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*Summary :  
At the end of the previous century, the philosophy of sustainable development began to appear in legal texts and business ethic. For half a century, a significant change has occurred in the Arctic world. Comparing a 1975 treaty occurred in the Arctic Quebec and the current situation of Greenland, we better perceive the progress made, which is not without some dangers for indigenous peoples.*  
**Part I: The concept of sustainable development**

A) Philosophy of Sustainable Development  
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C) Business and sustainable development

**Part II: A precursor text: the signing of the James Bay and Northern Québecois (1975)**

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**Conclusion: The Arctic emergence**

**Part I: The concept of sustainable development**

*Sustainable development* is a conception of the common good developed at the end of the previous century. It is on economic nature, but it is transcended by a long-term perspective: the fate of future generations is a fundamental concern. Moreover, this notion has an ecological character: it includes not only humans, but their physical environment, plants and animals. This philosophical aspect is part of different legal systems. It is based on a business ethics.

**A) Philosophy and Anthropology of Sustainable Development**  
  
The German philosopher Hans Jonas the first theorizes the concept of sustainable development in 1979 in his book :*The principle of responsibility*. It reverses the principle of the rule of rights over duties at work in the rhetoric of western rights Declarations since the late eighteenth century. We have a duty to ensure that future generations can continue to live their humanity. But it is possible that the western model of economic development, through damages it brings to the environment does not respect this obligation. At the current pace of development, global resources would be exhausted in a relatively short time.  
In 1987 the French philosopher Michel Serres writes that human beings need to contract with Nature. We must go beyond the social contract, which was concluded only between men. Man must develop procedures alliance with Nature, rather than confront it, he has to reinvent the Sacred area, consider that living beings have rights and man duties towards them. The New Alliance thus includes human rights, but it exceeds them. In 1991, a media personality, Jacques-Yves Cousteau launched a campaign for the recognition, for the benefit of future generations, a "*right to a free and uncontaminated earth*," involving the control of "*consequences of progress technical likely to harm life on Earth, the natural balances, and changes*

*the evolution of mankind* "

He further pointed out that Papua New Guinea has included this right in its Constitution.  
These proposals have been criticized. For example by the french geographer Sylvie Brunel, who sees an arbitrary opposition between man and Nature. Nature is subject to the law of the strongest, while the man is often an agent protecting biodiversity. In his book *The new ecological order*, the french philosopher Luc Ferry writes that the idea of ​​a contract with Nature is a proposition without sense.  
The concept of Common Good can also relate to the issue of Sustainable Development, to the extent that there is a collective interest beyond the particular interests.  
The concept of Common Good as the own good of society appears clearly in Thomas Aquinas: the Common Good is mutable over time and the legislator embodies it in positive law. Then the theologians of the school of Salamanca, , fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, (Vitoria and Suarez), added to the thomistic doctrine an universal dimension. They point in particular that the newly discovered indigenous peoples are out of Christianity, but cannot be excluded from the human community and law. But this doctrine will be overshadowed with the Treaty of Westphalia in the seventeenth century, which create a sovereign system of States marked by accentuation of the rights of States. We have to wait until the end of World War II to find a thought for the Common Good. In the most recent doctrine of international law, the notion of Common Good is conceptualized in some texts: Juan Antonio Carrillo Salcedo at the Hague Academy of International Law in 1996; Joe Verhoeven entitled *Considerations on what is general public international law common-Cours* (2002) and more recently Robert Kolb, in his *Theory of International Law* in 2012.  
 But as I pointed out in a previous book, this debate also has an anthropological dimension.  
First, nature is indeed not necessarily good. In the distant past, there have been several mass extinctions of life on earth as the man had not yet appeared. Serious diseases (cancer,AIDS, etc.) are part of nature and it is the legitimate struggle of medicine to try to eradicate them.  
 In addition, the man was never at home in nature. He had to invent his relationship with it. Humans ways can go against Nature. For example, waterways: the cross, even the cover of a bridge is disrupting order. Hence the custom attested in all european cultures to throw coins into the river before taking a ford. To survive, man must kill the animal. When they shot a bear, Inuit light a pipe and life put in his mouth, to meet him. Indeed, the Inuit believe the bears like to smoke.  
But Aristotle will write:

"*There is no possible friendship with inanimate things, nor that there is justice for them, any more, or even the master to the slave as a slave*. "

In the sixteenth century, Francis Bacon (1561-1626) writes:

"*Nature is a public woman; we must mater, penetrate its secrets and chain him according to our desires*. "

