

The making of nations and museums. Nordic national museums in European context

Vores museum, Odense
31 January 2018

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THE NORDIC EXPERIENCE



Performing Nordic Heritage

Everyday Practices and Institutional Culture

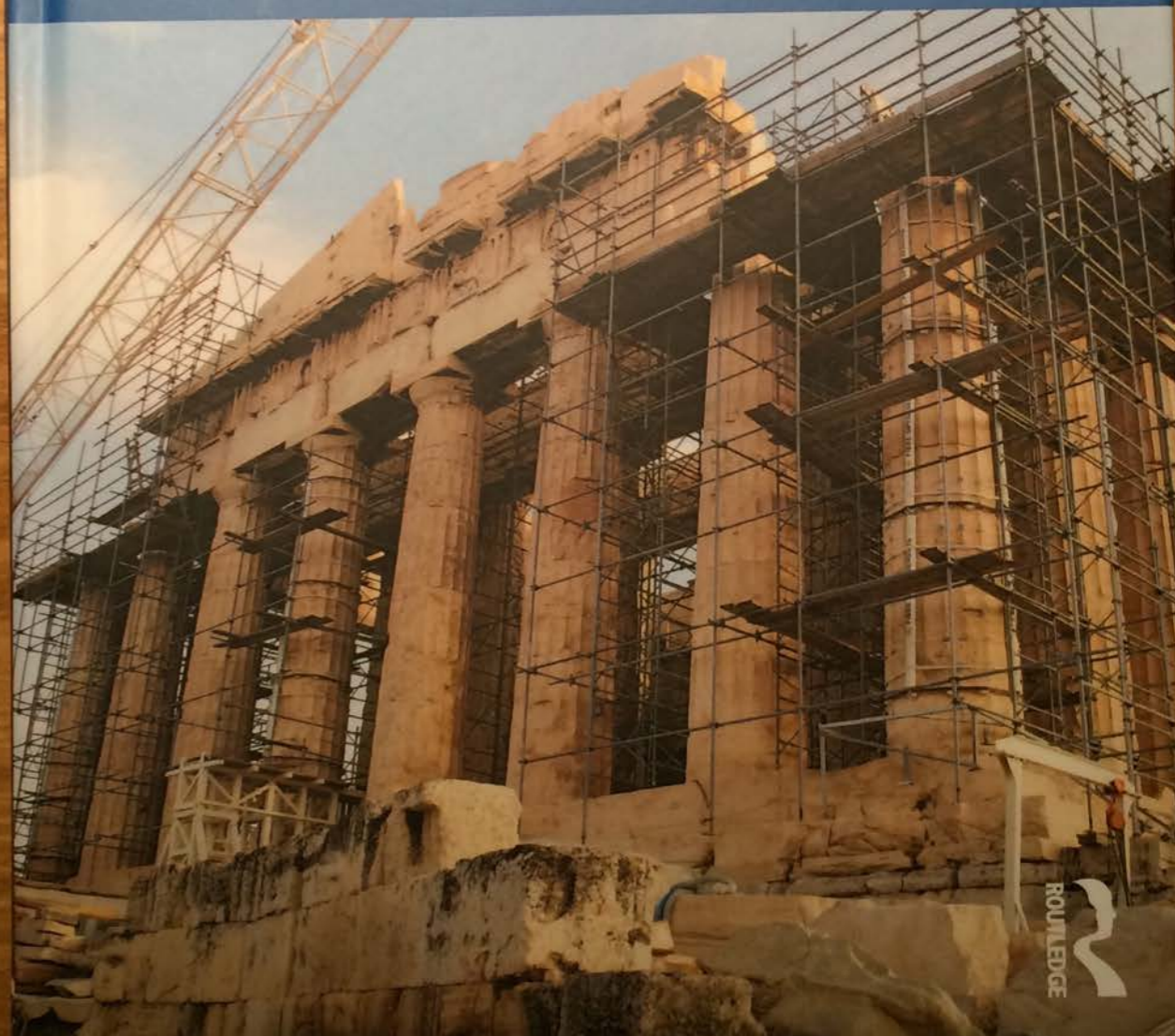


EDITED BY
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and **LIZETTE GRADÉN**

NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND NATION-BUILDING IN EUROPE 1750-2010

