NORDIC WAR STORIES
World War II as History, Fiction, Media, and Memory
Edited by Marianne Stecher-Hansen

Volume 7, Worlds of Memory
Hardback 978-1-78920-961-7 • $145.00/£107.00 $72.50/£53.50
eBook 978-1-78920-962-4 • £34.95/$39.95
February 2021 • 362 pages

Situated on Europe’s northern periphery, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden found themselves caught between warring powers during World War II. Ultimately, these nations survived the conflict as sovereign states whose wartime experiences have profoundly shaped their historiography, literature, cinema and memory cultures. Nordic War Stories explores the commonalities and divergences among the five Nordic countries, examining national historiographies alongside representations of the war years in canonical literary works, travel writing, and film media. Together, they comprise a valuable companion that challenges the myth of Scandinavian homogeneity while demonstrating the powerful influence that the war continues to exert on national identities.

“Theoretically rich in its engagement with memory and post-memory studies, this collective work brilliantly documents and brings to life a war that ended some 75 years ago yet continues to shape and reshape powerful national narratives of identity, destiny, guilt, innocence, cowardice, and valor.” • Scandinavian Studies

“The volume makes an important contribution to understanding how the mass media in particular shaped the (nation-state) memory of the Second World War in a region of Europe that is mostly out of focus.” • Clio-Online

“The Nordic nations all had different and contrasting experiences of the Second World War. Not only did this condition the memories of contemporaries, but it also led to different ways of portraying the wartime experience that would lead to creating and sustaining both existing and new memories for ensuing generations. This book contains excellent accounts of how this work of memory was done in the five nations and it continues to influence their societies today. There is much for cultural historians to value in this volume, but international historians will also find a plentiful amount to add to their understanding of not only the Second World War but of the decades that followed.” • History

About the Editor:
Marianne Stecher-Hansen is a Professor in the Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington.
CONTENTS

List of Illustrations
Editor’s Acknowledgements

Editor’s Introduction
Marianne Stecher-Hansen

Part I: War Historiography

Chapter 1. Finland in World War II—Tragedy, Survival, and Good Wars
Juhana H. Aunesluoma

Chapter 2. Danish Historical Narratives of the Occupation—The Promises and Lies of April 9th
Sofie Lene Bak

Chapter 3. The Norwegian War Experience—Occupied and Allied
Tom Kristiansen

Chapter 4. The Icelandic National Narrative and World War II—”Freedom and Culture”
Guðmundur Hálfdanarson

Chapter 5. Sweden’s Ambiguous War—Contradiction and Controversy
John Gilmour

Part II: War Literature – Archive

Chapter 6. Karin Boye as Ambivalent Spectator of Fascism
Amanda Doxtater

Chapter 7. Isak Dinesen in Hitler’s Berlin—Neutrality’s Cloak in “Letters from a Land at War”
Marianne Stecher-Hansen

Chapter 8. Sigrid Undset’s Problematic Propaganda—The Call for Democracy in Return to the Future
Christine Hamm

Part III: War Literature – Canon

Chapter 9. Hans Christian Branner—Angst and the Existential Crisis of War in Denmark
Mark Mussari

Chapter 10. Crises of Memory in Norway’s Occupation Novel—Sigurd Hoel’s Meeting at the Milestone
Dean Krouk

Chapter 11. The Battle over Finnish Cultural Memory of War—Väinö Linna’s The Unknown Soldier
Julia Pajunen

Chapter 12. Investigating Sweden’s Postwar Neutrality—Ethics in Per Olov Enquist’s The Legionnaires
Jan Krogh Nielsen

Chapter 13. The Allied Occupation of Iceland—Indriði G. Porsteinsson’s North of War
Daisy Neijmann

Part IV: War Cinema – Remembering and Forgetting

Chapter 14. Somewhere in Sweden – Quality Fiction and Popularized History in the World War II Television Series
Erik Hedling

Chapter 15. Icelandic Cinema and the American Military Presence – The Girl Gogo, Atomic Station, and Devil’s Island
Pétur Valsson

Chapter 16. War Memory, Compassion, and the Finnish Child – Klaus Härö’s Mother of Mine
Liina-Ly Roos

Chapter 17. The War Film as Cultural Memory in Denmark – April 9th and Land of Mine
Marianne Stecher-Hansen

Chapter 18. Acts of Remembering – Audiovisual Memory and the New Norwegian Occupation Drama
Gunnar Iversen

Chapter 19. Finland Returning to War on Screen – The Unknown Soldier of 2017
John Sundholm

Editor’s Epilogue
Marianne Stecher-Hansen

Index

For online print purchases please visit www.berghahnbooks.com/title/Stecher-HansenNordic and use 50% discount* code STE617 at checkout. Valid through May 31, 2022. Shipping charges will apply. For individual orders placed directly with the publisher.