

Sovereignty Islands Between Finland and Sweden

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SUMMARY

In the year 1809 Sweden had to cede Finland's area to Russia. The border of Sweden and Finland was imposed to the rivers at the north. Real estates along these rivers have their grounds both side of these rivers and on the islands too. According to peace terms these real estate owners had to decide during three years on what side of river they are going to live and they had to sell their property from the other side of river. It is noticed in boundary survey that land consolidation is needed primarily and selling by auction secondary. Owners of islands would perpetually have possession to their islands which after land consolidation were still at wrong side of state border. These islands are called sovereignty islands. Finland declared independence in 1917. Finland and Sweden concluded an agreement of these islands in 1986. This agreement preserves the special status of these islands. According to this agreement possession of islands which are situated in Sweden is under Finnish law and possession of islands situated in Finland is under Swedish law. According to peace agreement border was imposed to be at the deep channel of the river. Bottom of the river is mostly sandy and in course of time deep channel is changed. Owing to this boundary survey is needed after every 25 years. Boundary survey is done according to centre line principle at deep channel. Because of boundary survey some islands have moved from country to country and these islands have lost their special status.