

**Lecture on**  
**SWEDEN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

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**Tuesday, November 5, 2003  
Women's Faculty Club Director's Room  
12:00-2:00 pm (talk begins 12:30 pm)  
by invitation only**

There has been a lively debate during recent years on the role of Sweden during World War II, in part centering upon comparisons between the roles of Sweden and Switzerland, particularly in regard to the treatment of Jewish bank deposits and the acceptance of tainted German gold during the later part of World War II. As Sweden was not involved in the war, there was no need for establishing a resistance movement. Consequently there was no settling of accounts in 1944-1945 as there was in other European states. Most of the old friends of Germany and even of Nazism could stay on in their jobs, and Sweden was generally regarded as having done her part through saving the democratic system of her own country and through giving support to its neighbors and support to the concentration-camp victims at the war's end.

Now moral questions are raised anew about the war: What could Sweden have done differently? (Here we have the benefit of hindsight.) How have scholars looked at this question? Was Sweden only a case of small-state realism or were we unduly influenced by Nazi Germany during Hitler's high times 1940-1942? The debate during the last years is probably influenced through the fall of the Berlin Wall and Sweden's joining the European Union, but also by the international general interest in questions pertaining to the Holocaust. The SUAF project in 1965-1985. More research is being being done, motivated by the widespread feeling of the need to turning over all stones in an effort to come clean once and for all with the burdens of the past.

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