

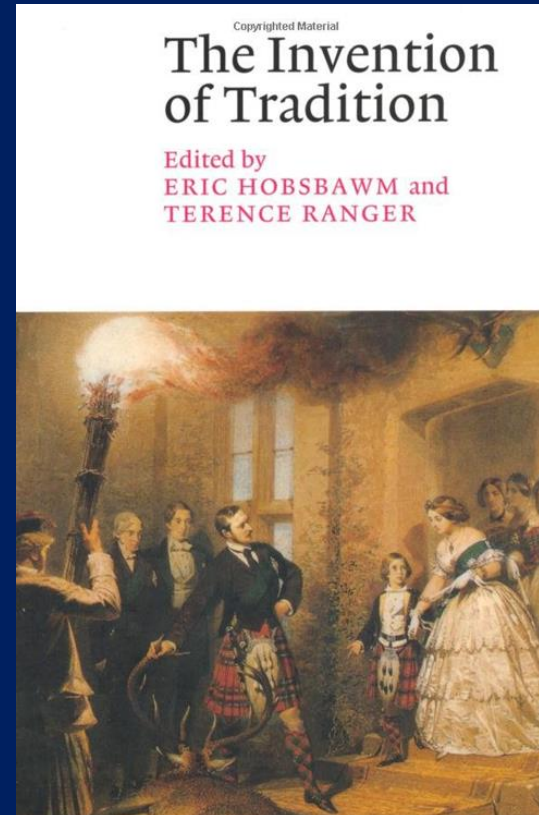
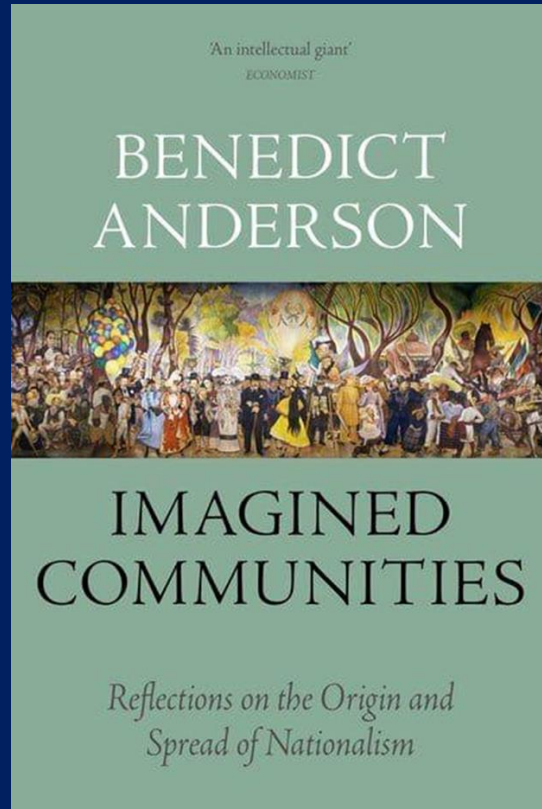
Week 2: Inventing Traditions, Imagining Communities: Heritage and National Identities in Sweden

Tensions

UNESCO aspires towards universality, yet is composed of *states parties* that represent individual nations

How compatible is 'global heritage' with ideas of nationalism, national identity and nationness?

Inventing Traditions, Imagining Communities: Heritage and National Identities in Sweden



Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* 3rd ed. (London: Verso, 2006 [1983]), pp. 1–8.

Eric Hobsbawm, 'Inventing Traditions,' in *The Invention of Tradition*, ed. by Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992 [1983]): 1–14

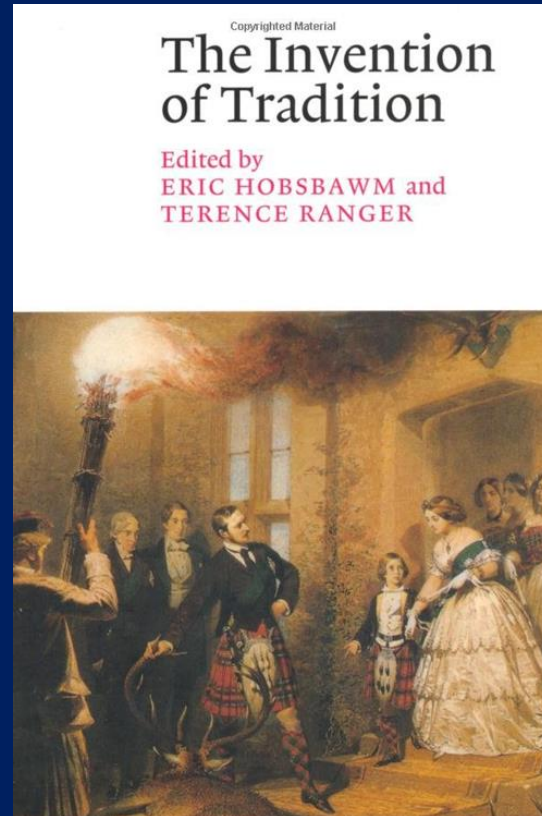
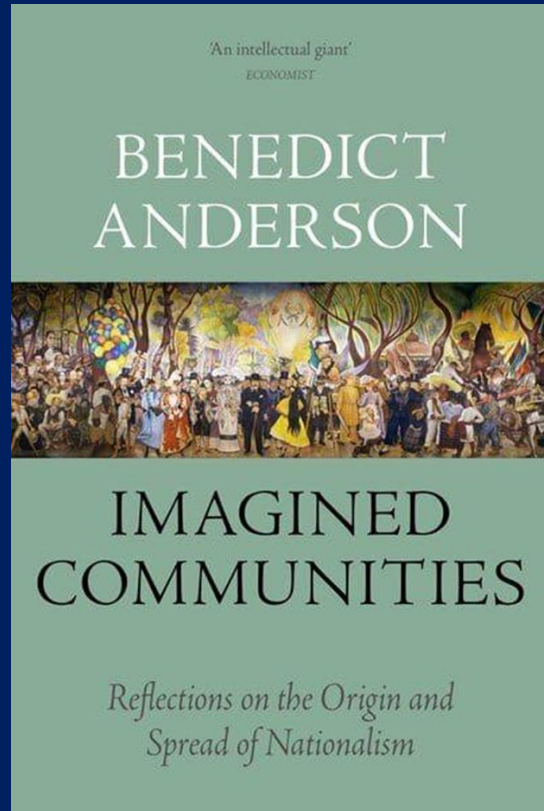
Readings on Swedish Museums

- Mattias Bäckström, 'Loading Guns with Patriotic Love: Artur Hazelius's Attempts at Skansen to Remake Swedish Society,' in *National Museums: New Studies from around the World* ed. by Simon J. Knell (London: Routledge, 2011): 69—87.
- Annika Olsson, 'The Vasa Museum: Reflections on a Privileged Narrative about Empire,' in *Teaching Empires: Gender and Transnational Citizenship in Europe*, ed. by Mary Clancy and Andrea Pető (Utrecht: ATHENA, 2009): 23—32.
- Wiebke Reinert, 'Enlivening Exhibitions: Zoos, Open-Air Museums, and the History of Living Animals in Human Sceneries of Display,' *Ethnologia Europaea* 49:2 (2019): 15—30.
- Per Widén, 'National Museums in Sweden: A History of Denied Empire and a Neutral State,' *Building National Museums in Europe 1750—2010: Conference proceedings from European National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen*, ed. by Peter Aronsson and Gabriella Elgenius (Linköping, Sweden: Linköping University, 2011): 881—902

Readings on Swedish Museums

- What key aspects of Swedish national culture are accentuated by museums in Sweden?
- What criticisms might be directed at how Swedish national culture is represented by museums in Sweden?
- How relevant are the concepts of imagined communities and invented traditions to interpreting museums in Sweden?

