

FATAL COLLISION AT THE NORTH POLE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

YESTERDAY, ON 10 MAY 2057, THE ARCTIC MADE CONTACT WITH THE NORTH COAST OF ALASKA, MORE SPECIFICALLY THE TOWNS OF PRUDHOE BAY ALONG WITH UTQIAGVIK. THESE TOWNS HAD BECOME POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATIONS SINCE THE 2040S, THANKS TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, AND THE 12 MILLION TOURISTS PRESENT AT THAT TIME WERE FORCED TO FLEE. UNFORTUNATELY, 4 MILLION OF THEM WERE UNABLE TO ESCAPE THE DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF THIS EVENT. IN ADDITION, OVER 1 MILLION COASTAL RESIDENTS LOST THEIR LIVES AND MANY MORE ARE STILL MISSING. THE GIGANTIC COLLISION IN THE ARCTIC TRIGGERED TITANIC TSUNAMIS THAT HIT THE RUSSIAN COAST A FEW HOURS LATER. CURRENTLY, THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND MISSING IS STILL UNKNOWN.



The Arctic has been inhabited for thousands of years *Although the area was sparsely populated, it was inhabited nonetheless.*

The first humans to arrive on these lands date back to around 2500 BC. Over a period of several years, numerous tribes came into contact with each other and exchanged various types of information, in particular sharing cultures and techniques. Historians believe that the harpoon head was invented around the eleventh century thanks to this exchange between the Dorset and Thule cultures. The first Europeans arrived in the Arctic around the 10th century, alongside the Scandinavian populations. Erik the Red, an Icelandic explorer, left his homeland for Greenland and established a colony there around the end of 1000. A few hundred years after the Icelandic leader, the Inuit moved to Greenland, before their migration to the Arctic regions. They would later become the symbolic people of the Arctic region, as well as multiple other individuals. Recently, the demographic situation in the Arctic has changed significantly. In fact, from the 2030s onwards, more and more scientists settled here to conduct observations to control the warming of the ice pack and the melting of the ice. From 2042 onwards, when a diplomatic pact was signed between several of the world's major powers, they began to develop tourism in the Arctic zone. Precisely, on the pack of ice, with the help of numerous installations by using new,

yet extremely polluting complex. As a result, the Arctic has seen record tourist numbers throughout the year, topping 10 million last winter.

Jules



The Arctic Ocean is a highly coveted territory for its immense amount of resources.

Indeed, for many decades now, most of the world's major powers have been absorbed with the Arctic ocean. Numerous diplomatic meetings have taken place to decide what should be done with this territory. These meetings have never led to any real progress. However, on 13. November, 2042, everything changed: the Arctic countries finally agreed on how to manage various resources present in the Arctic. On that day, a diplomatic pact was signed stipulating that the Arctic countries would monopolize all the resources in the Arctic for themselves. This pact also included China at Russia's request, which gave them an opportunity of signing. Russia claimed that China was their primary collaborator and that they could do nothing without them in this pact. For the past 15 years, these countries have been exploiting hydrocarbon resources, both oil and gas, as well as rare metals, and then carrying out intensive fishing. China has taken advantage of this to intensify its commercial shipping.

Admittedly, these activities have enabled them to achieve extraordinary short-term economic development, but today they are confronting the consequences, as nature is reclaiming its rights...

Not to mention, according to several studies carried out by European scientists who specialize in the poles, activities linked to the extraction and exploitation of Arctic resources are 60% responsible for the instability of the Arctic that led to yesterday's dramatic incident.

Maxime



Human activity has caused many problems for the Arctic, including contributing to its environmental changes and come into contact with the continent.

The first issue caused by climate change in the Arctic is melting of the ice. Huge blocks of ice were collapsing more and more, causing terrible noises that impacted the animals. Secondly, the layers of ice were getting thinner each day, triggering them to shutter. Mentioned earlier, thin layer of ice let the sunshine through, heating up the ocean. Furthermore, in 2024, there was $\frac{2}{3}$ of ocean compared to just $\frac{1}{3}$ of land. Nowadays, due to rise of the

temperature in summer, this ice disappears completely, only to reappear towards autumn. All these factors have sparked the drifting of the Arctic Ocean.

The animals of the Arctic Circle were the most affected by this situation. Their habitats were shrinking day-to-day. Likewise for the polar bears, they could no longer hunt as effectively as they had done in the past. They were forced to retreat inland as the ice became too unstable and at times non-existent. Consequently, their hunting periods were reduced meanwhile their fasting periods increased. It made a mark on their reproduction; the cubs had less and less chance of surviving stemmed from the lack of food. As a result, the number of polar bears in the Arctic declined from year to year, until they became totally extinct. In addition, the hunting of polar bears for their fur accelerated the rate of extinction of the species, which had been already elevated. In 2030, we witnessed the last polar bear in the world die.

Ocean warming has also led to the disappearance of phytoplankton. This species of plankton was the basis of the Arctic food chain. By disappearing, this species has put the Arctic ecosystem at risk.

As tourism became more and more prevalent in northern regions, it caused an increase of pollution and CO2 together with greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from cruise ships and aircraft. With the massive presence of tourists, plants struggle to grow and few remaining animals become constantly stressed and exhausted.

Given these points, there are currently no animal species left in the Arctic, just a few species of plants and microorganisms.

Iona



A real threat of extinction

In due time, the Arctic's population was filled with various nationalities,

coming from Arctic states, surrounding the Arctic ocean such as Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and the United States. Compared to the quantity of indigenous people, international commonality has increased in its numbers since 2030, leaving the aboriginal population with a drastic decline – from 10% in 2025 to just 2,5% in 2056. This has become a bigger danger as Arctic states have started to exploit different resources for economic interests, such as enriching their lands, inviting more and more scientists to this unique yet fragile place.

In addition to coping with these ongoing issues, the indigenous people today face the real threat of extinction due to the devastating impact of yesterday's tragedy. As reported by journalists, more than 3,5 million deaths have been attributed to the tragedy, relatively 92% from their population. As mentioned, only 8% of citizens who had the chance to flee Arctic lands before the disaster are alive and now receiving necessary medical and psychological assistance provided by Arctic states.

For the most part, according to the recent reports about the incident, countries near the Arctic ocean are dealing with a high risk of ice shelf crash at their borders, as well as tsunamis flooding their coasts. For now, concerned governments are strongly recommending evacuation to safer areas, as the situation is becoming tenser with each passing day...

Veronika



Tourism and resource exploitation are the two main causes of this situation.

The Arctic no longer ceased to be a white sanctuary, a place that must be untouched, yet it has become vulnerable by its political position. Endangered by the lack of international convention for the

protection of the marine environment, the Arctic ocean faced inevitable consequences. This ice pack puts humanity at a significant risk: it is unfortunately destined to collide more and more often with any of the surrounding countries with no current solution. Perhaps, if we acted fast enough, by negotiating as well as creating a treaty as we did for the Antarctic, we could avoid all these problems.. The wildlife and nature are no longer protected. But were they ever protected? Not really!

