

SKAL - SKAL IKKE  
MUST - MUST NOT

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## Skal - skal ikke

For nogle år siden besøgte jeg en nedlagt zink og bly mine i Nordgrønland. I flere årtier var minen arbejdsplads for mange lokale grønlandere, men en dag var det slut. Den kommercielle udvikling af metallerne på verdensmarkedet forandrede sig.

Minen bærer navnet Den sorte Engel. Minens indgang er placeret 500 meter over havets overflade, og klipperne omkring indgangen kan ligne en sort engel.

I dag er der fortsat mineselskaber, der forsøger at genstarte minen, men hidtil er det ikke lykkedes. Udenlandske selskaber forsøger at få etableret en ny mine samtidigt med, at de venter på, at markedet for zink forbedrer sig.

Ud fra en miljømæssig synsvinkel er en genåbning af minen ikke hensigtsmæssig. Men dilemmaet er, at det er vanskeligt at få øje på andre økonomiske fundamenter for en fortsat befolkning i Nordgrønland. Det reelle alternativ for den lokale befolkning vil være at flytte til Grønlands hovedstad Nuuk.

Da der mangler boliger og arbejde i hovedstaden, foretrækker hele familier at genbosætte sig så fjernt som i en af de større danske byer, hvor de både sprogligt, uddannelsesmæssigt og kulturelt kan have svært ved at leve et lykkeligt liv.

Forsøget på at udnytte naturressourcer i Grønland er en kontroversiel sag. Hvem kan forbyde et lille folk, der har store sociale problemer, at forsøge at skabe udvikling på basis af de potentialer, de besidder som folk?

De grønlandske naturressourcer er havressourcer som f.eks. skaldyr og fisk, råstoffer som f.eks. guld og zink samt landskabet som ressource i form af tiltrækning af turister. Hertil kommer en geografisk placering af stor betydning for USA.

Grønlands befolkning omfatter cirka 56.000 mennesker. Hvis fiskeriet og fiskeindustrien blev udviklet efter befolkningens behov for beskæftigelse og indtægter, ville den kunne brødføde og udvikle Grønland til det moderne

samfund, som alle ønsker.

Men som i andre lande, f.eks. i Afrika, går udbyttet ved fiskerierhvervet ofte uden om den menige grønlanders lomme. De grønlandske politikere synes hverken at have kompetence eller mod til at sikre, at hele befolkningen får glæde af de enorme ressourcer af rejer og fisk, der hvert år fanges ved Grønlands udstrakte kyst. En bæredygtig økonomi på basis af havressourcer vil kræve fokuseret uddannelse til teknologi m.v. forbundet med erhvervet, så ikke blot fangsten, men også forarbejdningen og salgsaktiviteter tager sit udgangspunkt i grønlandske virksomheder.

Både råstof erhvervet og turismen kører på et lavt blus i Grønland. Årsagen synes igen at være mangel på kompetence til at skabe erhvervsudvikling, men også den vanskelige tilgængelighed til udnyttelse af ressourcerne spiller en væsentlig rolle.

## *Must - must not*

A few years ago, I visited a disused zinc and lead mine in North Greenland. For several decades, the mine was a workplace for many local Greenlanders, but one day it stopped. The commercial development of the metals on the world market changed.

The mine bears the name The Black Angel. The entrance of the mine is located five hundred meters above sea level, and the rocks around the entrance may look like a black angel.

Today, mining companies are still trying to restart the mine, but so far, they have not succeeded. The foreign companies are trying to establish a new mine and at the same time they wait for the zinc market to improve.

From an environmental point of view, reopening of the mine is not appropriate. But the dilemma is, that it is difficult to spot other economic foundations for a continued population in North Greenland. The real alternative for the local population will be to move to the capital of Greenland, Nuuk. Because of the lack of housing

and work in the capital, whole families prefer to resettle as far as in one of the major Danish cities, where they can find it difficult to live a happy life, both concerning linguistically, educationally and culturally issues.

The attempt to exploit natural resources in Greenland is controversial. Who can ban a small people who have major social problems, trying to create development based on the potentials they possess as a people?

The natural resources of Greenland are the marine resources such as shellfish and fish, minerals such as gold and zinc as well as the landscape as a resource in terms of attraction of tourists. In addition, the island has a geographical location of great importance for the United States.

The population of Greenland approximately comprises of 56,000 people. If fisheries and the fishing industry were developed according to the needs of the people for employment and income, it could feed and develop Greenland to develop the modern society,

that everyone wants.

However, as in other countries, such as countries in Africa, the benefits of the fishing industry often go beyond the pockets of common Greenlandic people. The Greenlandic politicians seem not to have neither the competence nor the courage to ensure that the entire population benefits from the enormous resources of shrimps and fish caught every year on the huge coastline of Greenland. A sustainable economy based on marine resources will require focused training for technology etc. linked to the industry, so that not only the catch but also the processing and sales activities take its starting point in Greenlandic owned companies.

Both the mineral industry and the tourist industry are running on a low flame in Greenland. Again, the reason seems to be the lack of competence to create business development, but also the difficult accessibility plays an important role.



*Marmorilik, Nordgrønland, juni 2007*

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KOLOFON

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Af Keld Jensen*

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*Photo of the week: Must - must not  
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