

The dark, viscous liquid

5,571 inhabitants. This small town has nevertheless its own airport, its own new hydropower station, a construction school, a mining school, a folk high school and institutions for upper secondary technical education and engineering education.

Sisimiut is a society which, like Greenland as a whole, can create a relatively high level of welfare on the basis of the block grant from the Danish state. But new opportunities can appear in the future. In the past the production of a dark, viscous liquid was a main source of income for the town. In the future, another dark, viscous liquid may become the basis for new wealth in the town Sisimiut, and the income from this liquid may fully replace the block grant from the Danish state.

The area in and around Sisimiut can be shown to have been inhabited by Inuits back to the year 2500 BC. The dark, viscous liquid really started to flow in 1500-century. Back then the whaling ships from European countries used the region as a base.

In 1756, Denmark established the colony Holsteinsborg alias Sisimiut. When the colony was established, it was still whaling, which was the dominant occupation together with the traditional hunting. The catch was particularly the bowhead whale

which in November came to the area from the north and remained in the area until April the following year. The Whale blubber gave the dark, viscous liquid whale oil. The whale oil or train oil was used for lighting in Europe.

The whalers were Europeans, while the Inuits were used as rowers. Later, it was only the Inuits, who participated in the catch under the leadership of Danish whaling assistants or whaling commanders and perhaps European sailors as harpooners. At the end of the 1700's the catch was about seven whales a year. Later, it was even more. But the catch was not sustainable, and at the end of the 1800's the catch was brought to a stop.

Sisimiut is today the second largest town in Greenland. Now, the town may again be home to the production of a dark, viscous liquid.

This time it is the hydrocarbon oil from beneath The Davis Strait west of Greenland. In these years Sisimiut makes all the necessary preparations to be the basic port for the oil production, which can become a reality in the future - if the international oil companies explore the expected oil reservoirs in the seabed west of Greenland.



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