**Alf R. Nielssen: The Coast Sami between two states 1523- 1613**

The paper is based upon research in connection with the project “Before borders and over borders”. The main question is what effects the political pressure created by the two states of Sweden and Denmark-Norway had on coast Sami societies. In the period mentioned the old balance of a triple taxation (also with Russia) of the Sami since the Middle Ages, was changed into a fight between the kingdoms about the sovereignity over the Coast Sami areas. These areas stretched from the Kola peninsula to Folda, right north of Saltfjorden in Nordland. In the Coast Sami areas of Nordland the fight was between Sweden and Denmark-Norway.

The new claims of sovereignity was based on hopes, inspired by the resources found in the newly discovered America, that the mountains in the north contained gold and silver. Another hope was that the Northeast passage would be found, attempts were made in the 16th century. The state in control of the northern coasts could expect customs from the ship traffic, if the passage was found.

From c. 1555 to 1613 there was a continual strife about the taxation of the Sami by the seaside. As the Sami seem to have been more positive to Swedish taxation in the very north, they were much more negative in Nordland. Examples of resistance from Tysfjord show this quite clearly. This could have been caused by a shorter taxation “history” from the Swedish side in this area.

Around 1600 the political situation became quite critical, and it ended with the Kalmar War (1611-13). This was won by Denmark- Norway, and in the peace treaty the Swedish king had to give up his claims on the coastal districts of North Scandinavia. During and after the war, there was a colonization by Norwegians into the Sami fjord districts. One question discussed is whether this merely was a search for new settlement areas for a growing population, or if Norwegians were placed in the fiords by the national authorities, to secure the areas for the realm in case of a return of Swedish claims.

The written sources contain some information about how the Sami population reacted to the political pressure, the taxation pressure and the beginning Norwegian colonization into the traditional Sami areas. In the paper these reactions are discussed.