MOBILIZATION AND LEGITIMACY, CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

EDITED BY PETER ARONSSON AND GABRIELLA ELGENIUS



ROUTLEDGE



www.eunamus.eu

European national museums

Dimensions of research (Work packages)

Mapping and framing **institutions** 1750-2010: national museums interacting with nation-making

Uses of the Past: **narrating** the nation and **negotiating** conflicts

The museology of Europe: the language of art, the local nation and the virtual Europe

Museum **policies** 1990-2010: negotiating political and professional utopia

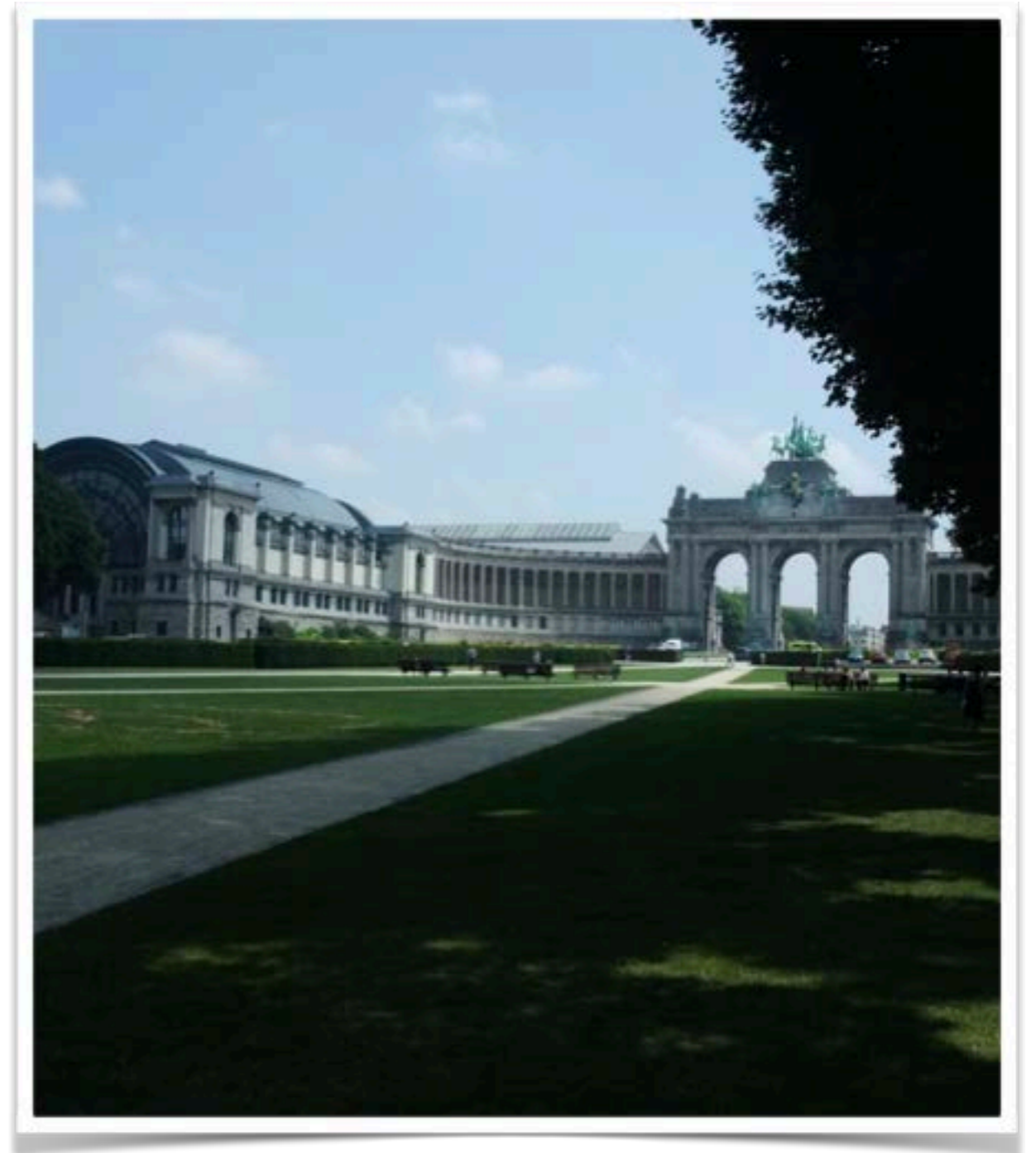
Museum **citizens**: experience and identity of audiences

