



An Organisation for Promoting
Understanding of Society

LISTENING POST

Denmark at the Dawn of 2020

Copenhagen 7th January 2020

PART 1: THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

PART 2: IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

PART 3: ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

Isolation and connectedness

While Brexit and Trump, and the anti-democratic leaders in Italy, Hungary, Poland, Russia, and the left populist parties all work against international connectedness and cooperation etc. the climate crises stimulate international cooperation. The climate movement, with Greta Thunberg as an effective mobiliser, is very sure that climate is about the whole earth and calls for working together. Climate change seems to be more and more apparent and the fact that people can see and feel the changing climate is also mobilizing people.

Hope and hopelessness

Some participants felt confident with royal families. The Danish queen was mentioned, and it was good that Denmark has a history, while the US didn't (had killed most of it). The Netflix series 'The Crown' was also mentioned for the good, and the group found itself in a pairing condition, where royal families was carrying some kind of hope. Hope was also related to youth, the climate movement, the US movement of young people against the NRA and to the women dominating the parties and the Finnish government. Some participants felt that they were shifting between being mobilized as an activist and suffering from passive hopelessness. The disaster at Chernobyl was mentioned as an example of a catastrophe having positive consequences, since the catastrophe there was one important cause for the ending of the Soviet Union's dictatorship. The Australian fires also seem to undermine the Australian government, that are financed by the coal-industry and Robert Murdoch.

Big data, surveillance, and ambivalence

The shadow side of the internet has clearly been recognized by the participants. Some can feel ashamed for believing that a new technology would put an end to evil and the dominance of money. Of course, evil and greedy interests would take over. We feel manipulated and used and don't know what to do about it. A participant had been at a mall where a parental couple couldn't find their baby in its carriage. Fortunately, all the surveillance cameras at the mall could connect

their recordings and the baby was found safe and ok. Isn't it ok with a bit of surveillance if your baby can be saved?

Conveners: Anette Jønson, Tommy Rolf Lorenzen & Steen Visholm