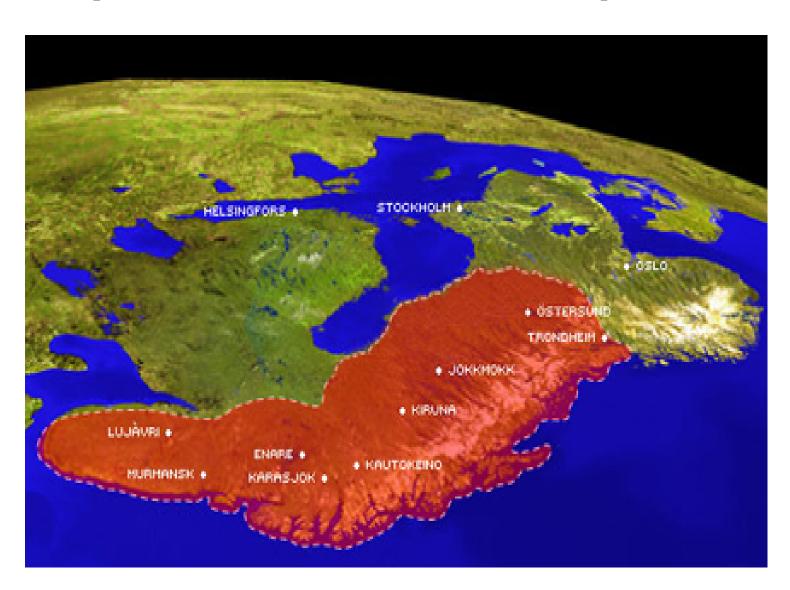


Indigenous Challenges during 400 Years – The Sami of Northern Scandinavia

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Sápmi of Northern Europe





Indigenous peoples

- 5,000 indigenous peoples
- in more than 70 countries
- consisting of almost 400 million individuals
- striving for increased self-determination and an opportunity to preserve and develop their cultures
- In many places they meet with great difficulties, and several indigenous peoples have ceased to exist
- There is a great need for research based knowledge and international collaboration in order to achieve improvements for indigenous peoples
- The main target is the opportunities for a sustainable and democratic development, and in some cases the chance to survive.

Aspect of colonialism facing indigenous peoples today

Dispossession of their lands and territories

Racial discrimination and stereotyping

Prevented from exercising their right to self determination



Indigenous Vulnerability Indicators

- Health
- Language
- Statistics
- Traditional economy
- Religion
- Relocation/reservations
- Educational systems
- Cultural diversity dynamics vs. stereotypes
- Self-determination



Who are the Sami?

The only recognized indigenous people in Scandinavia

Limited and stereotype knowledge

From segregation to assimilation

Urbanisation

Culture in motion

Strive for increased selfdetermination







The Sami in Sweden

- Present in Sweden for 10,000 years
- One of five national minorities
- 20,000 individuals (?)
- Speak nine different languages
- Since 1993 represented in Sweden by the Sami Parliament



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Jean-Francois Regnard (1660s)

"a description of this little animal, usually called lapp, of which can be said that there is nothing except from the monkey that is so like humans"





Declining rights to traditional land use

- 1673 The Settlement Act
- 1683 The Forest Act
- The Parallel Theory
- Slow process
- Legal protection of the Sami
- Sami Taxation Lands
- The chaotic 19th century





Colonization of thought

- Shamanism / paternalism
- Pantheon of gods / monotheism
- Death penalties
- Slow process of christening
- The hiding of believes





The Era of Segregation

- Paternalism
- The clash of reindeer herding methods
- "The Lapp should be a Lapp"
- A process of modernization





Social Darwinism

"the Laps are nomads at a lower cultural level, and must automatically be defeated by the stronger culture of the settled and will in the future cease to exist. May then the State give the Laps such care that they, without intolerance, can die in peace"

Swedish Parliament, 1893



An Ethnic Trauma







Repatriation





The Swedish Church Registers

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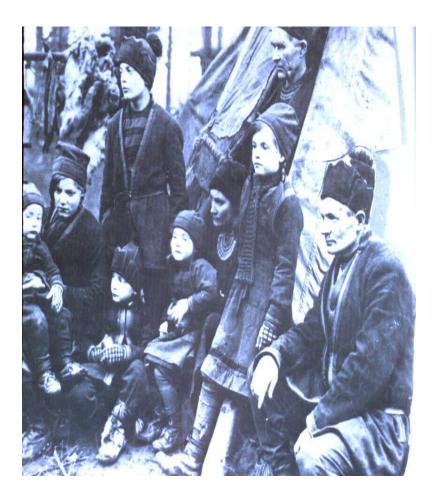


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The Sápmi Population Data Base

- Individually linked
- Complete life biographies
- Family composition
- Mortality with causes of death
- Migration





Sami health until 1900

- Mortality 2-3 times higher among the Sami
- Infants and children
- Tuberculosis
- Climate
- A dying people?





