

# Uncovering the Forgotten History of the Finn Skins: Finland's Nationalist Skinhead Movement (1981-1997)

Between the early 1980s and late 1990s, a controversial and largely forgotten chapter of Finnish history unfolded - the rise and fall of the Finn Skins, Finland's nationalist skinhead movement. This article aims to delve deep into the origins, ideologies, and eventual demise of this movement, shedding light on an overlooked aspect of Finnish society.

## The Emergence of the Finn Skins

The Finn Skins movement first gained prominence in Finland during the early 1980s. Inspired by the British skinhead subculture, which emerged in the late 1960s, the Finn Skins adopted a distinct Finnish nationalist identity. Their movement was characterized by their unique style of dress, symbolized by shaved heads, Doc Martens boots, and bomber jackets adorned with nationalist symbols.

Contrary to popular belief, not all Finn Skins were driven solely by racist and supremacist ideologies. While a significant portion of the movement embraced far-right beliefs, there were factions within the Finn Skins that focused more on nationalism and love for their country rather than hatred towards others.

### **Finn Skins: Finland's Nationalist Skinhead Movement 1981-1997** by A. J. Evans (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 84 pages  
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## **Ideological Split: Nationalism vs. Racism**

As the Finn Skins movement gained traction, an ideological split emerged between those advocating for Finnish nationalism and others subscribing to racist ideologies. The nationalist faction aimed to champion their Finnish identity, cultural preservation, and opposition to globalization, while the racist faction took a darker turn, promoting white supremacy, xenophobia, and violence against minorities. This division ultimately led to internal conflicts and the weakening of the movement.

## **Sociopolitical Context**

In order to comprehend the rise of the Finn Skins, it is crucial to understand the sociopolitical context in which they emerged. The late 1980s and early 1990s saw major political and economic transformations in Finland, including the collapse of the Soviet Union, a recession, and an influx of refugees. These factors created a fertile ground for the Finn Skins' growth, as many Finns felt a sense of uncertainty, economic insecurity, and fear of cultural dilution.

## **Controversial Actions and Influence**

The Finn Skins made headlines with several controversial actions, often involving violent clashes with opposing groups. While the nationalist faction focused on peaceful demonstrations and cultural events, the racist faction engaged in racially motivated attacks on immigrants, vandalized properties, and even targeted left-wing activists. Their presence and provocative acts created a climate of fear and tension within Finnish society.

## **Government Crackdown and Decline**

To combat the rising racially motivated violence and maintain social stability, the Finnish government implemented stringent measures to crack down on the Finn Skins. This involved heightened surveillance, intelligence gathering, and increased law enforcement efforts. Additionally, anti-racist organizations and civil society groups worked tirelessly to counter the influence of the Finn Skins, exposing their ideologies and organizing counter-protests.

By the late 1990s, the Finn Skins movement had lost much of its power and influence. Growing societal awareness, the declining appeal of their extremist ideologies, and concerted efforts to marginalize them all contributed to their decline. The movement splintered further, and many former Finn Skins either abandoned their extremist beliefs altogether or migrated to other far-right groups.

## **Legacy and Lessons Learned**

While the Finn Skins have largely faded away, their legacy still lingers. This dark chapter in Finnish history serves as a reminder of the dangers of extremism, racial hatred, and the importance of creating an inclusive society. Finland has since implemented policies and initiatives to promote tolerance, multiculturalism, and anti-discrimination, aiming to learn from the mistakes of the past and ensure a brighter future for all.

The rise and fall of the Finn Skins movement in Finland from 1981 to 1997 represents a significant but often overlooked chapter in the nation's history. By exploring the origins, ideologies, and ultimate downfall of this movement, we can draw valuable lessons about the crucial role of social and political context, as well as the power of unity, in countering extremism and fostering a more inclusive society.

*alt attribute: Finn Skins Finland Nationalist Skinhead Movement 1981 1997 - A Dark Piece of Finnish History That Must Not Be Forgotten*



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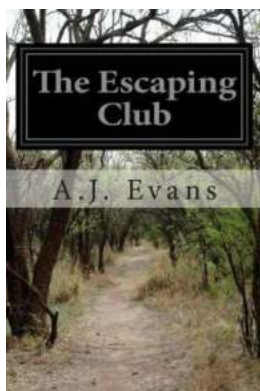


Finland was exceptional country during the cold war. People could travel and bring ideas from Sweden and elsewhere. Finland had a skinhead scene already in the 1980s. Soviet block Eastern European countries had mixed feelings towards Nazism. For Finns they were comrades in Arms who helped us in critical time in 1944. War Veterans respected Germans for their support. Soviet Union troops were gaining upper hand, but largely due to help of air support provided by the Nazi Germany Finland survived and was not occupied. This explains why

many Finns saw Nazism mainly as a form of anticommunism.

First skinheads in Finland were primarily anticommunists. Immigrants came into Finland in 1990s. Skinhead movement was transformed in Finland as elsewhere into a White Power movement. In Britain anti-immigration sentiment had been there since the 1970s.

This book tries to explain Finland's position and peculiarities of Skinheads there.



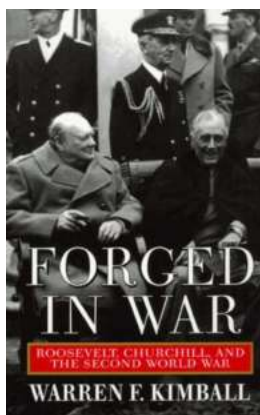
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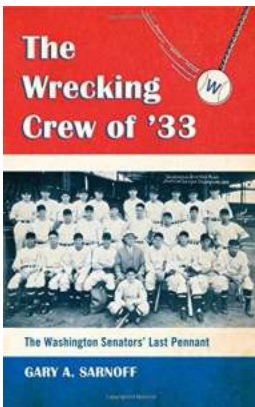
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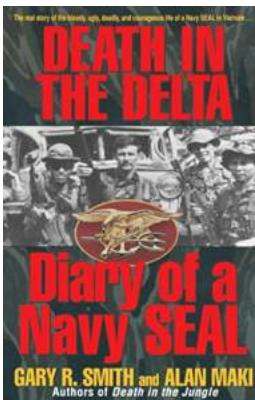
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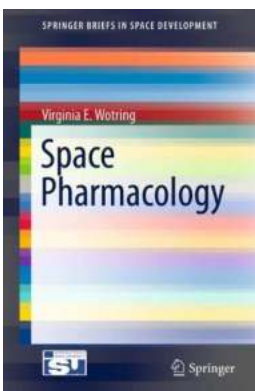
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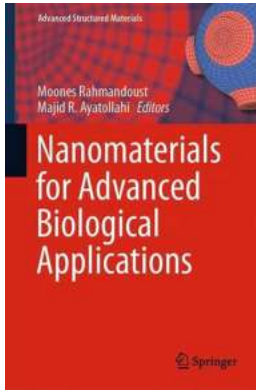
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