

Northwards and back

1946–69	Premiership of Tage Erlander: Social Democratic hegemony and development of the “Swedish model”
1954	Karl Stig-Erland Larsson b. Skelleftehamn, Sweden (in Norrland)
1968	Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, <i>Den skrattande polisen: roman om ett brott</i> (Stockholm: Norstedts): Martin Beck no. 4; <i>The Laughing Policeman: The Story of a Crime</i> , trans. Alan Blair (New York: Pantheon, 1971): Edgar Award for Best Novel
1977–99	Larsson works as designer for TT news service
1980	writes for Swedish Socialist Party magazine <i>Fjärde internationalen</i> and antifascist London magazine <i>Searchlight</i> chairman, Scandinavian SF Society; publishes SF fanzines
1986	PM Olof Palme assassinated; Sweden’s neoliberal turn begins
1991	Larsson and Anna-Lena Lodenius, <i>Extremhögern</i> [Right-wing Extremism] (Stockholm: Tidens) Henning Mankell, <i>Mordäre utan ansikte</i> (Stockholm: Ordfront); <i>Faceless Killers</i> , trans. Steven T. Murray (New York: New Press, 1997): 1st Kurt Wallander novel
1995	<i>Expo</i> investigative magazine founded
1999	editor-in-chief, <i>Expo</i> (until his death)
2001	Larsson and Mikael Ekman, <i>Sverigedemokraterna: den nationella rörelsen</i> [Sweden Democrats: the national movement] (Stockholm: Ordfront)
2002	begins drafting <i>Millennium</i> trilogy (planned decalogy)
2004	receives advance contract for trilogy from Norstedts dies intestate Norstedts launches 1,000,000 kr advance marketing campaign
2005	<i>Män som hatar kvinnor</i> (Stockholm: Norstedts): respectable sales
2006	<i>Les hommes qui n’aimaient pas les femmes</i> [The men who didn’t like women], trans. Lena Grumbach and Marc de Gouvenain (Arles: Actes Sud) <i>Verblendung</i> [Delusion], trans. Wibke Kuhn (Munich: Heyne) <i>Flickan som lekte med elden</i> (Stockholm: Norstedts): big hit
2007	<i>Luftslottet som sprängdes</i> (Stockholm: Norstedts)
2008	<i>The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> , trans. Reg Keeland [Steven T. Murray] (London: Quercus; New York: Knopf)

Sources: *Fancylopedia* 3 s.v. “Stieg Larsson,” fancylopedia.org; “Stieg Larsson,” in *Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors* (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2012), [Literature Resource Center](#);

Charles McGrath, Miki Meek, and Blake Wilson, “The Life of Stieg Larsson,” *New York Times*, May 20, 2010, archive.nytimes.com; Petter Larsson, “The Far Right Comes to Sweden,” *Jacobin*, January 11, 2016, jacobin.com; on the marketing campaign, Anna Westerståhl Stenport and Cecilia Ovesdotter Alm, “Corporations, Crime, and Gender Construction in Stieg Larsson’s *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*: Exploring Twenty-first Century Neoliberalism in Swedish Culture,” *Scandinavian Studies* 81, no. 2 (Summer 2009): 175–76, [EBSCOhost](https://www.ebscohost.com).

VICISSITUDES OF TRANSLATION

The novels come from Sweden, of all places....Not the least of the attractions of the books for American readers is that they introduce us to a Sweden that is vastly different from the bleak, repressed, guilt-ridden images we see in Ingmar Bergman movies and from the design-loving Socialist paradise we imagine whenever we visit Ikea. It’s a country that turns out to be a lot like our own.

Charles McGrath, “The Afterlife of Stieg Larsson,” *New York Times Magazine*, May 20, 2010, [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com).

I did not change anything except minor alterations where necessary to fit English syntax—in fact, I translated into American English in the hope that a US publisher would take the books on. What was done after they were bought by England instead I had no say over, hence the Britishisms.

“Reg/ Steve” [Steven T. Murray], [comment](https://www.commentonstieglarsson.com) on *Stieg Larsson’s English Translator*, March 19, 2010, reg-stieglarssonsenglishtranslator.blogspot.com.

Gabrielsson [Eva, Larsson’s partner] says, for example, that Christopher MacLehose, a legendary editor and publisher who acquired the books in England and gave them their catchy titles, needlessly prettified the translation. The translator, Steven T. Murray, says that he feels the same way; he was so upset by MacLehose’s tinkering that he asked that his name be removed and a pseudonym be used instead. MacLehose pointed out to me that the translations were commissioned by the Swedish film company and were originally intended not for publication but to aid an English-speaking screenwriter whom the producers were hoping to hire, and for that reason they were done with unusual speed. All he did, he said, was polish and tighten them up a bit, the way he might with any translation.

McGrath.

CRITICAL OPINION IS DIVIDED

Larsson's trilogy confronts such history [Sweden's ambivalent Cold War position] and clears an imaginative space for the reemergence, after a long period of relative quiescence, of new forms of collective political intervention appropriate to Sweden's increasingly global reality.

Phillip E. Wegner, "Allegories of an Embattled Public: The Red Thread of the Modern Swedish Crime Novel," *MFS* 68, no. 1 (2022): 143, [Project Muse](#).

The novel, in fact, endorses a pragmatic acceptance of a neoliberal world order that is delocalized, dehumanized, and misogynistic....

Her [Salander's] character in fact represents a thorough endorsement of the deconstruction of the welfare state and an embrace of neoliberal financial and economic deregulation. Through Salander, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* decouples gender politics from the state in what appears to be a conservative turn to liberal beliefs in the exemplary and executive power of the individual.

Stenport and Alm, 158, 171.

HOW IT WAS

[Interpreting the results of a comparative study of class structure carried out in the early 1980s:] The differences between the class structures of Sweden and the United States largely revolve around political determinants.... The explanations seem to suggest that the relatively more rapid expansion of state employment in Sweden compared to a country like the United States is to be explained both by specific constraints on accumulation faced by a small country in the world capitalist system and by the form of political struggle adopted by workers and capitalists within those constraints....

The labour movement in Sweden is both more powerful and more centralized than in the United States. This has two important consequences. First, the union movement in Sweden has been able to eliminate restrictions on its ability to organize wage-earners much more successfully than in the United States. In particular, managerial employees in the United States are generally excluded by law from the union bargaining unit. This means that it is in the interest of American capitalists to integrate into the lower levels of management at least some jobs which fall within key categories of wage-earners, categories which otherwise would remain working-class.

Erik Olin Wright, *Classes* (London: Verso, 1985), 223-24.