Later, the Enlightenments separate Man and Nature. Romanticism contractualizes further their relationship: he spiritualized nature, nature transcends man.  
But at the end of the previous century, one wonders if it is possible to assign a status subject to nature, which would be a copernican break with modernity, for which only the man can have rights. In 1972, american lawyers are wondering if the trees can take legal action. In 1988 the french lawyer M.A.Hermitte considers that it is necessary to recognize a status of legal subject to Nature.  
For this author, Nature, no more than human, cannot be enslaved to market. Nature is an abstraction, it is the ecosystems in which it takes place, it is appropriate to create a right of topics, including human would be formed by representatives, which is indeed quite conceivable ..  
All this brings us, in modern forms, to come back to an old or distant thought, which harmonized human beings with human nature by other fictions, often religious in nature.

For animists, some objects more than others are the seat of divine and vital energies. Roman lawyers believed that certain objects, things of divine rights (*res divinae*), were so linked to the gods or the dead they were out of commerce that is to say of the influence of man. In the Middle Ages, the rights of celestial owners (God, patron saints) had precedence over those of land owners.  
    In short, man has always created the nature in his image, even when he treats with it as a co-contractor, and it cannot be otherwise.  
Anyway, at the end of the previous century, the concept of Sustainable Development appears in a number of legal texts.

**B) Rights of sustainable development**

The philosophy of Sustainable Development concepts have enrolled in several types of rights: international, european, french.  
In 1968, in a context of intense questioning commonly accepted values, the Club of Rome is created. It brings together personalities occupying important positions in various countries, who think about the definition of a model of economic growth that would be more reasonable. In 1972, the Club of Rome published the report *The Limits to Growth* that had been requested by the MIT research team. The authors publish an update in 2004, entitled *The Limits to Growth 30-Year Update,* in which they believe their predictions have been widely proven: extension of pollution, depletion of arable land, scarcity of fossil fuels.  
From 3 to 14 June 1992 was held in Rio de Janeiro the third *Earth Summit*, which establishes the terms of sustainable development, which began to be popularized among the general public. Three pillars are identified: economic progress, social justice, preservation of the environment.  
In 2000, the *Global Compact of the United Nations*, adopted by the World Economic Forum emphasizes social responsibility.  
 In 2000, the *Universal Declaration of UNESCO on Cultural Diversity* says for the first time that cultural diversity is "*the key to sustainable human development*" .It is important, because very often, the exploitation of natural resources requires the consideration of the rights of indigenous peoples, who live in the territories concerned by setting value of these resources. In 2005, the General Conference of Unesco reaffirms that this agreement is a "*mainspring for sustainable development for communities, peoples and nations*." The year 2005 comes into force the *Kyoto Protocol* on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union.  
 In Denmark was published in 1992 the *Aalborg Charter* on sustainable cities, which is to apply at European level.

In the European Union, part of the environmental law has gradually shifted the member States at european level. In 1986, the *Single European Act* has transferred to the European Economic Community certain powers of States: the environment, research and development, foreign policy. In 1993, during the creation of the European Union, the environment has been treated in a transversal manner in the first pillar of the European Union. *Sustainable* *development* expression appears for the first time in a Community text, the *Treaty of Amsterdam* in 1992. In 2000, the Gothenburg European Council agrees that the strategy of the Knowledge Economy, defined at the Lisbon European Council previous year, explicitly incorporate the objective of Sustainable Development. At EU level, Sustainable Development is reflected in a body of law at European level, the guidelines; at the State level, legislation.  
*The Economic, Social and Environmental Council of 7 December 2012* created the *International Nature Tribunal court* whose function is to judge crimes against future of humanity on behalf of the rights of future generations.  
June 18, 2015, the Vatican published the encyclical *Laudato Si '*of Pope Francis on safeguarding the Common House.  
 In France, in 1971, is established a Ministry of Nature Protection and Environment, awarded to Robert Poujade. On 22 May 1991, the French Prime Minister Edith Cresson uses the term *Sustainable Development* in her policy speech.  
But it was not until the 2000s that Sustainable Development in France appears as the need for companies to report on social impact and the environment of their activities, compared to requirements of civil society. This results in a statutory provision on communication in the law on new economic regulations, which grows in the development of sustainability reporting. Former French President Jacques Chirac pushes drafting an *Environmental Charter* in 2004 and said in a speech that France was the first country in the world to include the environment in its Constitution. This environmental charter,of constitutional value, stipulates in Article 6 that "*public policies must promote sustainable development. To this end, they reconcile the protection and enhancement of the environment, economic development and social progress*. " Public contracts may include clauses to protect the environment, under Articles 5 and 14 of the Public Procurement Code. The law on new economic regulations, in Article 116, requires listed companies to produce activity reports reflecting the environmental and social consequences of their activities.  
These provisions are a part of the problem of participation of business to Sustainable Development, also addressed in a *Green Paper* of the European Commission on the subject of corporate social responsibility.  
  
