

Politics Sweden



Sweden

Constitutional History

On Law shall the Land be built

Thing

Local and regional assemblies

Provincial laws 13th century

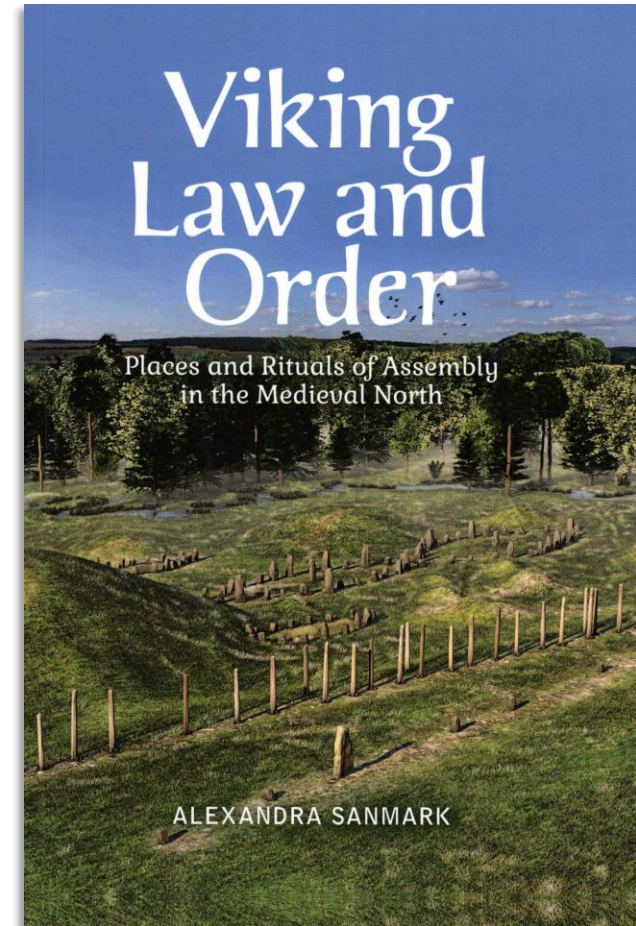
Written codes

On Law shall the Land be built

Provincial law of Uppland 1296

Also in Denmark, Norway

Njál's saga



Sweden's Magna Carta

Alsnö Charter

1280s

Nobility privileges

Oath

Preserve peace and security



Alsnö hus, Adelsö, Lake of Mälaren

13th century: King and people

National laws

Code regulating royal power

"Contract" between king and people

Royal oath



13th century: King and people

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Royal oath

"Contract" between king and people

Eriksgata

Election outside Uppsala

Journey through the Lands

Confirmation by assemblies



Local self-government

Countryside
Local assemblies
Church parish

Medieval cities
Burghers
City council



Stockholm city privileges 1436

16th century: Growth of central power

The King

Increasing power

