

2005.19.4

A LOOK AT SWEDEN



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1. A Look at Sweden
2. Sweden shares a common boundary with Norway to the west and with Finland to the north. Elsewhere it is surrounded by water - the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. Sweden is the fourth largest country in Europe. Slightly larger in area than the state of California, it is just as elongated. The distance from Sweden's southern to northern tip - about 1,600 km (1,000 miles) - is as great as that from its southern tip to Naples, Italy.
3. Only about 7% of Sweden is arable. Principal farming lands are found in the province of Skåne - Sweden's granary - in the far south.
4. The population of Sweden - 8,330,000 - is less than that of New York City, and the population density is 20 persons per square km (52 persons per square mile). Immigration has accounted for nearly 45% of the population increase since the end of World War II, and every fourth child now born in Sweden has at least one parent born abroad.
5. The capital of Sweden is the 700-year-old city of Stockholm, beautifully situated on 12 islands connected by some 40 bridges. Here we see part of the City Hall, to the left. Greater Stockholm has 1,409,000 inhabitants, making it by far the largest city in Sweden. The second largest city is Gothenburg on the west coast with 696,000 and then Malmö in the south with 454,000.

6. The Stockholm City Hall (designed by Ragnar Östberg) is the architectural masterpiece of Swedish national romanticism. It was completed in 1923. The Golden Hall, seen here, is decorated with gold mosaics. It is here that the Nobel festivities are held following the awarding of the Nobel Prizes on December 10th each year.
7. Probably no other single occurrence is more widely associated with Sweden than the awarding of the Nobel Prizes. Ever since 1901, the awards have been granted in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, literature and peace (the latter in Oslo, Norway). Since 1968, the Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has also been awarded at the same time each year. However, the cash award for this prize does not come from Nobel's endowment, but from the Tercentenary Fund of Sweden's Central Bank.
8. A favorite Stockholm landmark is the Old Town, actually the original core or island out of which everything else grew. It is the site of many 15th and 16th century buildings and of the Royal Palace, the large building at the upper left. At the lower left is the newly reinaugurated new Parliament building from the turn of the century.
9. Sweden is a parliamentary democracy with a ruling prime minister and a unicameral legislature (the Riksdag), seen in session in this slide.

The five main political parties in Sweden are the Moderate Party (conservative), the Center Party, the Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party.

The Social Democrats ruled Sweden for more than 43 years prior to their loss to a bourgeois coalition in the 1976 election. In the 1982 election, the Social Democrats came back into power, a position which they retained after the September 1985 election. Almost 90% of the population entitled to vote participated. Both local and general elections are held every third year.

10. The Head of State is King Carl XVI Gustaf, nowadays a figurehead with ceremonial functions. With him in this picture - taken on one of his frequent visits to communities throughout the country - is Sweden's popular Queen Silvia.
11. Demonstrations on city streets are a common sight in modern Sweden. Popular causes in recent years have been issues in international affairs, better environmental protection and the continued development, or total abandonment, of nuclear energy. Sweden has a long tradition of freedom of speech. The Freedom of the Press Act, dating from 1766, is the oldest and probably still the most liberal in the world. One of its important features is the right of free access to public documents.

12. About 55% of Swedish residences are contained in apartment buildings. Just under one-half of the dwellings (44%) are in single- or two-family houses (including attached houses). About half of all dwellings in the country have been constructed during the last 25 years. There is a controversy about whether the public authorities responsible for building and planning should concentrate on construction of large housing units, such as these, or ...
13. ... on smaller ones such as these, allowing residents to experience a greater rapport with their surroundings. Sweden now has about 2,4 persons per dwelling. Around 60% of all dwellings are occupied by only one or two persons, whereas only 10% of the dwellings house five or more.
14. 90% of Swedish dwellings are equipped with modern facilities. In Sweden, as in so many places, the focal point in the home is the kitchen. Swedes take great pride in their homes and delight in decorating them with all manner of art, ornaments and plants. There is a strong appreciation for tradition.
15. Every third Swede has access to a summer cottage near the water or in some scenic inland hideaway. And they have plenty of time to enjoy them. The minimum vacation period for all Swedes is five weeks with pay.

