

History of Finland and Path to Independent Finland

1. Pre-History of Finland

The first signs of life in Karijoen Susiluola (Wolf Cave in Karijoki), near Kristiinankaupunki are about 120,000 years old. Researchers are interpreting rocks that have been found in the cave to have been tools that the Homo Erectus, Neanderthal people have used. There are also signs of established fire place foundations in the cave.

The last Ice Age ended in Finland about 11,000 years ago, allowing people from Kunda and Swidrynk Cultures to inhabit the area. Finland has been inhabited continuously ever since.

2. History of Finland

In the Middle Ages at least Western Finland, in mid 1200's, and part of Karelia, in early 1300's was added to the Swedish Empire, and Turku, the first city in Finland, was established between 1229, when the Bishop's Seat was moved to Koroinen, close to downtown of modern Turku, 1249, when the Dominican Convent was established, and 1300, when the Turku Cathedral was completed.

During the early Modern History Finland was attacked by Danes and Russians, as the Swedish Empire was losing wealth, influence and power.

Helsinki was founded in 1550 to compete with the Hanseatic League town Reval (Tallinn) as a trade center, but did not become a significant city before it was made the Capital in 1809, when the sovereignty of Finland was transferred to Russians.

Russia gave Finland the status of Autonomous Grand Duchy, which worked well in the beginning, but turned into more and more tyrannical governing towards the end of the century and early 1900's.

3. Path to Independent Finland

The early existence of Finland and the Finns was challenging. The people in power were ruthless, and the Finns were first attacked and killed, then taxed heavily, moved from their home areas without their consent, and drafted into wars that were not theirs. The Swedes were in power for six centuries, the Russians for one century, and all this developed a desire for independence in the minds of Finns. A well known proverb says it all: We are not Swedes, we don't want to become Russians, so let's be Finns!

Finland became Independent on December 06, 1917. After the Civil War in 1918, Winter War in 1939-40 and Continuation War in 1941-44 the independence has become very dear and precious to all Finns,



especially the ones that have either experienced the war themselves, or through their parents, or through the hard times after the war.

Let's honor Finland's Independence, the 93rd Anniversary, and sing Maamme (Our Land)!



The second song is Veteraanin Iltahuuto (Veteran's Evening Call), a song honoring Finland's Veterans, who put their lives on the line to save their country, their families and all other Finns.