National museums, history and a **changing** Europe

Communication – interacting with the public, museum professionals and culture politics

Definition

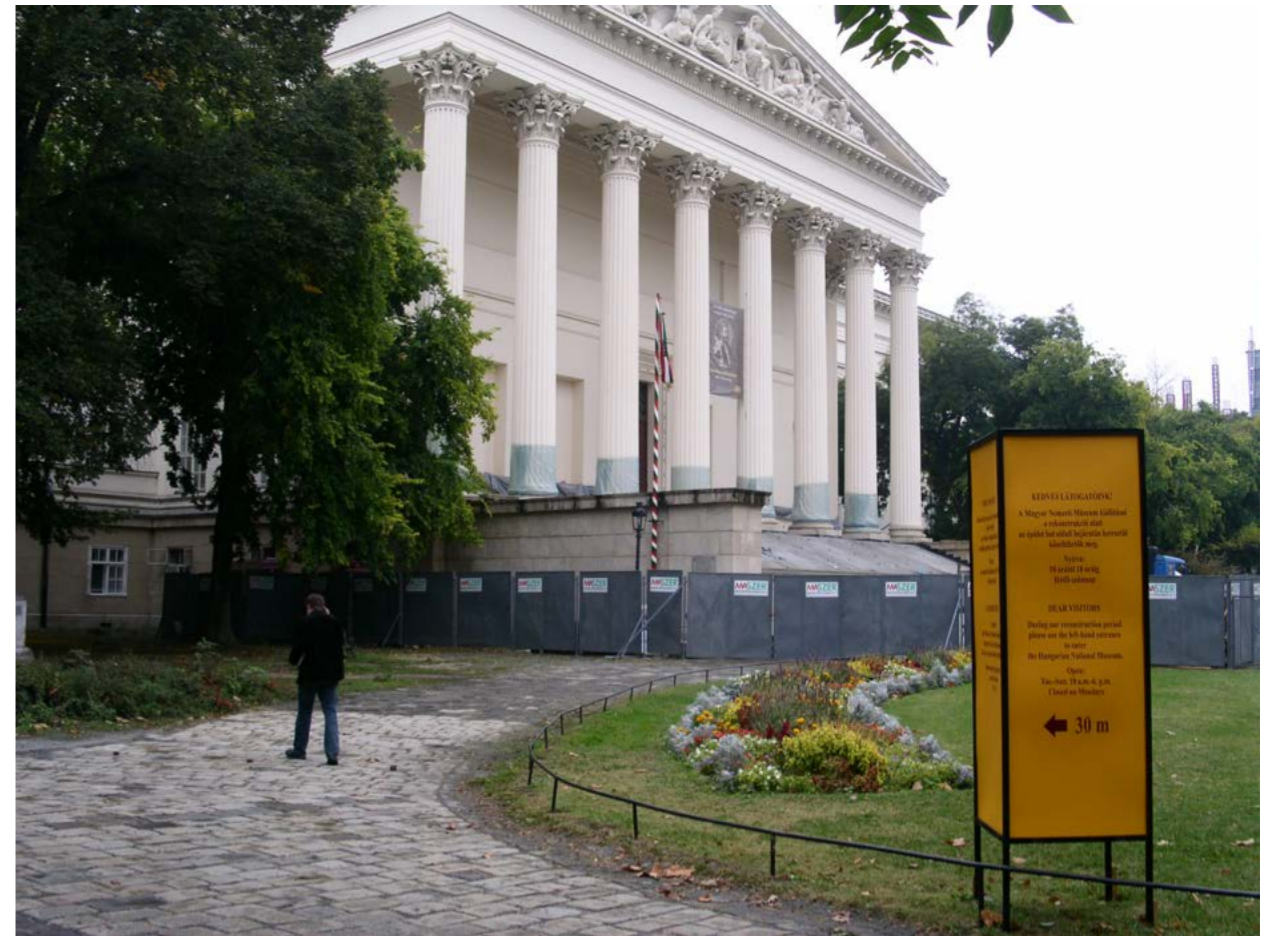
- ❖ National museums are the processes and assemblage of institutions, collections and displays claiming, articulating and legitimately representing dominant national values, myths and realities



Theses: Museums and cultural constitutions

The cultural constitution of a nation-state provides the political constitution with long-standing and materialized evidence of shared history, civic culture and values.

