

# NEW MINES AND THE LAND

A CASE OF 'WHOS'E LAND IS IT ANYWAY'?

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# RECENT MINING CONFLICTS IN SWEDEN

## **Rönnbäcken**

*Storuman Municipality, Västerbotten County*

Nickel, worlds 4th largest deposit, projected output is about 1,5% of world production of Nickel.

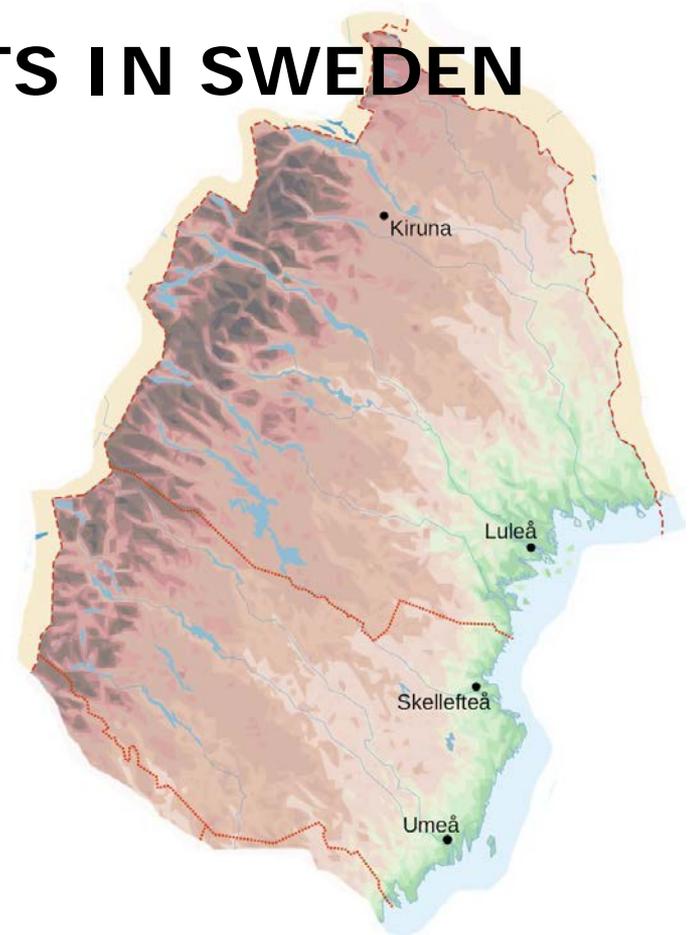
Vaapsten Sami village has reindeer grazing rights in the area.

## **Gällak / Kallak**

*Jokkmok municipality, Norrbotten County*

Ironore, very rich deposit

Several Sami villages has reindeer grazing rights in the area.



# THE SWEDISH MINERAL STRATEGY

“Genom ett långsiktigt hållbart användande av landets mineralresurser, i samklang med miljö-, natur- och kulturvärden, skapas tillväxt i hela landet. Sverige förstärker sin position som EU:s ledande gruv- och mineralnation.”

“To create growth throughout Sweden by means of sustainable use of the country’s mineral resources, in harmony with environmental, natural and cultural values. Sweden is strengthening its position as the EU’s leading mining and minerals nation.”

(Swedish Ministry of Enterprise Energy and Communications, 2013)



