= Fredrik Reinfeldt =

John Fredrik Reinfeldt (pronounced [?fre?dr?k ?rajn.?f?lt] ; born 4 August 1965) is a Swedish economist , lecturer and former politician who was Prime Minister of Sweden from 2006 to 2014 and was also the chairman of the liberal conservative Moderate Party from 2003 to 2015 . He was the last rotating President of the European Council in 2009 .

A native of Stockholm County, Reinfeldt joined the Moderate Youth League in 1983, and by 1992 had risen to the rank of chairman, a position he held until 1995. He served as Member of Parliament from 1991 to 2014, representing his home constituency. Reinfeldt was elected party leader on 25 October 2003, succeeding Bo Lundgren. Under his leadership, the Moderate Party has transformed its policies and oriented itself towards the centre, branding itself "the New Moderates" (Swedish: Nya moderaterna).

Following the 2006 general election , Reinfeldt was elected Prime Minister on October 6 . Along with the three other political parties in the centre @-@ right Alliance for Sweden , Reinfeldt presided over a coalition government with the support of a narrow majority in parliament . At the age of 41 , he was the third @-@ youngest person to become Prime Minister of Sweden .

Reinfeldt 's first term in office was marked by the late @-@ 2000s financial crisis and recession . A drop in popularity before the financial crisis reversed as the economy of Sweden emerged as one of the strongest in Europe , which brought a resurgence of support for him , resulting in his government 's re @-@ election in 2010 . Despite the Moderate Party getting its best share of the vote since the introduction of universal suffrage in 1919 , Reinfeldt 's government was reduced to a minority government , but he remained in power as the first centre @-@ right Prime Minister since the Swedish @-@ Norwegian Union to be re @-@ elected .

His premiership was characterised by " Arbetslinjen " (English : Working line) with focus on getting more people into to the workforce , managing of the late @-@ 2000s financial crisis and recession which resulted in one of the world 's strongest public finances and top rankings in climate and health care .

Reinfeldt is the longest @-@ serving non @-@ Social Democratic Prime Minister since Erik Gustaf Boström in 1891 ? 1900 . After defeat in the 2014 election , Reinfeldt announced that he would step down from leading the party which he did on 10 January 2015 .

= = Early life and education = =

In 1965, Fredrik Reinfeldt was born in Allmänna BB hospital in Stockholm and was the oldest of three brothers to his parents Bruno and Birgitta Reinfeldt. At the time of his birth, his parents lived in an apartment in Österhaninge in the south of Stockholm County, but a short time afterwards the family moved to London, where his father worked as a consultant for Shell. Upon returning to Sweden, the family first lived in an apartment in Handen before moving to a terraced house in Bromsten in northwestern Stockholm. The Reinfeldt family was living in Bromsten when Fredrik's younger brothers, Magnus and Henrik, were born in 1969 and 1973. In 1976 the family moved into a single @-@ family home in Täby in northeastern Stockholm County. His mother Birgitta was a leadership and management consultant, and some of her professional skills might have inspired and impressed the young Fredrik.

At the age of 11 Reinfeldt became chairman of the student council (Swedish : elevrådet) in his school , and became a fan of the football club Djurgårdens IF , a passion he maintains to this day . He started playing basketball for the " Tensta Tigers " while living in Bromsten (which is located adjacent to Tensta) , and continued to play for them after his family moved to Täby . He also enjoyed setting up and performing revues and cabarets . After school , Reinfeldt completed his military service as a ranger (Swedish : lapplandsjägare) at Lapland Rifle Regiment and finished first in his class as a cadet in Umeå . It was during this time that he became interested in politics , as a representative for his regiment in the congress of conscripts in the Swedish military (Swedish : värnpliktsriksdagen) . Reinfeldt graduated from Stockholm University School of Business with a degree in Business and Economics (Swedish : civilekonomexamen) in 1990 .