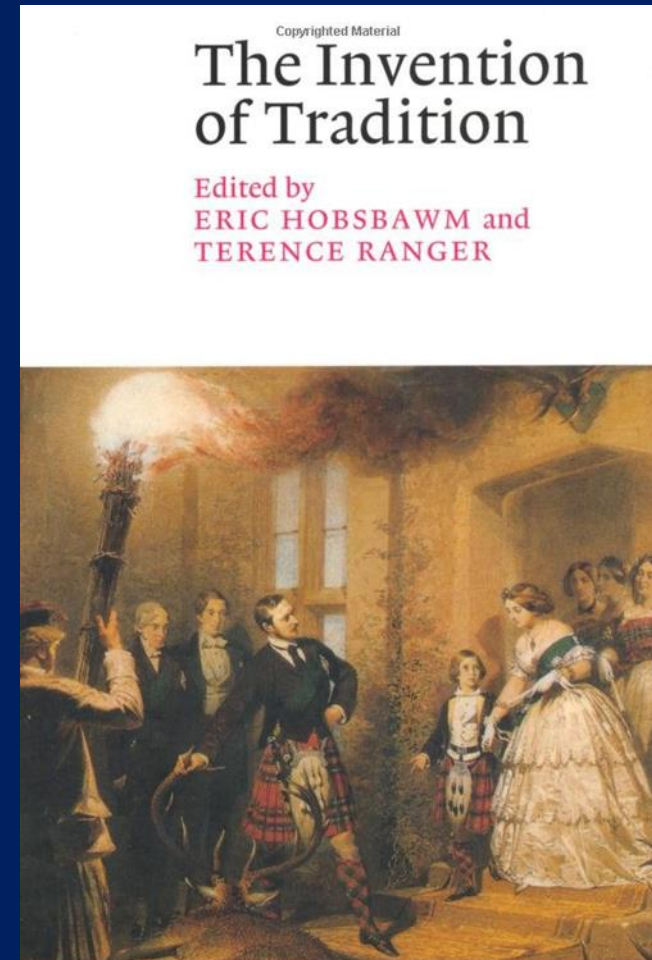
Inventing Traditions, Imagining Communities: Heritage and National Identities in Sweden



- What are invented traditions?
- What are imagined communities?

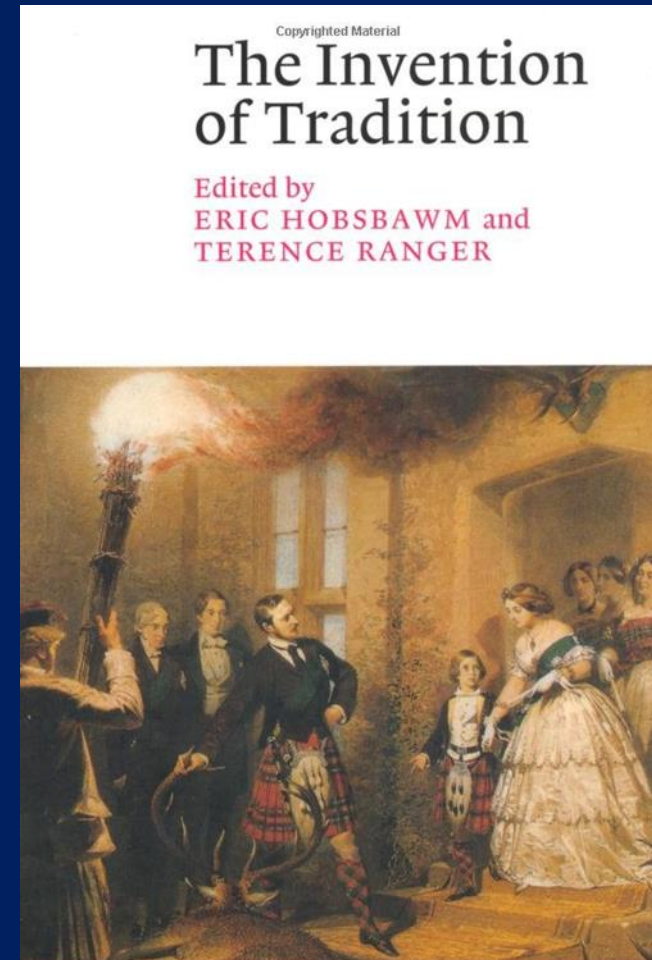
Hobsbawm and Ranger, *Invented Traditions*

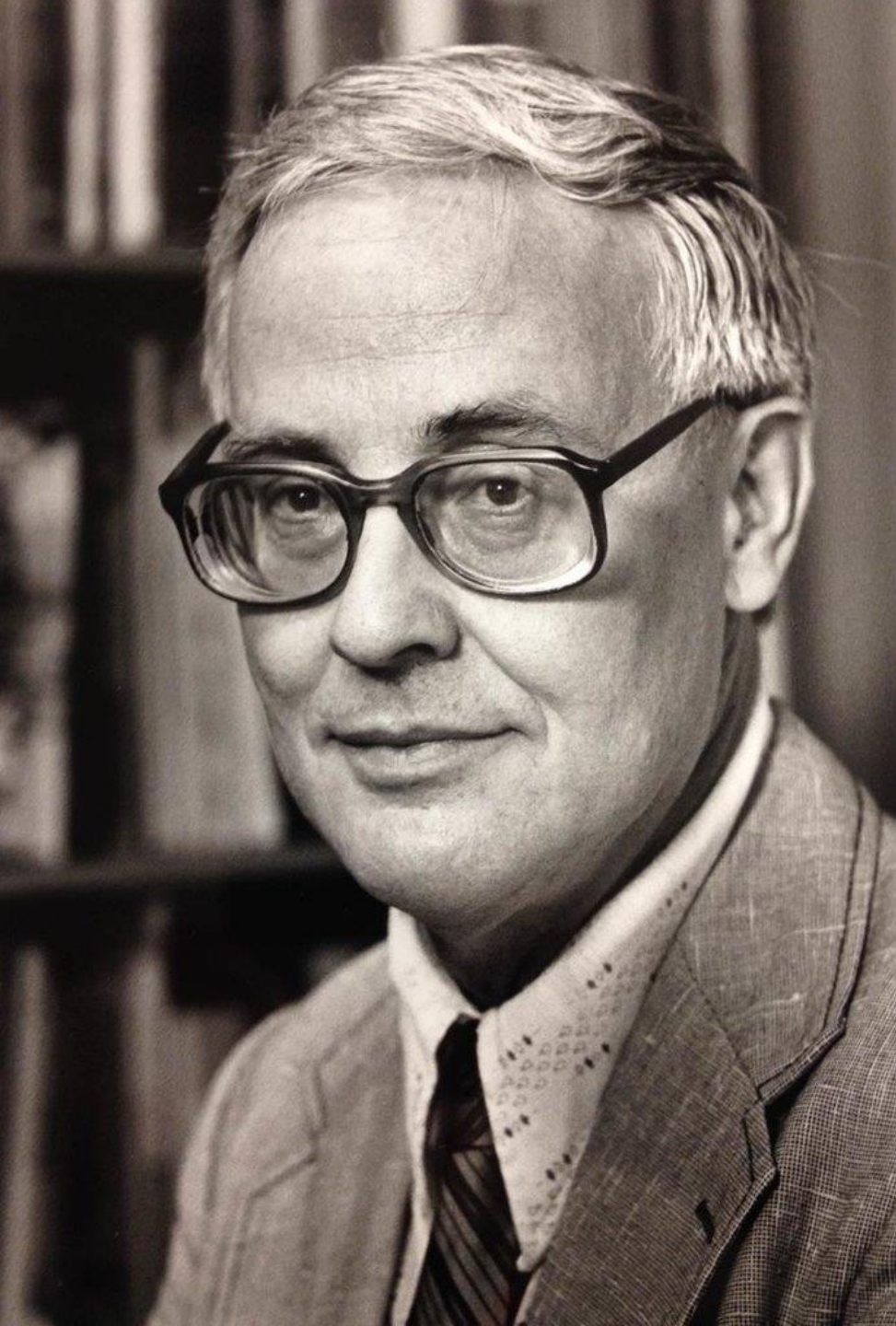
'Invented tradition' is taken to mean a set of practices, normally governed by overtly or tacitly accepted rules and of a **ritual or symbolic** nature, which seek to inculcate certain **values and norms of behaviour** by **repetition**, which automatically implies **continuity with the past**. In fact, where possible, they **normally attempt to establish continuity with a suitable historic past**.



