

WarSampo

Finnish World War II on the Semantic Web

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<http://seco.cs.aalto.fi/>

*Suomi
Finland*
100

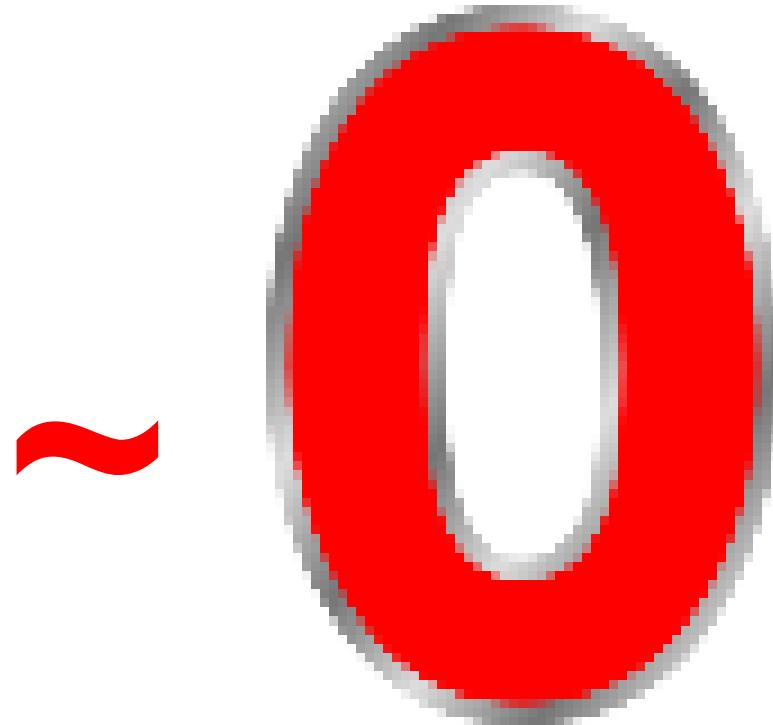
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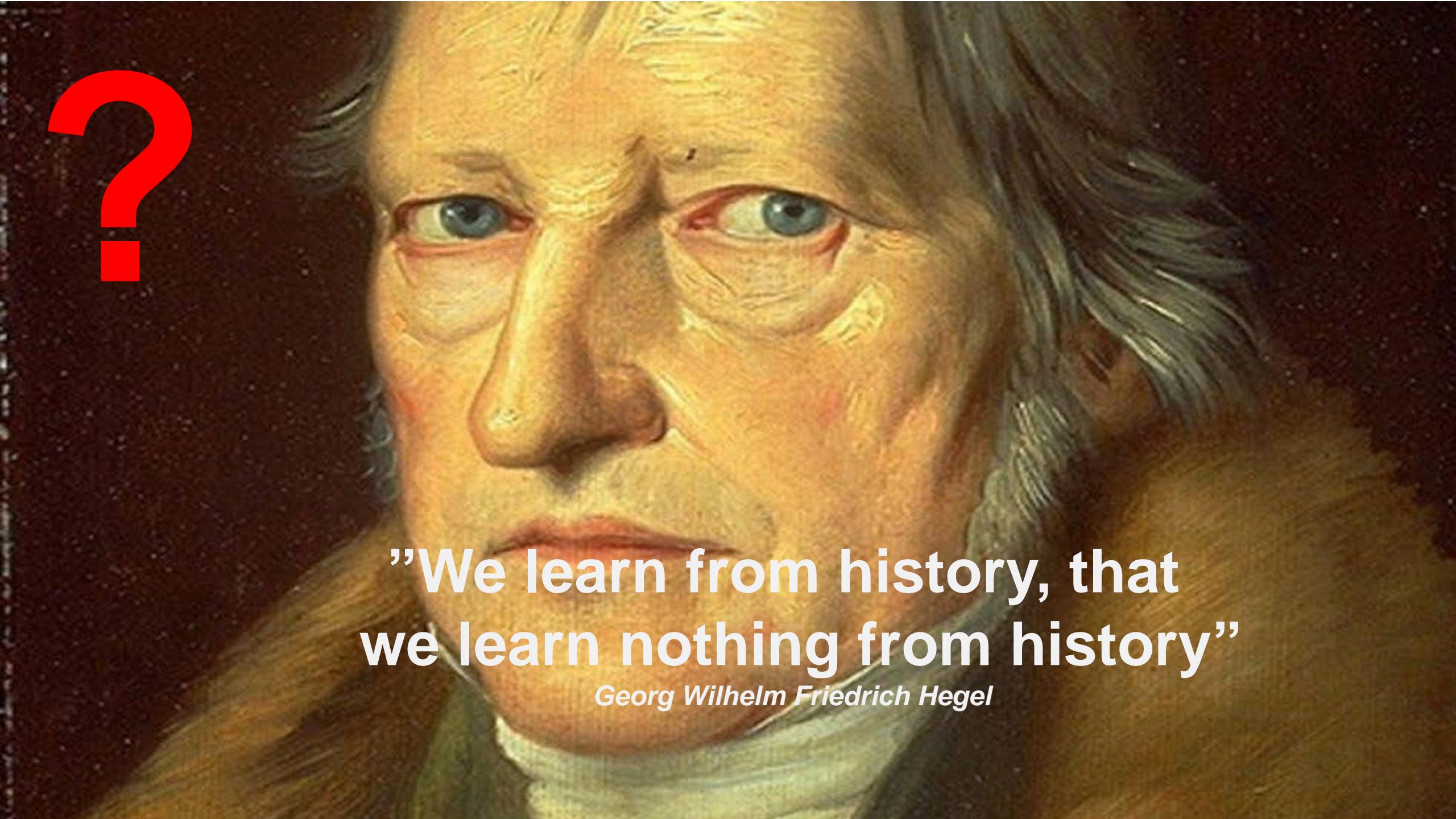
The Most Devastating Catastrophe in Human History?



Description : World War II map of Europe providing details about the most devastating war in the world.

How Much Data is Available about WW2 as Linked Open Data?



A close-up portrait of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, a German philosopher. He has white hair and blue eyes, looking slightly to the right. A large red question mark is overlaid on the top left corner of the image.

?

**”We learn from history, that
we learn nothing from history”**

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

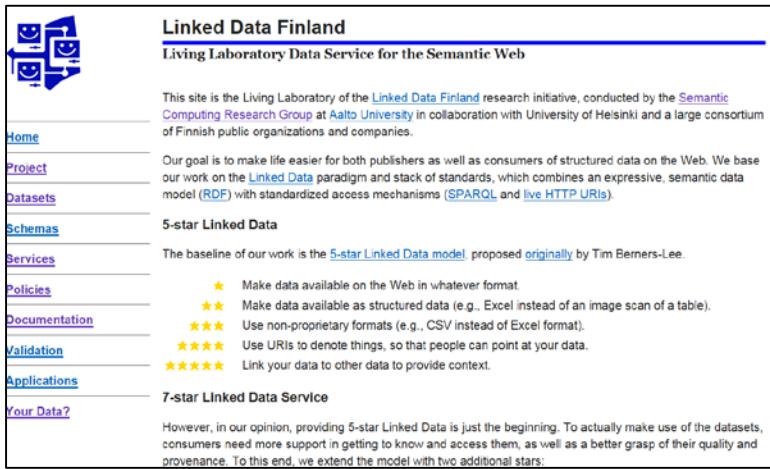
WarSampo Tries to Prove that Hegel was Wrong