**C) Business and sustainable development**

The business plays a fundamental role in Sustainable Development. In the working conditions they organize, it can contribute to the development of social justice. It is obviously involved in the process of consumption and natural resource management. Business relations are subject to the law of their country, and, in Europe,to the european law.

But apart from these provisions, there is a whole field of possible actions on a voluntary basis. Since the turn of the century, a number of companies have established departments of Sustainable Development Compliance with environmental criteria in the development of enterprise products depends on these internal processes, but also the quality of products purchased from suppliers.

In market terms, appeared SRI (*Socially Responsible Investment*), defined in July 2013 by the *Forum for Responsible Investment*, association of actors of SRI in France, and the *French Association of Financial Management*. These funds are defined by the Forum as a set of investments "*which seeks to reconcile economic performance and social and environmental impact by funding companies and public entities that contribute to sustainable development, whatever their sector of activity. Influencing governments and the behavior of the players, SRI encourages responsible economy* ".

As seen, Sustainable Development, both in its philosophical and legal terms, dates mainly from the end of the previous century.  
However, one can discern the precursor elements which are a little earlier, especially in some treaties for the protection of rights of indigenous peoples in the management of natural resources in their territory.  
This is in my view the case of the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*, signed in 1975 in Canada.  
  
  
**Part II: the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)**

This Convention was born of the desire of the Quebec government to develop the hydropower resources of its Arctic territory, in the context of the first major energy crisis in Western countries, since now half a century. Subsequently, she served as a kind of model in the negotiations between the aboriginal peoples of Canada and their governments.  
It fits within the constitutional framework of the Federal Government of Canada. It contains provisions for the preservation of the environment in the development of hydroelectric potential and to preserve the cultural identity of the Inuit.

**A) The assertion of aboriginal rights**

We were then in the early years following the first oil shock. Oil prices seemed in this time to be prohibitive, and the West was looking for energy sources, old and new.  
Moreover, in Quebec, the PQ, the quebecian party of independence, came to power and the secession of Quebec from Canada as a whole was becoming a prospect that seemed feasible at relatively short time.  
Canada is a federal State, it is within this constitutional framework that is the problem of the development of the hydroelectric potential of the arctic region of Quebec. Of course, neither the Inuit nor the Indians who inhabited the area did not have any autonomy, unlike Greenland today. Internationally, the revival of indigenous peoples' rights was still in its infancy, no way comparable to the situation today. Therefore, initially, works began without having consider any rights which could own indigenous in their territory. What seems obviously unbelievable today.

In a judgment of 1939, the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the term "Indian" also applied to Inuit. In principle, the federal government has jurisdiction in all matters concerning indigenous people. However, in practice, provincial governments can legislate in legal and administrative areas which it does not occupy. It is from the sixties that Quebec seems to rediscover the existence of Inuit. The Hydro electrical planning decision of James Bay was announced in 1971 by the Quebec government. Shortly after the beginnings works, the Cree Indian intents in May 1972 an action for injunction, which the Inuit against the operating company to join. In November 1973 Malouf judgment welcomes this request and to everyone's surprise, suspended the proceedings on the grounds that "*Indians and Inuit have exercised personal rights and rights of usufruct in that territory and the lands adjacent thereto. They were in possession and occupied this land and have exercised rights of fishing, hunting and trapping since time immemorial*. " In November 1973, the Court of Appeal suspended for the duration of the appeal the injunction granted by Justice Malouf: the work can therefore resume. The Court observes that there is a serious doubt on the existence of aboriginal title on these

territories. But governments will seek to exit the court process that would take years before coming to an end, by seeking agreement, which became the *James Bay Convention* November 11, 1975, signed by both the government Quebec, the federal government, the Indians and the Inuit, who organizes a division of responsibilities between the federal government, the province of Quebec and aboriginal peoples. Recognized the competence of the native administration regarding matters relating to the environment, hunting, fishing and trapping, in collaboration with governments. With these provisions, the Convention extinguishes aboriginal rights in the territories and the claims for its rights.

