

*Between climate change and capitalism:
A legal perspective of the policies of Russia in the
Arctic area and the impact on indigenous peoples*

by
Aggeliki Taskoudi

A Thesis submitted to

the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies & The Department of International
and European Studies University of Macedonia

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights and Migration Studies

► **Thesis Supervisor: N. Zaikos, Associate Professor**



Thesis' Objective





Thesis' Originality

Linkage of capitalism and climate change

Visibility of the indigenous peoples of Russia




Thesis' Methodology



Overview of
the
literature



Presentation
of the legal
regime



Corpus of the Thesis




Climate change in the Arctic Circle
and the policies of Russia



Indigenous peoples of Russia from a
legal and environmental perspective

Climate Change in the Arctic Circle - Policies of Russia

The slide features a light green background with a dark green vertical bar on the left. On the right side, there are several decorative green lines: a thin vertical line, a thin diagonal line starting from the top right and extending towards the center, and two thick, curved lines that sweep across the bottom right corner.

Environmental Stigma





International Legal Regime

The Russian Federation,
Denmark, Norway, the United
States of America, Sweden,
Finland, Canada and Iceland.

Four pillars: '*hard law*', '*soft law*'
– both of international origin –
and National Laws including
Private International Law.



International Legal Regime

United Nations Convention
on the Law of the sea
(UNCLOS III) → hard law

Ilulissat Declaration →
multinational soft law
policy act



International Legal Regime

Arctic Council → 'Soft law'

