

Prof.Dr. Michael Suprun (Dr Sc)  
The Northern (Arctic) Federal University,  
Arkhangelsk, Russia

Drs.Waling T. Gorter ( cand.polit.)  
Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

### **Dividing the Arctic:**

The Soviet Liberation of Eastern Finnmark, the new Soviet-Norwegian land border at the onset of the Cold War and the Russian-Norwegian Bilateral Agreement on Maritime Delimitation of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on ‘borders’ / ‘dividing lines’ at Sea in the Barents Sea and in the Arctic Ocean after the end of the Cold War.

The first part of this paper deals with the events in October 1944 when the Soviet Union liberated the first part of Norway: Eastern Finnmark.

In the second part of this paper we will deal with what happened when 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 the Norwegian-Russian ‘border lines’ at sea were defined: instead of talking about disputed areas there is now an agreement on a delimitation line.

#### I. The Soviet liberation of Eastern Finnmark and the new Soviet-Norwegian land border

1944 of the Great Patriotic War was characterized by ”Stalin’s blows” which brought soviet troops to the Western border and led to the liberation of Soviet territory. The final operation in this series of strategical attacks was the Petsamo-Kirkenes operation. Its first result was the liberation of the Soviet Polar Area, then the Finnish Petsamo District and finally Northern Norway. This operation took place and was realized in the stages in which it was planned. It’s first stage began 7<sup>th</sup> October 1944. A week later the Soviet Polar Area was liberated. Parts of the Karelian Front and the Northern Fleet entered the territory of Petsamo (Pechenga) district and started the operation’s second stage. However during the preparation of the final and 3rd stage, the liberation of Eastern Finnmark, a strange halt was made in front of the national border with Norway. This stop