**B) Protection of the environment and the preservation of cultural diversity**

Even if they seem limited compared to the current context, the Convention provides for certain provisions which are similar to what we now call Sustainable Development. We have seen that the Unesco Convention included the preservation of cultural identity in the concept. However, several provisions of the *Convention* are intended to preserve the cultural identity of the Inuit, whether by their backup their traditional economic activities, transmission of traditional values ​​through the education system, respect these values ​​what supposed to guarantee the organization of the judiciary.  
The land is divided into three categories on which the Inuit have recognized the rights of different scopes. They have exclusive rights on Category I lands (about 1% of their traditional territory); no core cannot be extracted or exploited, other subsurface rights may be granted or exercised without the consent of the interested Inuit corporation and without the payment of an agreed compensation. Inuit have the exclusive right of hunting, fishing and trapping on Category II lands (about 10% of the territory). The core prospecting must avoid unreasonable conflict with the wildlife harvesting activities. The Category III lands are characterized by the equivalence of access and usage rights between indigenous and non-indigenous. A *Commission on Environmental Quality* is set to participate in the administration and monitoring of the impact assessment process on the environment and the social environment in the region.

Regarding education, a school board is created to replace the federal and provincial educational services and will establish a single school service; the first language of instruction is *Inuktitut*. The Commission may provide for the establishment of programs, teaching materials and the use of teaching materials based on the culture and language of the Inuit.  
Justice will be traveling. Court staff will know the customs and mentality of the Inuit. The fund law could even be changed according to the customs. The detention as soon as possible will be done in the Arctic territories.  
 Finally, approximately $ 100 million will be paid to whether incorporated Inuit, the Inuit Development Corporation.  
Forty years later, is a comparison possible with the conditions for Sustainable Development in Greenland?  
  
  
**Part III: Conditions for Sustainable Development in the current Greenland**

The context has changed: September 13, 2007, the United Nations adopted a *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* which provides in particular the right to self-determination, which implies that indigenous peoples freely pursue their economic, social and cultural life.  
The *Declaration* contains several provisions that are related to the characteristics of the concept of Sustainable Development.  
Some lines state that indigenous peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the heritage of humanity.  
Article 29 stipulates that they are entitled to the preservation and protection of their environment.  
Articles 20,25 and 26-2 focus on several important points.

Indigenous peoples have the right to develop their territory economic activities of their choice, traditional or otherwise (in the case of Greenland, it means that the exploitation of rare metals is one of the prerogatives).  
But Article 25 makes it clear that they must take their responsibilities in this regard to the future generations. Which is obviously an essential part of Sustainable Development.  
Like all statements, this one has no binding legal force. It nevertheless constitutes a text of fundamental political importance to the 300 million people belonging to indigenous peoples at the beginning of the twenty-first century.  
  
Internally, Greenland is not in the situation of Northern Quebec natives. It has a status of autonomy within Denmark, that could turn into independence, especially since it has important rare metal deposits, whose exploitation is becoming easier due to global warming particularly sensitive to Greenland last twenty years. This warming will notably allow the opening of new shipping routes. During the 2007 and 2008 summers, the Northwest passages to the north of the American continent and Russia, have been borrowed for the first time. For riparian states (US, Canada, Denmark, Norway Russia) as well as neighboring China, access to the Arctic has become a highly strategic issue.  
We will first give some details on new economic data before drawing the legal and policy framework for the exploitation of resources in the context of sustainable development .

**A) New economic data**

Arctic territory represents about 10% of freshwater reserves in the world. According to some studies, Greenland could provide via cable 2% of the electricity consumption of the United States. But until recently the main wealth of Greenland was fishing.  
Tourism, of high cost, is reserved only for a small elite.  
From 2007, several States are becoming interested in Greenland because of the

energy including rare earths.

What is it about ? Damien Degeorges defines them:  
"*Rare earth metals are a group of fifteen lanthanides understand (...) rare earths present in some abundance in the earth's crust, are often associated with radioactive elements such as uranium or thorium, which makes their exploitation sensitive (...) rare earths are already a geopolitical issue of the twenty-first century (...) they will experience a steady increase in demand during the twenty-first century*. "  
At present, China has a virtual monopoly of rare earths, other deposits located primarily in India, Brazil and Malaysia.  
Greenland is also rich in this kind of minerals.  
An Australian junior company based in Perth, *Greenland Mineral and Energy* (GME ) Kvanefjeld is interested in mining projects (in the south of Greenland, near Narssaq) containing radioactive elements. Rumors circulated in the Greenlandic press regarding a possible sale of the business activities of Chinese investors.  
Rare earths are also present in France's overseas territories. Unlike Greenland, it has retained its sovereignty over natural resources management in its overseas territories in the Pacific. Through the *National Research Alliance for the Environment* (*AllEnvi*)), which aims, among others, is to strengthen the studies on eco-systems associated with the seabed, France is interested in looking for the exploitation of fossil and mineral resources. France imports 10% of Chinese rare earths.  
  