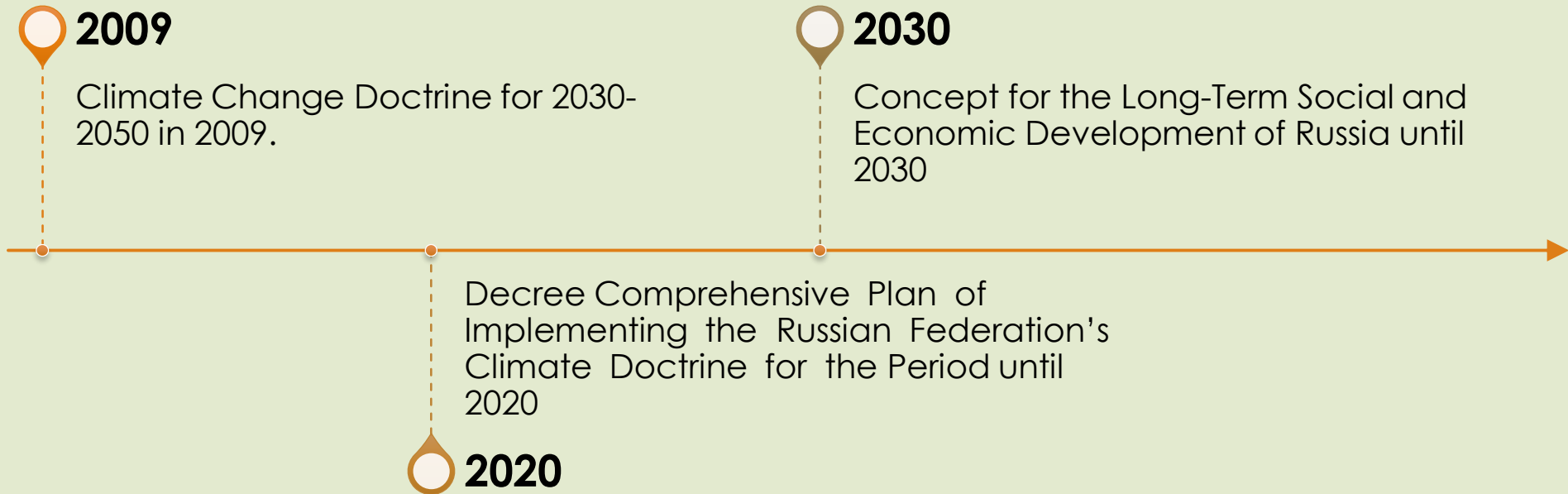
Not a coordinating legal actor

Not legally binding rules

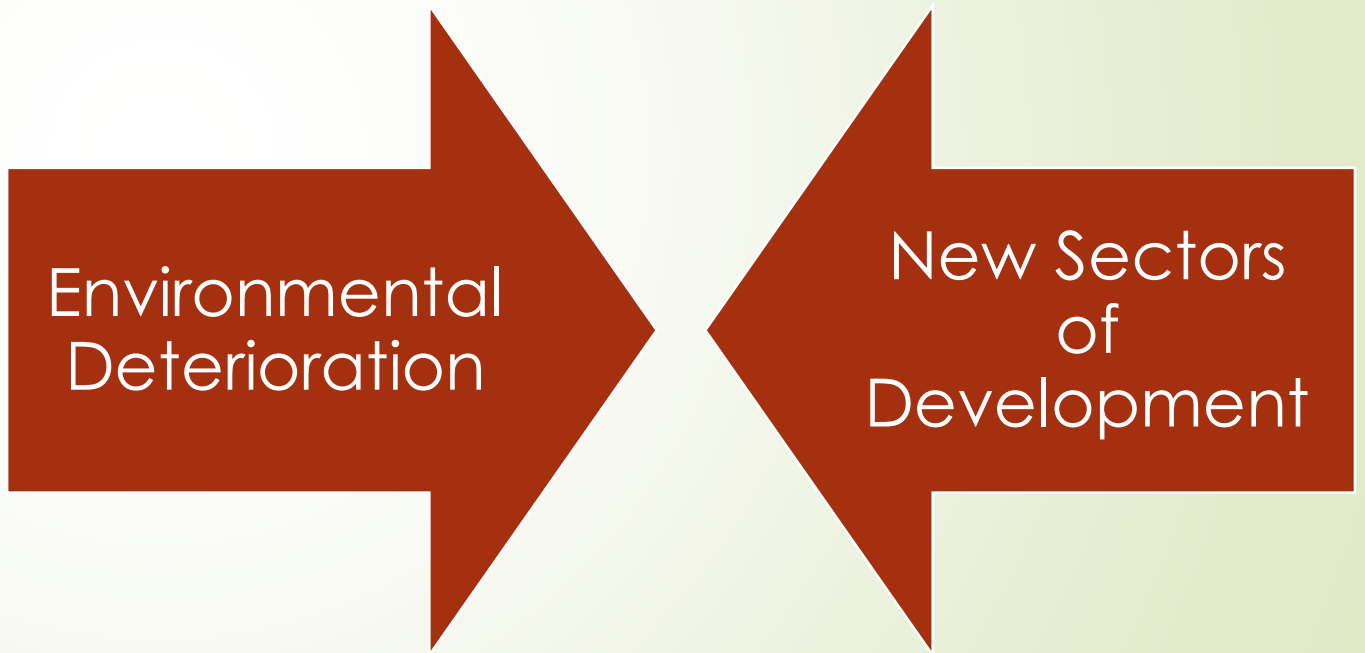
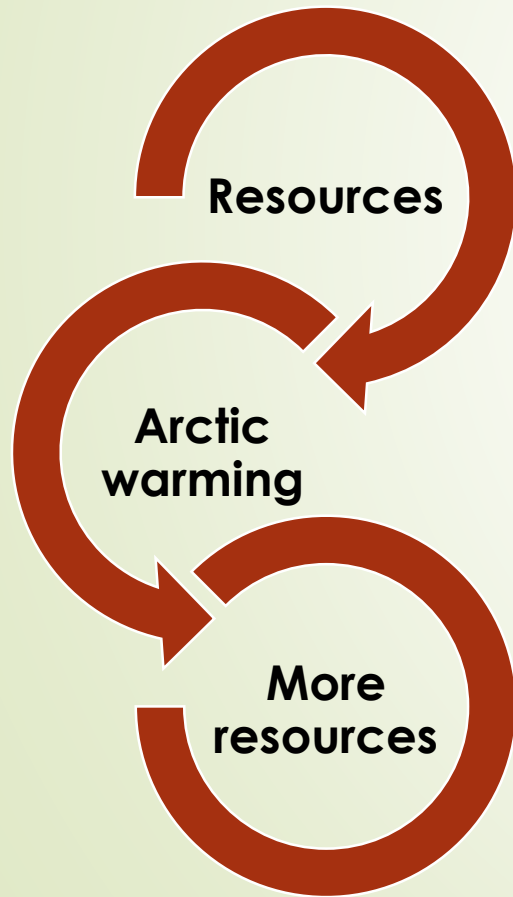
A regional intergovernmental forum