Reinfeldt joined the Moderate Youth League? the youth wing of the Swedish Moderate Party? in 1983 at the age of 18. As a member of the Moderate Youth League in Täby, he challenged the leaders of the local league, who preferred to use the premises as a place to drink beer and wine rather than engage in discussions about politics. Reinfeldt, who is said to dislike hard liquor and to consume wine and beer in moderate amounts, started "Conservative Youth "(Swedish: Konservative ungdom) and formed a bond with the mother party, eventually taking over the youth league in 1987. In 1988, he became a secretary (Swedish: borgarrådssekreterare) in the Stockholm Municipality Council.

He was active in student politics while studying at Stockholm University, eventually becoming chairman for the student party "Borgerliga Studenter? Opposition ' 68 " between 1988 and 1989. In 1990, he became chairman of the Moderate Youth League in Stockholm, and in 1991 Reinfeldt was elected a member of the Riksdag? the Swedish Parliament. In the Swedish general election of 1991, the Moderate Party and its allies had considerable success, leading to the formation of a centre @-@ right coalition government under Moderate Party leader and Prime Minister Carl Bildt. The 1991 government was the first centre @-@ right government in Sweden since 1982.

= = = Leader of the Moderate Youth League = = =

From 1992 to 1995, Reinfeldt was the chairman of the Moderate Youth League. He ousted the former chairman, Ulf Kristersson at the controversial congress known as The Battle of Lycksele, gathering 58 of the delegates votes with Kristersson gathering 55 votes. The congress was controversial because it was the culmination of a long ideological battle within the Moderate Youth League between the conservatives and the libertarians; Reinfeldt represented the conservatives and Kristersson the libertarians. Reinfeldt later stated that although the effects of that deep ideological division and battle in the party lingered on within the Moderate Youth League, he also felt that it was a defining moment in his life. Had he lost the battle he would most likely not be in politics today. During the period 1995 to 1997, Reinfeldt was chairman of the Democrat Youth Community of Europe.

At the beginning of his term as leader of the Moderate Youth League , Reinfeldt supported the government of Prime Minister Bildt , but Reinfeldt gradually changed his views and became more critical of the party leadership . In 1993 , he wrote the book " Det sovande folket " (The Sleeping Nation) , in which he criticized the Swedish welfare state and argued for the introduction of a neoliberalist society . The book argues that the welfare state is a stillborn construction , as it systematically puts people in benefit dependency . It states that the people of Sweden can be divided into " fools " and " sleepy @-@ brains " , out of which the former stands for those who work , and the latter for the slackened people who depend on the contributions from the welfare state . A recurrent message in the book is that " Swedes are mentally handicapped and indoctrinated to believe that politicians can create and ensure welfare " .

Following the defeat of the Bildt government in the Swedish general election of 1994, Reinfeldt publicly criticized the Moderate Party leader, whom he believed had gotten too much dominance in the party.

In 1995, Reinfeldt co @-@ authored the book "Nostalgitrippen" (The Nostalgic Trip), which described several persons in the Moderate Party leadership, including Gunnar Hökmark and Bo Lundgren, as "Carl Bildt @-@ lookalikes." Bildt was described as being the perfect leader for the opposition to satirize; a nobleman living in the affluent Östermalm with a boyish expression and a better @-@ than @-@ you attitude. As for the other high party officials, the book stated that "If everyone appears similar to Carl it confirms peoples misconceptions about the Moderate Party. It becomes a party for Carl Bildt @-@ copies."

This provoked swift reaction from the Moderate Party leadership , who believed that Reinfeldt 's criticisms had gone too far . On 14 February 1995 Reinfeldt was called to a meeting of the Moderate

Party 's Riksdag group , which took place in the former second chamber (Swedish : andrakammarsalen) of the Swedish parliament building , a meeting where Bildt apparently scolded him for hours . After this , Reinfeldt toned down his criticism , but was ostracized within the Moderate Party and not given any important posts until after the change of leadership when Lundgren succeeded Bildt in 1999 . At that time , he was elected into a high party group , the förtroenderåd . From 2001 to 2002 Reinfeldt was chairman of the justice committee of the Swedish parliament . During this time he traveled around the country gathering impressions and support at the local level of the Moderate Party .

