

Pathways to Indigenous Disempowerment: The Russian State, Arctic Regions and Corporate Strategies

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

Thesis Summary

By the end of the second decade of the 21st century, one of the most invisible groups on the planet - Russian indigenous communities - have found themselves outcast in their own lands. Inhabiting the country's richest area, the Arctic, they got trapped between the unmatched severity of extractive industries' activities and destructive government policy. Current research invites readers to examine the complexity of pathways to Russia's indigenous disempowerment and explore a whole variety of instruments that the federal state, regional authorities and industrial companies do not hesitate to use in order to weaken already modest indigenous peoples' rights protection.

Referencing the previous works and questionnaires results, the study offers insight into the paradoxical nature of Russia's response to indigenous problematics, that is characterized by powerful lobby of extractive industry, full and direct engagement of state authorities, and aggressive policies directed at purposeful destruction of indigenous peoples.

The study begins with the historical trajectory of Russian indigenous disempowerment of Imperial and Soviet times, followed by the brief wave of democratization in the 1990's. The analysis proceeds with case studies selected to capture diverse dynamics and a range of broader patterns of indigenous disempowerment in the Russia's Arctic. Research findings challenge readers to consider that instead of rupturing the practice of extremely successful indigenous colonization, the Russian state is far more incline to remove the "last obstacle" standing on the way of its "Arctic dream." As a result, comprehensive policy designed to address indigenous accommodation is neither an aspiration nor a political ideal for the Russian federal and regional governments.