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The implementation of the Marshall Plan in Denmark gave rise to serious conflicts between the Social Democratic government and the opposition – and between the government and the business community. Vibeke Sørensen portrays the deep disagreement that existed regarding Danish economic policy in the postwar period, analysing also how this political disagreement characterised the Danish implementation of the plan.

On the basis of thorough source studies, Sørensen questions the up until now appreciatory evaluation of the importance of the Marshall Plan for the Danish society. On one hand, the implementation played a role in initiating structural changes in the Danish economy, with the plan itself complementing the social democratic reconstruction policy during the first few postwar years. On the other hand, the social democratic government failed in its effort to create consensus regarding more stringent control of economic policy and recognition of the necessity of an industrialisation policy. As a result, the Marshall Plan had only limited success in Denmark.

Vibeke Sørensen (1952-1995) was Master in History and Geography from University of Copenhagen. From 1982 to 1987 she was research fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, and from 1990 Lecturer at Groningen University, Holland.

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