

## English Abstract

“Republic or Equilibrium” provides a unique insight into the preliminary years of the history surrounding European unification. Concentrating on the Finnish discussions of the Paneuropean Union and of the Nazi New Europe, this book identifies two opposing national attitudes towards Europe as a political system: one outlining that the ideal of Europe was perceived as a republic with a common law and the other as a balance of power.

Instead of political issues and the meaning of the League of Nations, the discussion on the Paneuropean Union in the interwar period concentrated on the dividing line between the definitions of the Finnish nation. For sympathizers, political unification was a continuation of their desire to “open windows to Europe” and to adopt new influences to develop Finnishness. Their opponents on the contrary wanted to protect and nurture the essence of the nation before engaging with the rest of the world.

During World War II the Nazis appealed to their allies with the slogan of New Europe, where strong, sovereign nation-states could cooperate in harmony. Some Finnish individuals committed themselves to these promises even until the end of the war. However, in general, the Finns used the concept of Europe to strengthen partnership with Germany only until 1941, and had abandoned the concept as Nazi Germany started to intensify its European discourse as it began to suffer defeat on the battlefield.

Additionally, this book brings new information on Fascist internationalism as it explores texts by Finnish fascists and how this group tried to define the foreign relations of the resurrecting nation. Although Finnish fascist groups developed some features of the Eurofascism that was to emerge, these gradually faded into the third concept of hegemony, where Nazi Germany was granted dominance in Europe.