

Avhandling från institutionen för historiska studier

Urbana system och riksbildning i Skandinavien

En studie av Lödöses uppgång och fall ca 1050–1646

with an English summary



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

Akademisk avhandling för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen i historia vid Göteborgs universitet, som med tillstånd av humanistiska fakultetsnämnden, kommer att offentligen försvaras fredagen den 7 maj kl 10.00 i sal T302, Institutionen för lingvistik, filosofi och vetenskapsteori, Olof Wijksgatan 6, Göteborg, av M.A. Erika Harlitz, Institutionen för historiska studier

ABSTRACT

Harlitz, E. 2010. *Urbana system och riksbildning i Skandinavien: en studie av Lödöses uppgång och fall ca 1050–1646*. [Urban Systems and State Formation in Scandinavia: A Study of the Rise and Fall of the Town of Lödöse, c. 1050–1646] 172 pages. Avhandling från Institutionen för historiska studier, Göteborgs universitet. Written in Swedish with an English summary.

ISBN 978 91 628 8055 2

The investigation and analysis of Lödöse's political functions over a period of six hundred years has made it possible to follow and contextualize a town's life cycle and development. Lödöse has been used as a case study which illuminates how and why a town emerged, developed and disappeared in medieval and early modern Scandinavia, in relation to the processes of state formation and urbanization. The theory applied is the *Dynamic Urban Systems Theory*. The position of a town within this theory is determined by the functions of the town, as well as the exclusivity of these functions.

The influences of the Scandinavian state formation process on the town and the subsequent emergence of the river Göta Älv as the border of the realm have been ubiquitous during the evolution of Lödöse's functions. The results of the dissertation have been reached by abandoning the interpretational framework offered by the borders of the Scandinavian national states and instead using the Glomma-Risveden region as a focal point. This way, it has been demonstrated that Lödöse was founded in the 11th century during the urbanization of the medieval eastern Norwegian region of Viken, and not as a power manifestation by the Swedish kings, as has been previously assumed. Due to the evolution of the border between the Norwegian and Swedish kingdoms, Lödöse in time became a part of the developing Swedish urban system. This system evolved and was shaped in such a way by the Swedish state that, by the early 17th century, Lödöse was rendered obsolete; therefore, the town ultimately lost its system position and was subsequently abandoned.

Keywords: urban systems, state formation, Scandinavia, Middle Ages, Early Modern, urban function, urbanization, central place, urban network, itinerary