

Activity: European identity
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Gustav Vasa

(12 May 1496 – 29 September 1560), was King of Sweden from 1523 until his death in 1560.

King of Sweden

In Sweden, Gustav Vasa is considered to rank among the country's greatest kings, arguably even the most significant ruler in Swedish history. Having ended foreign domination over Sweden, centralized and reorganized the government, cut religious ties to Rome, established the Swedish Church, and founded Sweden's hereditary monarchy, Gustav Vasa holds a place of great prominence in Swedish history and is a central character in Swedish nationalist narratives. He is often described as a founding father of the modern Swedish state, if not of the nation as such.



Gustav I has subsequently been labelled the founder of modern Sweden, and the "father of the nation". Gustav liked to compare himself to Moses, whom he believed to have also liberated his people and established a sovereign state. As a person, Gustav was known for ruthless methods and a bad temper, but also a fondness for music and had a certain sly wit and ability to outmaneuver and annihilate his opponents. He founded one of the now oldest orchestras of the world, the *Kungliga Hovkapellet* (Royal Court Orchestra). Royal housekeeping accounts from 1526 mention twelve musicians including wind players and a timpanist but no string players. Today the *Kungliga Hovkapellet* is the orchestra of the Royal Swedish Opera.

- <https://www.kungligaslotten.se/english/list-of-swedish-monarchs/gustav-vasa.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_I_of_Sweden
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_I_of_Sweden#Legacy