Hobsbawm and Ranger, *Invented Traditions*

The term 'invented tradition' is used in a broad, but not imprecise sense. It includes both 'traditions' **actually invented**, constructed and formally instituted and those emerging in a **less easily traceable** manner within a brief and dateable period and establishing themselves with great rapidity. The royal Christmas broadcast in Britain (instituted in 1932) is an example of the first; the appearance and development of the practices associated with the Cup Final in British Association Football, of the second.



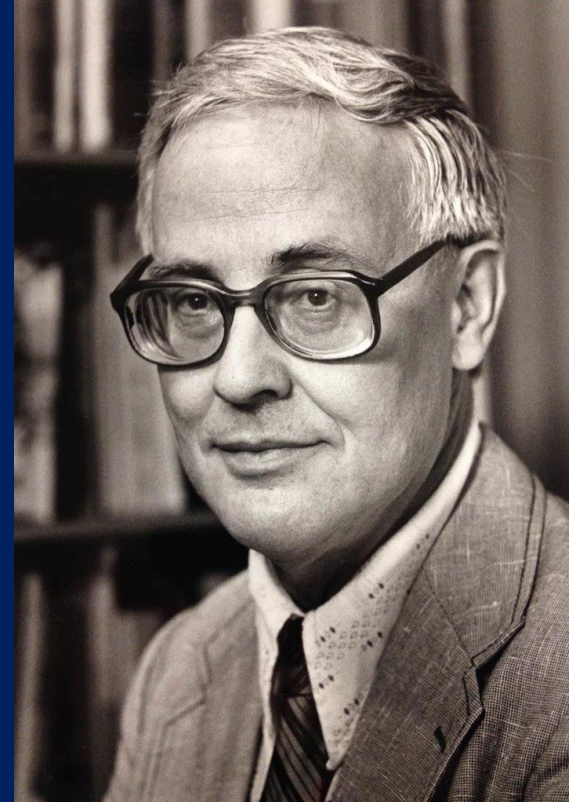


Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

“My point of departure is that nationality, or nation-ness, as well as nationalism, are **cultural artefacts** of a particular kind. To understand them properly we need to consider carefully how they have come into **historical** being, in what ways their meanings have changed over time, and why, today, they command such profound emotional legitimacy.”

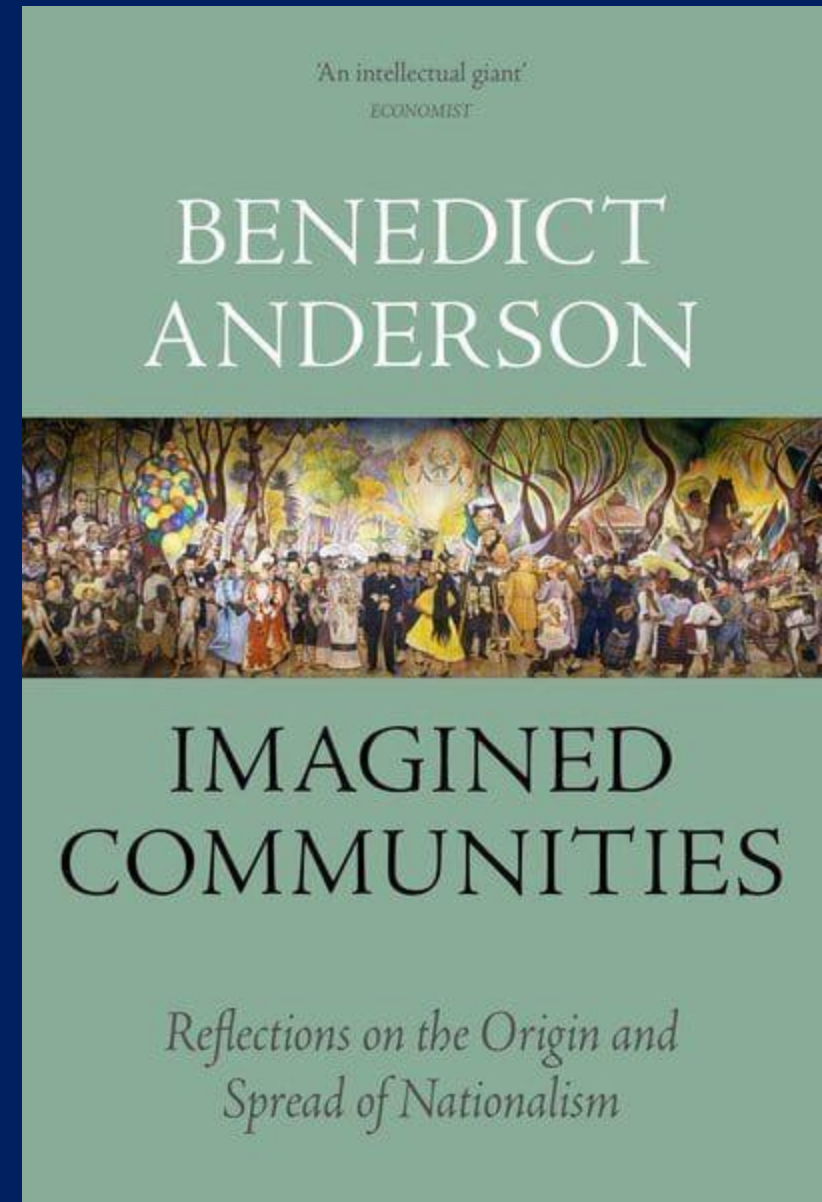
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Because “... the fellow members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of the communion.”

