

## Abstract

Martin Stolare, *Kultur och Natur. Moderniseringskritiska rörelser i Sverige 1900-1920* (Avhandlingar från Historiska institutionen i Göteborg, 34, Göteborg 2003) 350 pages. Written in Swedish with an English summary. [Culture and Nature. Movements critical of modernization in Sweden 1900-1920] ISBN 91-88614-44-1; ISSN 1100-6781.

This study is devoted to four minor and now generally forgotten social movements. The subject of the study is movements that were critical of modernization in Sweden at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The focus is on the people leading these movements and their work to mobilize support for the ideas on which they themselves thought that the organization of society should be based. The overall aim is to discuss the rise, development and decline of the movements, but also to analyse their visions of a different and better society, and how they thought this society should be brought into being.

The four movements that are studied empirically are the land reform movement (mainly the Georgist part), the Värmland youth movement, the smallholder movement around the newspaper, *Odlaren (The Cultivator)*, and the vegetarian movement in Sweden. The ambition has thus been to give a more nuanced picture of Swedish modernization. The concept of modernization criticism has therefore been central to the study and it has been divided up into, on the one hand, nature-oriented criticism of civilization, and, on the other, cultural criticism that questioned the norms and values that were prevalent in the developing modern society.

The four movements had an ambivalent attitude to modernization. As they gave vent to criticism of industry and depicted the town as the abcess of society, it is easy to describe them as reactionary and anti-modern movements. However, the movements cannot be labelled as wholly anti-modern: they were, if anything, themselves exponents of enlightenment. They thought it would be possible to found the good and warm-hearted society on a universal basis. Their specific variation of modernity, however, was neither industrial nor urban.

In an international comparison, the Swedish criticism, as expressed in the four movements critical of modernization in this study, was very much in line with the standpoints of corresponding movements in other countries. It can be said, however, that the Swedish movements were more agrarian in their approach than the movements in Germany, for example.

Key words: Sweden, Modernization, Social Movement, Mobilization Structure, Political Opportunity Structure, Movement Ideology, Georgism, Vegetarianism, Youth Movement, Peasant Movement