16. This picture serves to illustrate the increasing involvement of men in family life. More and more men are assuming their share in performing household chores and taking care of the children. Legislation has made it possible for fathers to take time off from their jobs to attend to their domestic responsibilities up until their children are of school age. The modern Swedish family tends to be small, with 1 or 2 children.
17. Here a group of day nursery attendants are seen out walking with some of their charges. Sweden, by the way, has the world's lowest infant mortality rate, and life expectancy is among the highest. It has one of the world's lowest birth rates - about 11 children per 1,000 inhabitants per year. There has been a strong expansion in the number of day nurseries during the past 15 years, but there is still a marked shortage of them in urban areas.
18. Beginning at the pre-school level, children are urged to participate in cultural activities, such as this visit to an historical museum to learn about prehistoric tools.
19. The entire Swedish school system, except for a very few private schools, is financed through taxes. This applies right through the university and post-graduate levels. Children start school in the fall of the year they reach the age of seven and must complete nine years of compulsory education.

20. Almost 85% of Swedish students continue their education to the secondary schools. 95% of these complete secondary school by age 20, and 20% pursues studies at the university level.
21. For centuries, Sweden has stood at the forefront of scientific research. Many of the great innovators in science - including Linnaeus, Berzelius and more than a dozen Nobel Prize winners - have been Swedes.
22. About 17% of Swedes are pensioners over the age of 65, and yet they occupy 25% of all Swedish dwellings. Among the services provided for old people are day centers, at which pensioners may participate in various types of activities - hobby programs, physical activities, excursions, etc.
23. Sweden has a system of rural postmen serving the sparsely populated areas. By agreement with Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare, rural postmen help to provide social services by making home visits, delivering goods, maintaining a contact and alarm service, and carrying out a variety of special duties.
24. Health care and hospital services are provided free of charge. Since 1955 all residents of Sweden are automatically covered by the National Health Insurance Plan. The patient pays only a token fee.

25. Dental care is provided free of charge for children and at subsidized rates for adults. Sweden has more than 8,000 active dentists. More and more women are entering dentistry and other professions earlier dominated by men. All in all 75% of all women between the ages of 16 and 64 are gainfully employed.
26. Half the area of Sweden is covered by forests, and these have long provided raw materials for important branches of Swedish industry, i.e. paper, pulp and wood products. Today forestry in Sweden is largely mechanized.
27. Forests products account for about one-fifth of Sweden's exports. Most Swedish industries are rurally located in small or medium-sized towns, making congested factory cities a rarity. Sweden's share of world pulp output is approximately 10%, while its share of world pulp exports amounts to about 16%. Canada, the U.S. and Sweden are the world's leading pulp exporting countries.
28. Sweden has approximately 100,000 lakes covering 10% of the surface, and the abundant flow of water has long been used as a source of power. Early expansion of hydroelectric capacity was a significant factor in the transformation of Sweden into an industrial state. Three factors explain Sweden's relatively high level of energy consumption: heating requirements in a severe climate, an energy-intensive industrial sector and the need for long-distance transportation.

29. Situated in the midst of the Lapland wilderness and 112 km (70 miles) north of the Arctic Circle is Kiruna, one of the world's largest cities in area (more than 7,700 sq.km or 3,000 sq.miles). Within its city limits is Sweden's highest mountain Kebnekaise (2,117 meters or 6,942 feet). Here is also one of the world's largest underground mines. Using specialized mechanical tools, 16 million tons of iron ore can be extracted in a year. Because the market is diminishing for phosphorus-rich ore, this state-owned mining company has invested heavily in the development of pellets.
30. Mechanization is also evident in other industrial fields. Here is an industrial robot being used in the manufacture of automobiles. 94% of Swedish industry is in private hands.
31. Sweden's shipbuilding industry, once one of the world's foremost, has now become more specialized into the production of equipment such as offshore rigs for the oil industry. This rig is being built in Gothenburg, Scandinavia's largest port.
32. Here an old shipyard is being used as a labor market training site. It is felt that such training facilitates occupational and geographic mobility on the labor market. Registered unemployment appears low compared with other countries. During the 1970s, the annual averages varied between 1.5% and 2.7% of the labor force. During the first three years of the 1980s, however, registered unemployment reached its highest level of the post-war period, averaging 3.5% in 1983. The tide turned in 1984 and unemployment has now begun to decline slowly.