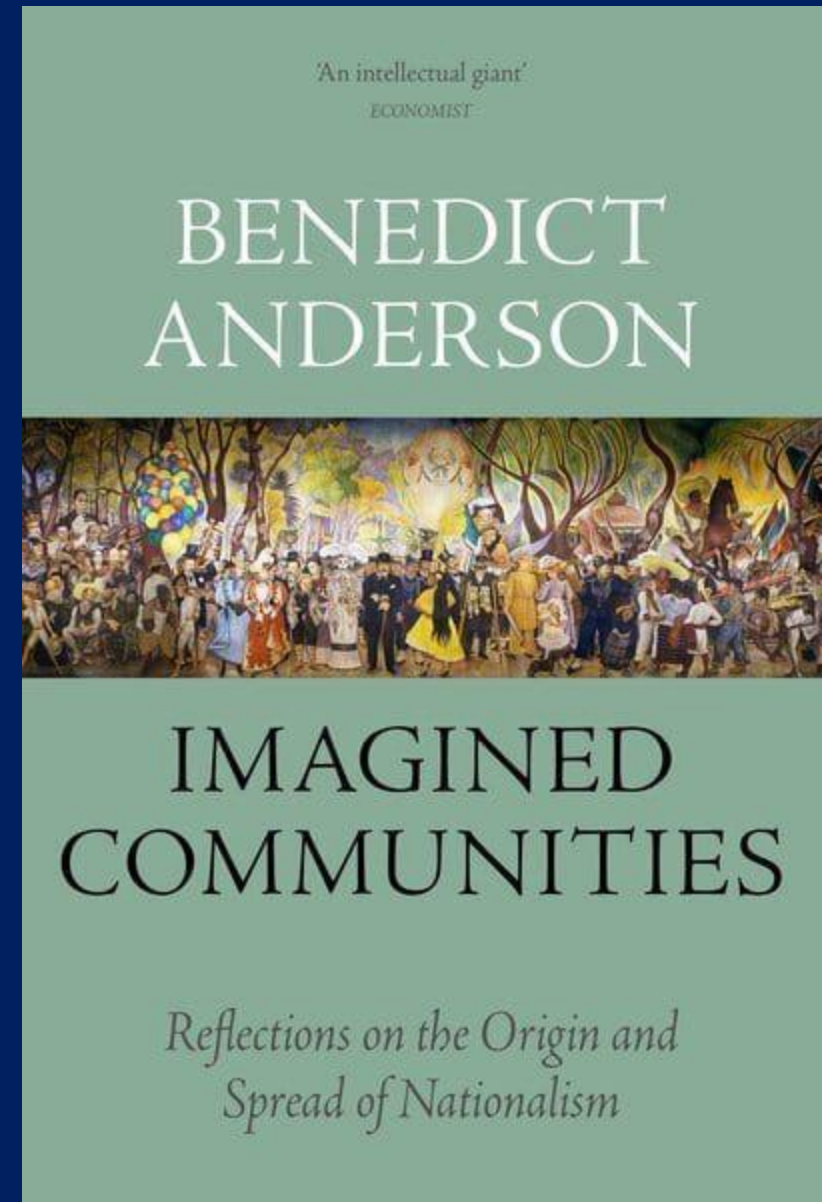


Imagined Communities and Boundaries

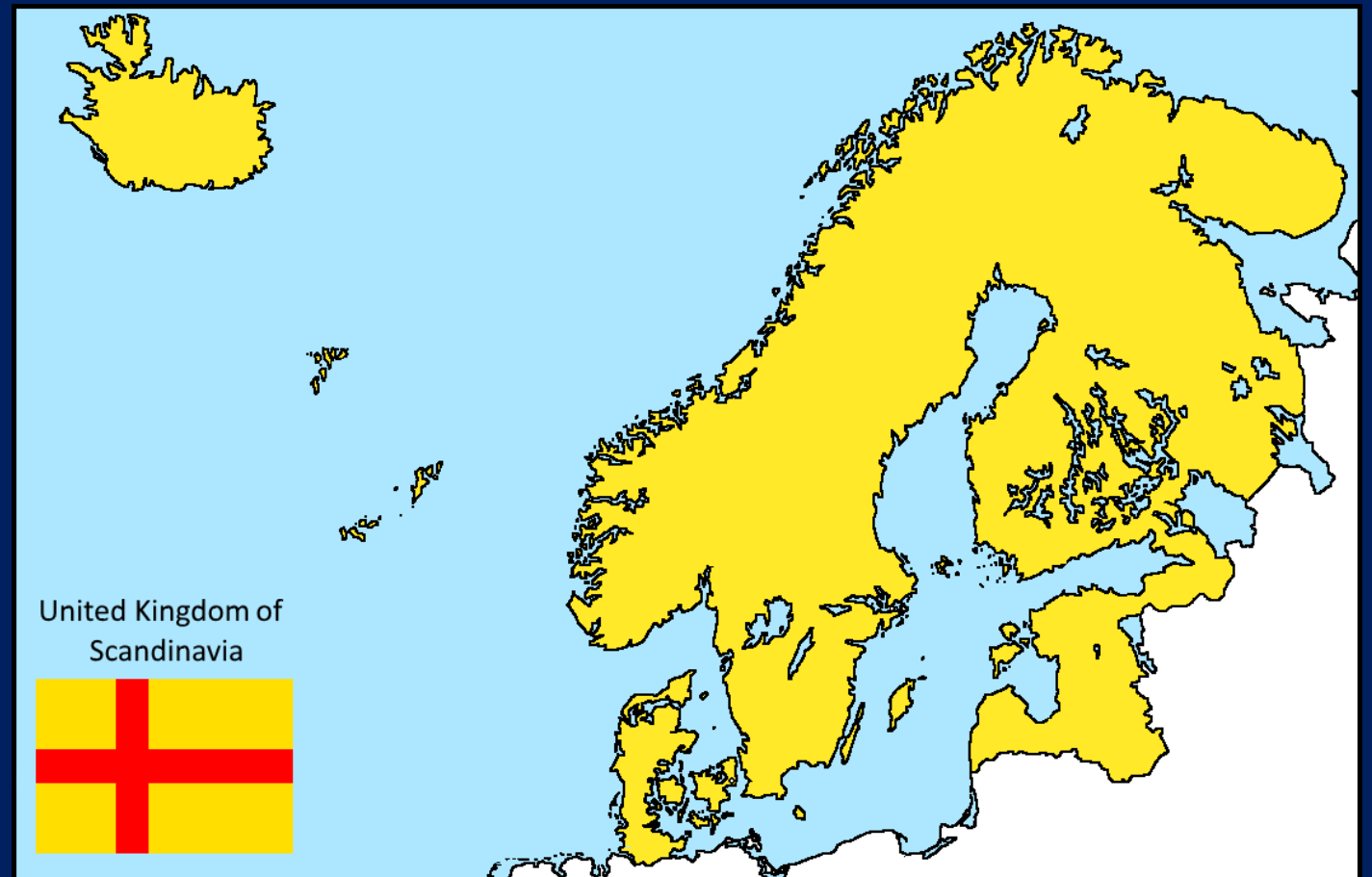
“The nation is imagined as **limited** because even the largest of them, encompassing perhaps a billion living human beings, **has finite, if elastic, boundaries**, beyond which lie other nations. No [modern] nation imagines itself coterminous with mankind.”



How might boundaries be significant
in relation to Swedish museums?



