

Abstracts

Josef Motzfeldt

Political and Economic Development in Greenland - Towards Economic Independence

In this article, Josef Motzfeldt, Home Rule Government Minister of Economy and Trade, offers an evaluation of the political-economical development in Greenland. Historically, since the introduction of the Home Rule Government, Greenland has been through three phases of which the current phase is the consolidation phase. Greenland is presently at the threshold to a fourth phase - the "structuration phase" - in which it will become imperative to reduce the public involvement in the industry, reduce subsidies, and create a greater economic dynamic. This phase will also become one in which the process of internationalization will put its mark on economic politics. At the end of this process lies a fifth phase with economic independence as its central theme.

Gorm Winther

Neo-Liberalism and Knowledge Economy in Greenland

In 1999, OECD economists published a report on Greenland's economy. The fact that the report's recommendations emphasize traditional privatization and a free market economic system gives it a quality of ideology rather than scientific analysis. Trickle down economics is anachronistic, because a modern knowledge economy requires flexible organization and participatory ownership.

Jens Kaalhaug Nielsen

Criteria for a Sustainable Greenlandic Economy

The quest for sustainable development has long been the political goal for Greenland. In reality, the Greenland nation is far from this goal. The article is a commentary on the current debate on

sustainability and industrial development in Greenland. The point of departure is the OECD report which represents the logical endpoint of the ultra-liberal approach to sustainability. The article criticizes the basic theoretical assumptions in this approach, which facilitates the idea that market "liberalization" and "privatization" of the industry is the main path to a new development. The article argues that the approach ignores the special historical conditions in Greenland and, most importantly, that it ignores the main problem, the quest for industrial differentiation.

Martin Paldam

Towards a Normal Mixed Economy?

The Greenlandic economic system is far from both the economically sustainable and a workable "western" mixed system which is taken as the goal. Historically, the Greenland model developed from being the "receiving end" of a Danish supply system to a system dominated by SOEs (state owned enterprises). This change may or may not be a step towards the goal. On the basis of a short survey of the empirical literature on SOEs, it is argued that they have an internal dynamic towards inefficiency. Finally, it is discussed how they can be made ready for privatization.

Henrik Thomasen

On the OECD Report on Greenland

The long-term political goal in Greenland is a more independent economy based on Greenland's own resources. Reaching this goal implies significant reform of the economy, and a coherent medium-term strategy should be set out, including improvement of the educational system, reform of the uniform price system, reduced dominance of the public sector, privatization of publicly owned enterprises, lower subsidies, enhanced competition, a stronger entrepreneurial environment, reform of the social security system, and deregulation of the housing market.

Mogens Holm

Greenland's Research Strategy

The article presents key targets for Greenland's Home Rule Government's research strategy. The research strategies of the last 200 years have been based on development aims. Until World War II, the majority of research in Greenland was part of the Danish colonial system. The post-war aims changed towards integration and communication with the Commonwealth of Denmark including Denmark, the Faeroe Islands and Greenland. After establishment of home rule in 1979, the local government elaborated a new research strategy to increase empowerment of Greenland. The political development has supported research which enforces national identity, such as research concerning sustainable development, nutrition and health. The author questions the Home Rule Government's ability to elaborate a research strategy appropriate for the present situation to develop Greenland in a new global perspective.

Henriette Christiansen

Arctic Symbolic Policy

In the late 1990s, the Greenlandic debate about independence is dominated by the so-called colonial syndrome. This results in a public discourse of divided identities. This discourse expresses a general perception of a stereotyped division between the Greenlandic identity and the Danish identity. These two categories are perceived as essentially different and opposite. However, it is problematic that the claim for Greenlandic independence is based on this perception because the Greenlandic society of the 1990s can be seen as a creolized society with a significant cultural and ethnic mix. Thus, we find a discrepancy between the socio-economic development (praxis) and the cultural formation of norms and values (ideology).

Birthe T. Møller

NATO's New Strategic Concept

NATO's New Strategic Concept agreed by NAC in Rome in 1991 was the beginning of a broad approach to security in the 1990s within a Euro-Atlantic security architecture. In 1999, the Strategic Concept was enlarged by conflict prevention. In 1993, all greater conflicts were among states. In 1996, all were, without exception, intrastate. Existentially threatened entities at the societal level necessitated new norms and attempts of securitization by NATO such as IFOR-KFOR outside its geostrategic area. A redefinition of the concept of sovereignty is needed in order to pursue a borderless humanitarian intervention directed at protecting universal human rights, irrespective of region, ethnicity or nation, in defense of common humanity.