Russia symbolically but also in a very clear attitude, planted the Russian flag at a depth of 4261 meters below the North Pole, claiming sovereignty of the Russian state over an area of ​​1, 2 million square kilometers and on deposits oil and gas. Which provoked reactions of the Arctic coastal states: cartographic expeditions US performed with nuclear submarines, Canadian military exercises, Scandinavian scientific missions aboard the icebreaker Oden, etc ...

A recent study by the *US Geological Survey* establishes the Arctic contains 20% of global oil reserves, huge amounts of gas, as well as important mineral deposits (uranium, diamonds, gold, zinc, nickel, molybdenum). The Greenland government has decided to engage in July 2010 the first oil well drilling and gas in the *Davis Strait* between Greenland and Nunavut. The Greenlandic uranium is particularly the subject of attention by an Australian company. In 2008 was opened a *School of Mines* in Greenland is expected to employ 1,200 people forward.  
The US group Alcoa envisaged commissioning in 2014 of a large aluminum plant on the west coast, Maniitsoq, which employs 5,000 people for its construction and lead to the creation of 700 jobs. Everything would have represented an initial investment of 3 billions euros.  
Greenland becomes the center of many interests.  
In September 2008, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev valid Russia's new *Arctic strategy*, which provides for including the deployment of army units and the FSB in the region, to ensure safety around the producing fields. The following year, the US expose their new *Arctic policy* in a report citing "*fundamental security interests*" of the countries in the region.

The European Union is much less present, although it has developed its own strategy for the Arctic, made public in November 2008. Inside it Greenland is not a member, but has the status of OCT (*countries and territories overseas*). In addition, the candidacy of UE as an observer to the *Arctic Council* was dismissed in April 2009, Canada and Norway criticizing the European Union's embargo on the import of seal products. The European Union has nevertheless decided to increase its aid to Greenland in the field of education.

China claims a permanent observer to the Arctic Council position.

Regarding more specifically uranium Labrador Inuit had adopted a

moratorium on this activity until 2011, to allow time to achieve environmental protection. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference has long been hostile to the development of this production. In particular, it was created to protect the circumpolar Arctic as part of a joint commitment on issues of Sustainable Development in the region.  
Finally, Greenland is not free from various pollutants. It receives airborne pollutants from the entire northern hemisphere, as well as food (seafood in particular). Greenlanders are exposed to contaminants than the average human, and often excessively from the recommendations of the WHO and the European Commission. This is the case for organochlorine pollutants (dioxins, furans, PCBs) and toxic metals (lead, cadmium, mercury, selenium).  
What rights Greenland has on the management of its natural ressources?

B**) Rights of Greenland on the management of its natural resources**  
  
Stig Moller, former Danish Foreign Minister (2000-2010), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament summarizes a part of the problem:  
"*Greenland, after have been a world peripheral region, will have a central and growing importance to the world economy. Greenland will attract still more investors accordingly (...) If one has regard for climate stop industrial development, it is not just that it stops when the Inuit have the opportunity 'benefit. If industrialization must stop, it should stop at home among those who profited abundantly*. "  
Polle Christiansen, Greenland's minister of education and research expressed in the same direction:

"*In the midst of this international policy, which is also an energy policy and is also a security policy, small or poor countries are facing a choice between rapid development of their economy and their prosperity and consideration of global climate change. Are these countries should use their resources as they are still being sought or should they leave the development to continue with the risk that their resources become worthless*? ".  
It must also specify a policy of order data relating to a possible independence for Greenland in the future. Should that before access to political independence, Greenland has developed a strong policy of economic self-sufficiency. Otherwise, it may fall under the influence more or less directly the major powers present in the Arctic, and even China, an actor more and more present in the area.  
Greenland is the largest dependent territory in the world. He is a member of the Nordic Council, but Denmark is a member of the Arctic Council. The Arctic Council is a high-level forum created in 1996 which aims cooperation among arctic states involving indigenous peoples. It pays particular attention to issues relating to Sustainable Development and protection of the environment. Are members the eight arctic States in the region, representatives of indigenous peoples, who have a permanent participant. But some countries have obtained permanent observer status: in 2012, France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland. China submitted its candidacy.  
The ethnic groups that inhabit Greenland are 88% of the Greenland Inuit and whites born in Greenland (Inuit 50,000 represent half of the global Inuit population), and 12% of Danes and others (more numerous and influential due to industrialization).  
In his wishes for 2014, the president of the executive, Aleqa Hammond, said: "*Greenland is a unique country and Greenlanders are one people*." There is Greenland not one, but three indigenous cultures with their own language. The official language is the language spoken by the majority of the population, most of the west coast and south of the country: *Kalaallisut*. The traditional language of the East Coast is the *Tunumiit* language, Paul Emile Victor felt a difference compared with previous similar to that between Italian and French. Finally, *avanersuamiutut* ,traditionally spoken around Thule.  
But after the Second World War, these issues were far from the agenda.  
Until 1953, Greenland was a colony, then it became a danish province. Denmark then leads a danification policy. In 1972, when Denmark entered the European Economic Community, Greenland follows, but reluctantly, its population voted against membership. In 1979, he obtained a status of internal autonomy. In 1982 a referendum was held on the issue of maintenance of Greenland in the European Economic Community. The problem of competition from European States in relation to fishing, then almost unique resource planning, had indeed become crucial. On 1 February 1985 Greenland withdrew from the Community. It has however a status of countries and territories overseas and enjoys substantial support from the European Union: EUR 25 million per year from 2007 to 2013 under the partnership agreement, which s 'adds 15.8 million euros paid under the new partnership agreement on fisheries, signed in 2007.  
In 2006, the European Council said:  
"*The European Community has a continuing interest, from a geostrategic plan to build special relations with its neighbor Greenland is part of one of its member States, and to participate in the welfare and economic development of this territory ".*  
In an article published April 28, 2016, Jens Wendel-Hansen, Professor at the University of Greenland, notes that after the referendum, the question of the independence of Greenland in relation to Denmark puts it with a new intensity. It also notes the recent separatist trends at work within the European Union: Scotland compared to the UK; internal divisions of Ireland.  
These trends were confirmed by the results of the referendum took place in Britain on June 23, 2016. 51.9% of british voters, following the *Brexit*, chose to withdrew from Europe. But in Scotland (traditionally francophile) and Ireland, the electorate voted instead to remain in Europe. Suddenly, Scots requested the organization of a referendum on a possible exit from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the nationalist party *Sinn Fein* has again manifested. Ultimately, one can fear a collapse of the UK. But even more, the results of the referendum had repercussions in other european countries.  
In France, the far-right parties and far left, favorable to an output of France in Europe, rejoiced. It must also be remembered that in the Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, there are also supporters of output in Europe.  
It can also be noted that in France, the question of the independence of New Caledonia, which has large reserves of nickel, is still part of the unresolved questions. As Greenland, New Caledonia is an autonomous territory, which raises the issue of a possible independence in a few years. But for now, the financial autonomy of New Caledonia is fairly limited: its external financing requirement amounts between a quarter and a third of its gross industrial product, very far from the standards recommended by international institutions (6% ). The New Caledonia suffers from a double deficit: that of private agents (companies, households) and the government sector. Public spending accounts for 50% of gross domestic product but are only two-thirds funded by own resources.  
As Greenland, New Caledonia has core wealth, mainly nickel, whose international market here is also largely controlled by China. As also supports a risk of dependence on multinational companies whose technological expertise and financial strength are essential to the transformation of metal core. For now, the nickel industry can not afford territory to compensate public transfers came metropolis so that it can achieve financial independence, even relative. This "country overseas" remains dependent on transfers from the french State. In a much more tense social context than in Greenland between different communities, Sustainable Development of nickel was supposed to be the economic and social link that would base shared sovereignty between the different communities.  
  