Kalmar Union, 1397—1523

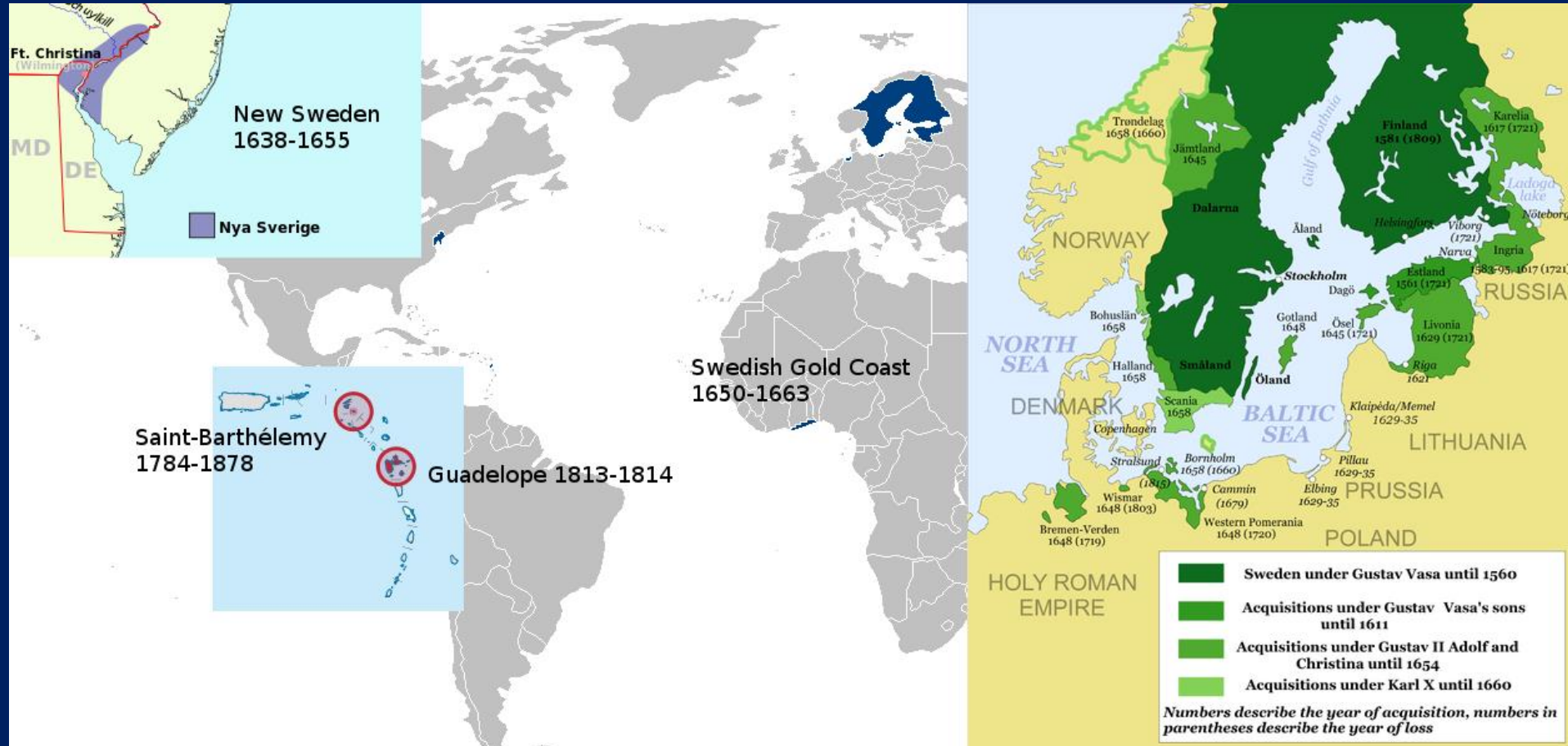


Swedish Empire

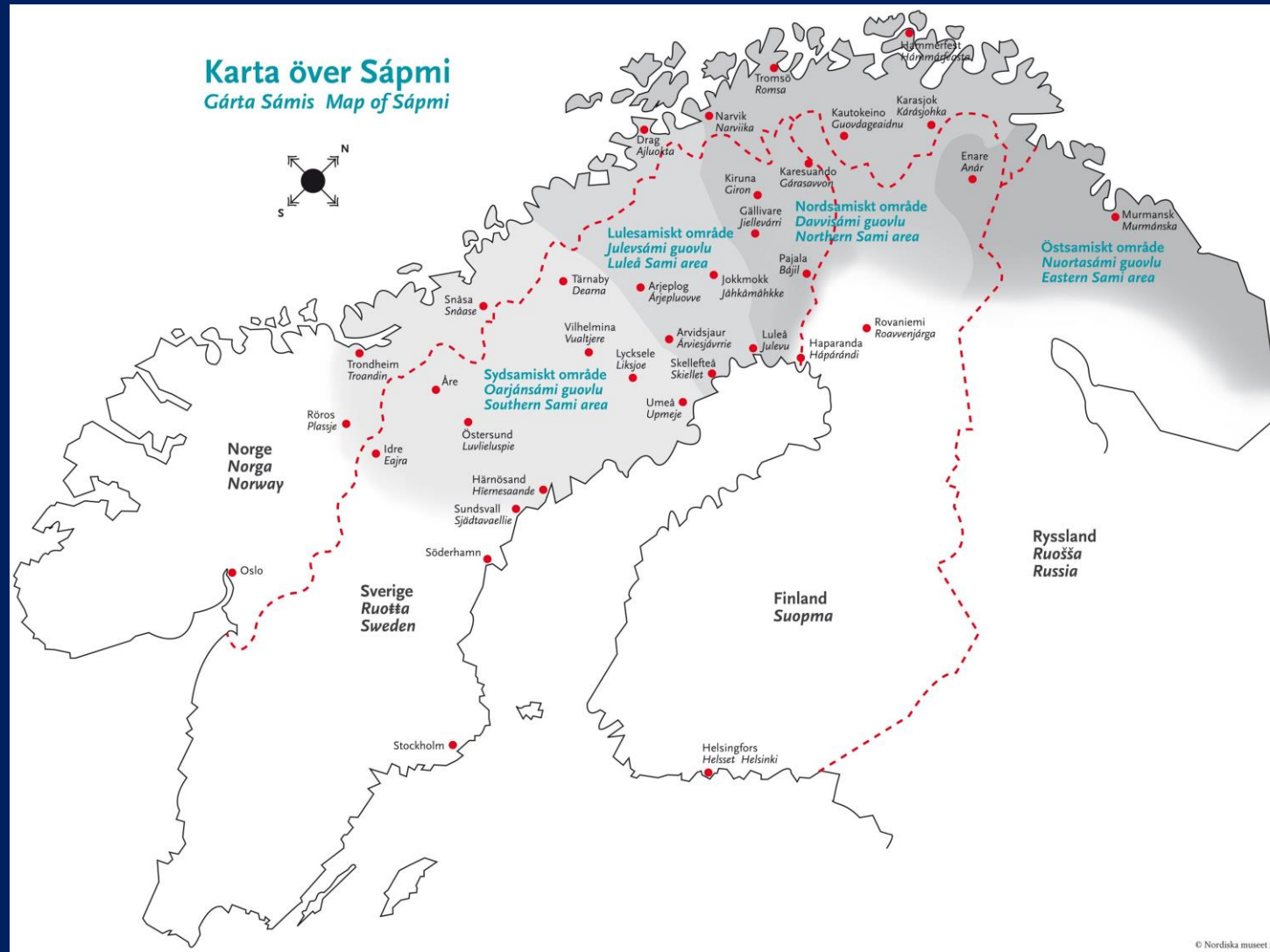
- Finnish War in 1809, vast majority of the Finnish-speaking areas of Sweden were ceded to the Russian Empire
- Norway ceded from Denmark , 1814
- Norwegian independence, 1905



Swedish Empire



Sampi – homeland of Sami



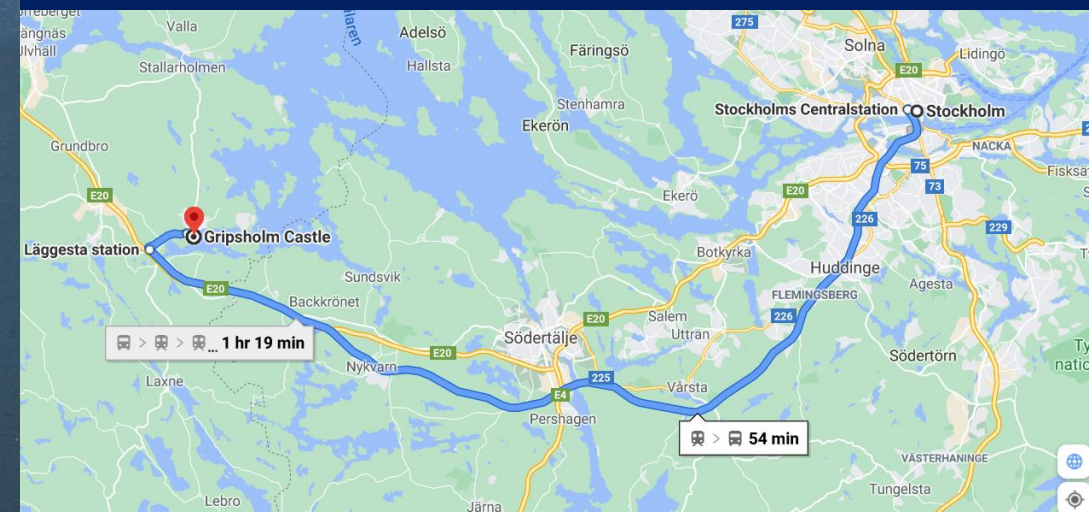
- How have museums in Sweden been part of a history of 'nation-building'?
- What are some of the notable features of Sweden's 'museumscape' – particular the national museums housed in and around the capital, Stockholm?