= = = Leader of the Moderate Party = = =

In the Swedish general election of 2002, the Moderate Party gathered 15 @.@ 3 percent of the votes? its lowest share of the vote in a general election since 1973. Following the loss, Lundgren was forced to resign his position as leader of the Moderate Party. After the 2002 election Reinfeldt was elected as leader of the Moderate Party parliamentary group, spokesman for economic policy and vice chairman of the parliament 's finance committee. On 25 October 2003, he was unanimously elected as the new leader of the Moderate Party.

= = = = " The New Moderates " = = = =

Under Reinfeldt 's leadership , the Moderate Party has adjusted its position in the political spectrum , moving towards the centre . To reflect these changes , the party 's unofficial name was altered to " The New Moderates " (Swedish : De nya Moderaterna) in order to emphasize the break with the past . The Moderate Party started to focus more on calls for tax cuts for low- and middle @-@ income groups , rather than on major tax cuts more benefiting high @-@ income earners .

As leader of the Moderate Party , Reinfeldt has tended to be less forceful in his criticism of the Swedish welfare state than his predecessors . Reinfeldt has instead proposed reforms to Sweden 's welfare state , which include cutting taxes for the lowest income earners and reducing unemployment benefits , in order to encourage the jobless to return to work . He has toned down calls within the party for dismantling large portions of the Swedish welfare state , stating that change must come gradually from the bottom up and not dictated from the top down . Reinfeldt 's goal is said to be to fine @-@ tune the welfare state , by focusing on getting people off welfare benefits and into employment . He has worked to shift the conservatives toward the middle ground by convincing voters that he would fix rather than dismantle the public welfare system .

Reinfeldt has even extended an invitation to the Swedish Trade Union Confederation , traditional supporter of the Social Democrats and opponent of the Moderate Party . He also changed the Moderate Party 's traditional stance towards the Swedish Labour and employment laws , stating that he prefers small changes instead of any radical reform .

People both within and outside the party differ on their analysis of the transformation of the Moderate Party , with some arguing that the party is mainly honing the way it describes its visions , and others suggesting that it constitutes a substantial policy change towards the centre . As a consequence of Reinfeldt 's shift of the Moderate Party to the centre , the differences between the Moderate Party and their traditional opponents the Swedish Social Democratic Party have become harder to discern . In a series of radio and television debates , the then @-@ Social Democrat leader and Prime Minister Göran Persson portrayed his opponent as a classic conservative in disguise . Persson stated that , if in power , the conservatives would tamper with Sweden 's successful formula of high taxes , a large public sector and generous benefits . There is also some criticism within the party ; former Moderate Youth League chairman Christofer Fjellner has called Reinfeldt 's political reform as " leftist rhetoric " (Swedish : vänsterretorik) .

= = = = Alliance for Sweden = = =

In the run @-@ up for the Swedish general election of 2006, Reinfeldt, as leader of the Moderate

Party , participated in the creation of the Alliance for Sweden . It has united the centre @-@ right in a coalition , which consists of the Moderate Party , the Centre Party , the Liberal People 's Party and the Christian Democrats . Reinfeldt is said to have been instrumental in uniting the four parties , which previously were known for being notoriously divided , in order to present a powerful alternative to the Social Democrats . The parties presented a joint election manifesto for the alliance .