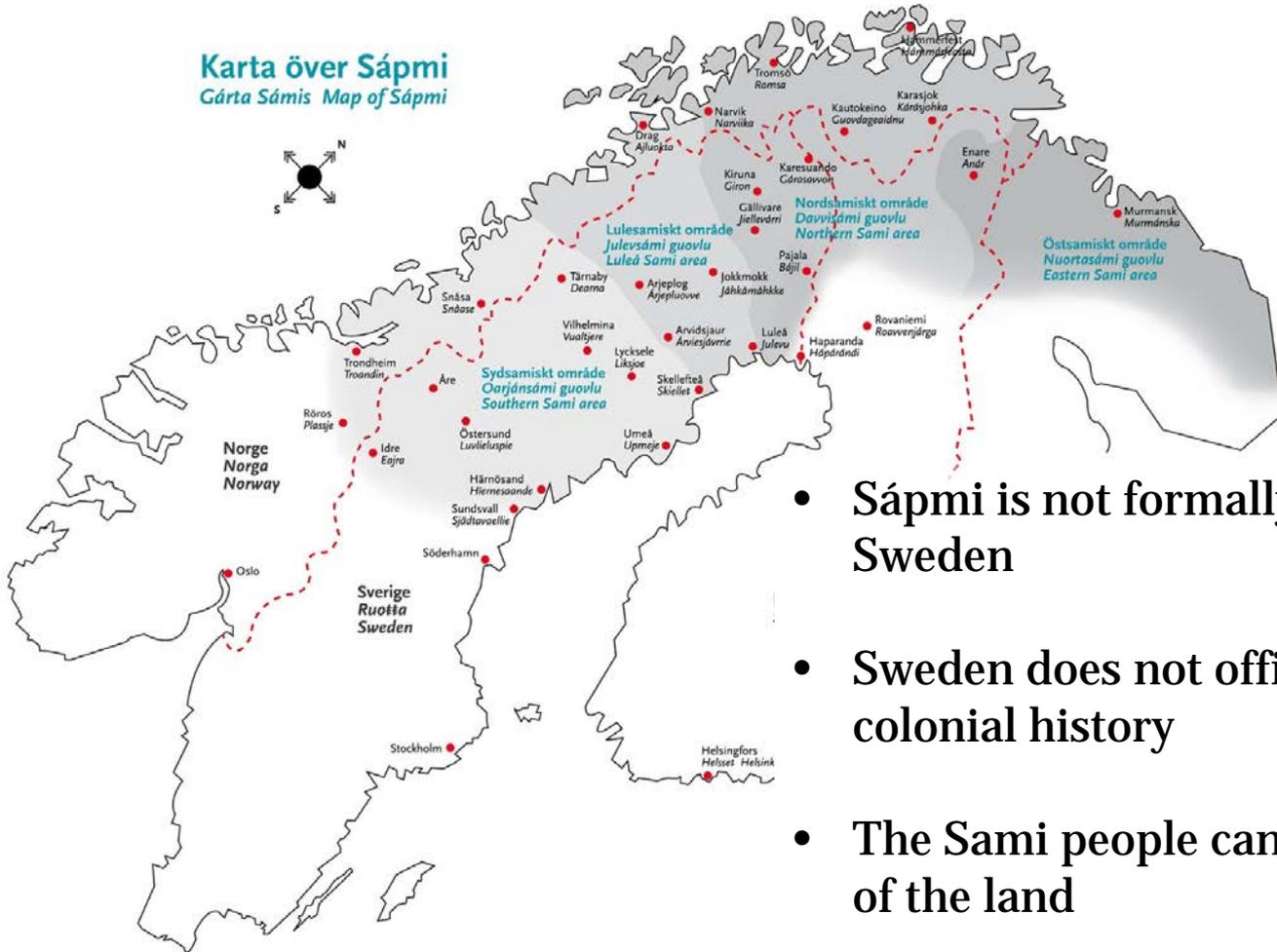
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# THE SWEDISH MINERAL STRATEGY, CONT.

- No legal shared value processes, FPIC (free prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples), veto-rights, or similar systems
- Sweden has not rectified ILO convention 169
- The Swedish government is criticized by the UN; the European Court of Human Rights; by some of Sweden's own county administration boards; by the Sami Council, and by part of the research community, all for not having formal legalisation about land use rights (in respect to the Sami people).
- The worlds lowest mineral tax /royalty
  - 0,2 % of the mineral worth
  - The region where a deposit exist does not receive any part of the tax
  - Sami people with land use rights does not receive any part of the tax



Karta över Sápmi  
Gárra Sámiis Map of Sápmi



- Sápmi is not formally recognized by Sweden
- Sweden does not officially recognize its colonial history
- The Sami people cannot claim ownership of the land

