Volume II of The Cambridge History of Scandinavia provides a comprehensive and authoritative account of the Scandinavian countries from the close of the Middle Ages to the formation of the nation states in the mid-nineteenth century. Beginning in 1520, the opening chapters of the volume discuss the reformation of the Nordic states and the enormous impact this had on the social structures, cultural identities and traditions of individual countries. With contributions from 38 leading historians, the book charts the major developments that unfolded within this crucial period of Scandinavian history. Chapters address topics such as material growth and the centralisation of power in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as well as the evolution of trade, foreign policy and client states in the eighteenth century. Volume II concludes by discussing the new economic and social orders of the nineteenth century in connection with the emergence of the nation states.
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General Editors’ preface

Cambridge Histories have become an established genre of collective scholarship. In this tradition The Cambridge History of Scandinavia, in three volumes, presents to readers worldwide the current state of historical knowledge about Scandinavia from the beginnings to the present. It is the first full-scale exposition of the whole area.

The General Editors have thought it wise that, apart from essential ‘scene setting’, the volume should contain both general comparative chapters on major themes in Scandinavian history and chapters on the individual histories of constituent countries. As far as possible, Scandinavia is presented as a whole with an attempted balance between economic, social and political developments. Special attention is given to cultural and religious matters and their history is seen in the light of the general history of Scandinavia. The General Editors’ hope is that the reader will have, as the outcome, an authoritative history, based on the most recent research.

The General Editors have many specific debts to acknowledge. In particular, the late Sir Geoffrey Elton, Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Cambridge; Wallace T. MacCaffrey, Professor Emeritus of History at Harvard University; and the late Professor Robert W. Scribner of Clare College, Cambridge, and Harvard helped and encouraged them in launching the project of a Cambridge History of Scandinavia. William Davies of Cambridge University Press has for his part provided constant encouragement as he has skilfully overseen the planning and production of the series.

The General Editors gratefully acknowledge the generous financial assistance from the Nordic Cultural Fund towards the publication of these volumes. They also wish to thank the various archives, libraries and other institutions for granting permission to publish material from their collections and to thank most sincerely the translators and secretaries who have helped in the preparation of this series.
Lastly, the remaining General Editors are sad to have to communicate the death of their senior colleague, Professor Erling Ladewig Petersen, on 21 June 1999. Without his initiative and scholarly standing the series would hardly have come about; and failing health did not keep him from continuing, energetically, his editorial work to the very last.

Knut Helle†
Torkel Jansson
E. I. Kouri
Volume Editors’ preface

The Cambridge History of Scandinavia presents to the reader – both the general reader and the student – modern historical knowledge about Scandinavia from the beginnings to the present. This volume covers roughly the period from 1520 to 1870, from the Reformation to the emergence of the modern nation state in Northern Europe.

Volume II opens with a chapter on the Reformation and the consequent reorganisation of the Nordic countries c. 1520–1600. It goes on to deal with material growth in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the power states Sweden (including Finland) and Denmark (including Norway and Iceland) in the seventeenth century. Next, eighteenth-century cultural and material life as well as the client states and foreign policies are dealt with. In the last part of the volume the new economic and social orders of the nineteenth century are discussed in connection with the emergence of the nation states in all the Nordic countries.

No fewer than thirty-eight authors have contributed to this volume. They have all treated their material without editorial constraint. Some of the chapters are on individual countries, some are comparative studies and some deal with more general topics. The authors were chosen by the editors in consonance with the changing nature of history – in particular with the greater emphasis in modern times on social and cultural history rather than on dynastic and military chronology.

The bibliography has been updated. As in Volume I, the proper names in this volume are spelt in the standard modern Scandinavian form.

The editors want to thank Professor Anthony Upton and also Dr Richard Lorch, who have helped reading the contributions and given good and constructive advice. To the translators Jüri Kokkonen, Dr Thomas Munck Petersen, John Tanner and Harald Watson as well as to Thomas Eisentraut, Juliane Trempel and especially Max Naderer, who helped to compile the bibliography, goes the editors’ profound gratitude. We are especially grateful
Volume Editors’ preface

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Our wives, Marjut Kouri and Marjatta Olesen, have been living with this project on Scandinavian modern history for a number of years. We are greatly indebted to them for their support during the whole process.

The editors are happy to acknowledge the generous financial assistance from the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Cultural Foundation and the Alfred Kordelin Foundation towards the publication of this volume.

E. I. Kouri
Jens E. Olesen