= = = = 2006 Swedish general election = = = =

During the run @-@ up for the 2006 Swedish general election , Reinfeldt was subjected to a smear campaign . Mats Lindström , a staff member in the Social Democratic Party headquarters , admitted to sending e @-@ mails accusing Reinfeldt of tax fraud , false financial declarations and only attaining his position because of his father 's influence . The IP address used in the e @-@ mails was traced to the Social Democratic Party headquarters . Social Democratic Party Secretary Marita Ulvskog apologized and said that such behavior was completely unacceptable . A short time after the e @-@ mail campaign , images that depicted Reinfeldt and the Moderate Party in an unflattering light were spread internally within the Social Democratic Party and subsequently leaked to the media . Social Democratic Party spokeswoman Carina Persson confirmed that the material came from the Social Democratic Youth League , but denied the existence of an official smear campaign and stated that the material was not meant to be released or spread to a wider audience .

Following the general election on 17 September 2006, the Alliance for Sweden won a majority of the votes after the first count, defeating the Social Democrat Party. The Moderates gathered 26 @.@ 1 percent of the votes, a new record for the party which in the 2002 election had only managed to gather 15 @.@ 2 percent of the votes. The election result is historic in being the worst result for the Social Democrats ever (34 @,@ 6 percent) in a general election with universal suffrage (introduced in 1921) and the best result for the Moderates since 1928.

Looking back at the defeat of the incumbent Social Democrats , the opinion among several members of the defeated incumbents was that the election was lost because the previous government failed to bring down unemployment , and failed to campaign on it as an issue . Ardalan Shekarabi , the former chairman for the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League , stated that " the Moderates were right strategically to focus on unemployment " . Former Social Democratic minister Leif Pagrotsky stated that internal fighting , authoritarianism and perceived aggressiveness as well as a loss of appeal to the middle class and city inhabitants contributed to the election loss .

= = = = 2010 Swedish general election = = =

In the 2010 general election held on 19 September 2010 the Alliance for Sweden were reduced to a minority government, but also becoming the first centre @-@ right government to be re @-@ elected since before World War II. The Moderate Party gained 30 @.@ 06 % of the votes, which was the highest election result in over one hundred years.

The Alliance for Sweden received a majority of votes , but not full majority in Parliament . But the fragmented opposition , especially after the entrance of the Sweden Democrats in parliament , the government could continue .

= = Prime Minister (2006 ? 2014) = =

Main article: Premiership of Fredrik Reinfeldt

Reinfeldt became the Prime Minister of Sweden on 6 October 2006, serving concurrently as Leader of the Moderate Party. The 41 @-@ year old Reinfeldt became the youngest person to become Prime Minister since Rickard Sandler became Prime Minister at the age of 40 in 1925. With victories in 2006 and in 2010, Reinfeldt was the Moderate Party 's longest @-@ serving prime minister and the only person to lead the party to two consecutive general election victories. His Government compromised four parties (including his own) which prior to the election had formed an coalition named Alliance for Sweden, later turned into the Alliance.

At a press conference prior to his appointment, Reinfeldt commented that "this feels historic in many ways" partly because it was the first time in 36 years there would be a majority government in Sweden.

A global financial crisis was triggered in 2008, beginning in the United States. The financial crisis of 2008 which continued into 2009, had a major impact on the Swedish economy. Reinfeldt 's Government emphasized that a balanced budget was a priority, combined with income tax cuts to stimulate domestic production and commerce. The Cabinet received criticism for holding to hard in the public finances, with limited investments, and the support of Reinfeldt 's policies dropped to one of the lowest ever seen for an incumbent Government.

From 2009 , the Swedish economy emerged as one of the world 's fastest recovering economies with high competitiveness . Sweden was noted for having proved to overcome the crisis better than any other developed countries , and this was highlighted by the Government as a force in the run @-@ up to 2010 general election . As Sweden emerged as the best country on several areas after the financial crisis it brought a resurgence of support , which eventually resulted in his re @-@ election in 2010 . This was the first time ever that the Moderate Party was re @-@ eleted after completing a full first term .

