

Christopher Kindblad¹

¹University college of Halmstad

The Nordic Region as a Peace System - A Sociological Perspective

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

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Abstract by: Christopher Kindblad, Sociologist

University college of Halmstad, Sweden.

Nordic region as a peace system – A sociological perspective

The geopolitical landscape in Europe has changed rapidly recently, from being a reasonably peaceful region for more than 70 years, to a situation, where we have a war going on in Ukraine. The proposal focusses on the Nordic region as a peace system, referring to a cluster of neighbouring societies, which are not making with each other. The region has a legacy of more than 200 years of not making war and resolving conflicts in peaceful ways. The report "New Nordic Peace" by the Nordic Council of Ministers from 2019, describes the Nordic region both as a region of peace and for peace, also contributing in "promoting peace and conflict resolution internationally." (Hageman & Bramsen 2019) In the new geopolitical situation, it is suggested that we need to deepen our understanding of the Nordic region as a peace system, to find adequate paths to action the coming years. The proposal asks how people have created and maintained a peace system in the Nordic region historically. Some previous and recent research within peace- and conflict and anthropological research, which has studied peace systems, is reviewed. The proposal suggests that a sociological perspective based on life-mode analysis can be a fruitful approach to reach a deeper understanding of the peace system in the Nordic region. Life mode analysis was a mode of analysis of social systems developed by the Danish ethnologist Thomas Höjrup (1983) in the 1980s, and was further developed by the Swedish sociologists Jacobsen and Carlsson (1993) in the 1990s. The proposal suggests that a life mode analysis focusing on type of social systems (patriarchal/matriarchal versus matristic), can be useful for the purpose of understanding the Nordic region as a peace system, and highlights some particular features in the Nordic model of democracy and welfare, exemplified in particular by the case of Sweden, in order to understand how the region historically has become a peace system, and a cluster of non-warring social systems.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion