

Description of Korea in Swedish textbooks

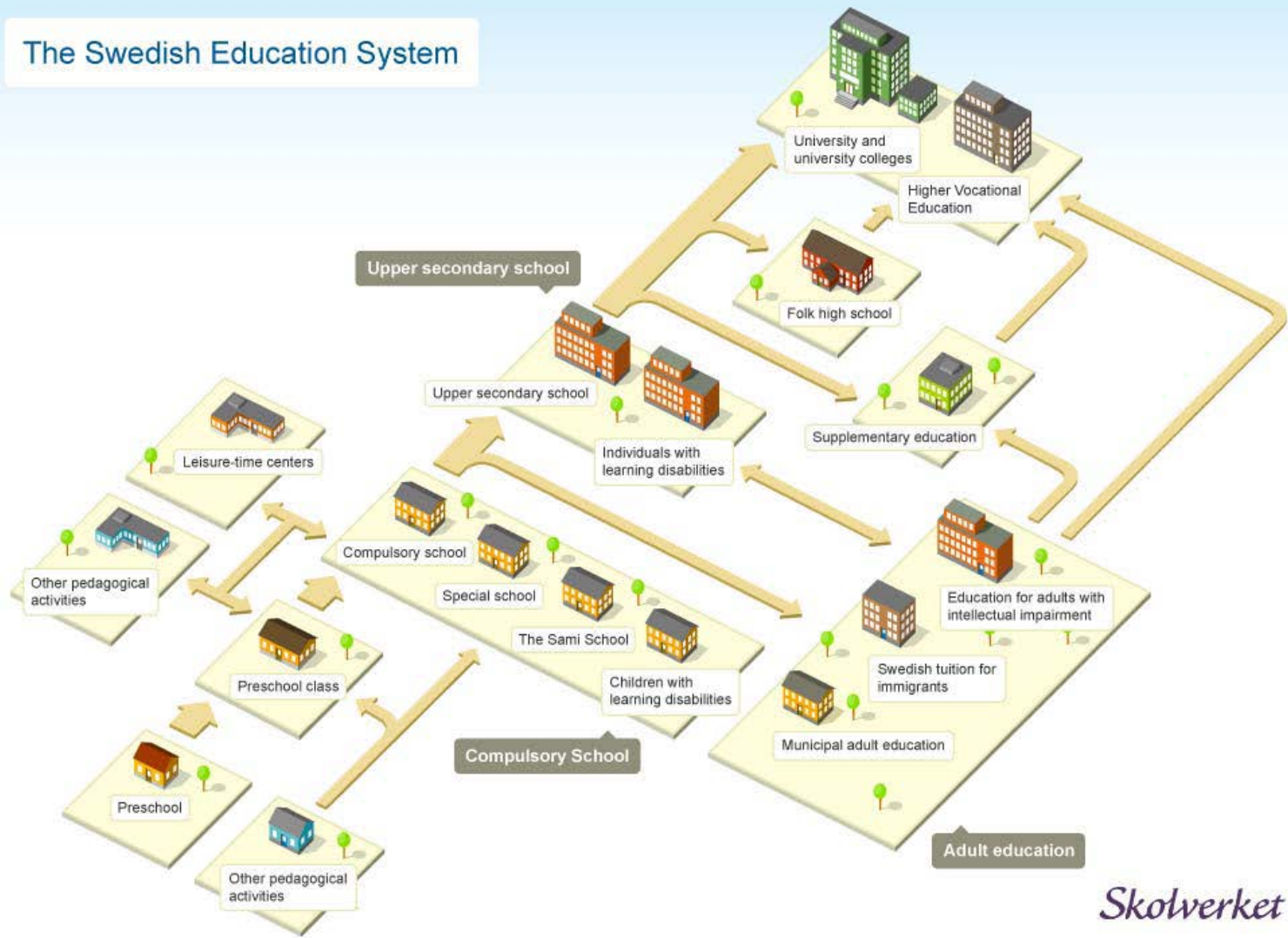
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Outline

- What shapes the content of Swedish textbooks?
 - The Swedish education system and overall national goals
 - Textbooks and governing documents
 - The distance principle
 - Expectations placed on textbooks
- How are Swedish textbooks produced?
- How is Korea described in Swedish textbooks?

The Swedish Education System



National goals

Overall national goals for education are set by the Swedish Parliament and Government through:

- the Education Act
- subordinate legislation in the form of ordinances
- curricula
- course syllabuses for compulsory education
- subject syllabuses for upper secondary education
- diploma goals for upper secondary education



The Swedish Parliament

The National Agency for Education

The Agency draws up and adopts:

- course syllabuses for compulsory education
- subject syllabuses for upper secondary education
- knowledge requirements for all types of school

The main responsibility for education rests with local authority schools and free schools, which are required to allocate resources and organise their work in such a way as to ensure that students achieve the national goals.