National museums are vital to set a flexible doxa for negotiating difference and orchestrate directions to be taken by the community.



Persuasive negotiations

- ❖
- ❖ *Materializing and stabilizing* knowledge and world views - emphasising shared values
- ❖ *Dealing* with difference and conflict: territories, class, ethnicity, gender
- ❖ *Acting* on change
- ❖ **Failure has consequences**
- ❖ ...



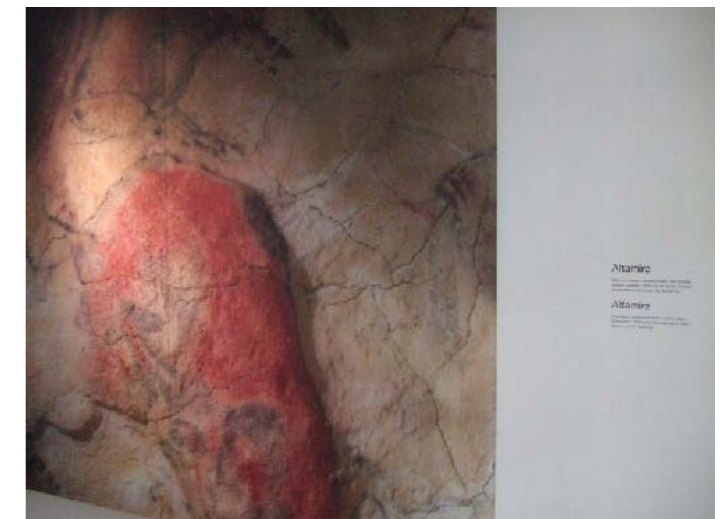
National museums interacting with nations and state-making

Establishment, anatomy and functions of national museums are dependent on

- (1) the chronology and drama of the establishment of an independent state;
- (2) the relation between state and nation(s) formatted as conglomerate states, empires, federations, nation-states and state aspiring nations;
- (3) the existence and working of spaces for autocratic or democratic decision-making, academic and professional influence, civil society and the public sphere in negotiations; and
- (4) the challenges of internal divisions derived from class, gender and regional differences or external threats of war, occupation or deprivation