# SAMI FORMAL RIGHTS TO THE LAND

- The Sami people can not claim formal ownership to the land
- The Reindeer grazing law (1928/1971)
  - Supplied rights to hunting and fishing
- Aprox. 12 percent of the Sami are reindeer owners, and part of a Sami village (51 Sami villages)
  
- The Allemansrätten (1937)



# BOTH MINING VENTURES FACES STRONG OPPOSITION

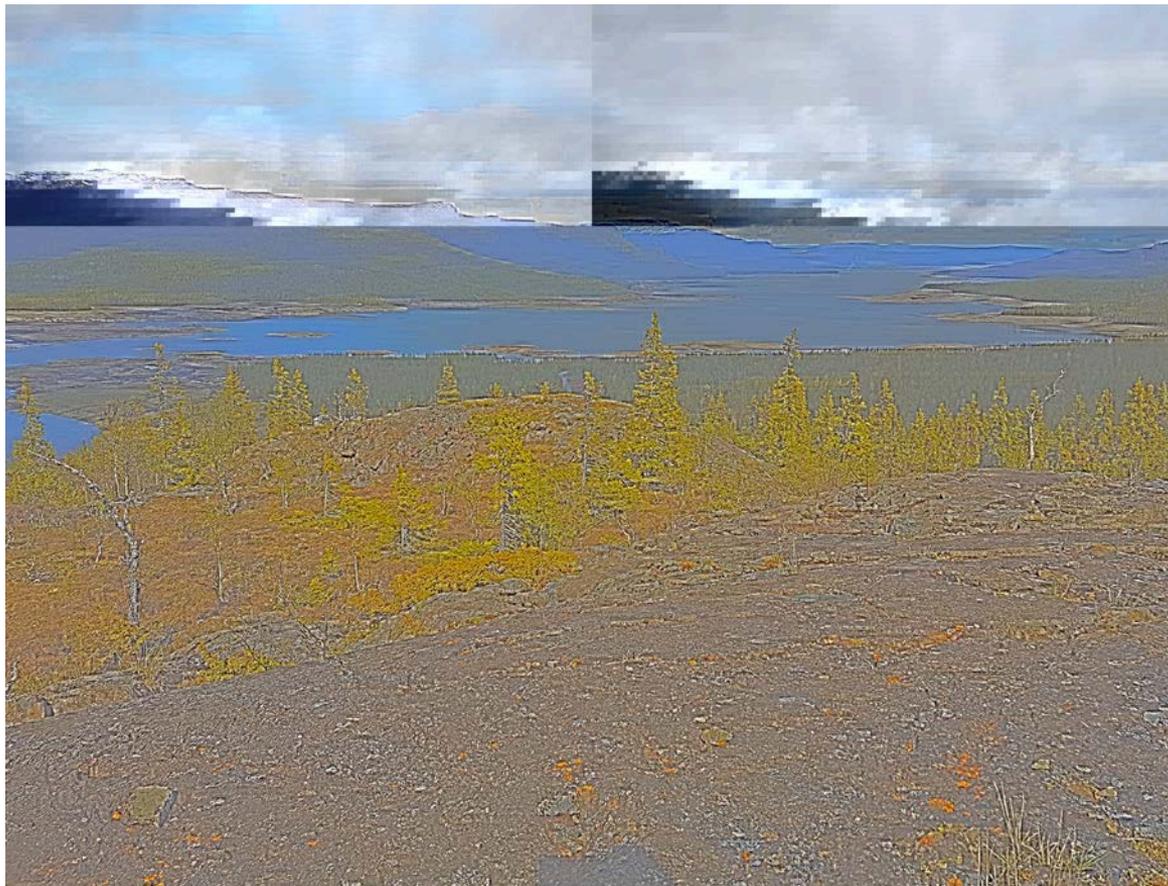
- Important reindeer grazing land is lost
  - Facing cumulative effects (regulated rivers, wind power parks, other industrialization and infrastructure)
- Sami cultural heritage land is lost
- Precious land for recreation (and tourism) is lost
- Risk for substantial ecological long time damage
- If mining company were national (and trustworthy) actors, and if revenue would return to the communities / region to consider



