



**THE SAMI OF THE KOLA PENINSULA.
ABOUT THE LIFE OF AN ETHNIC MINORITY IN THE SOVIET UNION**

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Not many academic studies are available on the Sami people in Russia. We are very happy to welcome such a study in the publication series from the Centre for Sami Studies. Lukas Allemann has, based on his thesis in history about the Kola Sami, contributed to new knowledge on the matter.

The Kola Sami are a part of the Sami community, including Sami that lives in Norway, Sweden and Finland in addition to Russia. In all these countries but in different ways, the Sami population has been under a lot of pressure for centuries. Still, what happened during the Communist era in the Soviet Union, and in particular during the Stalin years, in Russia has not been subject to much research.

Allemann's work is an important step in that direction. Through the use of interviews with women who experienced the migration and the Stalin years, he manages to tell the story about an indigenous community and minority in Russia and the Soviet Union. The story about the Kola Sami is put into the larger context of the story of the growth and fall of the Communist empire. This larger context is contrasted by the everyday experiences of the Sami women, from stories about a nomad way of life, via the forced closing of the Sami settlements, to stories from lives at boarding schools.

The Sami of the Kola Peninsula. About the life of an ethnic minority in the Soviet Union is an important contribution to the knowledge about the Sami and the indigenous people of the north.

Editor's Foreword

Arnstein Johnskareng at the Centre for Sami Studies has been in charge of the online publication, and has done a major effort. In addition, Emma Margret Skåden and Stein Høydalsvik at the University Library have given assistance in this process. Thanks to all three!

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