

Title: Mining in Sápmi: Impacts and Solutions, a Potential Model for Other Indigenous People
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Mining and development prove to be significant issues for the Sámi in the Fennoscandia region of far northern Arctic Europe. Further analysis of the current issue reveals a deep history of colonialist ideologies held by the local governments, including state control in the form of assimilation and land taxation (Forrest). Despite the Sámi people currently enjoying the spotlight courtesy of Disney's Frozen and Netflix' Klaus and their holding much more literal authority now than in the past, their power remains limited, and Sápmi, their territory, is still often utilized without consent or permission (Hanle).

The Sámi's nomadic pastoralism and reindeer husbandry practices require adequate land and pastures, and their hunting, gathering, and fishing techniques mean the Sámi rely heavily on natural resources (Forrest). With the Sápmi region rich with copper, iron, and gold, mining companies see opportunity for projects, and the Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian governments see opportunity for economic growth. Such development disrupts the Sámi's livelihood and, ultimately, culture. Awareness has been spread about many planned mining projects through the Sámi council and parliament, along with protests held by both the community and their supporters (Hanle). However, cooperation from the side of local governments is required to make long-term change. The community has already proposed several solutions to the mining issue, such as community-based impact assessments (Lawrence and Larsen) and replacing the mining industry with tourism (Hanle). With proper authority in their positions, the Sámi perspective can have a true voice.

Works Cited

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