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## Resettlement Policy in Finland after the World War II

According to the Interim Peace Treaty of September 1944, Finland had to cede most of Karelia and some smaller areas from Lapland to the Soviet Union. The entire population of the ceded parts, altogether 422.000 persons, was transferred to shrunken Finland. It amounted to 11 % of the total population of the country. In the cession Finland lost 270.000 hectares of its fields, 11 % of arable land. Among most difficult economic problems of Finland was how swiftly to find productive work for the resettlers and how to regain self-subsistence in groceries which had collapsed during the war. Before the breakout of the war Finland had produced 95 % of its basic groceries itself. During the war this figure dropped to 70-80 %.

During the 1920-30s Finnish settlement and agricultural policy had favoured small farming. After the war this policy line was continued. In 1945 the Law of Land Acquisition was enacted under which Karelian agricultural people, 230.000 persons, were resettled. Furthermore, the right to land was given also to soldiers with families, war invalids, war widows and war orphans. About 45.000 new farms were established, out of which two-thirds were arable farmsteads (6 to 15 hectares field) and one-third small farmsteads (2 to 6 hectares field). The presupposition at the time was that the latter ones would gain extra income from other jobs than agriculture. Quite a lot of such work was found mainly in forestry. Both farm-types gained also forest land. In addition, small resettlements (under 2 hectares of land) and plots were being formed. They numbered over 50.000 and they were usually located close to population centres.

The resettlement demanded 240.000 hectares of field and two million hectares of forest. 150.000 hectares new arable land was cleared. Soon Finland regained self-subsistence in groceries and in the 1950-60s there was already overproduction. This was not caused by the resettlement policy but by fast-growing efficiency in agricultural production.