

Aarhus School of Architecture // Design School Kolding // Royal Danish Academy

Independent from Whom?

Jensen, Boris Brorman

Published in:
Conditions

Publication date:
2012

Document Version:
Early version, also known as pre-print

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for pulished version (APA):

Jensen, B. B. (2012). Independent from Whom? *Conditions*, 2012(11&12), 38-39.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

INDEPENDENT FROM WHOM?

BY BORIS BRORMAN JENSEN

When Denmark in 1916 sold the West-Indian Islands to the United States, the Sectary of State, Robert Lansing, also signed a secret and special declaration pronouncing American support for Danish sovereignty over all parts of Greenland. The document is categorized as being of “outstanding national significance” in the Danish national archives. Greenland is on the American continental shelf and the declaration is an exception from the US Monroe Doctrine from 1823 that can be summarized by the phrase “America for the Americans.” It was very generous of the US to guarantee Danish sovereignty over Greenland. The document played an important role in the later battle with Norway over the right to rule over East Greenland. Today the tiny document raises the question from whom is Greenland going to be independent.

DECLARATION.

In proceeding this day to the signature of the Convention respecting the cession of the Danish West-Indian Islands to the United States of America, the undersigned Secretary of State of the United States of America, duly authorized by his Government, has the honor to declare that the Government of the United States of America will not object to the Danish Government extending their political and economic interests to the whole of Greenland.



New York, August 4, 1916.