

Håkan Petersson: *Nationalstaten och arkeologin. 100 år av neolitisk forskningshistoria och dess relationer till samhällspolitiska förändringar* PhD dissertation 2005. GOTARC Series B. Archaeological Theses nr 36. ISBN 91-85245-15 -X. Göteborg 2005. Written in Swedish. Photocopied edition, 374 pages and 27 figures.

Abstract

This thesis aims at studying the change in Neolithic research and its ideological approach to research in relation to change within the ideology of society, and the way both are historically connected to the principle of the Nation. This means the nationalist idea of one people - one nation, which is described below as the national community or the idea of the national state. The thesis also aims at showing how altered attitudes in the ideology of science and of society have resulted in a different use of prehistory and changed interpretations of material as well as of cultures. Also the thesis tries to show how the use of Neolithic research in politics changes when the view of the national community changes.

When it comes to theory of science the thesis aims at studying nationalism and archaeology. It wants to analyse the use of the concept of nationalism and also statements about the alleged nationalistic views of archaeology. The purpose is to articulate problems and questions for further discussions. Concepts such as *nationalism*, *patriotism*, *racism* and *national identity* tend to get their definitions from the values of our own time. The way the term *nationalism* is used in this thesis, however, must have relevance in our present time without adding our social and political values to the period in question.

The thesis tries to keep a symmetric view of the history of research. This means that I do not intend to evaluate the history of research, but rather to describe it. At least, I will not measure past research in relation to values of today, but if necessary to the values of the time in question.

Secondly the approach in certain ways is external. This means that changes in research are socially connected to its contemporary times. However, it is not my opinion, as is the opinion of absolute externalism that the total body of research is to be seen as created only by its social circumstances.

Thirdly I limit the description of the dialectical relation between ideology of society and ideology of science to an archaeological study, where changes in the archaeological relation to the idea of a national community are analysed.

Fourthly, a pursuit for the attitude of science towards the idea of the national community should be related to some kind of quantification. Therefore a quantified analysis of the national periodical *Fornvännen* is performed and this analysis builds upon some main conceptions and attitudes in the Neolithic research during certain periods. The quantitative analysis is used as a measurement of the amount of nationalism in Neolithic research. This is also a way of studying the relevance of the method within the text analysis where certain chosen papers are regarded as representatives of the ideology of Neolithic research as a whole.

Keywords: Archaeology, Neolithic, History of science, Nationalism, Ideology, Externalism, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Correspondence analysis