


## The Ideological Cold War: The Politics of Neutrality in Austria and Finland (Routledge Studies in Modern History)

By Johanna Rainio-Niemi

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This book opens new perspectives into the Cold War ideological confrontations. Using Austria and Finland as an example, it shows how the Cold War battles for the hearts and minds of the people also influenced policies in countries that wished to stay outside the conflict.

Following the model of older European neutrals, Austria and Finland sought to combine neutrality with democracy. The combination was eagerly challenged by ideological Cold Warriors on both sides of the divide and questioned at home too. Was neutrality risking the neutrals' commitment to democracy, or did the commitment to the western type of democracy threaten their commitment to neutrality?

Confronting these doubts grew into an organic part of practicing neutrality in the Cold War world. The neutrals needed to be exceptionally clear regarding the ideological foundations of their neutrality. Successful neutrality required a great deal of conceptual consistence and domestic unanimity. None of this was pre-given in Austria or Finland. However, in the model of Switzerland and Sweden, (armed) neutrality was systematically integrated with the official state ideology and promoted as a part of national identity. Legacies of these policies outlived the end of the Cold War.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Johanna Rainio-Niemi is currently a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki. She specializes in contemporary European history with a focus on Austria and Finland, the Cold War, the welfare state and related strategies of domestic consensus-building.

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