

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
INTRODUCTION	13
What Kind of Regionalism?	15
The Value-basis of Regionalism?	16
The Cases	18
Outline of the Book	18
1. REGIONS, REGIONALISMS AND REGION BUILDING: A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	19
<i>Regionalism as Ideology</i>	21
Dimensions of Ideology	22
World view	23
Core Values	24
Strategy and Organisational Ideals	24
Means of Mobilization	25
Target Group	26
<i>Territorial Ideology</i>	26
The Regional Space	27
Region Building	29
Borders, Boundaries and Territories	31
Who are the Region Builders?	33
<i>Variants of Regionalism</i>	34
Old regionalisms	34
New Regionalisms	36
Regionalisms – similarities and differences	39
2. ANALYSING REGIONALISM: METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS	41
<i>Discursive Manifestations of Regionalism</i>	41
Critical Realism	43
<i>The Empirical Material</i>	44
Selection of Sources	44
Elite Discourse	46
<i>An Interpretive Reading</i>	47
Situatenedness of Ideology	49

Understanding in Context	50
<i>Making Use of Methodology</i>	51
3. THE CASES: COMPARING NORRBOTTEN AND MECKLENBURG- WESTERN POMERANIA	53
<i>Norrbottn, Sweden</i>	56
A Less Favoured Region	56
Cultural Context	57
Relevant Political Actors	60
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania, Germany</i>	62
A Less Favoured Region	62
A Regional Trauma?	66
Relevant Political Actors	67
<i>Comparability of Cases</i>	68
Reasons for Comparison?	69
4. THE WORLD-VIEW OF REGIONALISM	71
<i>Norrbottn</i>	71
Globalisation	71
Regions More Important	73
Regional Assets	75
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania</i>	77
Globalization	77
A New Geo-economic Position	78
Regional Assets	80
<i>A New Regionalist World-view?</i>	81
Adoption of Phrases or Real Consensus?	82
A Cognitive Shift in the Regional Debate	84
A New Spatial Orthodoxy	87
Regional Self-Centrism	89
A Basis for Political Action	90
5. THE CORE VALUES OF REGIONALISM	93
<i>Norrbottn</i>	93
Competitiveness and Growth	93
Common Goals and Strategies	95
Concord, Spirit and Will	96
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania</i>	99
Unity and Growth	99
Common Goals and Strategies	101

Voices from the Sub-Regions and the Opposition	102
<i>Growth and Unity as Core Values</i>	104
The Changing Nature of Values	104
Competitiveness and Growth as Political Objectives	105
Unity and Common Interest as Political Objectives	106
The Region as a Community of Common Interests	108
6. ORGANIZATIONAL IDEALS OF REGIONALISM	111
<i>Norrbottn</i>	111
The Norrbotten Group	112
Partnerships for International Affairs	114
Europaforum Northern Sweden	116
The Norrbottnic International Council	118
Broad support for Cooperation	119
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania</i>	120
Denkwerkstatt 2020	121
Regional Management Initiatives	122
Marketing Networks	124
<i>Cooperation as an Organizational Ideal</i>	125
Economic and Democratic Benefits?	126
Cooperation as Community Building	127
The Regional Elite as a Thought Collective	130
Rationalized Myths and Symbolic Power	131
7. MEANS OF REGIONAL MOBILIZATION	133
<i>Norrbottn</i>	134
Why is Norrbottnic Culture supported?	136
Culture and Image as a Way to Attract Interest	137
Internal Mobilization and Inner Orientation	139
Culture as a Line of Business	141
New Cultures, New Identities?	142
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania</i>	144
A Common Regional Culture?	144
The Need for Inner Orientation	147
Culture and Competitiveness	148
Image and Image Campaigns	151
New Cultures, New Identities?	154
<i>Culture, Identity, Image and Pride</i>	155
Cultural Hierarchies?	156
Identity and Identity Politics	158

8. THE TARGET GROUP OF REGIONALISM	161
<i>Norrbottnen</i>	162
Character Flaws or Stereotypes?	162
A New Attitude	165
Entrepreneurial Spirit	166
The Role Model	167
The Norrbottnic Diaspora	169
<i>Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania</i>	170
Brain Drain	171
The Entrepreneur	173
The Role Model	175
The MV Diaspora	176
<i>A Civic Regionalism?</i>	177
Employability and Human Resources	178
The Politics of Virtue	181
Laggards and Forerunners	183
CONCLUSION	185
<i>Dimensions of Regionalism: Empirical Findings</i>	185
<i>Theoretical Contributions</i>	187
Accurate Definitions of Regionalism	188
The Reciprocity of Romantic and Civic Traits in Regionalism	189
Civic and Romantic Elements in the Building of Regions.	190
The Significance of ‘A Regional Age’	200
The Significance of ‘Regional Regions’	203
<i>Future Research on Regionalism and Region Building</i>	205
ABBREVIATIONS	209
DOCUMENTARY SOURCES	211
<i>Swedish Sources</i>	211
<i>German Sources</i>	218
BIBLIOGRAPHY	227