Finns are suspicious of the West's commitment to protect them. When World War II ended, they developed a policy of neutrality designed to assure Moscow a secure border.

In the process, says Jakobson, Finland has given up no vital interests but simply denied itself "the luxury of making emotionally satisfying gestures" that could only antagonize the Soviets. (Many Finns agree with the late Marshall Gustav Mannerheim, who declared at the end of

*The Soviet Union annexed parts of Finland, including the country's northern coast in 1940 and 1944.*

- Current boundaries
- Lands ceded to USSR, 1940
- Lands ceded to USSR, 1947
- ▲ Parkkala naval base: ceded to USSR, 1947; returned to Finland, 1955



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the Winter War, "We have paid our debt to the West, to the last drop of blood.") Finland's parliamentary democracy is flourishing, and Helsinki's associate membership in the European Free Trade Community ties it closely to the Western economic system. (Only 15 percent of Finland's trade is with the Soviet Union.)

Jakobson contends that the Soviets have no desire to swallow up Finland; Moscow's prime goal in Europe since 1945 has been freezing the boundaries drawn up at the Yalta Conference and formally ratified by the West in 1975 (at an East-West conference in Helsinki). Finland's independence, he reasons, is part of a comfortable status quo. A greater threat to Finland's future are "the bright lights of the open society in the West," notably Sweden, which has drawn 200,000 Finnish emigrants since 1945.

### *A Woman's Place in Israel*

"Ideology, Myth, and Reality: Sex Equality in Israel" by Selma Koss Brandow, in *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research* (vol. 6, no. 3, 1980), Plenum Publishing Corp., 227 West 17th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

Israel, the land of proud women conscripts and the indomitable former Prime Minister, Golda Meir, fosters a peculiar blend of sexual equalities and inequalities, according to Brandow, a sociologist at Trenton State College.

Unmarried women between 18 and 26 years of age are required to serve in the Israel Defense Forces, as are all Israeli men. But half are rejected for military service because they lack an eighth grade education (men are given remedial instruction), because they have children, or because of religious or conscientious objections (an exemption not available to males). After finishing basic training, female "soldiers" are stationed at typewriters or assigned to civilian jobs. Some serve as support troops, but none enter combat units.

Israeli statutes that require equal pay for equal work contain no enforcement clauses. As a result, women receive an average of 47 percent less in wages than Israeli men for comparable duties. Three-fourths of employed women hold traditionally female jobs (e.g., teachers, nurses, clerical workers). Most Israeli women believe that pushing for greater equality could threaten national unity. "Jobs belong to the men," many told Brandow in interviews, and "women should be at home."

Brandow traces Israeli attitudes to a "cult of masculinity" springing from the Jewish state's frontier beginnings. Though Zionists officially favored sexual equality (indeed, affirmed it in the Israeli Declaration of Independence), they had for decades lionized such manly traits as strength, aggression, and stoicism. Jewish law, which defines a woman as her husband's possession, further confuses the situation by serving as the basis for many domestic statutes. Large influxes of Orthodox Jews from Europe and uneducated Jews from the Arab world have increased Israel's population of male chauvinists.