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A double threat: the anti-nuclear struggle of Nordic women in the 1980s

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

In the 1970s the anti-nuclear power movement spread through different political coalitions in Europe and in North-America, reaching in some countries - United States, West Germany, France and Sweden - an intensity unprecedented in the history of technology dispute. Sweden's nuclear energy program (probably the most ambitious in the world on a per capita basis) became a subject of a public controversy which proved not simply heated but also more widespread than in most other countries and continued far beyond the 1980 referendum. The movement against anti-nuclear power was intertwined all over Europe with the nuclear disarmament movement, which in Sweden took on wide proportions and held specific importance, as popular force besides the "cold war divide"; it was fueled by the submarine crisis in 1981 and the subsequent military spectacle. Whereas research has mostly highlighted what made these two Swedish movements "special" (the centrality of atomic energy in the post-war social democratic governments; the Cold War-era foreign policy doctrine of nonalignment and armed neutrality), this paper aims to investigate the (dis)entanglements between the Swedish struggles against nuclear – both power and armament - and their counterparts in the other Nordic countries, in the face of the Eastern neighbours. The focus is on women activism in the 1980s, in the context both of political parties and feminist groups: did the different geopolitical position of these countries influence women environmental and peace activists' understanding of the link between nuclear power and nuclear armament? How did they react, both in their national and regional mobilization, to Soviet military and energy politics?

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion