

Closed season for the polar caps

By the time the steam-powered whaling ships were built with iron casings, the whales could be tracked in the icy waters. But the ship's bow was repeatedly damaged by the hard ice floes. By installing thicker iron plates, especially in the bow and hull area, the quality of the new whaling ships improved and whaler could follow the whales almost without limit into the eternal ice. That was the hour of birth of the modern icebreaker.

Due to the improved technical equipment, attempts were made to locate the so-called Northwest Passage and the Northeast Passage, but this has not yet been successful. The tremendous icebreakers have been breaking up huge ice sheets since the end of the First World War. Each of these journeys, some of which are quite adventurous, have made their contribution to breaking through the ice of the frozen Arctic Circle with increasing frequency. Different North Pole maps between the 18th and 19th centuries show that the North Pole looked different than it does today. The ice sheet in Greenland extended to what is now northeastern Siberia, Alaska and Canada. The two polar caps of the north and south poles provided protection from solar radiation and kept the globe cool.

The activities of the icebreakers were extended to Antarctica from the end of the Second World War. In the name of research, the permanent ice in Antarctica has been constantly destroyed, concrete structures were erected, enduring accommodations were introduced, mountains of garbage were produced and the untouched nature was damaged. Up to now no scientific results have been proven that could benefit humans and nature. Instead, only 12 countries have achieved an Antarctic treaty and 6 of them have divided the entire South Pole area among themselves.

The water planet earth has 97% salt water and little more than 2% fresh water which is important for us humans. More than 80% of the fresh water consumption is required for irrigation in modern agriculture alone. Numerous studies have shown that the current consumption of fresh water is much higher than the existing supply. If this continues, in 2050 the world's population will suffer from extreme water shortages. The majority of the 2% fresh water on earth, namely 91% consists of the ice mass in the Antarctic.

The icebreakers of research industry destroy ice fields. Broken ice masses due to natural waves, called icebergs have also been spotted now and then in open waters. Many fantastic ideas to drag floating icebergs to oil-rich desert countries have already failed in the laboratory without an attempt. The safest way to transport ice is at a permanent mining site, where the ice will be broken down with the help of icebreakers and loaded onto ships. Simple water tankers will be built for the transport of the Antarctic ice which will be much larger and safer than the super tankers for the transport of petroleum. The Antarctic water business will flourish, millions of people will earn their living converting the arid regions of the world into a new home for agriculture, trade and industrial centers. This is one of the many options in polar exploration. Even without the Antarctic water removal the polar regions are extremely endangered.

Sooner or later, the consequences of Arctic and Antarctic activities will gradually become visible. To avoid risks and other dangers, humans should keep away from the two polar regions as soon as possible, so that the polar ice caps can recover. Otherwise there is a possibility that the temperature will rise incessantly, forests will be continuously burning and the wild animals will gradually disappear.