



The Dallas/Fort Worth Finnish-American Society
Invites You to Join Us in Welcoming

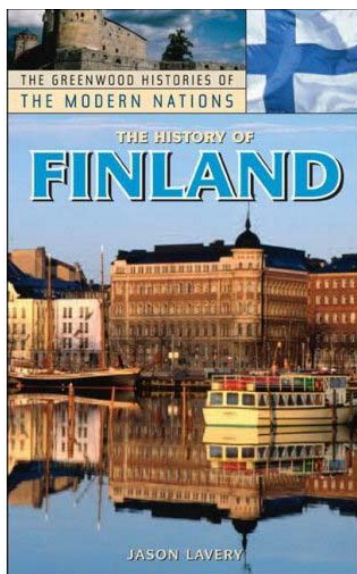
Jason Lavery, Ph.D.

Author of *The History to Finland*

May 21, 2009 at 7:30pm

King of Glory Lutheran Church

6411 LBJ Freeway (I-635), Dallas, Texas 75240



Finland has occupied the political, religious, cultural and economic border between eastern and western Europe since prehistoric times. Despite its peripheral location, the country has found itself in the mainstream of developments that created modern Europe, such as nationalism, world wars, industrialization, and the current political and economic integration. The first evidence of human life in Finland began sometime in the millennium 7,000-8,000 B.C. when small, tribal groups populated the area. In 1155, Finland became a part of the Swedish kingdom, when most of the Finnish peninsula came under the rule of the Swedish king. Finland was annexed to Russia as a result of wars between the Swedish king and Russian rulers in 1809, bringing about the Age of Autonomy or Imperial Era. The Age of Independence came when Finland's leaders declared the country's political independence in 1917 as a result of turmoil in Russia after World War I. Finland, along with several newly independent countries, had to find its place in the new Europe. The country not only did that, but created a secure and prosperous country during times of turmoil. It has emerged into a place of privilege, with high levels of prosperity, cultural achievements, and social peace.

About Jason Lavery, Ph.D.:

Since 1997, Jason Lavery has been a member of the Department of History at Oklahoma State University, first as an assistant professor and since 2002 as an associate professor. Jason Lavery received his B.A. (with high honors) in 1988 from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. and M.Phil in 1994, and a Ph.D. in 1997 all from Yale University in the field of history. His Ph.D. dissertation entitled *The Holy Roman Empire and the Danish-Swedish Rivalry 1563-1576* was published in 2002 under the title *Germany's Northern Challenge: The Holy Roman Empire and the Scandinavian Struggle for the Baltic, 1563-1576* by Brill Academic Publishers.

Jason Lavery participates in the leadership of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS). He is the vice president of the Society, a section of SASS. At the beginning of the academic year 2007 he took on the position as vice president and president-elect. He further has been the president of the Society of Historians of Scandinavia.

Jason Lavery has been asked repeatedly by the Finnish Academy of Sciences to review grant proposals and by professional journals such as the *Sixteenth Century Journal* and *Scandinavian Studies* to review submissions by other scholars.