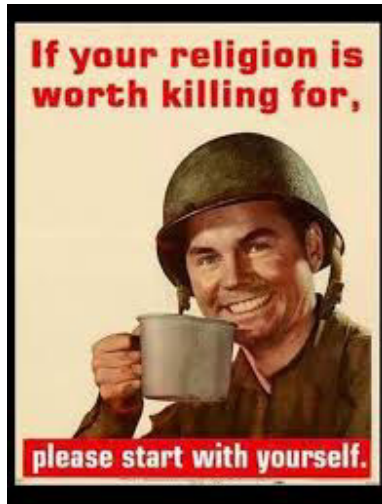


**Danish EUSTORY History Competition 2014/2015:
»Fight for everything you hold dear...«**



The logo of the Danish History Competition 2014/2015

Our Danish EUSTORY History Competition 2014/15 took place under the headline: »Fight for everything you hold dear...« This title is a quotation from a famous Danish song that became a symbol of the Danish resistance against the Nazi occupation from 1940 to 1945.

This topic was chosen because it allows a variety of entries for the competition. Danish High School students are very much interested in global issues. A topic only related to family or the local area would not satisfy their curiosity, which is the reason why we looked for a broader topic. Therefore we did not want to exclude topics for which the students could not find original sources.

The Danish competition is open for all High School students in Denmark, which means students aged between 16 and 19 attending secondary education. It is a voluntary extra assignment on top of many compulsory assignments, which gives the competition a rather exclusive character. It is a competition for especially interested and talented students. The students can work on their own or in a group of up to four students.

When we describe the competition to our students, we point out that a good entry requires a good academic standard, but also good storytelling. In the last couple of years, we have seen more and more “creative” entries, like videos, cartoons, paintings, short stories and so on. However, we have no specific requirements regarding the product and the students may decide themselves what form of presentation they deem most suitable.

The competition starts with general information about the topic, frame and so on in the beginning of the new school year. Usually, it is also necessary that history teachers in High School inform their students about the competition, even if all information is available on the internet.

The deadline for this year’s competition round was on the 26th of January 2015 because of our award ceremony taking place only 7 weeks later on the 14th of March. Next year, we will probably extend the time by one week.

Our biggest challenge is finding teachers and students with the extra energy to do this additional work. We would be satisfied with around 40 to 50 entries a year, which we have not achieved in the past years, but numbers are increasing.

The jury has a chairman and two other members: historian and author, Rasmus Dahlberg, history adviser to the Ministry of Education Christian Vollmond, and senior researcher and historian, Anette Faye Jacobsen. They had to choose amongst the seven best entries, which

were elected by members of the board of the Danish History Teachers' Organisation for (Upper) Secondary School (DHTA).

The first prize is awarded with 10.000, the second with 2.000 and the third with 1.000 Danish crowns.

The patron of our competition, the head of the Danish parliament, Mogens Lykketoft, handed over the prizes at a small ceremony as part of a new and public history festival in Copenhagen.

This year's winner comes from a small High School in Western Jutland, a rural area far from large towns. He conducted his research at the local historic archive and found several unpublished documents regarding the foundation of the first farmers' cooperative dairy in this area around 1880. The farmers' cooperative movement is an important step in Danish agrarian history, which caused the farmers' emancipation from landlord-dominated production, processing and sales.

He wrote three short stories, describing the introduction of new technology and cooperation from the point of view of a farmer, a dairyman and a grocer. Based on the archive sources, he created an independent story, containing short dialogues and thoughts, in the local dialect, using notes to explain special local expressions. The eight pages long short story is based on thorough source studies, demonstrating great talent as an author – a clear winner of this year's competition.

The second prize was awarded to a video that can be seen on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDcCeCht9Gs>

The film is about a young member of the Danish resistance during World War II. A group of four young students from Randers in Jutland worked together with the local historic archive, uncovering this story about a young baker called Marius who fought against the German occupation together with a comrade, but without any organisation to back them up.

The students interviewed the head of the archive and found Marius' brother, who, in a very moving way, tells the story of his older brother, who paid the highest price for resisting the German occupation: He was shot after a short and brutal trial, only 21 years of age.

The students filmed a reconstruction of the scene that led to the arrest of Marius. They filmed different locations, told the story and interviewed an expert and a relative. The dramatic climax of the video is the youngest brother reading aloud his brother's last letter, which he wrote just before the execution.

Burkhard Sievers in September 2015

Organizer of the Danish EUSTORY History Competition 2014/2015