

**ES/SCAND 445 2005**

**Stecher-Hansen**

Discussion Sheet # 4

**Antti Tuuri, *The Winter War* ( Finnish original: *Talvisota*, 1984).**

*The Winter War* (Nov. 1939 – March 1940) between Finland and the USSR is the setting for Antti Tuuri's novel. This war continues to be remembered by Finns as the "good" or "heroic" war, although Finland suffered 25,000 casualties and 45,000 wounded and lost 10% of its territory.

Prior to this novel by Antti Tuuri (born 1944), *The Winter War* did not have a definitive novel to its name, while Väinö Linna's *The Unknown Soldier* (1954), depicting *The Continuation War*, is the canonical war novel of Finland in WWII.

**Instructions:** Discuss in assigned groups. Place completed discussion sheet in "Course Portfolio."

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. **GENRE and NARRATIVE:** If this a novel, how is it constructed? Who is the narrator, what is his perspective, what is the desired effect?
2. **TONE:** Tuuri's style has been compared to that of Hemingway, why? What is the style of the narrative? What does the narrator's use of understated humor or irony reveal? Give examples/quotations (page numbers).
3. **Resistance, Collaboration, Neutrality and WAR . . !** What in the end is the "story" told by this narrative? How might that story offer a "revision" to the popular Finnish memory of the heroic Winter War? Is this novel universally relevant as a "war story"? Why or why not?