Gripsholm Castle

- Constructed between 1537 and 1545



Gustav Vasa, Gustav I of Sweden (reign 1523—1560)



Gripsholm Castle

- Home of National Portrait Gallery, est. 1822



Portraits of Swedish
Royal Family, Great
Garbo

Vasa Museum, est. 1990



Swedish National Museum

Royal museum
est. 1792

Public museum
est. 1866



NATIONALMUSEUM

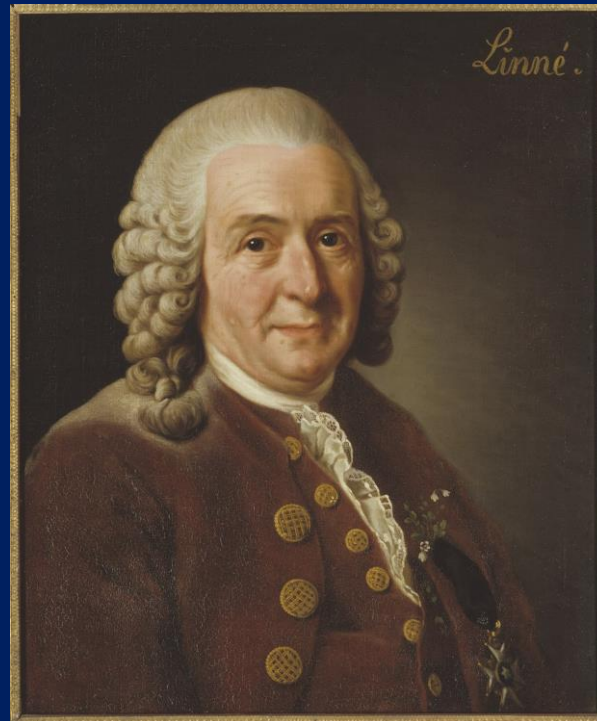


Swedish Museum of Natural History, est. 1819

Predecessor = Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, est. 1739



Carl Linnaeus (1707—1778)



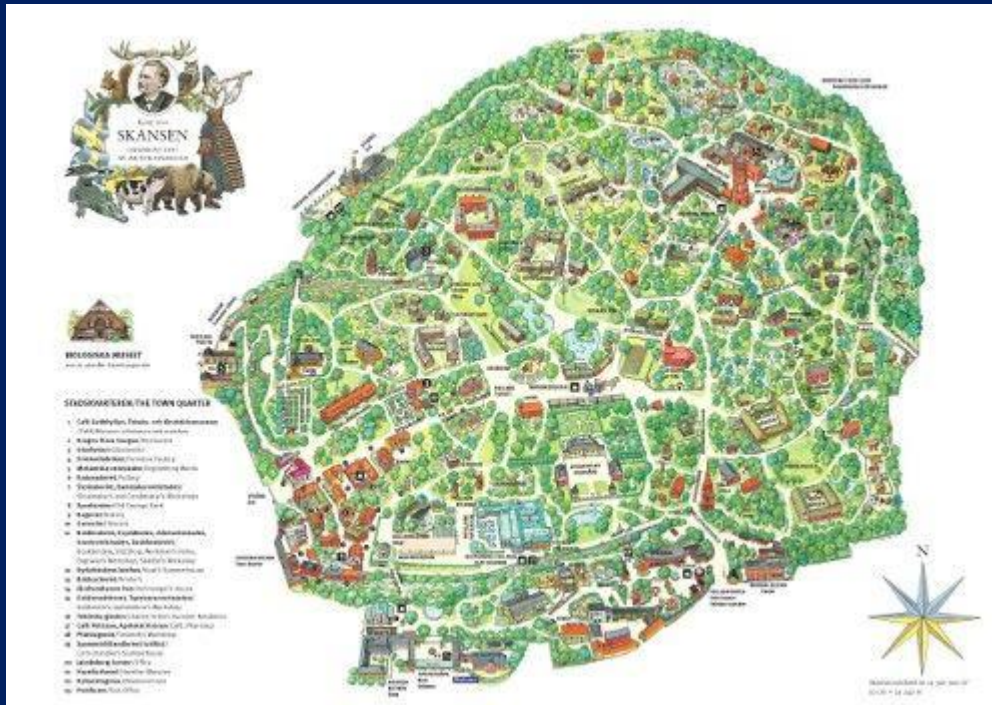
Swedish History Museum, est. 1934



Historiska

Museum of Scandinavian Ethnography

- Nordic Museum, est. 1873
- Skansen Open-Air Museum, est. 1891



NORDISKA MUSEET



Artur Hazelius (1883—1901)





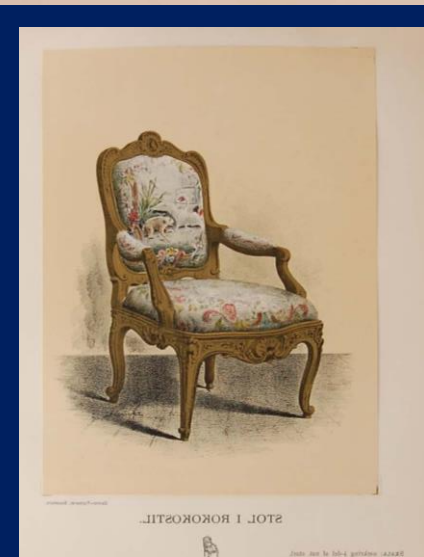
Figure 4.2 Diorama at the Nordic Museum showing the feminine emotional relationship in the family, here shown in a 'nice peasant home', the Vingåker Cottage. Womanhood was to be the foundation for the Hazelian communal society. Diorama: Artur Hazelius, 1873; lithography by J. Risander in *Memories from the Nordic Museum*, 1902.



HÖSTFLYTTNING I LULE LAPPMA



Central-tryckeriet, Stockholm



STOL I ROKORSTIL.



HUMMEL, NYCKELHARPA OCH LUTA.

- What were some of the factors that motivated Hazelius to establish Skansen and the Nordic Museum?
- What types of ideas about Sweden and Swedishness were conveyed by Skansen and the Nordic Museum?
- How did the museums relate to broader phenomena in 19th-century Sweden?

Industrialisation of Stockholm



Panorama of Stockholm, c. 1868

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Estimated population, 1252–1775					
Year	Pop.	±%/p.a.	Year	Pop.	±%/p.a.
1252	100	—	1635	16,000	+1.66%
1289	3,000	+9.63%	1650	30,000	+4.28%
1460	6,000	+0.41%	1685	60,000	+2.00%
1500	7,000	+0.39%	1700	40,000	-2.67%
1523	3,000	-3.62%	1725	48,800	+0.80%
1582	9,000	+1.88%	1750	58,400	+0.72%
1600	9,000	+0.00%	1775	72,300	+0.86%

Source: Stockholms Stads Utrednings- och Statistikkontor AB [Befolkningen i Stockholm 1252–2005](#) , p. 55

by

Historical population in 10-year intervals, 1800–Present					
Year	Pop.	±%/	Year	Pop.	±%/
1800	75,800	—	1910	343,832	+14.4%
1810	65,600	-13.5%	1920	419,788	+22.1%
1820	75,700	+15.4%	1930	502,203	+19.6%
1830	80,400	+6.2%	1940	590,543	+17.6%
1840	83,600	+4.0%	1950	744,562	+26.1%
1850	93,070	+11.3%	1960	808,603	+8.6%
1860	109,878	+18.1%	1970	744,911	-7.9%
1870	133,597	+21.6%	1980	647,214	-13.1%
1880	167,868	+25.7%	1990	674,452	+4.2%
1890	245,331	+46.1%	2000	750,348	+11.3%
1900	300,523	+22.5%	2010	847,073	+12.9%

Source: Stockholms Stads Utrednings- och Statistikkontor AB [Befolkningen i](#)