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= = = = President of the European Council = = = =
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Reinfeldt became President of the European Council on 1 July 2009, as Sweden took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from the Czech Republic. His slogan was "taking on the challenge". Reinfeldt immediately requested the European Union to do more to combat climate change. Days earlier, he had been interviewed by Reuters and said he spoke of his worry about increased European public debt. He spoke of his wish for Turkey to join the European Union. He also spoke of his other views, such as his hope that a second term would be possible quickly for the President of the European Commission and his desire that the European Union should not sanction Iran immediately following its election protests.

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= = = Second term ( 2010 ? 2014 ) = = =
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The second term compromised a slow recovery from the 2008 @-@ 2009 financial crisis and consolidation of policies from the first term. The political debate came from 2013 to be highly dominated by issues where the Government came in a defense mode, in particular for the poor performance of Swedish pupils in the international study of school performance, the Programme for International Student Assessment, and profits gained in private welfare, especially after the economic collapse that had preceded the closure of school group JB Education AB and questions of how key people in the Government, including himself, acted in the N.V. Nuon Energy affair.

Reinfeldt had during his second term , in contrast to his first term , no major international engagement . Contacts with other politicians , however , remained good , which was also marked by Barack Obama 's visit to Stockholm in September in 2013 .

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= = Post @-@ premiership ( 2014 @-@ present ) = =
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After defeat in 2014, Reinfeldt announced he would step down as both Prime Minister of Sweden and as party leader of the Moderate Party. He stepped down from the office of Prime Minister on 3 October 2014, being succeeded by Stefan Löfven. He resigned from the Riksdag on 31 December 2014 and stepped down as party leader on 10 January 2015, being succeeded by Anna Kinberg Batra.

On 19 January 2015, Reinfeldt announced that he had formed his own business Fredrik Reinfeldt AB where he will serve as an advisor and lecturer. He will also continue to promote his " job line ", which was a key part of his premiership, in a continued community deed. On 1 September 2015 he launched his autobiography, titled Halfway, where he reflects over his 25 years in Swedish and international politics.

On 11 December 2015, Reinfeldt was nominated to become the next chairman of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. He will be formally appointed in February 2016.

In January 2016, Reinfeldt was awarded H. M. The King 's Medal, 12th size with chain, for extraordinary efforts as Prime Minister. On 15 March 2016 it was announced that Reinfeldt had been hired by Bank of America Merrill Lynch as a senior adviser for its business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

= = Foreign policy = =

The Moderate Party has a pro @-@ European Union policy stance? including support for exchanging the SEK for the Euro? and also supports Sweden joining NATO. As one of Europe's new conservative leaders, Reinfeldt is seen as an important ally of the United States. His party is a member of the conservative International Democrat Union, together with the Republican Party in the United States and the British Conservative Party, even though its policies are somewhat more liberal than these. During the 2000 United States presidential election, Reinfeldt visited the United States to support the campaign of George W. Bush. Prior to the 2004 United States presidential election, Reinfeldt again expressed his support for Bush. In an interview with the newspaper Stockholm City on 8 March 2004, Reinfeldt said that he preferred Bush over the Democratic Party contender John Kerry, and in a poll conducted by the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet in April 2004, Reinfeldt like a large majority of his party favoured Bush over Kerry.

Despite this, he has compared his government 's actions and policies to those of Bill Clinton 's administration, and supported Barack Obama in the 2008 United States presidential election.

Reinfeldt visited Washington , D.C. on 15 May 2007 , meeting with President Bush . His trip also included meetings with others , including United Nations Secretary @-@ General Ban Ki @-@ moon and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger . This is his first visit to the United States since becoming Prime Minister in 2006 . Bush and Reinfeldt mostly discussed climate change and free trade , focusing on the Doha Round . He visited President Barack Obama at first the White House and then in the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 23 September 2009 .