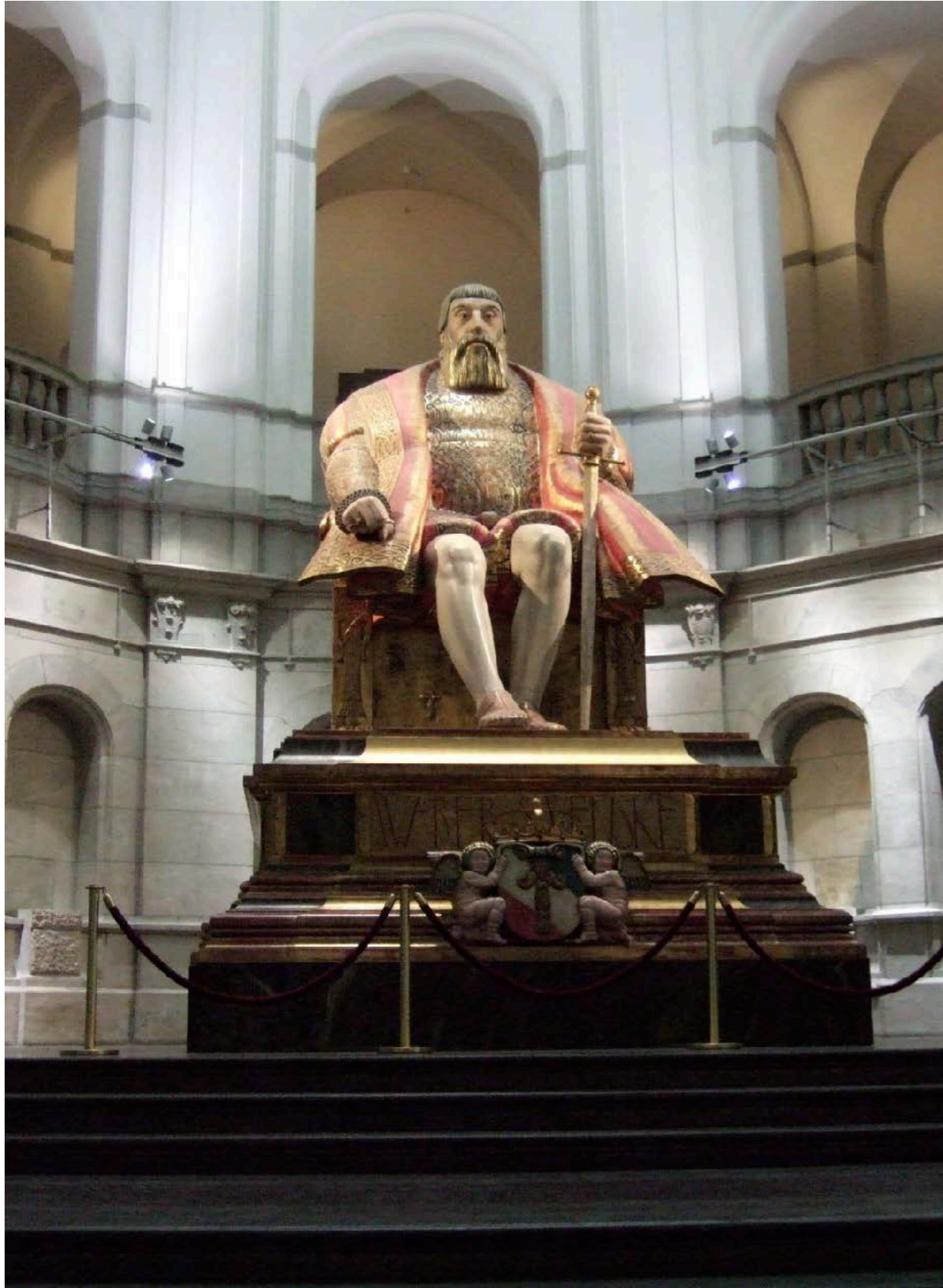
Denmark



Ethnic origins and chronological evolution



Anti-nationalism – Enlightenment chauvinism





Norway - regional nation



Finland: new state making longest history



National museum of Estonia, Tartu, 2016



THE LAND UNDER THE ICE

The glacier - the cold giant - was the first to plough the land. Scrubbed and scoured, shaped and moved until the sun came. Then it cracked and crashed into the sea like the troll in the fairy tale.

And the newly ploughed land lifted its head, drew a breath and filled with life. History could now begin.



National history and Nordic culture: Ice Age beginnings



NORDIC CULTURE

NATURE, VIKINGS, EGALITARIANISM, STRONG WOMEN, PROTESTANT, HARD WORK, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, WELFARE

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM DAVOS 2011
SHARED NORMS FOR THE NEW REALITY



The Nordic Way



THE **BEST** THERE IS

The Carl-Gustaf system is a true multi-role, man-portable artillery system that allows the infantryman to defeat armoured vehicles with add-on armour protection, destroy landing craft and bunkers, blast breach holes through brick and concrete walls, knock out concealed troops, deploy a smoke screen, and even turn night into day. The versatility of the system, with several different types of ammunition, allows the soldiers to quickly respond to a wide range of ground threats.