Each school choose a method of working suited to their educational approach.

Textbooks and governing documents

Curriculum

- the fundamental values and functions of schools
- overall goals and guidelines for the education

Course or subject syllabuses

- the common aims of all the courses in a given subject
- the core content of each course

The aim of the subject social studies

Students are to be enabled to develop:

- A knowledge of democracy and human rights, both individual and collective rights, social issues, social conditions, and the organisation and functioning of different societies from a local to a global level, in the light of different interpretations and perspectives.
- A knowledge of the significance of historical conditions and of how different ideological, political, economic, social and environmental conditions affect and are affected by individuals, groups and societal structures.
- An ability to analyse social issues and identify causes and consequences using the concepts, theories, models and methods of the social sciences.
- An ability to search for, critically scrutinise and interpret information from different sources and to evaluate the relevance and credibility of those sources.
- An ability to express their knowledge of social studies using different forms of presentation.

Core content for Social Studies

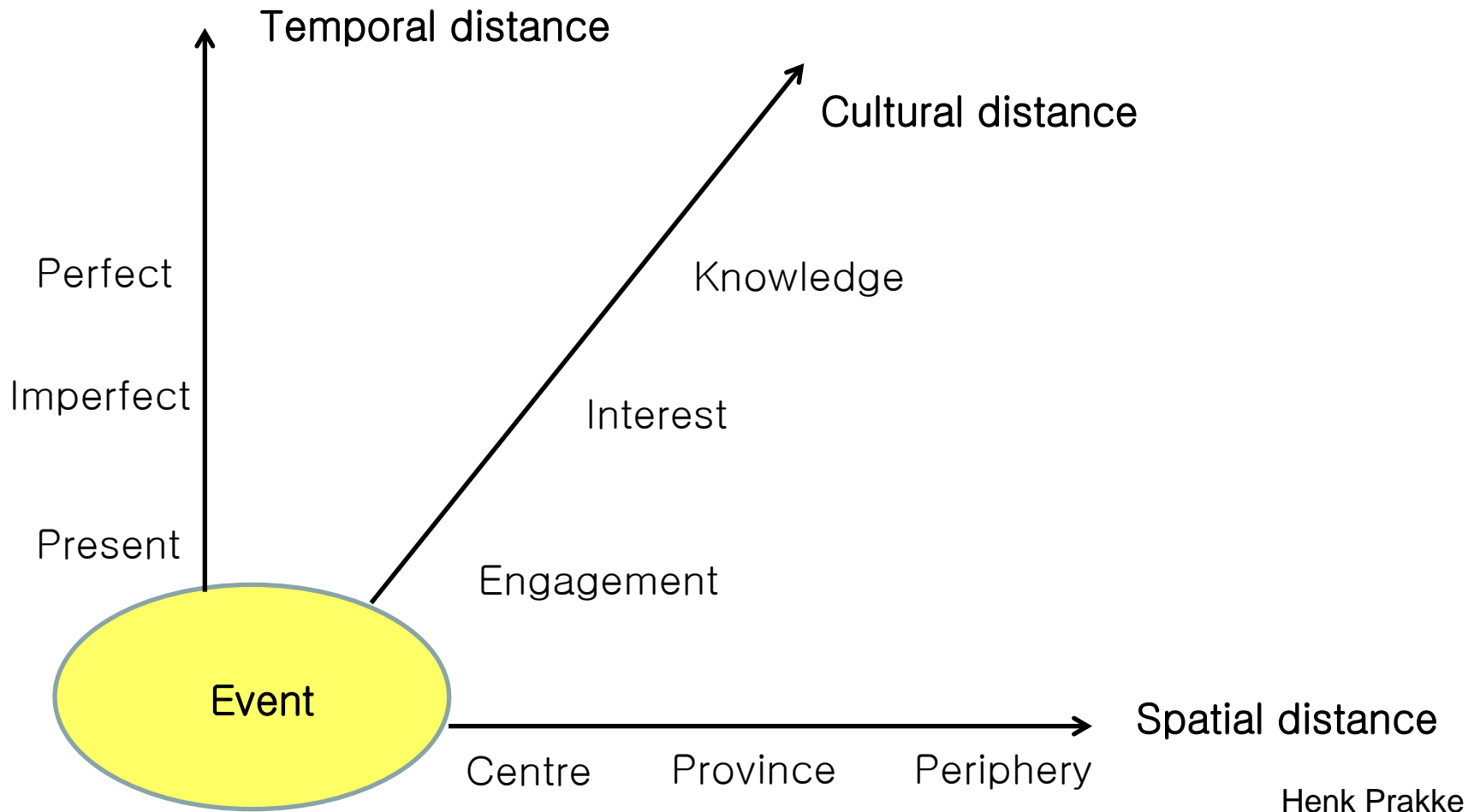
- democracy and political systems at the local, national and EU levels
- international and Nordic cooperation
- political ideologies
- human rights and freedoms, the international law of armed conflict
- employment market, employment law and the work environment
- identity, relations and social living conditions of groups and individuals
- national economy and private finances
- the role of the media and information technology in society
- concepts, theories, models and methods of the social sciences, related to studies of social issues and conditions
- various forms of presentation, with an emphasis on written and oral presentation.

