

SOM EN NEDGROET NEGL  
AS AN INGROWING NAIL

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## *Som en nedgroet negl*

Forestil dig en nedgroet negl. Tårerne står ud af øjnene af smerte. Men alle kræfter råber: Fremad! Fremad mod vores mål! For enhver pris! Sådan er underudvikling. Den gør forbandet ondt, og det er som altid de svageste i samfundet, der betaler den højeste pris.

Det kan være yderst vanskeligt at forstå baggrunden for udvikling og udviklings negative side – underudvikling. En af mine venner spurgte mig for mange år siden: Hvorfor er Grønland så uregerligt? Det har jeg grublet over lige siden.

I Grønlands situation skabes der primært udvikling i kraft af, at resten af verden udvikler sig, og hvor det grønlandske samfund via afsmitning får glæde af f.eks. ny viden og teknologi. Et eksempel er informationsteknologi, hvor det grønlandske samfund via internettet og udenlandske TV-kanaler nu er forbundet med resten af verden. En femtenårig pige har ofte større kendskab til en jævnaldrendes liv i en TV-serie fra New York, end kendskab til hendes mosters liv i en anden by i Grønland.

Et samfund eller et lands udvikling kræver fortløbende reformer. Grunddigt forberedte forandringer, der har til formål at skabe

de bedst mulige betingelser for samfundets fremtidige befolkning. Oftest i tæt internationalt samarbejde med andre samfund. Samfund, der i kraft af økonomi og handel, geografisk beliggenhed eller kultur og historie har de samme positive mål for hinanden.

Mange grønlandske politikere synes at frygte denne udvikling. De fokuserer på nationalisme. Det grønlandske sprog. Det, de kalder den grønlandske kultur. I kølvandet på denne politik udvikles der fremmedhad, og selv unge grønlændere, der under deres uddannelsesophold i udlandet helt eller delvist har mistet deres modersmål, udsættes for mobning og føler sig ofte ikke velkommen tilbage i deres eget land.

Alle erfaringer fra andre folkeslag synes at vise, at denne reaktionære politik er den direkte vej til underudvikling med nepotisme og korruption til følge.

De unge er i dag langt bedre uddannet, end den generation, der nu sidder på magten i det grønlandske parlament, Inatsisartut. Mange af de veluddannede unge er udadvendte og er inspireret af trends fra den omgivende verden. Noget tyder på, at de ikke orker det politiske spil i parlamentet og i de grønlandske kommunalbestyrelser. De fleste bliver på

sidelinjen og ryster på hovedet ad det politiske cirkus.

I de senere år har det ikke været muligt at få dannet regeringer, der er fremadskuende, og som er stærke nok til at gennemføre de omfattende, grundlæggende reformer. De reformer, der er afgørende for at skabe den nødvendige udvikling. I stedet ser vi gentagne magtkampe mellem de forskellige partier og endog mellem enkeltpersoner blandt de folkevalgte.

Hvad skal der så til? Først og fremmest skal de unge til magten, både politisk og administrativt. Fjern den indadvendte og tilbage-skuende politiske og administrative ledelse, og dan alliancer med stærke kræfter i andre lande. Det giver inspiration til ny udvikling.

Fornyelse skal der til. Fra at ligne et samfund, der hele tiden kæmper mod tilbagegang og store sociale problemer, kan Grønland opleve at blive den nye arktiske tiger i fuldt spring fremad både i socialt sammenhold og i økonomisk udvikling.

## *As an ingrowing nail*

Imagine an ingrowing nail. Pain and the tears are in the eyes. But all forces shout: Forward! Aim at our object! At all costs! That is the function of underdevelopment. It hurts, and as always, the weakest in society pay the highest price.

It can be extremely difficult to understand the background for development and the developmental negative side – underdevelopment. Many years ago, a friend of mine asked me: Why is Greenland so unruly? I have been speculating about the problem ever since.

In the situation of Greenland, development is primarily created by the fact that the rest of the world develops and in which the Greenlandic society, through spill-over effect, is able to benefit. As for example: New information technology. One example is communication, where the Greenlandic society, via the Internet and foreign TV channels, now is connected to the rest of the world. A fifteen-year-old girl often has more knowledge of the life of a young woman in a New York TELEVISION series than knowledge of her aunt's life in another town in Greenland.

The development of a society or a country requires continuous reforms. Thoroughly prepared changes aimed at creating the best

possible conditions for the future population. Most often in close international cooperation with other communities. Communities which, by virtue of economic and trade, geographical location or culture and history, have the same positive aims for each other.

Many Greenlandic politicians seem to fear this development. They focus on nationalism. The Greenlandic language. What they call the Greenlandic culture. In the wake of this policy, xenophobia is being developed and even young Greenlanders, who during their periods of education abroad have lost their mother tongue wholly or partly, are subjected to mobbing and often do not feel welcome back in their own country.

All the experiences of other societies seem to show that this reactionary policy is the direct path to underdevelopment including nepotism and corruption.

Today, the young people are much better educated than the generation that is now sitting in power in the Greenlandic Parliament, Inatsisartut. Many of the well-educated young people are outward looking and are inspired by trends from the surrounding world. There are indications that they do not find themselves taking part in the political play

in Parliament and in the municipal councils of Greenland. Most of them stay on the side lines and shake their heads in relation to the political circus.

In recent years, it has not been possible to make governments that are forward-looking and strong enough to implement the comprehensive, fundamental reforms. The reforms that are essential to create the necessary development. Instead, we see repeated power struggles between the various political parties and even between individuals among the elected representatives.

What is necessary to do? First, young people must be in power, both politically and administratively. Remove the inward looking and backward-looking political and administrative leadership, and form alliances with strong forces in other countries. Inspiration is necessary to provide new developments.

Renewal is needed. From looking like a society, which is constantly struggling against recession and major social problems, Greenland can experience becoming the new Arctic tiger in a full leap forward, both in social cohesion and in economic development.





Nuuk, Grønland, november 2005

Nuuk, Greenland, November 2005





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Nuuk, Grønland, november 2005

Nuuk, Greenland, November 2005





*Nuuk, Grønland, marts 2013*

*Nuuk, Greenland, March 2013*





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Nuuk, Greenland, March 2013





Nuuk, Grønland, februar 2005

Nuuk, Greenland, February 2005





Nuuk, Grønland, februar 2005

Nuuk, Greenland, February 2005





*Nuuk, Grønland, maj 2013*

*Nuuk, Greenland, May 2013*

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Som en nedgroet negl  
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: As an ingrowing nail  
By Keld Jensen*

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