Realization

Data Infrastructure + Applications

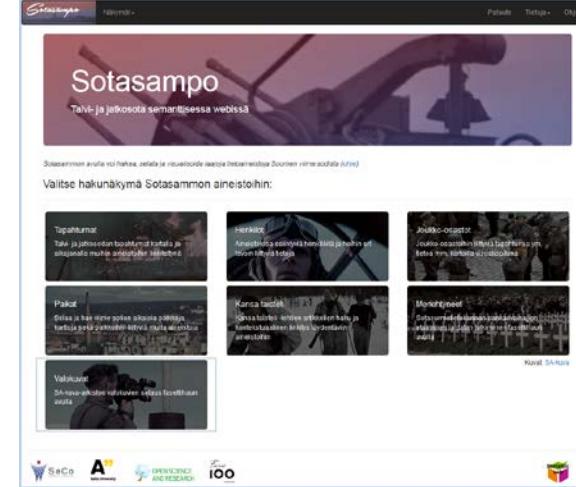
Linked Open Finland Data Service <http://ldf.fi>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Linked Data Finland website. It features a sidebar with links to Home, Project, Datasets, Schemas, Services, Policies, Documentation, Validation, Applications, and Your Data?. The main content area is titled "Linked Data Finland" and describes it as a "Living Laboratory Data Service for the Semantic Web". It explains the initiative's goal to make life easier for publishers and consumers of structured data on the Web, based on the Linked Data paradigm and standards like RDF, SPARQL, and HTTP URIs. A section on the 5-star Linked Data model lists five principles: making data available on the Web in various formats, as structured data, in non-proprietary formats, using URIs, and linking data to other data. A note at the bottom discusses the 7-star Linked Data Service.



Applications based on the service <http://sotasampo.fi/en>



The screenshot shows the Sotasampo application interface. The top features a banner with the text "Sotasampo" and "Talvi ja jatkosota semantisessa webissä". Below the banner, there is a message about the war in Ukraine and a search bar. The main area contains several cards with semantic data: "Tapahtumat" (Events), "Herkkä" (People), "Joukkueet" (Teams), "Päätöt" (Decisions), "Korjaustekijät" (Repairers), "Myyntipisteet" (Sales points), and "Valvokset" (Monitors). At the bottom, there is a footer with logos for SeCo, Aalto University, OPENSCIENCE AND RESEARCH, and IAO.

Why infrastructure?

**"Intellectuals solve problems
- geniuses prevent them"**

Albert Einstein

Semantic Portal <http://sotasampo.fi/en>

7 Perspectives to War (2 New Applications Coming)

9 million triples

The WarSampo Portal allows both historians and laymen to study war history and destinies of their family members in the war from different interlinked perspectives (instructions).

Select a perspective to search and browse the WarSampo data:

- 1. Events**
Events of the Winter and Continuation War visualized using a timeline and a map with related linked data
- 2. Persons**
Data about persons with related units from various sources
- 3. Army Units**
Events and other related data about army units visualized using i.a. maps
- 4. Places**
Search and browse places and maps covering the war zone area in Finland and discover additional data such as events and photographs linked to places
- 5. Deaths**
Kansa taisteli magazine articles
Faceted semantic search and contextual reader for Kansa taisteli magazine articles containing mostly memoirs of soldiers related to WW2
- 6. Memoirs**
Casualties
A table-like view of war casualty records that can be filtered using faceted semantic search, enriched with links to other WarSampo datasets
- 7. Photos**
Browse the content of the Finnish Wartime Photograph Archive with faceted search

Photos: Finnish Wartime Photograph Archive

Got quickly 20 000 end-users

<https://vimeo.com/212249404>



Collaborating Organizations

- National Archives
- Defense Forces
- War Museum
- Association for Military History in Finland
- Bonniers Ltd
- National Land Survey
- Kaatuneiden Muistosäätiö
- Association for Cherishing the Memory of the Dead of the War
- Finnish Cultural Foundation
- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Suomi Finland 100 Programme



More info and publications on the web:
<http://seco.cs.aalto.fi/projects/sotasampo/en/>



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WarSampo: Finnish World War II on the Semantic Web

In Finnish

Goal: Understanding History and Promoting Peace

According to Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel we *learn from history that we learn nothing from history*. Hopefully this is not the case for the Second World War (WW2), now that fighting has started again even within the borders of Europe in Ukraine. One way to promote peace is to make reliable data about the war openly available for everybody to learn.

[WarSampo](#) is the next step in our series of "Sampo" portals based on Linked Data, including [CultureSampo](#), [BookSampo](#), and [TravelSampo](#), and continues our earlier works on modeling the [First World War as Linked Data](#). The project started in autumn 2014 and is finished in 2017, by the Centennial of Finland's Independence, December 6th.



Figure: Mäkiluoto artillery fires at the Battle of Hanko in 1942. Finnish Wartime Photograph Archive, Defence Forces.