- 19 33. One of the prides of Sweden's sophisticated aviation industry and of the Swedish Air Force is Viggen. Sweden has not been involved in a war since 1814 and it has followed a policy of non-participation in alliances in peacetime aimed at neutrality in the event of war.
34. Agrigulture and fishing, once mainstays of the Swedish economy, have undergone distinct decline in importance. Agriculture now employs no more than 4% of the working population. Fishermen, like this oldtimer, are becoming even fewer in numbers.
35. Sweden enjoys a worldwide reputation for the high quality and fine design of its hand-blown crystal glassware, produced primarily in the province of Småland.
36. In this picture, director Ingmar Bergman, is seen at work with his cinematographer Sven Nykvist and Ewa Fröling, who plays a principal role in Fanny and Alexander, a film described by Bergman as "a huge tapestry filled with masses of color and people, houses and forests, mysterious haunts of caves and grottoes, secrets and night skies. Yes, I'm afraid it is rather romantic but not unbearably so."
37. Many visitors are struck by the abundance of public art to be seen in Sweden. Stockholm's newer subway stations are completely decorated by various commissioned artists. Public buildings are made attractive, too, thanks to a government recommendation to use one percent of construction costs for artistic decoration.

38. A scene like this is typical wherever there is water -- be it spring, summer or fall. Swedes are a boat-loving people -- every fifth household owns a boat.
39. Actually, Swedes are enthusiastic about all outdoor activities. Fishing is a popular pastime enjoyed by men and women, young and old. There are ample opportunities for fine catches both along the coast and in Sweden's many lakes and rivers.
40. Swedes have long been aware of the importance of physical fitness, but today even more and more people from all walks of life are jogging and participating in group gymnastics.
41. On the more organized level are events such as the Lidingö Race, the world's largest long-distance race over natural terrain. There are separate races for men, women and children.
42. Perhaps because of their early involvement in leisure sports activities, Swedes have come to excel in many international competitive sports, such as ice hockey, skiing, table tennis, bandy, sailing, swimming and, of course, tennis. Björn Borg appears to have inspired a whole new generation of tennis enthusiasts. Here is a picture of the Swedish team that won the Davis Cup in 1984. Sweden is one of the few nations ever to win this coveted sports prize, and has done so twice.

43. Swedes are just as anxious to get outdoors in the winter as in the summer. Popular winter sports are cross-country skiing and long-distance skating. Sweden's winters are not as severe as one might imagine from its northern latitude. Thanks to the warm currents of the Gulf Stream and prevailing westerly winds, Sweden has a climate appreciably milder than vast areas of the northern United States. What is noticeable, however, are the short winter days and the long, almost round-the-clock, summer days.
44. One of the most unique traditions in Sweden is Lucia Day, Dec. 13th. This is when a white-clad maiden bearing a crown of lighted candles (symbolizing light breaking through the winter darkness), marches in procession with similarly dressed attendants to the tune of Santa Lucia, originally an Italian folk song.
45. Other traditional holidays in Sweden are Midsummer Day (and Eve) and Walpurgis Night, April 30th, celebrating the advent of spring with the lighting of large bonfires. Here is a typical Midsummer activity, dancing around the flower-bedecked May pole, singing songs and playing games.
46. More than 46,000 folk dancers are registered in various clubs throughout Sweden. Folk music is enjoying a strong renaissance.

47. The Drottningholm Court Theater outside Stockholm is one of the world's best-known and best preserved 18th-century court theaters. Its original stage machinery is still intact and in use. Here is a performance of Handel's *Il Pastor Fido*. Note that even the orchestra is in costume.
48. Here is a scene from one of Sweden's most cherished national parks, Sarek, which lies amid the expansive wilderness areas in northern Lapland. In Sarek, there are no trails, no cabins, no bridges over streams. There is nothing but spectacular scenery as it existed before the encroachment of man. And that is how it's going to be kept. This area of Sweden represents the only sizeable true wilderness remaining in Europe.

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Cover: Vidar Forsberg

Produced by the Swedish Institute, Stockholm, 1985.

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