# RÖNNBÄCKEN

- Nickel, worlds 4th largest deposit, projected about 1,5% of world production of Nickel.
- One active mine exist in the municipality
- Private Scandinavian (Norwegian) prospect
- Extensive conflicts
- Vaapsten Sami village has grazing rights in the area
- The Vaapsten Sami village using their formal rights
- Other actors contest the establishment using other strategies (information, lobbying, guided tours, etc)
- The colonial historical injustice used as an argument, but also divides the protesters





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# TIMELINE

- Exploration rights granted in 2005
- Additional exploration rights granted in 2008-9
- Processing concession granted in 2010 to Nickel Mountain
- Appeals (by the Vapsten Sami village and the Sami council) that lead all the way to the Supreme Administration Court caused delays, however the appeals were overthrown
  - Mining were ruled as a more important national interest than reindeer herding
- Appeals were also made to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
  - CERD strongly criticised Sweden for breaking international conventions.
  - Sweden objected the ruling. Instead, processing concession rights were extended to 2037.
- In late 2015 the Nickel Mountain fell into economical hardships and combined with falling world market nickel prices the mining plans were put on hold.



# GÁLLAK / KALLAK

- Iron ore, substantial deposit
- No active mines exist in the municipality
- Private Swedish / British prospect
- Extensive open conflicts
- Non-parliamentary activism and illegal occupation
- A collaboration of actors using various strategies to protest
- Acknowledge of memorized traditions and historical claims, less call to colonializing injustice





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# TIMELINE

- Exploration rights were granted in 2006
- In 2012 extended exploration rights were applied for by Beowolf Mining PLC. The application was initially accepted by the county administration board, and although an appeal to Land and Environment court were made, the rights were granted. Activists created a camp in the area as a base of physical protests against the mine which delayed the initial stages of the exploration.
- In 2013 a processing concession were applied for, but was rejected by the county administration board due to insufficient consideration of environmental concerns and Sami rights. Supplementary application were provided in 2014, but were also rejected.
- The Swedish mining agency Bergsstaten appealed the county administration boards rejection to the government in early 2015. The CAD then accepted a processing concession, but in a limited area. The Supreme Administration Court ruled that it was not possible to grant a limited processing concession and returned the issue to the CAD.
- In a new round of negotiations the CAD remarked that the issue should be decided by UNESCO, due to the area where the mine is to be established is a part of Lapponia, a Swedish world heritage site.
- By late 2017 the CAD finally ruled that processing concession rights were not possible due to Lapponia, environmental issues, and Sami rights.
- Bergsstaten appealed again to the national government who will have the final say in the matter.



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CASES

- Level of regional collaboration realized by the County Administration Board.
  - CAB are only by law bound to collaborate with the municipality.
- Level of dialouge by concerned actors realized by the municipalities.
- How the groups opposing the mines are arranged
  - Several groups collaborate with a joint agenda
  - Several groups with the same goal opposes the establishing independently



<b>Project</b>	<b>'More' regional collaboration</b>	<b>'Less' regional collaboration</b>	<b>'More' local dialogue</b>	<b>'Less' local dialogue</b>	<b>United opposition</b>	<b>Divided opposition</b>
Rönnbäcken		X		X		X
Gällak / Kallak	X		X		X	



# TO CONNECT A LITTLE WITH MY OTHER RESEARCH...

<b>Region</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>City</b>
Alaska	USA	Anchorage
Reykjavik	Iceland	Reykjavik
Lapland	Finland	Rovaniemi
Newfoundland and Labrador	Canada	St. Johns'
Northern Territory	Australia	Darwin
Norrbottn	Sweden	Luleå
Trøms Fylke	Norway	Trømso
Västerbotten	Sweden	Umeå

# DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT



## Resource economy

- Focus on extractive industries / natural resources
- Mature staple economy development
- Continuation of “frontier-type-development” – e.g. defence sector
- Local university aiming to produce skilled labour for the regional industry, and regional research needs (mining/forestry/oil/lng research)
- Population growth by retaining existing population, and by attracting skilled workers for the industry