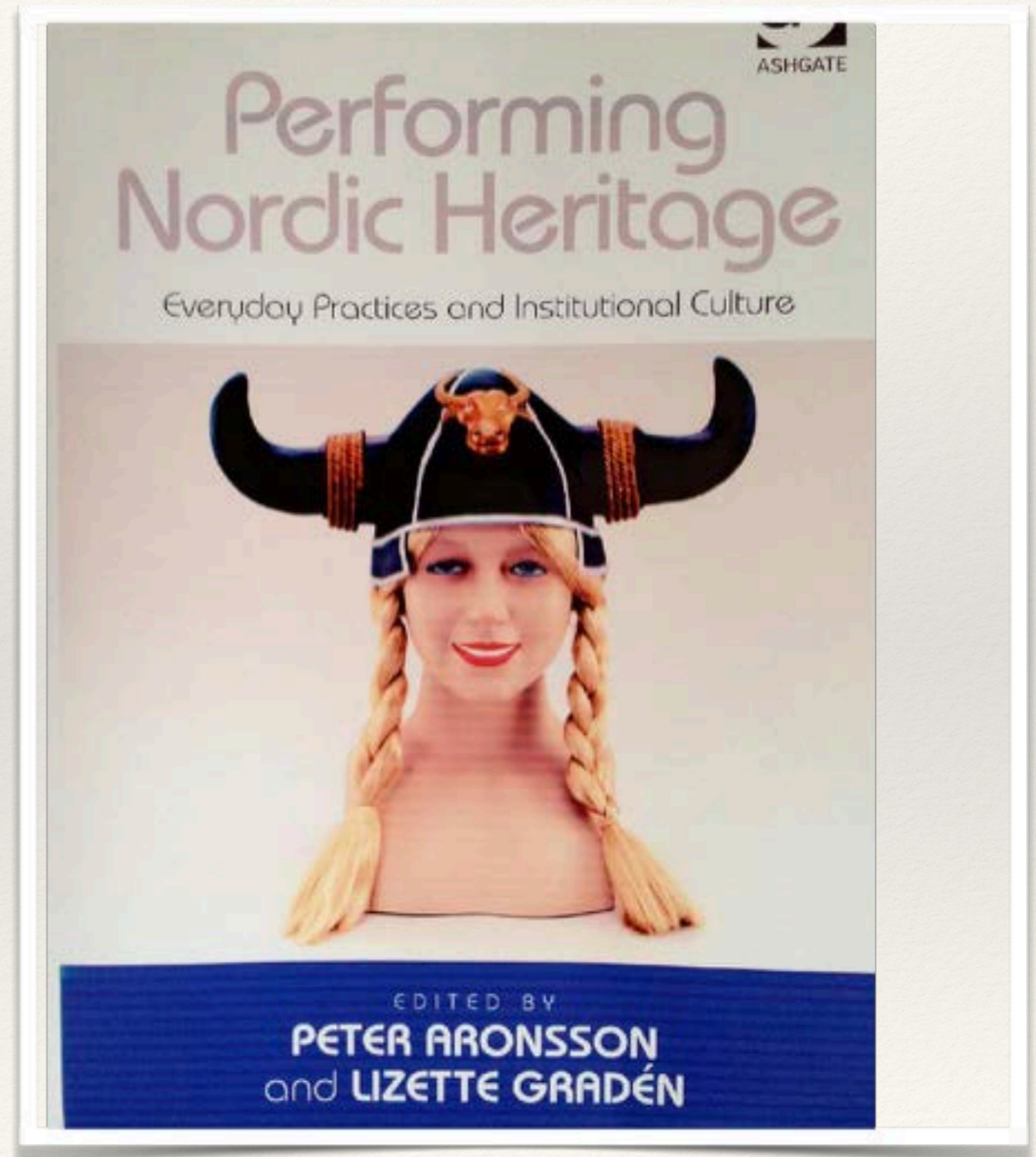


ORIGIN: SWEDEN
DESIGNER: CARL-GUSTAF AB
FEATURES: **COMBAT PROVEN**
RELIABLE, HIGH PERFORMANCE
MULTI-MISSION

Nordic model ambivalens.

Norden

- ❖ Finland: youngest state needs longest coherent history
- ❖ Norway: landscape and regional
- ❖ Iceland: literary narrative, adventures
- ❖ Sweden switch from ethnic to universal rational individualism
- ❖ Denmark strongest natural ethnic narrative
- ❖ Ice Age beginnings/Sami issues
/Nordic culture /Viking - Welfare states/
quiet on old territories
/national narratives in tune with policies



