

A small people in a globalized world

The Greenlandic community doggedly fights for independence. For a lot of Greenlandic people the great support for development towards independence is conditional on the country being economically self-sustaining without the need for block grants from the Danish state.

The debate about independence often deals with culture, identity and language. It is, of course, natural. Often, unfortunately the tone is shrilled, and many turn the debate into a narrow-minded focus on ethnicity and nationalism.

Actually, it is understandable. As a Danish born, I am not proud of the great influence of my countrymen on the development of the Greenlandic society. Greenland was a Danish colony, and the relationship between Denmark and Greenland is still characterized by the relationship between a dominant mother country and a colony.

Focus on ethnicity and nationalism often leads to a society that has enough

frightened for the great abroad beyond the borders of the country. This is not a positive process, and specially not for a small people which are affected by many development problems.

An independent Greenland must act openly and actively in the world community. Or rather: Greenland must *continue* to act openly and actively in a globalized world. The photo of the week shows an example: In the settlement Nanortalik in Southern Greenland, a local employee works with filleting cod. The factory is owned by a company in Iceland. The white fish splitting machine behind the employee is produced by a company in Germany. The employee wears an apron produced by a Danish company.

And the cod? It is most likely belonging to a stock of cods, which in the season emigrates between Canada and Greenland in the Davis Strait. But probably the cod did not know this, and the cod did not know that soon it will be served as salt cod to a family in Spain.



Nanortalik, South Greenland,
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