Russia a member of the Arctic Council

Russian Legal Regime



Arctic Paradox





Sovereign Rights

Russia has ratified UNCLOS III

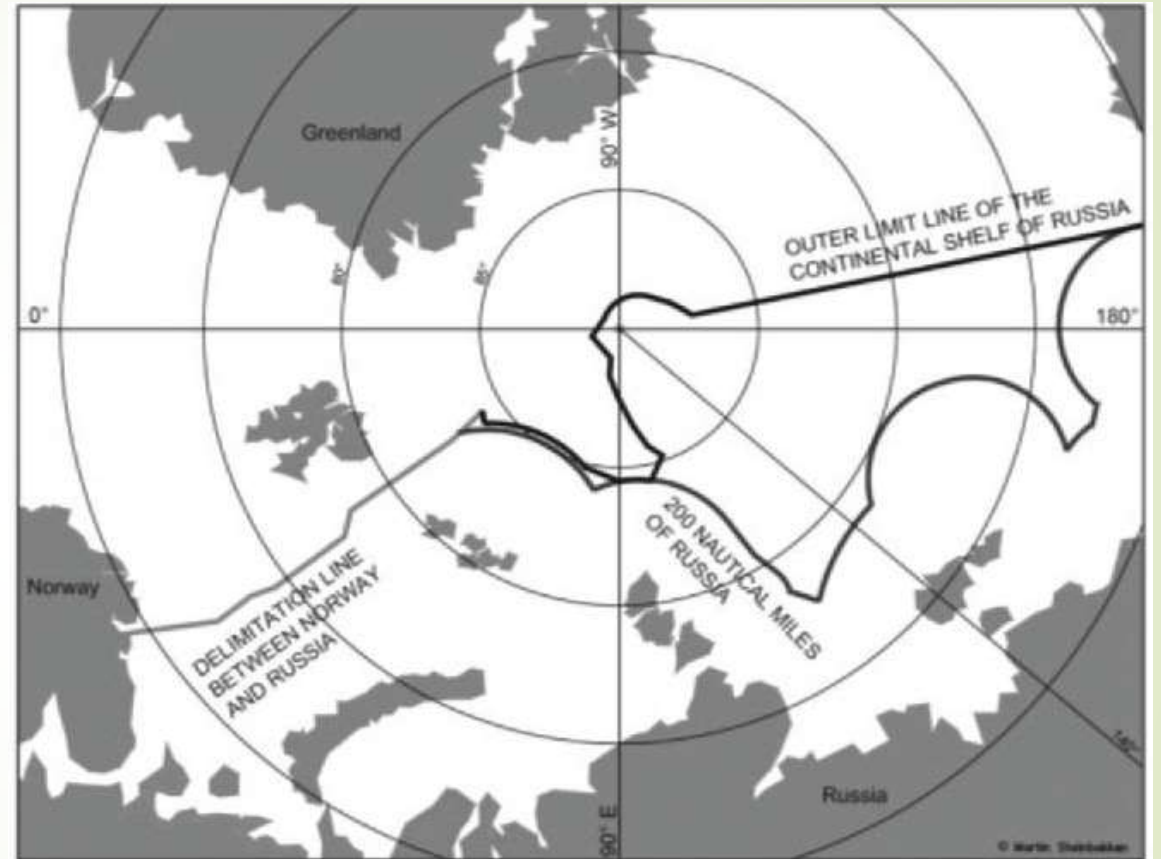
Submission for claims over the extent of its continental shelf

The largest Arctic claim

Barents Sea Treaty was signed in 2010.

Division of the disputed area into two equal parts between Norway and Russia.

► Outer limit line of Russia in the Arctic Ocean. Cartography by Martin Steinbekken (2015 cited in Jensen 2016).





Exploitation of Resources

The 30 percent of the world's
total

Russia as a leading resource
strategy base




Trading Routes

Northern Sea Route connects the North Atlantic and the Northern Pacific through the Arctic Ocean

Recognition of the NSR as a national route

Indigenous Peoples
of Russia from a
Legal and
Environmental
Perspective

The slide features a light green background with a dark green vertical bar on the left. On the right side, there are several decorative green lines: a thin diagonal line starting from the top center and curving towards the right, a vertical line, and two thick, overlapping curved lines that sweep from the bottom right towards the center.



Indigenous Peoples of Russia

More than 160 indigenous groups
of peoples inhabiting Russia

Historically nomadic groups





Climate Change

Threat to their whole ecosystem

Challenge to their survival



International Legal Regime

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Principles of non-discrimination, equality and self-determination.

The International Labor Organization Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples No. 169 of 1989.

Elimination of the international policy of integration or assimilation of IPs



Russian Legal Regime

Russian term is *'Indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation'*.