Timeline of First National Museums

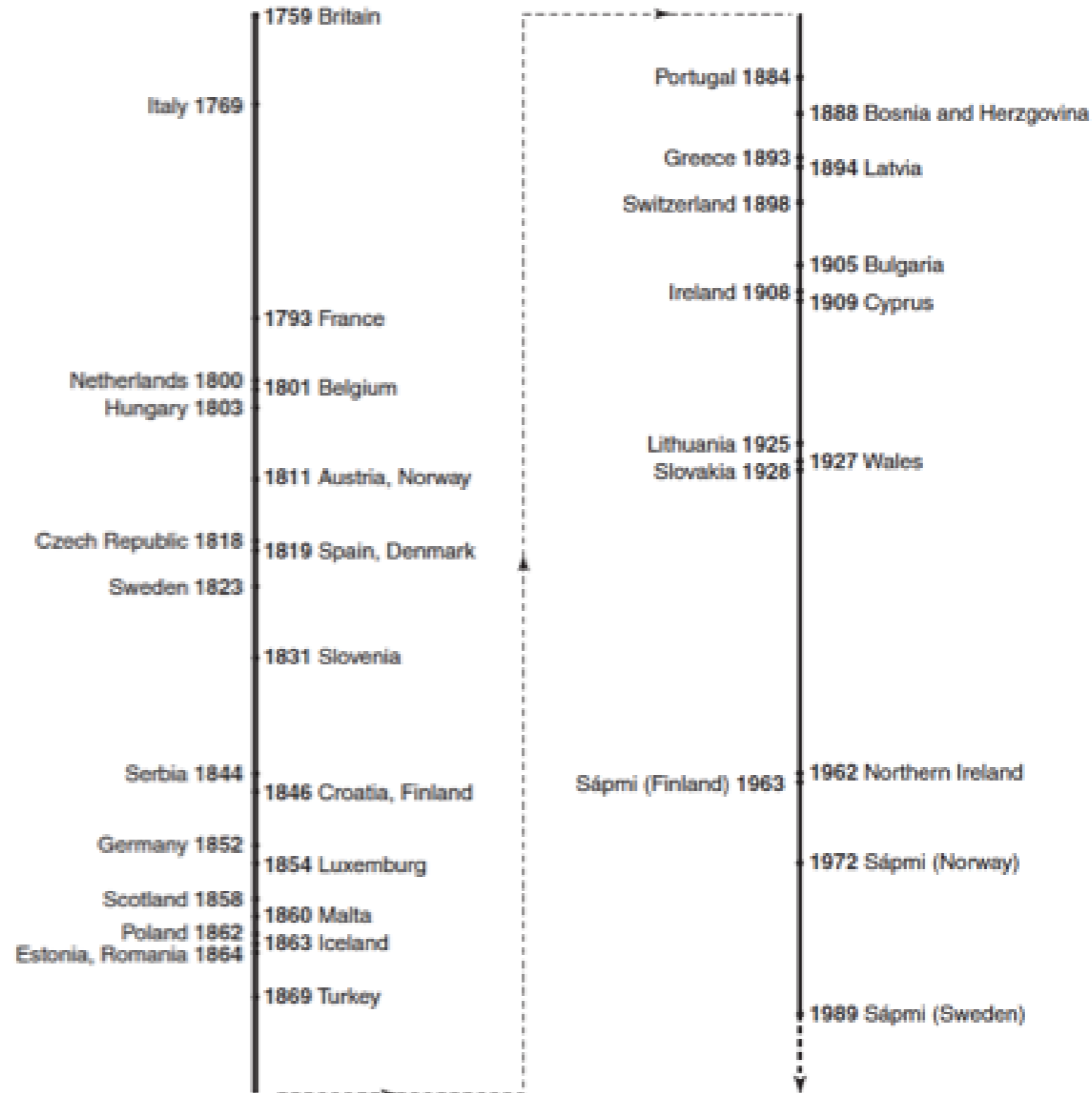
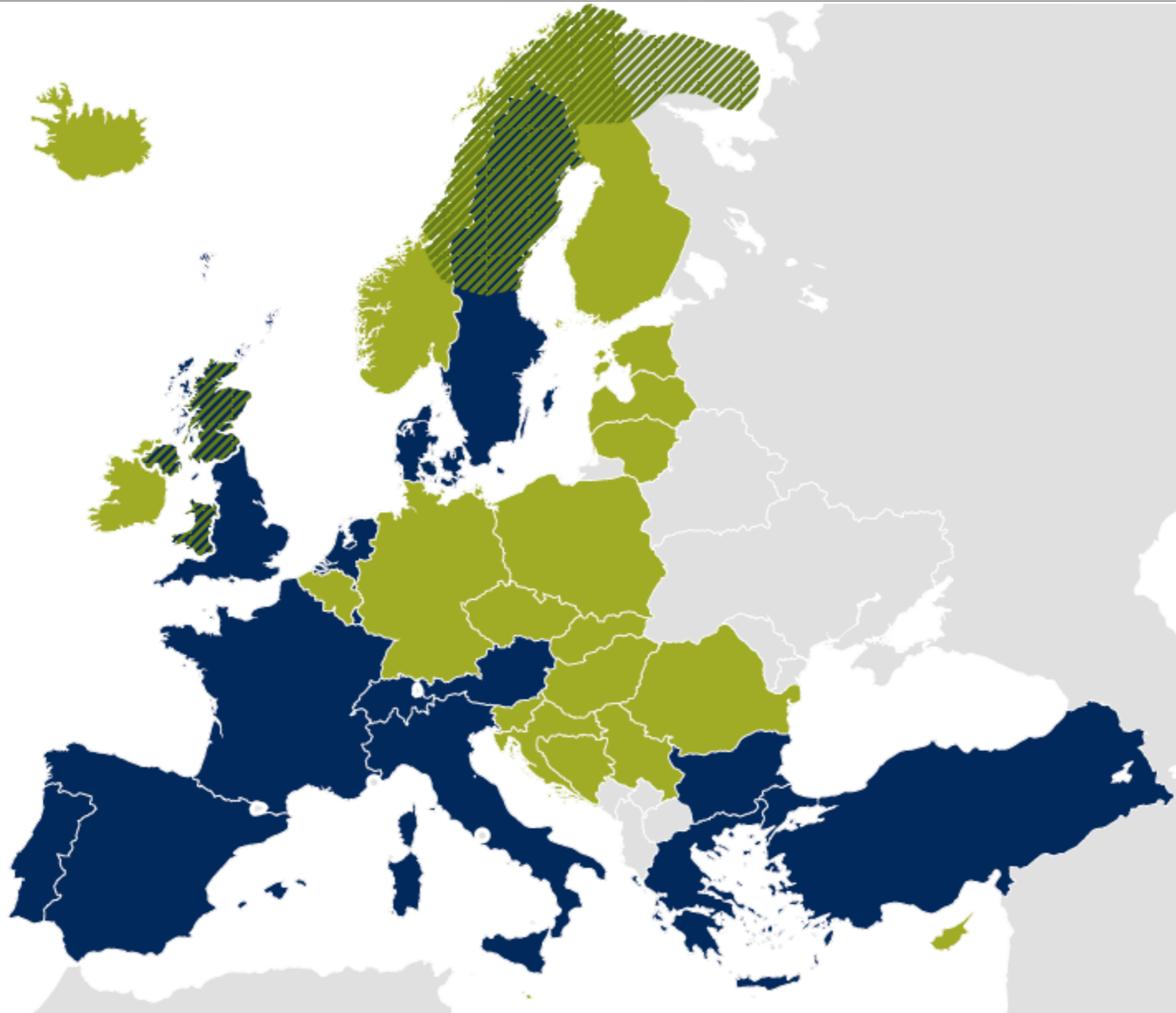


FIGURE 6.2 Timeline of first national museums.

National museums play different roles depending on the trajectory and timing of the state- and nation-making process.



European research FP7 to Horizon 2020

- EuNaMus – European National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen. Peter Aronson > Linköping University 2010-2013
- MeLA – European Museums in an Age of Migrations. Luca Basso Peressut > Politecnico di Milano 2011–2015
- UNREST – Unsettling Remembering and Social Cohesion in Europe. Stefan Berger > Ruhr University Bochum/Aarhus 2016–2019
- TRACES – Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts. From Intervention to Co-Production. Klaus Schönberger > University of Klagenfurt. 2016–2019
- CoHERE – Critical Heritages: performing and representing identities in Europe. Chris Whitehead > Newcastle University. 2016-2019

thought provoking examples

- ❖ Norden: unsuccessful nation-making, old battlegrounds into cultural community
- ❖ Germany: stabilising nation-making and political turmoil
- ❖ Mediterranean: rich antiquity – forgotten modernity
- ❖ Yugoslavia: lost unity and civil war
- ❖ Europe: ?