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Scandinavianism



Moderna Museet, est. 1958



**In the future
everybody will be
world famous
for fifteen minutes.**

Andy Warhol

**Moderna Museet,
Stockholm Sweden
10/2-17/3 1968**



Moderna Museet



Palle Nielsen,
Modellen,
Moderna
Museet,
installed 1968



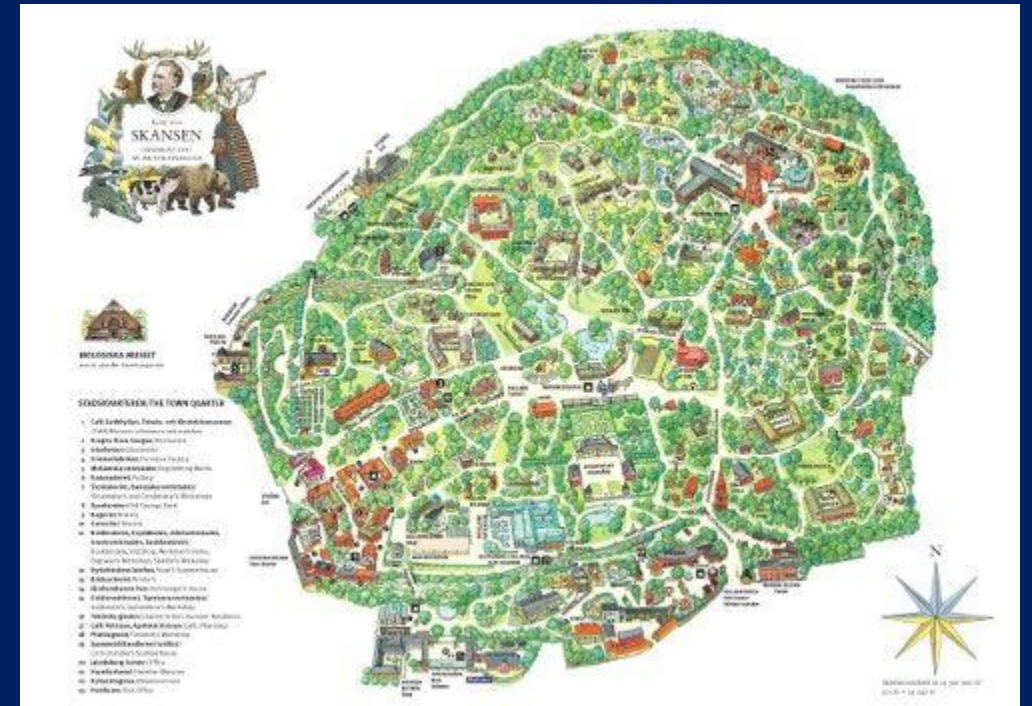
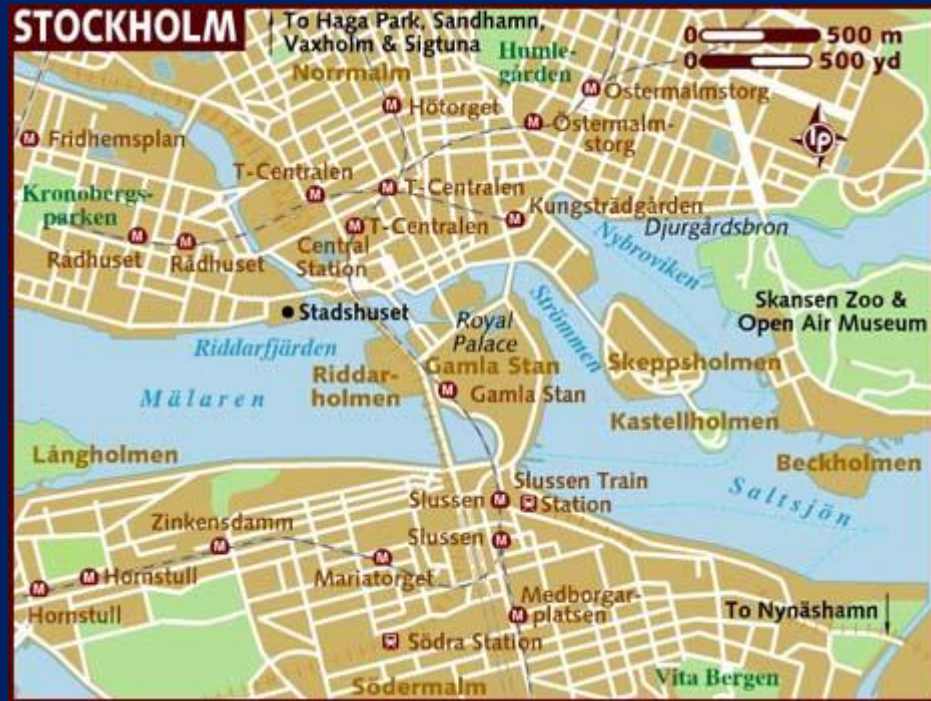
Olof Palme,
Swedish Prime
Minister



Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg, est. 2004



Skansen



There are **ennobled public entertainments**, which accordingly have been evoked, and which should be beneficial and **educative**, especially for the youth, and might thereby count as important contributions to the sound development of the capital. It is here a matter of **creating traditions**, which will never be abandoned.

- Hazelius on Skansen festivals, cited by Bäckström, 'Loading Guns with Patriotic Love,' p. 77

National Day of Sweden

- Celebrates two historical events:
Gustav Vasa being elected king (6 June 1523) and adoption of a new constitution (6 June 1809)



National Day of Sweden – initiated by Hazelius at Skansen, 1893



Figure 4.4 The inner, family-like, group of women and men of high society as vendors in national dresses. The young protégés are surrounded by female chaperons and a male marshal with 'blue and yellow' across his chest (1896).



Figure 4.8 The historical procession at the Spring Festival of 1893. High-born ladies and gentlemen dressed up as King Gustaf III, Queen Sofia Magdalena and the royal entourage. Photo: Atelier Birger Jarl, 1893.



Figure 4.6 The family Macke Årén was employed as Skansen-Lapps (ethnographically representative nomads), 1892–1899. Photo: Anton Blomberg, 1890s.



‘Lapp’ culture at Skansen



Bild 2. "Lapplägrät" på Skansen, 1896. Foto Bengt Orling, Nordiska museet.



‘Lapp’ culture at Skansen and the Nordic Museum

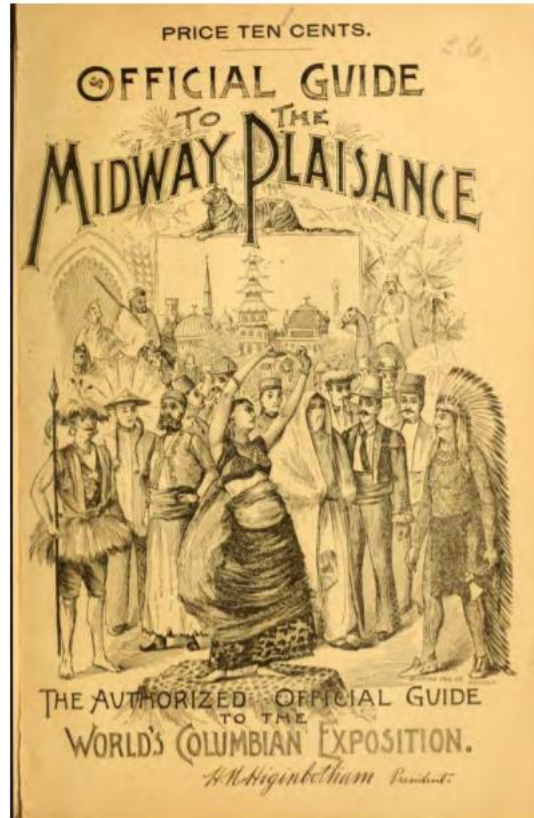
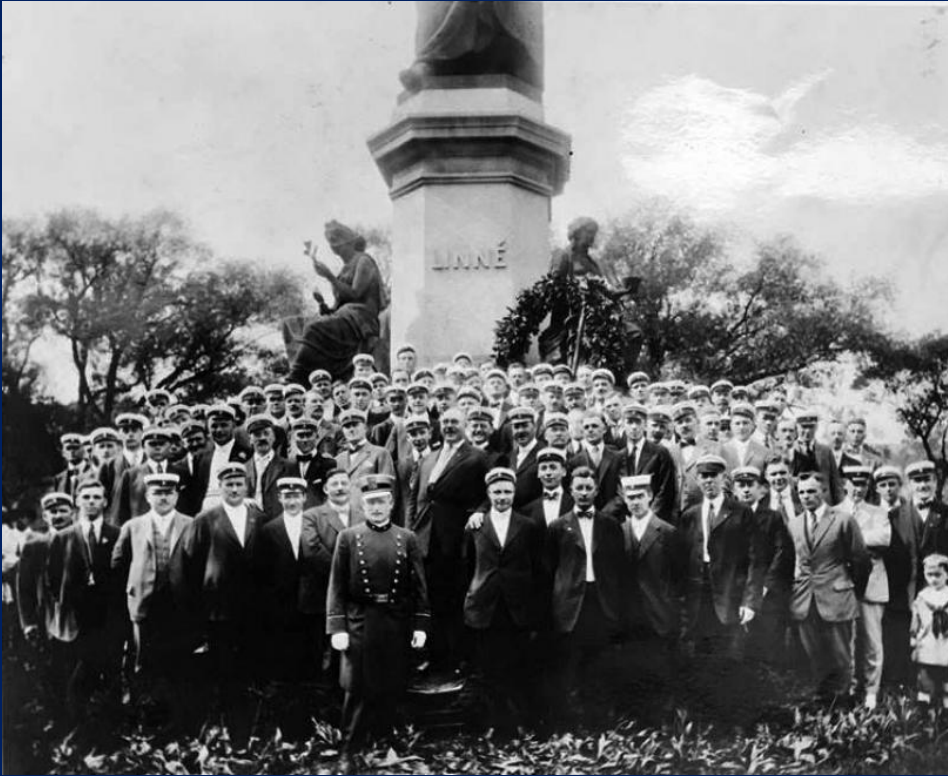


Bild 1. *Höstflyttning i Lule lappmark*, diorama i Skandinavisk-etnografiska samlingen, 1874. Foto Axel Lindahl, Nordiska museet.