On guarantees of the rights of indigenous small-numbered peoples, launched in 1999

On the general principles of the organization of obshchinas of the indigenous, small-numbered peoples of the North, passed in 2000

On Territories of Traditional Nature Use of indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, adopted in 2001



**Indigenous
Peoples as
Political
Actors**

'Semi-subjects' of international law

Non-state actors include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other multinational corporations

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)



**Participation
within the
Arctic
Governance**

Permanent participants in the
Arctic Council

Participation of RAIPON in the
adaptation of the three national
laws

Lobbying with the government
for the interests of IPs at all levels



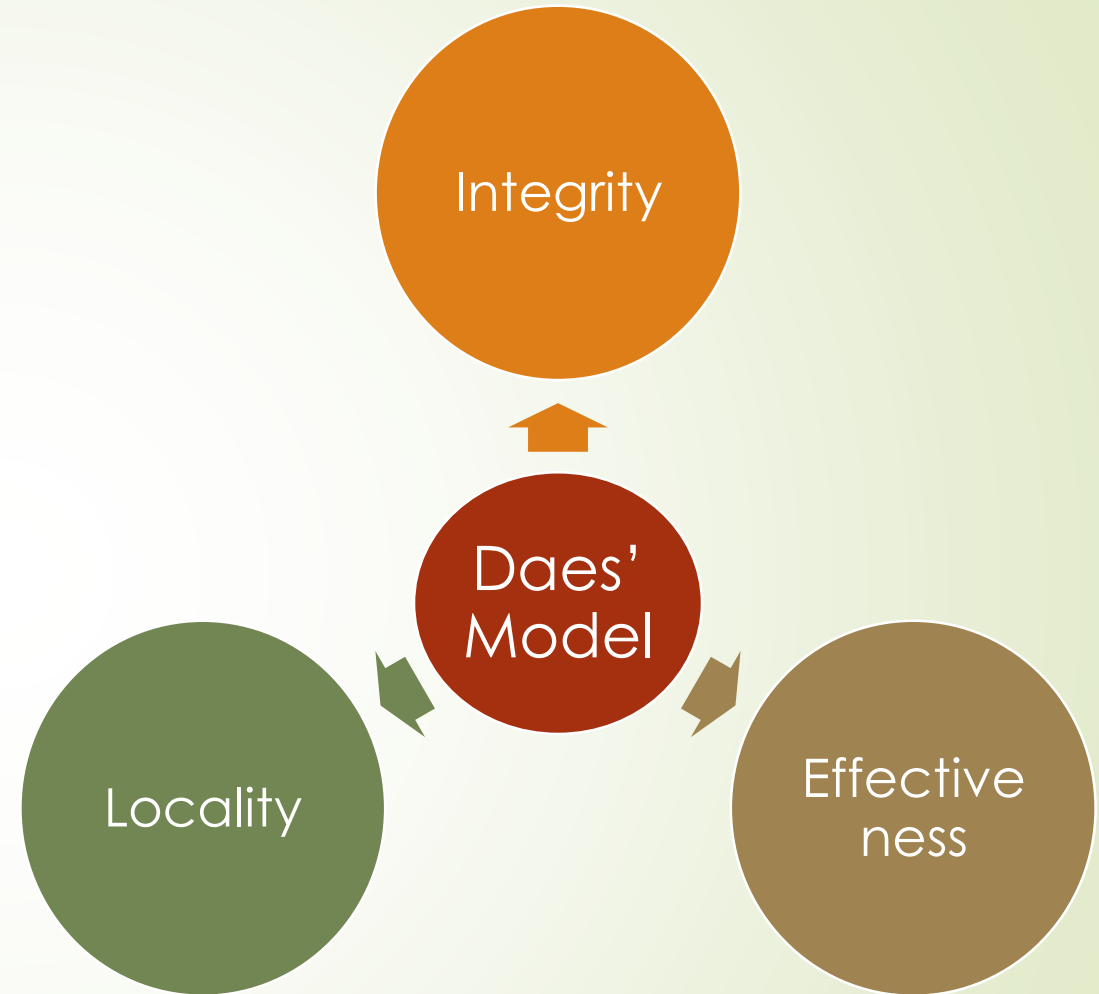
**Sustainable
Development**

Collectivity that characterizes
their culture

Own techniques, which demand
special protection

Conclusion - Suggestions

- ❖ Indigenous Peoples as the only actors with transformative solutions through their knowledge and activism





Thank you for your attention