Core content for International Economics

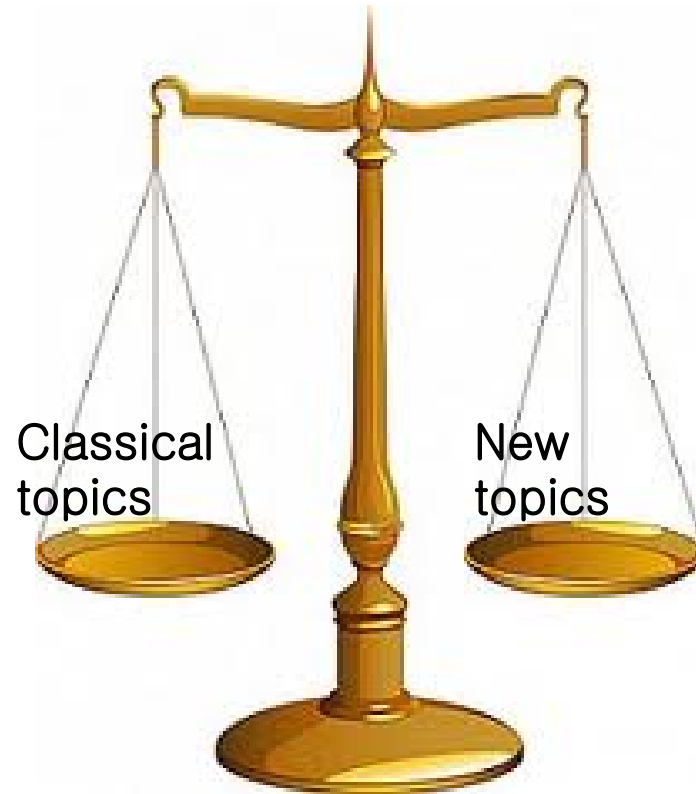
What shapes the content of Swedish textbooks?

- International trade relations and economic integration, and the actors involved. Development of the international economy and trade with reference to economic theories, from both a historical and a contemporary perspective. Impacts of the international economy and trade on countries' welfare and the environment.
- The significance of culture for business contacts between companies in different countries.
- Drivers and impacts of different trade and foreign exchange policy interventions in international trade relations. Financial markets in the international economy.
- Global distribution of resources. The relation between production costs in different parts of the world and the location and international trade of companies. Explanations for the emergence of transnational corporations.
- The process of economic integration within the EU and further progress towards common markets.
- Concepts, theories, models and methods of the social sciences.
- Source-critical scrutiny, interpretation and evaluation of information from different media and other sources. Common referencing systems.
- Oral and written presentation in various forms common in the field, such as debates, opinion pieces, reports and essays.

The distance principle



Expectations placed on textbooks



How are Swedish textbooks produced?

- Publishers take the initiative
- The requirements of the curriculum are analyzed
- Market research is undertaken
- Publishers and authors discuss structure and content
- The authors write a script
- The text is checked by teachers and experts in the field
- The text is edited, illustrated and designed
- The text is printed or published digitally

Patents and international trade

For a long time, the West dominated the development of new products and services. This is now rapidly changing, and countries such as South Korea and China have climbed high up the list. China's investments in research and patents are growing by 40 per cent per year, and those of India and Taiwan by around 25 per cent.

US and Japanese companies previously accounted for the lion's share of newly registered patents in the world. Now Chinese telecom companies top the statistics.

For companies, it is important to protect products with patents and design rights, especially if they choose to sell them on international markets.



South Korea a fast-growing economy

How is Korea described in Swedish textbooks?

South Korea is experiencing very strong economic development, following a transition to a free market system in the late 1980s.

The country has a well-educated workforce, and wages and salaries are relatively low. Per capita GDP has risen sharply. South Korea has unemployment of less than 4 per cent and invests 3.5 per cent of its GDP in research and development. That is twice as much as China and three times as much as India.

Economists believe that, by 2050, South Korea's per capita GDP will be on a par with that of the United States. The country now has a great many world-leading companies, such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai and Kia.

