

Finn Skins: The Rise and Fall of Finland's Nationalist Skinhead Movement (1981-1997)

The late 20th century witnessed the birth and growth of various subcultures, each with its unique ideologies and expressions. One such subculture that emerged during this time was the nationalist skinhead movement in Finland, known as the Finn Skins.

Understanding the Finn Skins

Originating in the early 1980s, the Finn Skins movement gained momentum among a small group of Finnish youths who were searching for identity and a sense of belonging. Inspired by the British skinhead movement that began in the 1960s, the Finn Skins adopted a similar style and ethos while incorporating their own nationalist ideology.

At its core, the Finn Skins movement emphasized Finnish nationalism, promoting cultural preservation and ethnic purity. They believed in the promotion of Finnish pride, heritage, and a rejection of outside influences that they perceived as threats to their national identity.



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

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Audience and Influence

The Finn Skins movement appealed primarily to alienated youth who felt disillusioned by the rapid societal changes and globalization occurring during that era. The movement provided a sense of community and a platform to express their frustrations through music, fashion, and political activism.

Music was a significant aspect of the Finn Skins culture, with bands like Mistreat, Kraftschlag, and RAHOWA acquiring a cult following among the movement's members. These bands often addressed themes of nationalism, racism, and anti-immigration sentiments, reinforcing the ideology of the skinhead movement.

While the Finn Skins were a relatively small movement within Finland, their influence extended beyond national borders. They formed alliances with other nationalist skinhead groups in Europe, engaging in international events and exchanges of ideas.

The Rise of Extremism

As the 1990s approached, the Finn Skins movement became more radicalized, deviating further into extremist ideologies. The fall of the Soviet Union and the influx of immigrants into Finland contributed to the intensification of their beliefs.

Acts of violence and hate crimes started to overshadow the movement, tarnishing its original intentions and leading to condemnation from various sectors of society. The Finnish government introduced stricter policies to combat extremist movements, leading to increased scrutiny and legal repercussions for those associated with the Finn Skins.

The Decline and Legacy

By the late 1990s, the Finn Skins movement had lost its momentum and began to fade away. Increased law enforcement pressure, internal divisions, and a broader societal shift towards acceptance and diversity contributed to its downfall.

Today, the Finn Skins are mostly seen as a relic of a bygone era, representing a dark chapter in Finnish history. While their ideology still exists within a small subset of society, the movement's influence has significantly diminished.

However, it is essential to study the rise and fall of subcultures like the Finn Skins to understand the social, political, and cultural dynamics that shape a nation's history. By examining their impact, we can strive to create a more inclusive and tolerant society that celebrates diversity while preserving our shared cultural heritage.

The Finn Skins movement in Finland during the period between 1981 and 1997 was a significant subculture that emerged in response to societal changes and immigration. It embodied the complexities surrounding nationalism, youth identity, and extremism. Remembering the Finn Skins reminds us of the importance of addressing alienation, promoting inclusivity, and learning from the past as we shape the future.



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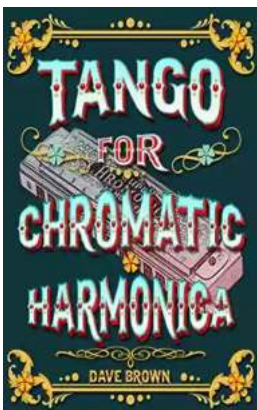
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Finland was exceptional country during the cold war. People could travel and bring ideas from Sweden and elsewhere. Finland had a skinhead scene already in the 1980s. Soviet block Eastern European countries had mixed feelings towards Nazism. For Finns 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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