

Tiina Lintunen  
SocScD  
Contemporary history  
University of Turku  
Finland

## THE INTEGRATION OF REBELLIOUS WOMEN BACK TO THE SOCIETY: THE CASE OF FINLAND

In 1918, Finland faced a civil war, which was a culmination of many contradictions. One of the reasons which led to this extreme chain of events was the growing dissatisfaction of the working class: the poor working conditions and failed parliamentary and societal attempts to improve their lives made the working class to organize themselves in guards and rise up against the prevailing system. Broadly categorized, the parties of the war were the land-owning capitalists (the Whites) and the members of working-class (the Reds). The short but raw civil war that ensued between these factions only lasted for three months, but approximately 36 000 Finns lay dead in its wake, most of them Reds, who lost the war. The return to peace was challenging. How did the employers react to their employees after they first had been on strike and then even risen up to a revolution?

The war also engaged women, and there were women on both sides serving in various tasks. After the cessation of hostilities, over 5500 Red women were brought to court and charged with treason or assisting in treasonous activities. In my PhD, I studied these Red women. This research represents an investigation into the problematic role of women in war. In this paper, I shall discuss what the expectations of the society were in general, and particularly how a woman should behave and what was acceptable to her gender. The purpose of this paper is also to discuss what happened to these women after the civil war. Post-war Finland will be outlined by the following questions: What was the zeitgeist like when the women returned from prison? Did the society accept them, and how well did their entering the labour market succeed?