Smallpox

- The Latin
 American
 experience
- The Swedish experience
- Vaccination





Smallpox in Sápmi

- Low Sami smallpox mortality
- High frequency of epidemics
- Cultural understanding of a disease
- Fatalism or flight





The epidemiologic transition in an international indigenous perspective

1800: Sami mortality twice as high as the rest of Sweden

2000: No remaining differences

Compare:
Aborigines,
Inuits, South
and North
American
Indians etc.





Reindeer herding – the most dangerous occupation

- Double risk
 of fatal
 accidents for
 reindeer
 herders
- 7 times
 higher risk
 for fatal
 snowmobile
 accidents





Suicide

 Women and nonreindeer herding men: no difference

 Reindeer herding men: 1.50 higher risk (also in Norway and Finland)





Categorization and Identity

- Who is Sami?
- Cultural complexity
- Sami settlements
- The censuses
- 1945 the end of ethnic registration in Sweden



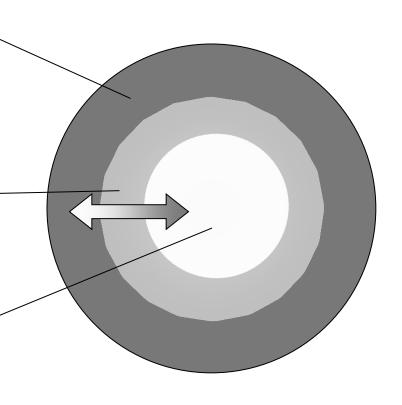


Identity & Vulnerability

Persons with possible Sami identity

Genealogically identified Sami

Officially recognized Sami





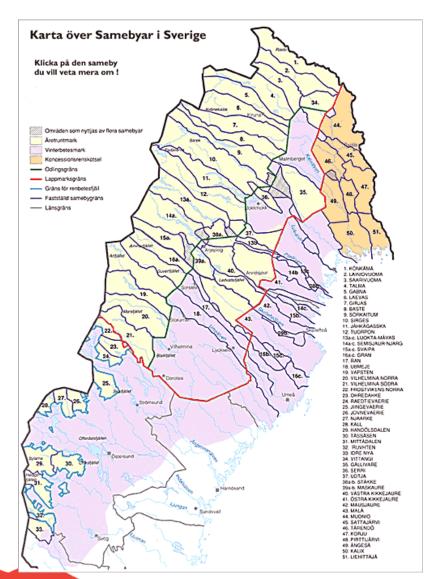
Relocation Processes in Sápmi

Border closures

- The administrative system
- Reindeer Herding Laws
- Denial of self-governance

Reindeer husbandry in Sweden

- Reindeer husbandry is only exercised by the Sámi people living within Sámi communities
- The reindeer herding is organized in 51 Sámi communities
- There are more then4 000 reindeer owners in Sweden
- The land used for grazing of reindeer covers more then 50 % of the Swedish land surface





Reindeer herding rights



Reindeer herders have legal rights to use land and water. Winter grazing lands are not specified, but rest on ancient rights of previous use. This often result in disputes and court cases.

Nordmaling (1998-2011), Idre (2001), Gällivare & Udtja (2002), Härjedalsprocessen (2004), Bjurö, Ratan



