



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

The Conservative-Liberal Tradition in the Nordic Countries

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Nostos Conference

21 May 2022: 14.00–14.10

Available online free of charge and on paper

Hannes H. Gissurarson

Twenty-Four Conservative-Liberal Thinkers

Part I



New
Direction

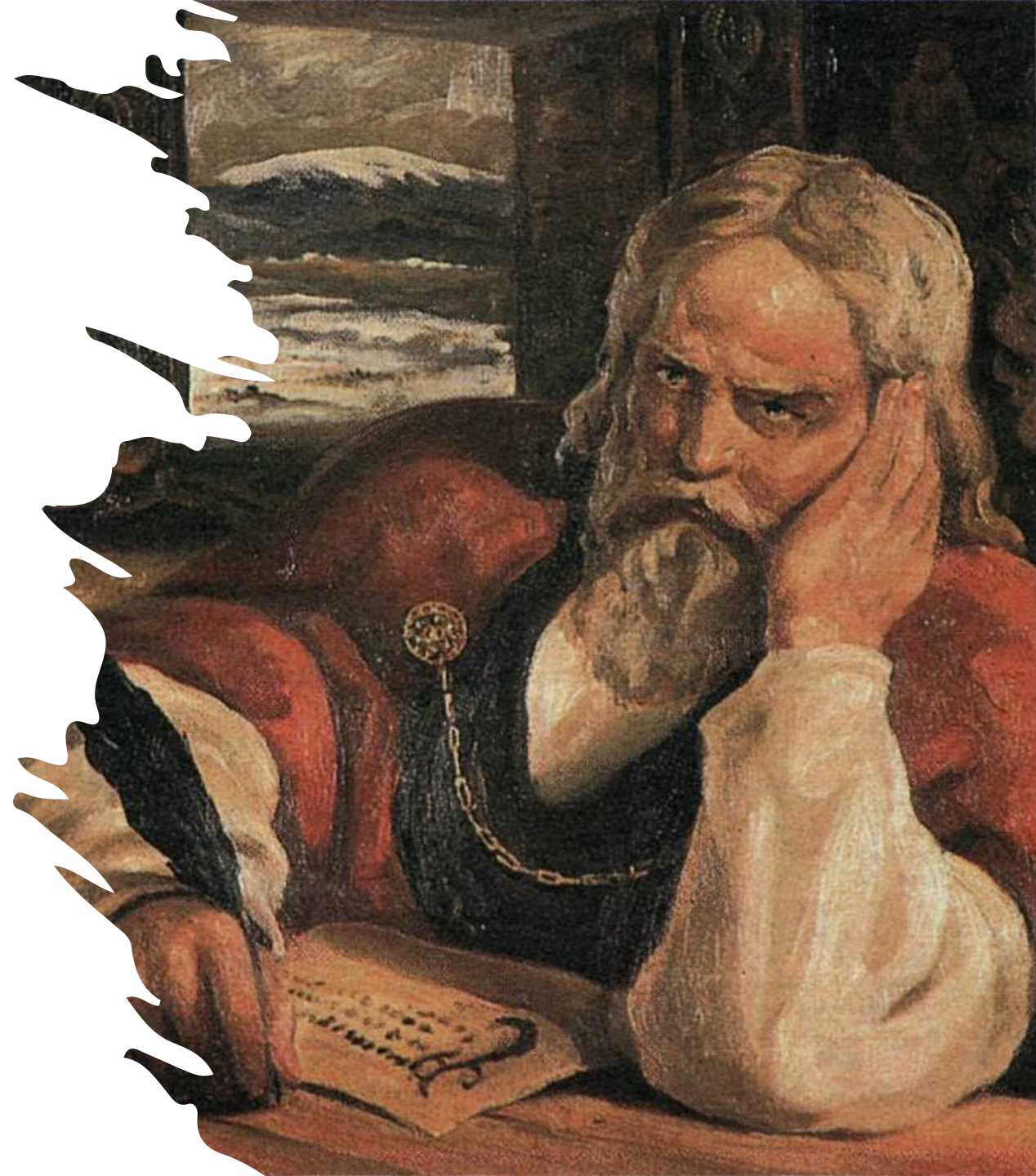
Hannes H. Gissurarson **TWENTY-FOUR CONSERVATIVE-LIBERAL THINKERS** Part I

Hannes H. Gissurarson **TWENTY-FOUR CONSERVATIVE-LIBERAL THINKERS** Part II

Snorri Sturluson

Four crucial ideas

1. Kings subject to the same law as their subjects
2. If they violate the law, they can be deposed
3. Celebration of individuality in *The Saga of Egil*
4. Sometimes best to have no king but the law (Iceland)





Anders Chydenius

Eleven years before Adam Smith:

- Cogent critique of mercantilism
- Arguments for freedom of speech
- Mutual gain: Profit of one need not be loss of other
- Coordination without commands: spontaneous order, social harmony



Adam Smith in
Eidsvoll 1814



19th Century Liberalisation of Nordic Economies

- Johan August Gripenstedt in Sweden, Anton Martin Schweigaard in Norway and other liberal Nordic politicians
- Disciples of Smith and Bastiat
- Grundtvig: 'Frihed for Loke, såvel som for Thor'
- Holst: 'Hvad udad tabes, skal indad vindes'
- Tegnér: '... inom Sveriges gräns erövra Finland åter'

20th century Nordic conservative liberalism:
Free trade, private property, and limited government
Cassel, Heckscher, Ohlin, and Hoff