Returning to Greenland, the area has a national anthem (*Nunarput utoqarsuanngoravit*), an official language and a flag.  
From 1979, the Greenlanders had set up a Greenlandization policy, including language and culture, and in regard to environmental management. But another step was soon to be crossed. In 1984 a danish -greenlandic commission was created at the initiative of the Greenlanders. It is the origin of a law on enhanced autonomy, approved by referendum on 25 November 2008 (with 75.5% of positive votes), ratified by the Danish Parliament on 19 May 2009. This new statute of autonomy reinforced recognizes the Greenlandic people right to self-government. *Kalaallisut* becomes the official language and extends the skills of Greenland authorities about thirty new areas, including police, justice, family law, but also and especially the management of raw materials. Regarding the latter, a restrictive clause is attached. The annual grant from Denmark is 456 million. It represents two thirds of the greenlandic budget. Greenland will collect all of the gains from the management of raw materials, up to 10 million euros; excess earnings over this limit will be shared equally between the two partners, provided that the share received by Copenhagen will be deducted from the annual budget allocated to the territory. The Danish grant shall be suspended if the gains Greenland exceed 935 million euros.  
We see by this that the exploitation of natural resources is a key factor in the process towards eventual independence.  
Article two of the law on the autonomy of Greenland on 12 June 2009 provides that "*Greenland autonomous authorities may decide that the skills areas provided for in Annex will be transferred to the autonomous authorities*."

Section 21 of the Act stipulates that "*the decision on independence will be taken by Greenland.*" Negotiations were held between the Government of Denmark and Greenland to the advent of this independence. The resulting agreement must be approved by a referendum in Greenland.  
From 2010, Greenland became sovereign in the management of its natural resources.  
The *Declaration of Itilleq* also gives to Greenland a considerable influence on the common foreign policy to that territory and Denmark about the interests of its own.  
The outside observer might be surprised at the generosity of Denmark, when the Greenland has interesting prospects in the exploitation of these deposits of raw materials. (10% of the world the world's oil, the largest uranium deposit in the world). However, several factors explain this trend. On the one hand, account must be taken of Denmark guilt feelings towards the colonial past. On the other hand, the presence of Greenlandic seats in the Danish Parliament has influenced the formulation of this policy.  
Finally, many Danes believe that Greenland is expensive in Denmark, and that greater autonomy will make savings while receiving a significant portion of future income from the exploitation of wealth from the basement.  
  
Politically, the Greenlandic life was marked between 1979 and 2009 by the rule of *Siumiut* party of social democratic kind.

Jonathan Motzfeld (1938-2010), who led the Greenland from 1979 to 1991 and from 1997 to 2002, co-founder of the party, worked for the withdrawal of Greenland of the Common Market, while maintaining a particular interest in the relationship of Greenland with Europe. He has been influential for the opening of an "*Arctic Window*" in the Northern Dimension of the European Union during the Danish Presidency of the European Union.  
Lars Emil Johansen, Chief of Executive Greenland between 1991 and 1997, represents another trend of the party, to the extent that it was more supports the intensification of ties with North America through NAFTA, rather than with the European Union.  
Hans Enoksen, head of Greenland's government from 2002 to 2009 has embodied for his nationalist party branch. He is in favor of Greenland's independence in 2021. He thinks that the implementation of major industrial projects in Greenland would cause substantial social difficulties, particularly because of the expected number of foreign workers. It is especially popular in Greenland from the villages, a segment of the population somewhat neglected during the introduction of Home Rule. He left the party in 2014 to found a new party, *Partii Naleraq*, who gets a satisfactory score, with 11.6% of votes in the election on November 28, 2014.  
About the exploitation of uranium, a zero tolerance had been introduced in 1988 before being lifted in 2013. The subject still divides the political parties and the Greenlandic society.  
In 2009 comes to power another political, located more to the left, *Inuit Ataqatigiit*. Kuupik Kleist, leader of the Greenland Government from 2009 to 2013 envisages a gradual march towards independence: firstly enable economic autonomy to Greenland, then think about formalizing independence through the constitution of a State, which would be the first Inuit State in the world.  
*Siumiut* returns to power following the parliamentary elections of 2013. It is headed by a woman Aleqa Hammond, whose government lasted until 2015.  
Is setting up a *Commission for Reconciliation*, which aims to clear the various taboos remain between Greenland and Denmark. So consider the historical role of colonization, lessons learned, including in terms of repair.  
 The elections of November 28, 2014 saw the return to the government (a coalition government) of *Siumiut,* but in a weakened position. His score is lower by 8.6% than that achieved the previous year. The *Inuit Ataqatigiit* party is in second place with only 400 votes difference. Came third *Demokraatit,* socio-liberal orientation training founded in 2002 on a rejection of the policy then by Siumiut.