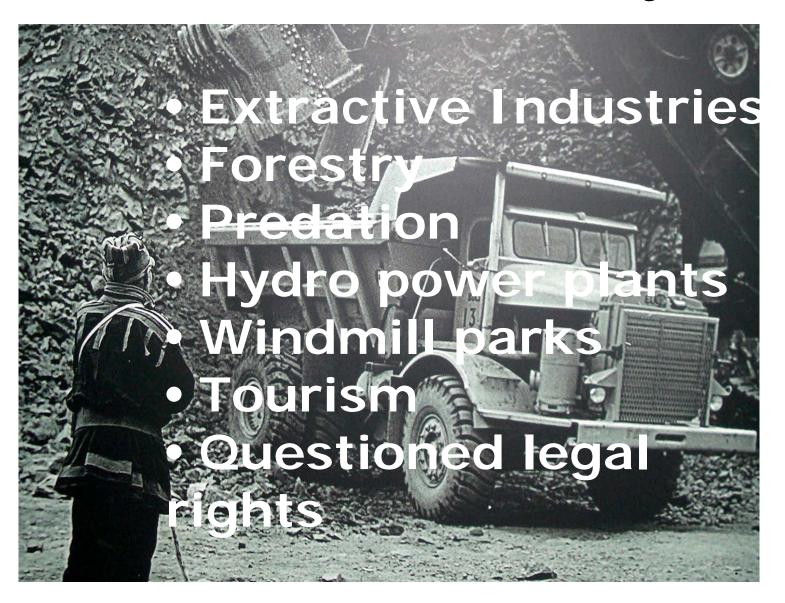
Climate change and the Sami



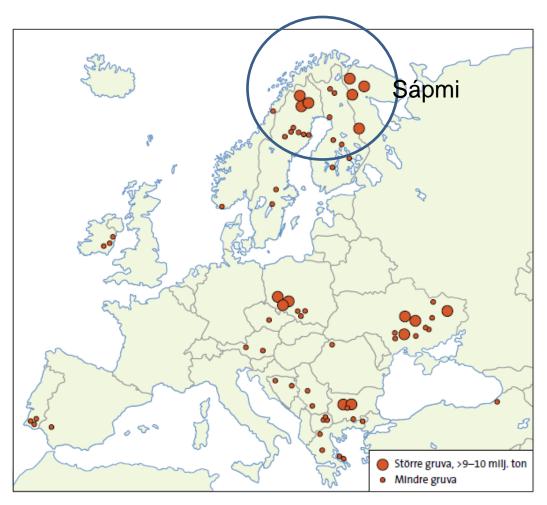
- Changing snow conditions
- Extreme wet and dry seasons
- Starving reindeer
- Increased extractive initiatives
- Traditional knowledge: adaptation



Threats to reindeer husbandry



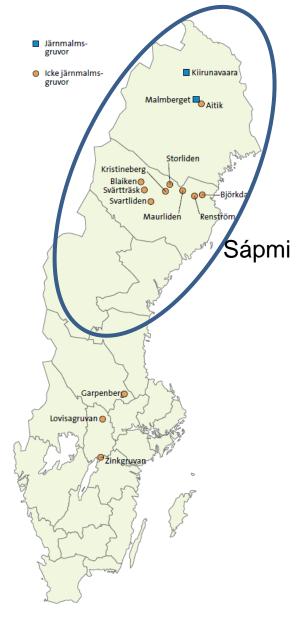
Mines in Europe



Figur 17. Gruvor i Europa. Källa: SGU, RMG.

Mines in Sweden

- Most mines in Sweden are situated within the Reindeer pasture land
- There is often no compensation for the loss of pasture areas
- No royalties paid to Sámi
- Through the exploitation of grazing land the customary indigenous rights are jeopardized



Figur 2. Gruvor i drift under 2007.

UN, as well as EU's environmental authority EEA, have in several reports calculated the threat to Sápmi:



- 1) Approx. 25% of the total pasture grounds are already severly disturbed/ lost as a consequence of development
- 2) Approx. 35% of the summer pastures/ coastal areas are severly disturbed/ lost
- 3) Approx. 78% of the coastal and calving-grounds will be lost during the next 30-45 years given continued development



Languages

Identity

Traditional knowledge

Science

Colonization

Repatriation





Cultural stereotypes & Strategic essentialism





International critique

UN Committee for Human Rights(MRK)
UN Committee for Race Discrimination (CERD)
European Council Commissioner for Human Rights, Alvaro Gil
Robles

Paul Hunt, UN Special Rapporteur for mental and physical health:

"Given the special status of the Sami, the Special Rapporteur was surprised to find that Sweden does not have a Sami health research centre. This omission tends to explain what he was told by some while on mission: there is a shortage of research and knowledge focusing on the health of the Swedish Sami. As it was put in 2004: "Over the last decades, only a few studies have been published addressing health and disease in the Swedish Sami population."Accordingly, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government support the establishment of a Sami health research centre, along the lines of the Centre for Sami Health Research based at the University of Tromsø, Norway".



The Era of Political Integration

- Political mobilization
- Sami organizations
- Media: a shifting focus from reindeer herding to conflicts
- Legal processes
- The Swedish Sami Parliament
- ILO 169





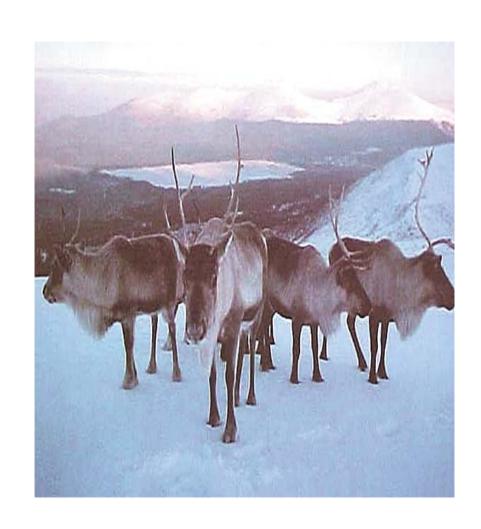
The Paradox of Self-determination





The Importance of Research

- Land and water rights
- Health
- Identity
- History
- Memory
- Understanding
- Education
- International perspectives
- Sustainable development





The Indigenous Paradox

- The complex nation
- The united nation
- The global nation