Hereditary monarchy 1544

The Council of the Realm

Bishops and nobility

Power by royal oath

The church

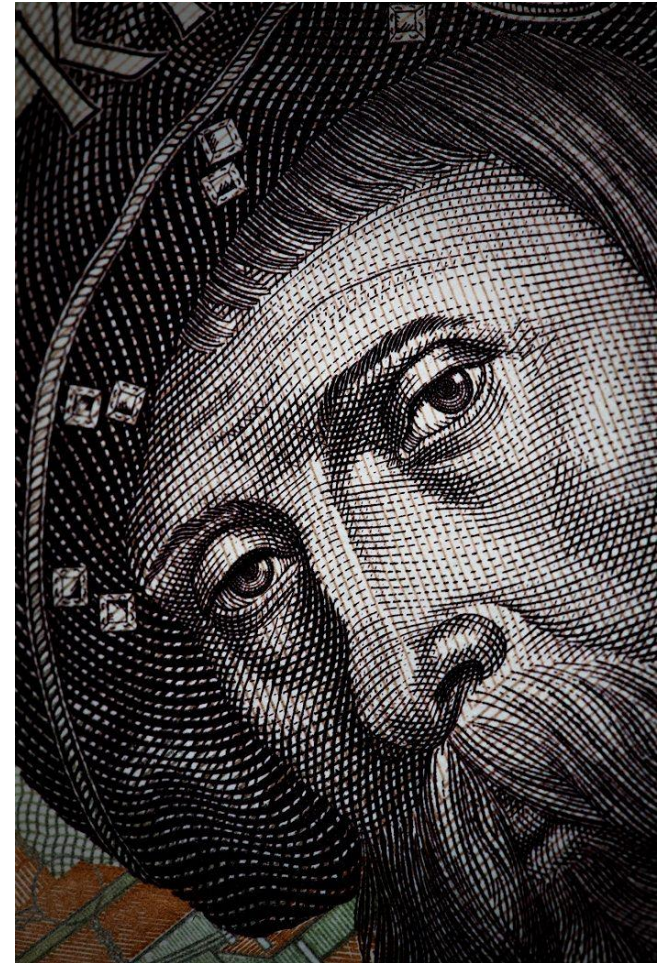
Reformation

State church

The Estates

Riksdag: Västerås 1527, 1544

Four estates: nobility, clergy, burghers, peasants



Gustav Vasa, king 1523–1560

17th century: State-building

The King

European great power

State power, taxes

The Estates

Consent

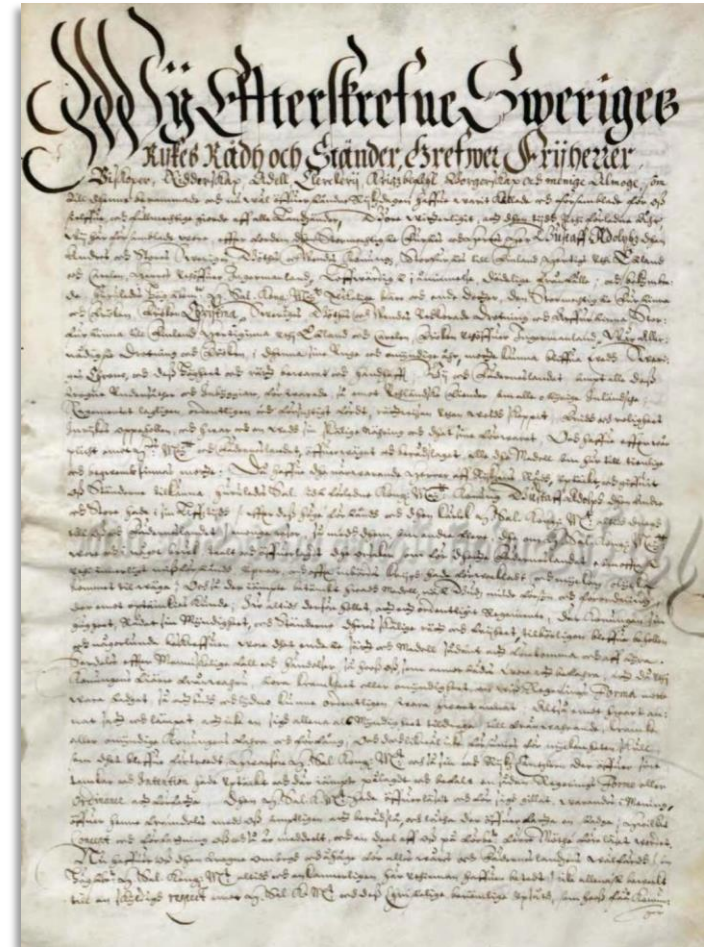
The Riksdag Act 1617

The Instrument of Government 1634

The Council

Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna

State administration



The Instrument of Government 1634

Original signed by The Council of the Realm and The Nobility

Source: Swedish National Archives SE/RA/25.2/19/1

17th century: State-building

The King

European great power
State power, taxes

The Estates

Consent
The Riksdag Act 1617

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The Council
Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna
State administration