## Post-productive economy

- Focus on innovation, service economies, and other not resource of place specific industries
- Creating hubs and nodes
  - Hi-tech
  - Creative
  - Start-ups
- University aiming for top quality, mainly focused on national goals, basic research, and overall research as important (or more) than education
- Population growth by being an “attractive” region, also students that stay after university



# DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT



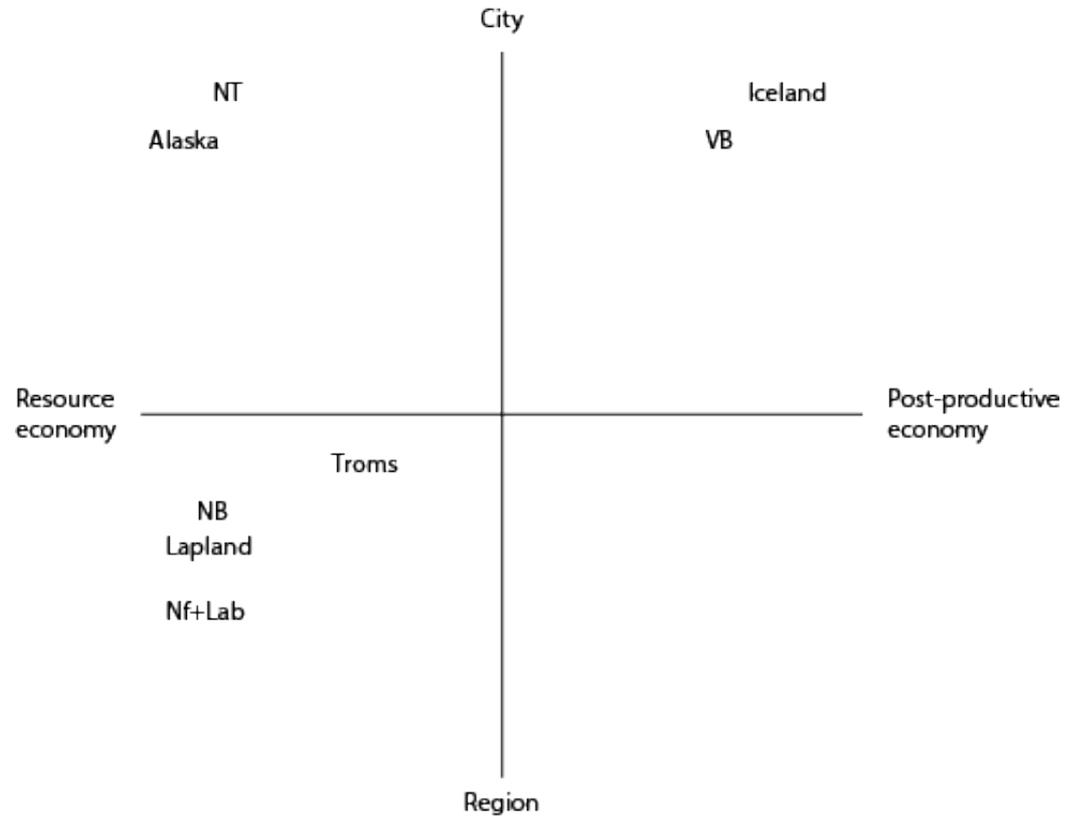
## City focused

- Centralization policies of services and public sector employment
- Steering investments towards city region when possible
- Ambitious construction projects
- Promoting city / culture tourism
- Transportation hubs based in proximation to main city
- Relying on the city as a growth centre, rather than industries as growth poles

## Regionally focused

- Actively trying to preserve and develop social services and public sector employment in the region
- Steering investments towards place specific resources (natural resources, tourist destinations)
- Creation of a regional identity: “Arctic”, “Frontier”
- Natural / heritage tourism
- Actively acknowledging the existence of Indigenous Peoples in the region – and employing policies aimed at improving their living conditions
- Transportation hubs are regionalised
- Relying in place specific industries as growth poles, rather than the city as growth centre





**THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING!**

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