

The feeling of powerlessness

Living in the Arctic is perceived by many as living on the edge of the human world. The living conditions might be tough, and many local people find that the modern economic development devastates the living conditions of the small, vulnerable communities.

I am visiting the abandoned settlement of Kangeq in the outer archipelago of The Godthaabsfiord at the west coast of Greenland.

I get melancholic of wandering around between the ruins. Building materials are thrown around in the terrain. I do not want to touch anything. It was their effects. Private property of the former residents. Many have themselves built their house, so they know every board from their former home.

Today the empty, broken-down houses appear as monuments to the many for me unknown people, who many years ago lived here. They had, like ourselves, an idea and some values as to how they would develop this small community in the outer archipelago. They challenged the harsh nature, but today the nature again breaks the man-made.

In articles I have read about the former residents. They got stuck in the great economic development and had to, more or less voluntarily, move to the big town further into the fiord. To a life where they might never have found their own idea and their own values to fight for again.



The abandoned settlement Kangeq at the west coast of Greenland, August 2012