The Legacy of Axel Oxenstierna

Territorial division: counties (län)
County governors (landshövdingar)
Courts of appeal (hovrätter)
Chancery (kansliet)
Civil servants (riksämbetsmän)
Public agencies (ämbetsverk)

Swedish Mail
Tricentenary stamp
Celebrating its founder Axel Oxenstierna



18th century: The Age of Liberty

Parliamentary power

Loss of great power status

Weak monarchy

Power of The Estates

Liberty

Early party system

Accountable government

Freedom of the Press Act 1766



Hedvig Charlotta Nordenflycht (1718–1763)
Pioneer writer and feminist

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1809: A new constitution

Revolution 1809

Parliament initiative

Constitution first, king later

The 1809 Instrument of Government

Constitutional monarchy

Executive: King in Council

Legislation: shared King and Parliament

Taxation: Parliament

Parliamentary control

Supreme court

Other fundamental laws

The Riksdag Act 1810

The Act of Succession 1810

Freedom of the Press Act 1810, 1812



19th century: Constitutional monarchy

Municipal laws 1862

- Local level (kommuner)
- Regional level (landsting)
- Cities (städer)

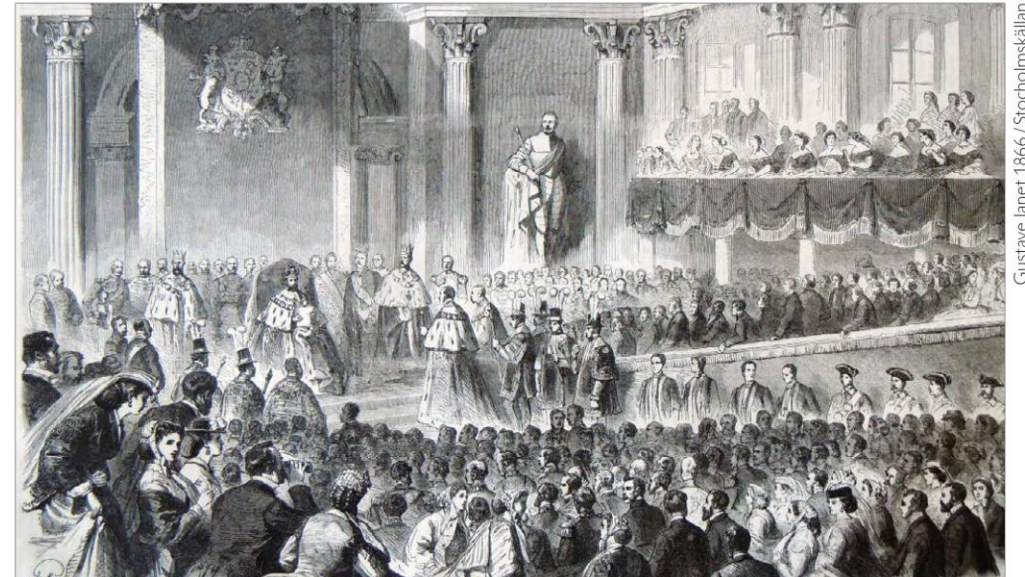
Representation reform 1866

- First chamber: indirect election
- Second chamber: direct election, limited suffrage

