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Nordic rediscoveries of Belarus. Swedish historians and their vision of the past and future of Belarus, ca 1930-2000

#### Bakgrund/Frågeställning

Belarus remains one of the most little-known countries in the Norden. There are several reasons for this. The primary one can be ascribed to the fact that in modern times Belarus did not exist as a political entity. During modern times Belarus had no sovereignty, being initially a province of Poland-Lithuania, the Russian Empire, Interwar Poland and the Soviet Union. Unlike the Baltic states, Belarus was not independent during the interwar period and had no large diaspora in the West after World War II. The Cold war contributed to the marginalization of Belarus in Nordic political and academic discourses and the Belarusian people considered often as a nation without own political history. The lack of knowledge of the political history of Belarus remains a challenge for Nordic scholarship. The aim of this chapter is to discuss different visions of Belarusian national movement, its statehood, and political future developed by Swedish historians since the 1930s.

How does contemporary context shape the works of the historians? How do the visions change over time? Theoretical frameworks are based on the chronotope concept, using the principle of the “look at the past” approach. The vision of the past is ultimately determined by the historical context in which the historian works, or “chronotopes of a historian”, as Michel Foucault it pointed out.

#### Metod och Resultat

#### Konklusion