

The Great Migration:
From Sweden
to the United
States

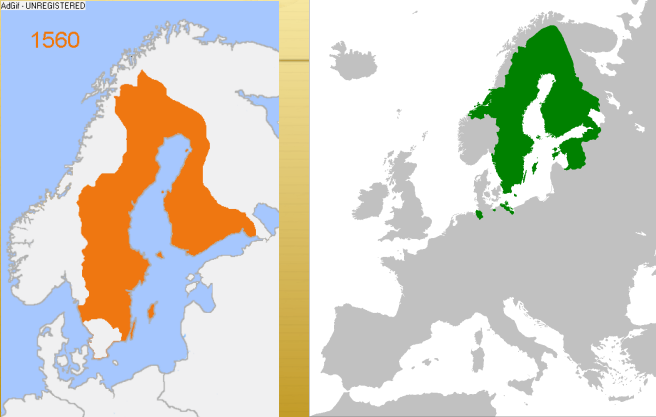
Prepared by M. Eaton & C. O. Alm

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Is there anyone with Swedish
ancestry in the class?
Norwegian?
Other Scandinavian?

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Why the Swedes got involved ..



1560

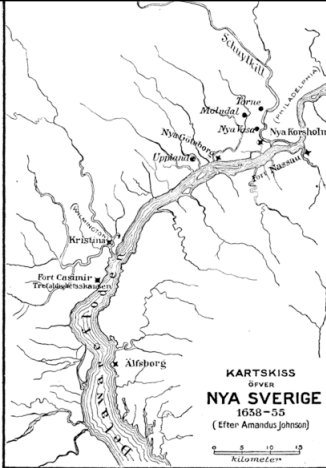
(approximate maps)

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Early émigrés

1637 New Sweden Co. to America
1638 Fort Christina, New Sweden
Conflict with the Dutch
A "Swedish Nation"

1938 Tercentenary with Roosevelt



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Discuss with your neighbor(s) for around 3 min

- ✦ Was Peterson's diary account what you expected to read from a real Swedish emigrant? Why or why not?

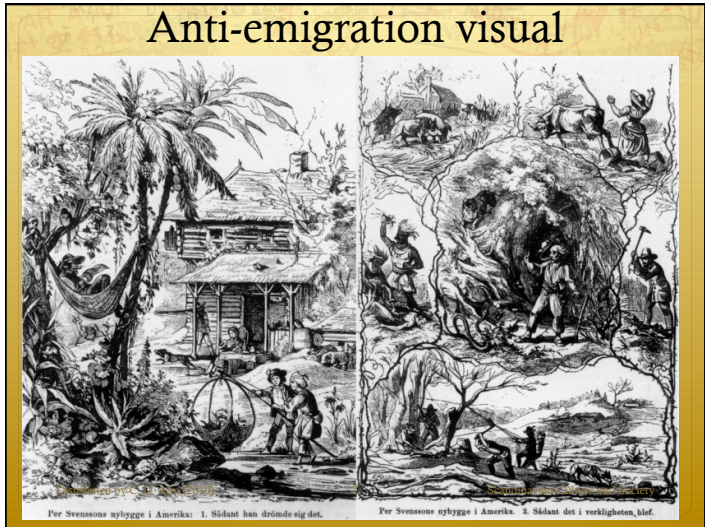
- ✦ Did his account change your perception of Swedish emigration?

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To go or not to go?

- ✦ 19th C: Swedes lived off agriculture (~4/5)
- ✦ 1/5 of all citizens migrated 1840 -1930
- ✦ America: land of freedom or chaos?
- ✦ Removal of emigration restrictions
- ✦ Poverty, farming conditions, religious discontent
- ✦ New Upsala
- ✦ Eric Jansson

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First Contact

- ✦ Letters in the newspapers
- ✦ Also literary images, e.g. Frederika Bremer's *The Homes of the New World: Impressions of America* (1854)
- ✦ liberalists vs. conservative views:
America as an easy out or as a noble pursuit?

Passagerarne som på värns och under sommaren önska blifva befordrade med postångsfartygen via England.

TILL AMERIKA

Lördag den 17 Mars 1866. Helt nya befordrade till Amerika, sedan pröfadt sammantalt blifva blifva längre fram, utgifna i Bollnäs hos Herrar G. H. Collin och P. Fredenberg eller hos underståndare.

Göteborg i Januari 1866.

S. SÖRENSEN.
Konstl. Magasinsgatan N: 10.

(48) Då flera personer till mig yffrat sin önskan att få uppföra resor till Amerika, så har jag härmed villigen underrettat att detta kan lita sig göra, och att jag sänder från Bollnäs per jernvägen den 15 Maj för att Lördagen den 16 Maj från Söderhamns försämda rens till Stockholm, Bollnäs, Alfta & Björksholm den 18 April 1866.

ERIK HEDBERG.

Såsom tillfälle får jag nämna att jag varit i Amerika i 15 år, och nu varit hem på ett kort besök, för att uppfylla dag återvända, och kunna de personer som hafva allid följt mig, nämna sig för resor till Amerika hos Herr P. Fredenberg eller G. H. Collin i Bollnäs.

D. S. S.

(58)

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Ebb & Flow



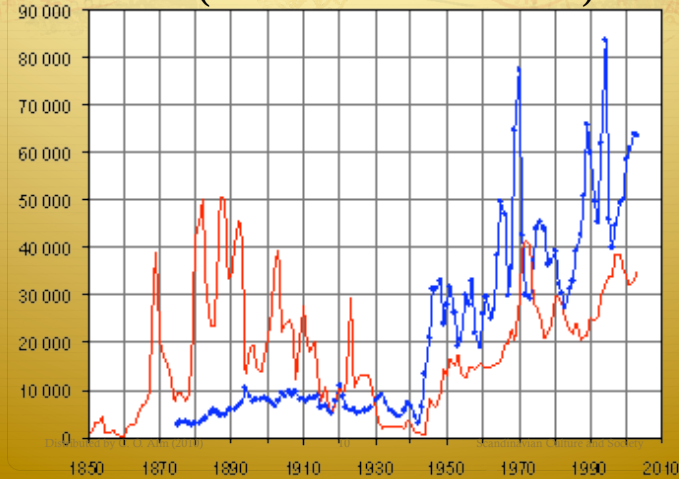
- ✦ Northern victory
- ✦ Spike in emigration
- ✦ European agricultural crisis & early Swedish industrialization
- ✦ Role reversal and social reform

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Peaks (from Statistics Sweden)



- ✦ How did Swedish-Americans establish a new life in the US
- ✦ What parts of the ethnic culture did they abandon or maintain? What might their reasons have been?

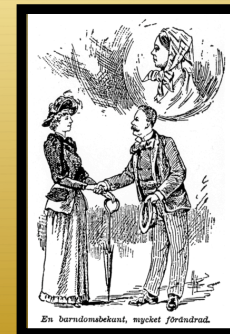
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Toward the 20th Century

- ✦ Old World: national romanticism
 - ✦ Swedish Tourism Society, Skansen outdoor museum, Nordic museum, etc.
 - ✦ anti-emigration
- ✦ New World: a distinct Swedish-American culture
 - ✦ Personalities (Enander), new churches, colleges, clubs, singing societies, food, ethnic, press




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Swedish Chicago



- ✦ Urban life
- ✦ 1890s – Swedes third largest immigrant group
- ✦ 1910~10% all Swedish-Americans in Chicago, ~60% in urban areas
- ✦ Cultural center
- ✦ Andersonville
- ✦ Swedish American Museum Center

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