Ministry reform 1840

Prime minister 1876

- From council to cabinet government
- Conflicts between king and cabinet



Gustave Janet 1866 / Stocholmskällan

The last Riksdag of the Four Estates, 1866

Struggle for democracy

Power over The Cabinet: Parliamentary system

1905, 1911: Liberal cabinet

1914: Royal intervention

1917: Liberal – Social Democratic cabinet

Power over The Parliament: Suffrage

1907–1909

First chamber: Limited plural vote

Second chamber: Suffrage for men

1918–1921

First chamber: Universal and equal suffrage

Second chamber: Universal and equal suffrage



New system – old constitution



Disaster into progress: The Age of Liberty

Before 1718



After 1718



Disaster into progress: The 1809 Constitution

Before 1809



After 1809



Disaster into progress: Democratic reforms 1905

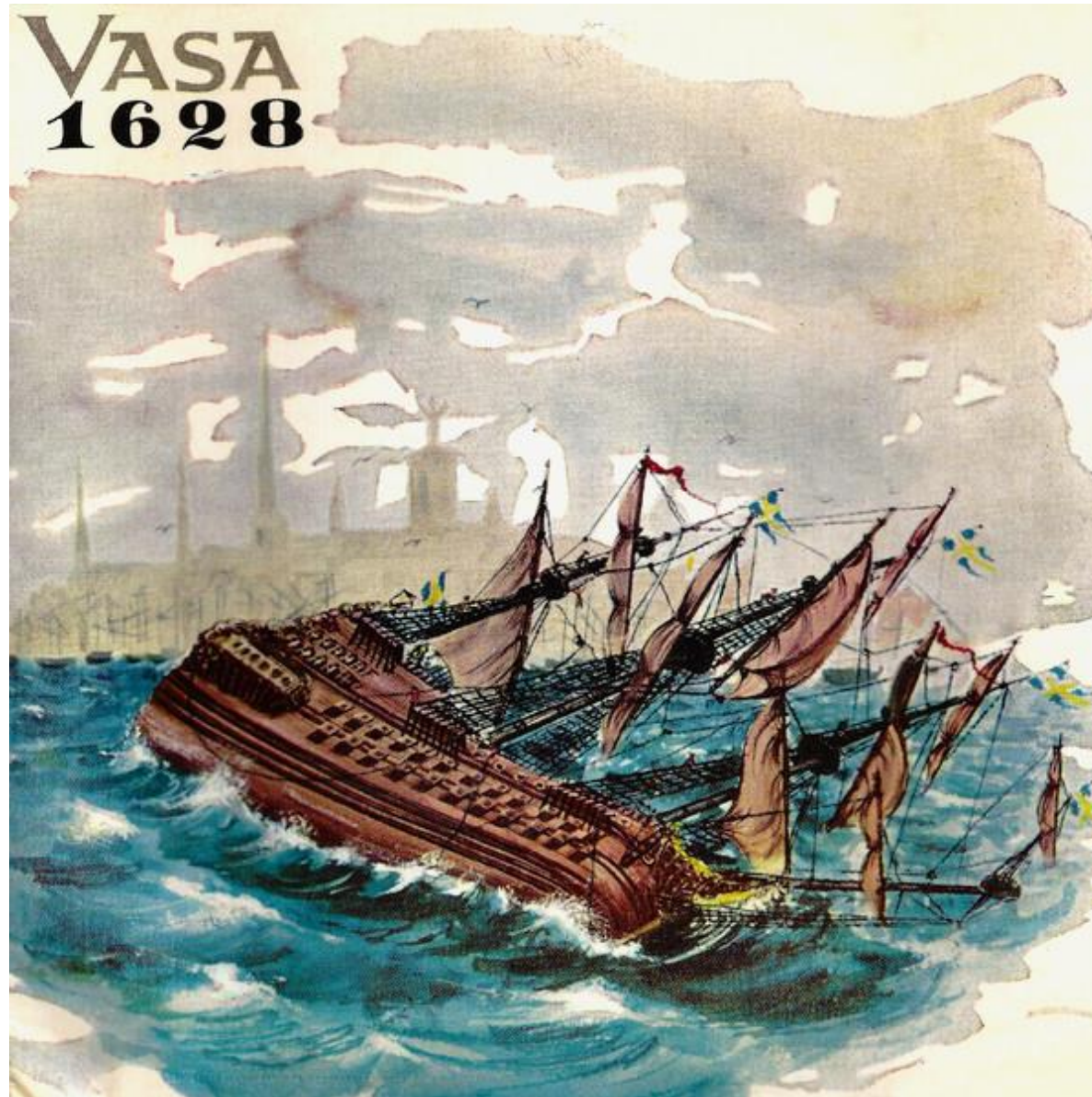
Before 1905



After 1905



Disaster into progress: The Vasa



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