

Research Project

RAOULWALLENBERG IN SWEDISH DAILY PRESS DURING THE COLD WAR

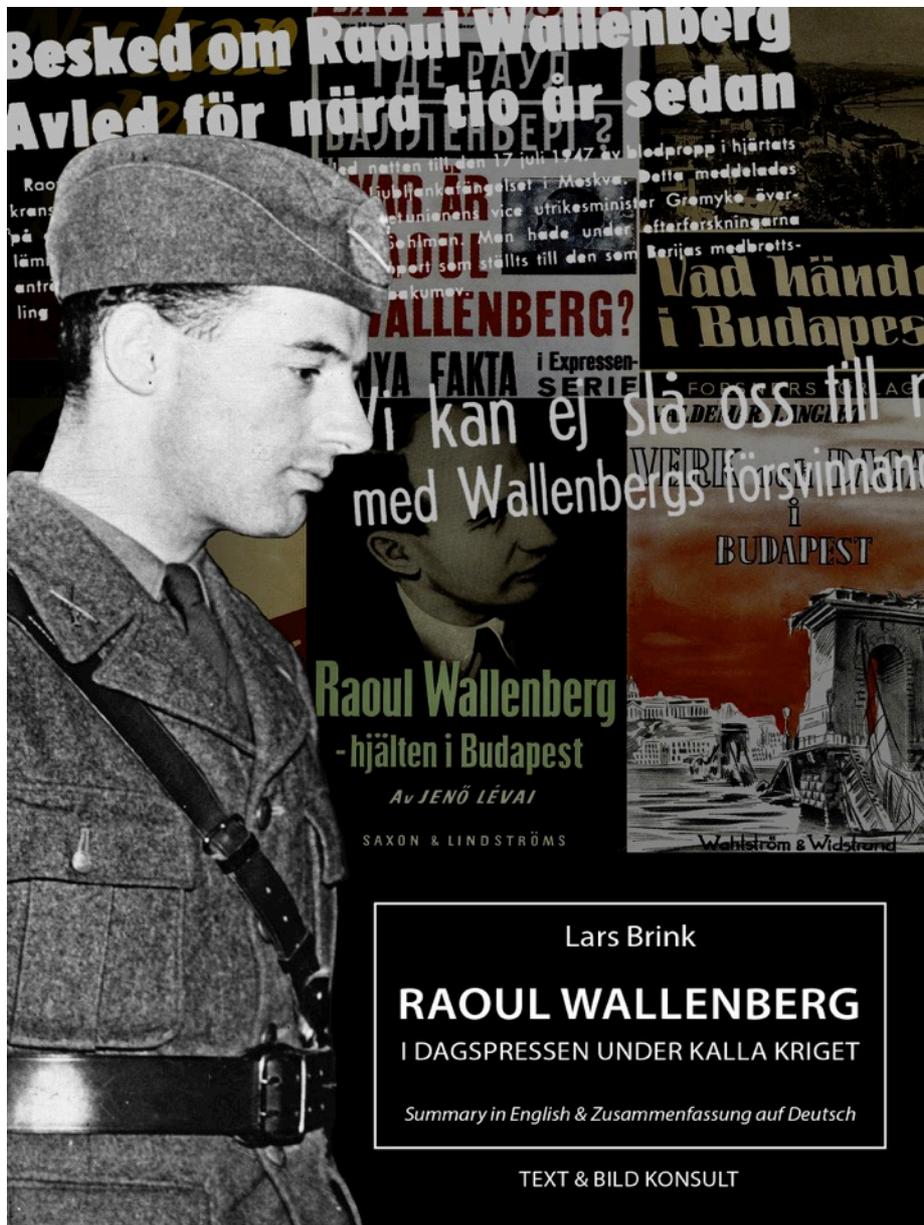
An analysis from a press historical perspective

By Lars Brink, *Licentiate in Philosophy, writer*

The Swedish title: **Raoul Wallenberg i dagspressen under kalla kriget**

ISBN 9789197218832. Text & Bild Konsult 2017

The book can be ordered direct from the publishing house webshop: www.textobild-konsult.se It will cost 82 SEK excluding postage.



Words about the book:

"the printing is beautiful and it is really good to have the main points of the analysis summarized in German and English. The local Swedish media coverage in the Wallenberg case is both a fascinating and also very important subject."

Susanne Berger, in a mail 2 may 2017

"I read your fine book with a great interest"

Nina Lagergren, in a mail 6 may 2017

A few parts of the Summary

The book has a long summary in English and a lange Zusammenfassung auf Deutsch.

/----/

Qualitative research

The methodology employed is based on an analysis of the content of the texts. The choice of placement (for example on the front page) as well as the scope and layout of an article reflect the editorial staff's attitude regarding both newsworthiness and effect on public opinion, which is why these criteria are included in the analysis.

The selection of articles reflects certain periods during which newspaper articles, comments and the national political debate about Raoul Wallenberg were at especially high levels. The selection of newspapers is based on their reach and political leanings.

/----/

The Swedish daily press has, over the period covered in this survey, evolved from a state of traditional allegiance to the party system into a more free and independent role as a builder of public opinion. An increasingly independent daily press may to a larger extent have served as a driving force in public opinion regarding Raoul Wallenberg, since the "liberation" of the daily press made the public political arena more transparent.

/----/

A long-standing question in Wallenberg studies is when the decision to execute him was made and whether he was executed long after July, 1947. Ongoing research about "Prisoner #7" indicates a later date.

/----/

In this case, Swedish daily press exhibits almost complete unity in its evaluation and comments. Scepticism about the veracity of the memorandum was practically total. Press material also reflects the broad interest in Raoul Wallenberg that generally characterised Swedish daily press.

/----/

Conclusions

/----/

The exception to the relatively homogenous attitude of the press regarding Raoul Wallenberg is a conspicuous one: daily newspapers with a strong ideological bond the Swedish Communist Party. The newspaper Ny Dag always maintained an almost Sovietlike position on the matter. Articles commenting on the case from Soviet press were occasionally published, sometimes in their entirety. Following the 20th Congress of the Communist Party in 1956, as well as

after the Hungarian uprising in the same year, the tone seems to become somewhat more tempered; the Russian security agency (Beria) is now blamed for mismanaging the Raoul Wallenberg Case.

/----/

Generally speaking, I find no direct evidence supporting the notion that Swedish daily press in any sense should have had a negative impact on Sweden's - or, rather, the State department's - handling of the Raoul Wallenberg Case. To an increasing degree, however, the daily press has pushed for more openness and more forceful action.