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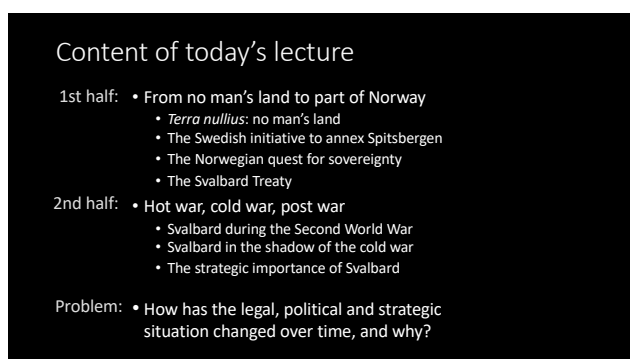
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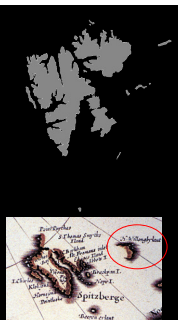
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### *Terra nullius*: No man's land

- The law of the sea: Hugo Grotius and "De Mare Libero" (1609)
- "King James his New Land" (1613)
- Danish-Norwegian pretensions 1614–16
- Peaceful co-existence after 1618
- Svalbard recognized as no man's land
- The notion of an international commons (*res communis*)
  - Joint resource exploitation by many actors
  - Customary law, codes of behaviour



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### An international Spitsbergen treaty?

- The Swedish initiative 1871–72
- Norwegian aspirations in the 1890s
- Norway's divorce from Sweden in 1905; making an independent foreign policy
- The "Spitsbergen question": need for an administrative arrangement
- Three Spitsbergen conferences 1910, 1912 and 1914
- The "small steps" policy of Norway
- World War I: new opportunities
- The Svalbard Treaty of 9 February 1920



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### The Treaty: Unlimited sovereignty?

- § 1: «Full and absolute sovereignty»
- § 2: Equal rights to hunting and fishing; environmental protection
- § 3: Equal rights of access and to «commercial activities»
- §§ 4 & 5: On radio stations and science
- §§ 6 & 7: Recognition of property rights
- § 8: Mining Code; limits to taxation
- § 9: Peaceful utilization (non-militarized)
- § 10: Securing Russian and others' rights



- ✓ Norwegian sovereignty
- ✓ Equal treatment and non-discrimination
- ✓ Peaceful utilization
- ✓ Primarily rights of citizens, not states

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15 minutes break

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### Svalbard between the World Wars

- Why Norway? Or, why not?
- Making the best of it: Norwegian manoeuvres 1920–1925
  - Securing relations to Germany and Soviet Russia
  - The Mining Code
  - The Spitsbergen Commissioner and arrangement of property rights 1925–27
- 1925: Spitsbergen becomes Svalbard
- "Bilateralization": Soviet-Norwegian relations in the inter-war period



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### World War 2: a turning point

- Svalbard and the outbreak of the war in 1940
- Evacuation in August–September 1941
- The "Fritham" expedition 1942: establishing a Norwegian garrison on Svalbard
- The "weather war": Svalbard's strategic significance
- The German attack on 8 September 1943
- The "Spitsbergen Crisis": The Soviet proposition in November 1944 and the aftermath



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### Svalbard in the squeeze

- Norwegian NATO membership 1949, including Svalbard 1951
- The Soviet North Fleet build-up after 1962
- The «low-tension policy» of Norway
- Small scale crises:
  - The airport issue 1958–1975
  - The Caltex/Arktikugol issue 1961–1965
  - The ESRO issue 1964–1969
- Kapp Heer and the Hopen accident 1978
- Development of local relations: Arctic glasnost in the 1980-90s, more tension in 2000s



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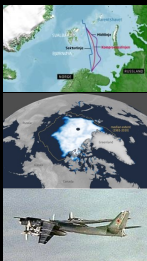
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### New developments

- Delimitation of the continental shelves
  - UNCLOS (1982): Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
- Barents Sea delimitation agreement between Russia and Norway in 2010
- Global warming affects the Arctic
  - New opportunities and threats
- Increased Russian military activity in the north; “new” nations present in the Arctic
- Effects in the Arctic of the Ukrainian war
  - Is Svalbard becoming more exposed?



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### Russia's military strategy



Source: R. Tamme, 2020

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### So, what about Svalbard?

- Until World War 2: little or no military strategic significance
- The Cold War: nuclear arms technology increased the importance of the Polar Sea and Arctic areas
- The Treaty and the low-tension policy have worked reasonably well
- Svalbard's strategic importance today:
  - Environmental research and monitoring
  - Ownership and management of resources
  - New transport routes and SAR capabilities



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End of 9<sup>th</sup> lecture



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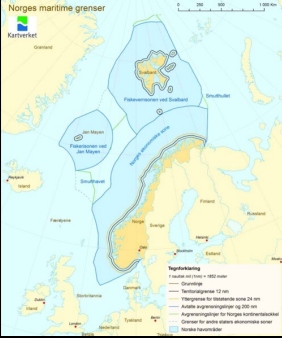
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### Norges maritime grenser



**Legende**

- 1. Svalbard og Jan Mayen 1000 nautiske mil
- 2. Grønland
- 3. Territorialgrense 12 nautiske mil
- 4. Fjernliggende områder 200 nautiske mil
- 5. Andre engelskegrønninger (op til 200 nautiske mil)
- 6. Angrepsgrønninger i Norge-kontrollområdet
- 7. Grense for andre staters økonomiske sone
- 8. Territorialgrense

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