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A century of change - the 1800s

In 1800 Sweden was not much better than a third world-country of today. But many things happened during the 1800s.

- 1804 An Edict of Inoculation was proclaimed, which soon brought down the epidemics of smallpox.
- 1805-07 War against Napoleon in Pomerania, many Swedish soldiers were taken prisoners of war.
- 1808 War with Russia, which mostly took place in Finland.
- 1809 The King was dethroned and replaced by his uncle Karl XIII. A new constitution was adopted.
- 1809 In the Peace Treaty of Fredrikshamn, Sweden had to give up Finland to Russia.
- 1810 The French field marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte was elected Crown Prince.
- 1812 The army was reinforced by more or less compulsory militia units (*lantvärn* and *bevärning*).
- 1812-13 War against Napoleon and Denmark, which mostly took place in Germany.
- 1814 In the Peace Treaty of Kiel, Denmark gave up Norway to Sweden. The Norwegians resisted, but the following year had to accept a union with Sweden, as a double monarchy. Both countries had separate laws, constitutions, and governments, but the same head of state.
- 1818 Karl XIII died and was succeeded by Bernadotte under the name of Karl XIV Johan.
- 1830 The Göta kanal was finished, a step towards modern transportation.
- 1830 The newspaper *Aftonbladet* was founded by Lars Johan Hierta.
- 1834 An epidemic of cholera troubled the country.
- 1842 The Law of Public schools was passed; every parish had to have a school for the children in the parish.
- 1844 King Karl Johan died and was succeeded by his son Oscar I.
- 1845 The law of inheritance was changed so sons and daughters inherited equally; earlier sons inherited twice as much as daughters.
- 1845 The Swedish mass immigration to the United States started.
- 1846 The old guild system of masters and journeymen was abolished, and freedom of enterprise was declared.
- 1853 The first telegraph line was built between Stockholm and Uppsala.
- 1853 The *Riksdag* decided to start building the first railway lines. The main railroads were to be built by the state, but local branches by private companies.
- 1855 The old *riksdaler* was changed to a decimal system, 1 *riksdaler riksmünt* = 100 öre.
- 1856 An unmarried woman could be declared legally capable by a court at age 25.
- 1858 The Conventicle Edict from 1726 was revoked, and more religious freedom was allowed.
- 1859 King Oscar I died and his son Karl XV inherited.
- 1860 Passports, both within and outside the country, were abolished.
- 1860 It was no longer an offense to renounce the Lutheran faith.
- 1861 Unmarried women were legally capable at age 25, but still needed the consent of a *giftoman* if she wanted to marry. This ended in 1872 for most women. Members of the nobility got the same right in 1882.
- 1864 Having a baby out of wedlock was no longer a crime.
- 1865 The old four estate *Riksdag* was abandoned and a new two-chamber constitution was adopted. Only men of property had the right to vote.
- 1866-68 Famine years increased emigration.
- 1872 King Karl died and his brother Oskar II inherited.
- 1873 The old name of *riksdaler* was abandoned, and the new name of 'krona' was adopted.
1 *krona* – 100 öre.
- 1878 The metric system was introduced.
- 1880 The first telephone net is built in Stockholm.
- 1884 An unmarried woman became legally capable at age 21.
- 1899 The first provincial archives, at Vadstena, was started.