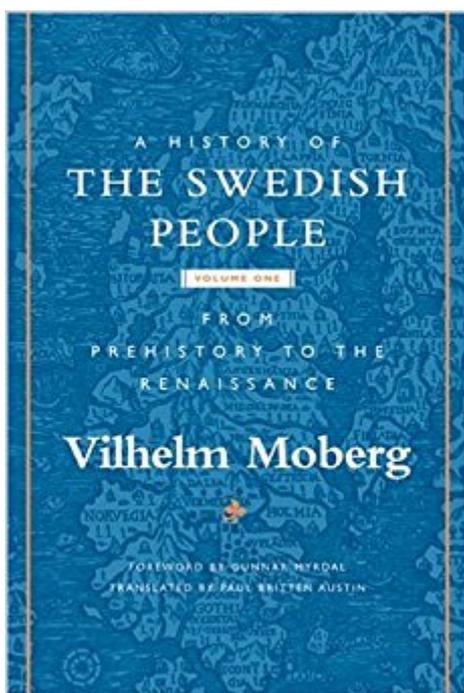


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A History Of The Swedish People: Volume 1: From Prehistory To The Renaissance



Synopsis

Beginning in prehistoric times and culminating with the Dacke rebellion of 1542, renowned novelist Vilhelm Moberg's two-volume popular history of the Swedish people approaches its subject from the viewpoint of the common people, documenting peasants' lives as well as those of the royal families. In this first volume Moberg examines Viking raids, the coming of Christianity, and the Folkungs royal dynasty, whose tyrannical reign lasted from 1250 to the 1360s. He vividly describes the arrival of the Black Death from a ship that docked carrying only dead passengers, and he recounts the reign of Queen Margareta who founded the Kalmar Union, comprising all of Scandinavia. In every chapter, Moberg faithfully imparts how history affected "the whole people" of Sweden.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Moberg succeeds in building up a picture of the medieval tiller of the soil that is full of insights and presented with a compassion, an enthusiasm and a freshness." -Times Literary Supplement
"The history of Sweden is the history of her commons' - such is the motto and theme of this highly personal history of Sweden by its best-selling novelist." -Library Journal
"An absorbing narrative history . . . A humanistic observer, Moberg gracefully intermingles facts, informed suppositions, and source references." -Booklist

The captivating early history of Sweden - now in paperback!

I purchased this book hoping for a brief, overall general history of the nation of Sweden as I like to occasionally venture outside my primary areas of interest but instead was presented with a series of

brief essays consisting of generalizations and a lacking of details. The author begins by explaining this is not going to be a typical history book as rulers, major events, dates, etc., are going to be glossed over or outright ignored in place of a story of the common folk/peasants and people of Sweden. I initially cringed when I read this but after I got into the thick of it and started reading the first essay I was able to connect with the author's prose and style of writing. There are no footnotes or bibliography but the story the author tells is remarkable enough and entertaining to read once I accepted the generalizations and occasional boisterous opinions. I give it three stars only because I wished there was more history and specifics. The dates, names of rulers, etc., and the why, where, when and what of the history of Sweden were lacking. However, the sparingly given rations of dates and specifics were enough to hold my interest and appetite throughout and I am interested to begin reading the second volume as the information provided here was enough to give me a general idea of Sweden's history. All in all, this is a decent book to add to your collection as it was entertaining and the author's writing style is unique, fluid and engaging. However, for a more traditional, structured and detailed account of the History of Sweden I will be looking elsewhere.

There is a great deal of important information in this book, and volume 2. The author honestly warns the reader that the books are written from a socio-anthropological viewpoint. Though the history is interesting, much of the commentary appears to be interpretive. I know the author is well qualified to interpret, but tends to be boring. These books are definately worth the read, because they are a different view of Swedish history. They will not, however, be my resourse for future reference.

This is a history book written about a very challenging period due to lack of research materials. As such, it is the most pleasantly written style I have ever read. I actually prefer well-researched historical novels for ease of reading, however this was about as close as you can get for enjoyable education. I have now ordered and look forward to reading the second volume.

I love history from Vilhelm Moberg. He focuses on the common people, not just the kings and queens. Plus, he's a little cheeky when he talks about the kings. I love it!

Book arrived in perfect condition. This is the best history book ever written. Not full of boring names and dates but rather the whys and hows of history..

I have really enjoyed the revelations about the history of the Swedish people. Told from a

perspective of a social democrat with a welcome sympathetic heart for the peasants that made up most of the population. The history is full of stories of abuse by the 1% ruling class and the resilience of peasants.

This was a gift, and because she requested this particular item, I assume she loves it.

Bored by the Middle Ages in High School? Tired of memorizing names, dates and places? Read this. History written in narrative and actually fun. I love Moberg!

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