For Damien Degeorges, these elections are important.  
They show the existence of generation of fracture.  
 An older generation, rocked by a nationalist ideal.  
A youth oriented more towards a pragmatic relationship with Denmark (found in the ideas of *Demokraatit* party, which had called for a vote against the law relating to the enhanced autonomy of Greenland during the 2008 referendum). This Greenlandic youth, who did not know the time of the withdrawal of Greenland from the European Communities is particularly susceptible to the lure of the European Union in education.

Proves an electoral test conducted at the University of Greenland during the campaign for parliamentary elections of 2014. The *Demokraatit* party comes not only head of the student vote, but gets more than the absolute majority of voting students, while the same party gets no voice in the University employees.  
In this logic, the issue of Greenland readhesion to the European Union appeared in a debate within the party *Siumiut.* It was initiated by a former minister of education sector which the European Union grants very large subsidies.  
  
**C) Foreign investments in Greenland and sustainable development**  
  
A very positive condition for foreign investments in Greenland is the lack of political risk, which is not the case in many other countries. Internationally, we note that the *Ilulissat Declaration* of 28 May 2008, in Greenland and Denmark initiative, signed by the United States, Norway and Russia, posits that all conflicts of interests in the Arctic region should be resolved peacefully. It spreads the prospects for development of an international legal regime specifies the benefit of the ordinary law of the sea.  
These foreign investments can be considered at three levels in the Arctic region.  
The bilateral level by using a State and Greenland.

The regional level by the Nordic cooperation or with a partly supranational whole, American or European as the European Union.  
Finally, at international level, by means of private investment, particularly in the energy sector, without neglecting the State policies. At this level, China could be a major player in the development of Greenland, to which already operates in Iceland, she has shown great interest in recent years.  
China favors a patient and intelligent approach, diplomatically, to the arctic region. In 2011, a Sino-Icelandic Mission reached the North Pole by registering explicitly in the philosophy of Sustainable Development, as it was called  
 "*Sino Icelandic shipping North Pole for environmental protection and Sustainable Development*."  
Hu Zhengyue, assistant foreign minister, expressed the support of China to sovereign and legal rights of Arctic States over the continental shelf. But she thinks that international legislation in this area must be redefined because of the circumstances resulting from the melting ice.  
Wen Jiabao, Chinese Premier, came in 2012 in Iceland and Sweden to affirm the commitment of his country in the arctic region. Sweden, who chaired the Arctic Council from 2011 to 2013, voted in favor of China's candidacy to permanent observer post in this organization. The same year, 2012, the Chinese Minister in charge of resources, Xu Shao Shi, visited Greenland in April, after accompanying Prime Minister in Iceland. He met with the head of the Greenland government, Kuupik Kleist. Discussions focused on cooperation in the field of natural resources. The Chinese delegation also visited the University of Greenland and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. For this visit to the University of Greenland, China thus also expresses interest in the education of the future Greenlandic elite.  
In August 2012, the Greenlandic press has echoed the perspective of financing by Chinese banks of a mine project in Greenland , estimated at around 1.9 billion euros. This represents more than three times the annual grant from the Danish government in Greenland. Some estimates Greenland could receive each year by this single mining project about 134 million euros under the corporate tax. Also in 2012, the press spoke of China's desire to invest in the infrastructure sector for a sum of about 175 million.  
Finally, in September 2012, the South Korean President Lee Myung-bak visited Greenland to discuss the exploitation of rare earths.  
The importance of foreign investment, including Chinese, is double-edged. On the one hand, it represents a substantial development assistance of Greenland. On the other hand, may put in a state of economic dependence. We also note that due to the policy followed in China, one can doubt the sincerity of the Chinese commitment regarding respect for the environment and adherence to the policy of sustainable development.  
  
**Conclusion: The Arctic emergence**  
Preceding lines, including the comparison of the Convention of the James Bay and Greenland this allowed us to make us realize the huge changes in half a century in the Arctic regions.  
Before the first oil shock, in Canada, one called these areas "*Land of Caïn*". After the first oil shock, we could start major projects in New Quebec without consulting the indigenous peoples, which would be unthinkable today, particularly because of the instruments of international law concerning indigenous peoples. Economic modernization, the world needs rare minerals can be an opportunity for indigenous peoples. So far, especially in the Asian part of the world, this type of project has at their harmful been otherwise. Either way, companies of this size can only change the social structure of the populations concerned. Therefore Greenland began with a moratorium on the exploitation of uranium, before the permit obtained by a vote in a very narrow majority.  
The future is so heavy at a time of promise and danger to the Arctic, especially in Greenland.  
  
N.Rouland,

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