FOGDARNA, BYRÅKRATIN OCH NÄTVERKEN

UPPBÖRDSVÄSENDETS UTVECKLING I SKÅNE 1658-1700

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Abstract
This dissertation examines the establishment, organisation, and effectiveness of the Swedish fiscal administrative system implemented in Scania between 1658 and 1700. Through an extensive analysis of fiscal accounts, official correspondence, legal instructions, court records, probate inventories, and surety bonds, the study explores how the Swedish military state transformed regional and local governance following the province's transition from Danish to Swedish rule. The results demonstrate that the efficiency of the fiscal administration increased significantly only after the introduction of Swedish law and new instructions for officeholders during the 1680s. The professionalization of officials, particularly bailiffs, district clerks, and district judges, was central to this development, as was the harmonisation of administrative boundaries and the clarification of official responsibilities.

The dissertation further analyses the role of credit networks in sustaining the fiscal system. Bailiffs relied on urban and local non-noble elites for credit and surety, and these networks became increasingly local and dense over time. Improved access to liquid funds strengthened the capacity to deliver revenues on time and contributed to the overall stabilization of the fiscal system in the 1690s. Finally, the study situates these developments within wider debates on state formation, showing that Scania's integration into Sweden involved both negotiation and coercion, resulting in a shift from a corporative, locally negotiated political culture to a more centralised and bureaucratic one. The findings reveal how administrative reform, legal integration and network dynamics collectively shaped an emerging Swedish bureaucratic military state in Scania.

Keywords: Scania, early modern time, state formation, political culture, fiscal administration, tax collection, bureaucratization, Swedish integration, early modern governance, bailiffs, bailiwicks, credit networks, military state, administrative transformation

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