Reinfeldt was President of the European Council from 1 July to 1 December 2009. The signing of the Treaty of Lisbon was Reinfeldt 's role as President of the Council, which also occurred on 13 December 2009. Reinfeldt was also responsible in this role to put EU 's efforts to get into a binding agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 but this did not succeed.

= = Public perception = =

Reinfeldt has been called a "Swedish David Cameron, " insofar as he succeeded in shifting the public perception of the Moderate Party from a right @-@ wing position to a center position in politics. On the other hand, he is thought to have influenced Cameron, since Reinfeldt was elected party leader in 2003? two years before Cameron took control of the British Conservative Party in 2005. Reinfeldt has also been described as a communitarian.

In a study by Sifo, a Swedish polling institute, Reinfeldt was the "most admired man in Sweden"

in 2006. Reinfeldt 's approval rating reached its highest measured point yet in December 2006, at 57 % approval in an Aftonbladet / Sifo poll. Approval ratings for Reinfeldt as a person remained overall good but fluctuating through most of the period 2006? 2010, but did not always seem to translate into support for the cabinet.

Reinfeldt has been perceived as a controlled and harmonious person . He was described , already before he became prime minister , as " gentle , pensive and a good listener " and his " cool , soft @-@ spoken approach " is said to go down well with Swedish voters ; it also fits well with the promotion of the policies of his cabinet as being not ideological , but motivated by non @-@ political reason and common sense , in implicit contrast to the " ideological excesses " of the Social Democrats and their allies . Aware of this perception , Reinfeldt has said " I am by nature confident and calm . But that does not mean I am not passionate and wouldn 't feel strongly about things . " Regarding his family life , Reinfeldt has cultivated the image of a good family man who enjoys housework .

= = Personal life = =

In 1992, Fredrik Reinfeldt married Filippa Holmberg, a Stockholm County municipal politician for the Moderate Party. During Fredrik 's tenure as prime minister, Filippa Reinfeldt was County Councillor for healthcare issues (Swedish: sjukvårdslandstingsråd) in Stockholm. After being elected Prime Minister in 2006, Reinfeldt moved into the prime minister 's official residence, the Sager House, together with his wife and their three children, Ebba, Gustaf and Erik. On 7 March 2012 it became known that the couple had separated. On 11 July 2012 the couple signed their divorce papers with consideration of 6 months. On 20 February 2013 they signed the last papers which conducted their divorce.

His father Bruno Reinfeldt was also formerly involved in local politics for the Moderate Party in Täby , but left all his political posts in February 2009 after having been arrested and later convicted for drunk driving .

On 23 February 2015, Reinfeldt confirmed that he was now in a relationship with Roberta Alenius. Alenius served as Head of Communications (Chief of the Press Secretaries) at the Cabinet Office from 2006 to 2014, while Reinfeldt served as Prime Minister.

During the 2006 election , it was brought to attention that Reinfeldt 's paternal great @-@ great @-@ grandfather was an African American circus director from New York , John Hood , who had a son with Emma Dorotea Reinfeld , a maid from Eckau in present @-@ day Latvia . Emma Dorotea Reinfeld later married the Swede Anders Karlsson , but her illegitimate son John kept his mother 's surname . The spelling was later changed to Reinfeldt . He also has Italian ancestry , via his paternal grandmother .

He has revealed that his personal distaste for the anti @-@ immigration Sweden Democrats party is based on his partly African ancestry .

Reinfeldt has said that he left the Church of Sweden when he was eighteen years old, critical of the left @-@ leaning perspectives of the church. In an interview as Prime Minister he however said that he could not state if he believed in God, discussing his belief " that something exist that is not just about the scientific explanation for how the Earth was created. But exactly what it is I don 't have an answer for, I am both searching and wondering." He was however married, and had his children baptized in the Church of Sweden.

He has lately also attracted some attention as a political science fiction writer. His social dystopia " Det sovande folket " (The Sleeping People) was in 2013 featured as a play at Teater Alma in Stockholm.

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