

Have we learned from the failures of the past?

Have we learned from the failures of the past? Or does the deception continue?

During these years, the blocks of flats built in the 1960s and 1970s disappear. These apartment buildings are the symbol of an amputated, rational mindset focused entirely on economics and building technology. In the South Greenlandic town of Qaqortoq there are still demolition-ready blocks that should have been blown up long ago.

These blocks in the towns of Greenland have been home to the majority of the Greenlandic population living today. Many were given a happy childhood and will look back on the life in the blocks with longing and joy.

But the statistics also show that these blocs have been the most clear,

physical expression of a violent society in which human beings and the environment were neglected, instead, to satisfy rational economic thinking.

The grotesque fact is that the so-called rational economic mindset today shares the responsibility for the heaviest burdens for the Greenlandic economy: Social and health costs for the treatment of the social and health consequences of alcohol and cannabis abuse, the measures to fight sexual abuse of children, violence in and between families, and last and not least a lack of basis for a large part of the population's desire and ability to get an education.

This so-called social housing is still in use today. In the Greenlandic towns we still find them as concentrations of domiciles for vulnerable families. The

statistics speaks for itself.

Have lessons been learned? Or does the deception continue?

Democracy has still not evolved into a process in which the relocated residents of the blocs and new residents in new council housing are given a central position in the process of decision-making. The planning takes place – as in the 1960s and 1970s – *fifty years ago!* –in central technical and administrative departments, now no longer in Danish state institutions, but in political and administrative forums of The Greenland central administration and in the municipalities. Citizen involvement continues to be restricted to public meetings where the politicians and the administrators speak while the citizens sit back and listen.



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