Figure 4.7 Young protégés and their chaperons dressed as Lapps at the Spring Festival of 1894. In this staging of the camp, young ladies with dark hair were picked out to read visitors' fortunes 'exactly as real Lapps'. Photo: Frans Gustaf Klemming, 1894.

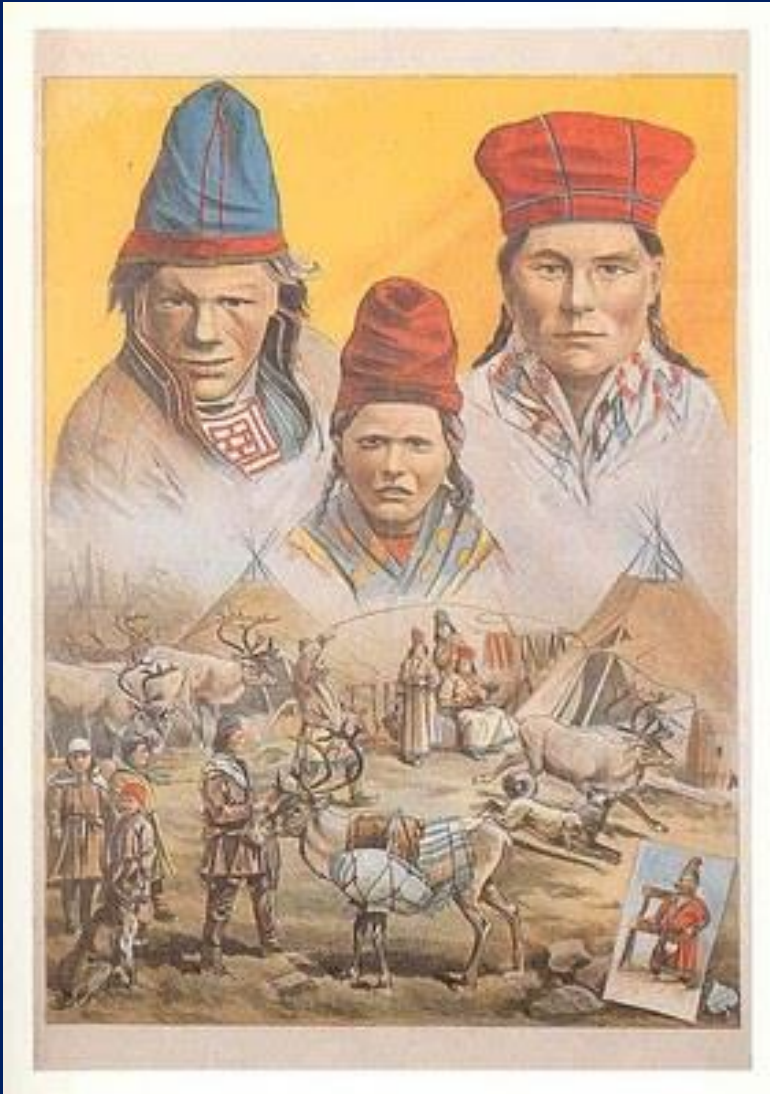
Sweden at World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893



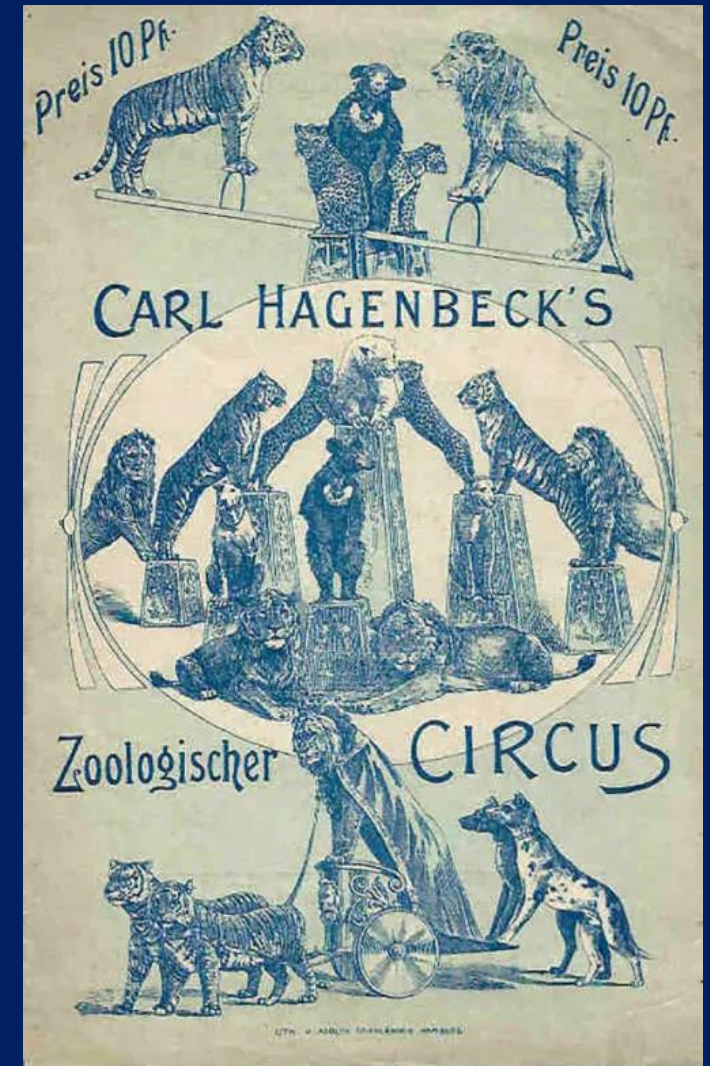
John J Flinn (1893). Official Guide to Midway Plaisance, (1893).



Sami in 'People Shows' (Human Zoos?)



Poster for a Sami
Völkerschau organized by
Carl Hagenbeck



20th-Century Lapp Exhibits curated by Ernst Manker (1893–1972)

The eye-catching reindeer caravan in the exhibition *Lapparna* ("The Lapps"), 1947. Photo: Lennart Nenklér, Nordiska Museet.



Both during fieldwork and in the museum, Manker often collaborated with Sami people, among others the couple Siggá and Mattias Kuoljok, who contributed with different arrangements in the exhibition *Lapparna* ("The Lapps"). Here they are securing the baggage on a stuffed reindeer, supervised by Manker himself, 1947. Photo: Lennart Nenklér, Nordiska Museet.



Wiebke Reinert, 'Enlivening Exhibitions: Zoos, Open-Air Museums, and the History of Living Animals in Human Sceneries of Display,' *Ethnologia Europaea* 49:2 (2019): 15–30.

- What role might animal displays have played in Hazelius's vision for Skansen and the Nordic Museum?
- How might animal displays factor into nationalism, national identity and nation-building?



Skansen, Stockholm

Nordic Animals



Figure 2: Walrus at Skansen's animal park fed and animated by director Alarik Behm and an animal keeper in front of the audience, 1908. (Photo: Hemming Hultgren. Nordiska museet, NMA.0048348/Wikimedia Commons)

Tivoli Animal Displays



Paul Meyerheim painting of a German menagerie 1894

National Natural History

