

Reviews

NORTHERN WATERS

THE SOVIET MARITIME ARCTIC. Brigham, L. (editor). 1991. London, Belhaven Press and Scott Polar Research Institute. (Polar Research Series). 336 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85293-169-8. £37.50.

This book is based primarily on the proceedings of a workshop held at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts, USA, May 10–13 1987 (see *Polar Record* 24: 131–32, 1988). At that time a Woods Hole Technical Report WHOI-88-5 was issued, containing mainly abstracts of the formal papers and a summary of ensuing discussion.

Though in normal circumstances four years between submission of papers and their publication undermines the overall value of a symposium volume, this book clearly gained from the hiatus, for two good reasons. First, all authors were given opportunity to adapt their papers to the rapidly changing Arctic setting, as witnessed during the past couple of years. Since this normally involved more than adding one or two sentences, the book as it stands forms an updated state-of-the-art treatment of the subject. Secondly, and more important for the value of the book, to the western point of view expressed by the 1987 workshop have been added complementary views from the east. Apparently *glasnost* and *perestroika* had made it possible, by the end of the 1980s, for three Soviet researchers to express their views on the Soviet Arctic in a western publication.

The book contains 17 high-level contributions concerning a wide variety of topics, ranging from past and present exploration, through physical environment and navigation, to legal and geopolitical aspects of the matter. It is well documented with maps and tables and contains, as an appendix, translations of recent Soviet statements and enactments on the subject.

The Soviet Maritime Arctic is the first book in the new Polar Research Series published by Belhaven Press in association with the Scott Polar Research Institute. This carefully edited edition, which is simply a must for anybody concerned with the Arctic, certainly bodes well for the volumes to follow. (Erik Franckx, Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel, Belgium.)

WHY STUDY ANTARCTICA?

WHY STUDY ANTARCTICA? Beck, P. J. 1991. Surrey, Apex Centre, Kingston Polytechnic. 65p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-873152-15-9. £9.00.

Peter Beck aims to demonstrate not only 'the region's intrinsic academic interest but also the manner in which Antarctic studies illuminate global problems'. The result is a brief yet comprehensive overview. Beck sorts through various disciplines, noting for each the current level of attention to Antarctica and elucidating the topic's potential

for additional study. Embedded within this description are a useful review of the literature and thought-provoking suggestions for specific lines of further inquiry.

Dr Beck is Reader in International History at Kingston Polytechnic and has published extensively on the role of Antarctica in international relations. He naturally focuses his study on development of the Antarctic Treaty system, particularly in the past decade, and raises a series of questions concerning sovereignty, organisational and policy analysis, the Treaty as a model for other regimes, resource development, and international environmental diplomacy and politics. Science and geography receive briefer treatment, with the emphasis placed upon the continent's key position in the study of global systems and processes. The imaginative literature of the south polar regions commands a scant two pages, the visual and performing arts a paragraph, demonstrating the relative paucity of research in these fields.

Following the fifty-page text of this study, Dr Beck provides a summary outline of the Antarctic Treaty, a selective bibliography, and a guide to academic programmes offering formal Antarctic studies. He also poses 125 topical questions of varying complexity for discussion and further study; these augment his many suggestions embodied in the text.

Why study Antarctica? demonstrates that Antarctic research may be fruitfully pursued from within many disciplines. This book is recommended as an introduction to the part played by Antarctica in current thought, as a learning resource for schools and universities, and as a source of inspiration for academic research. (Janice Meadows, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

NORTHERN REGIONS COMPARED

THE CHALLENGE OF NORTHERN REGIONS. Jull, Peter and Roberts, S. (editors). 1991. Darwin, North Australia Research Unit, Australian National University.

This excellent compilation pulls together contributions from Australia, Norway, Canada and the USA on aspects of each of their northern regions. There are many useful comparisons to be made between them in terms of history, political development, economic and social characteristics. Several of the pieces, such as those by Brantenburg on the Sami and Jull on the Northwest Territories, describe in great detail the history and context of their subject so that the reader can develop a much deeper understanding of why certain conditions prevail now.

The emphasis of the collection is on problems of constitutional development for aboriginal peoples, and the differences between European-based and native systems. One would expect compromise to be inevitable in the settlement of land claims, and the development of aboriginal constitutions within larger national ones. However, it

is apparent that in several cases final settlements have had to so closely emulate the dominant political and economic system, that their appropriateness and long-term viability are drawn into question. It is ironic to see that northerners are acquiring complex, government-heavy approaches to management of their claims areas and concerns, when it was the burden of government which prompted pressure for land claims settlements in the first place. Will new systems of governance be more responsive than the old ones?

Some papers elaborate on current conditions in northern societies, and the problems that must be addressed by constitutional development. The assumption is that fuller constitutional powers will enable native peoples to deal with them — an assertion that is easier to credit in some cases than others. On one hand, the requirement for aboriginal control over resource management and development, in order to achieve native economic development and self-sufficiency, is apparent. Elspeth Young discusses the land claims in North America and Australia, and the varying degrees to which they have enabled appropriate development. However, it is hard to believe that fundamental problems of alcoholism and sexual abuse, for instance, must be linked to aboriginal self-government (Jackie Wolfe); this is perhaps as paternalistic an attitude, in terms of denying individual self-determination, as is the government's resistance to aboriginal self-government.

The book proposes that the issues dogging northern regions have application to the rest of the world and how we will all deal with the future. The main issues are protection of renewable resource production; accommodation, recognition and empowerment for indigenous societies; fair distribution of resources and services to indigenous members of larger societies; and economic development appropriate to the needs of these regions.

The book argues that a nation's modes of government must adapt to the changing conditions and needs of its indigenous peoples; ignoring or denying their existence can only lead to increased tensions; yet attempting to create northern systems identical to those in the south is not an adequate solution. Diversity must be tolerated, and reflected in the constitutional arrangements developed to satisfy aboriginal demands for self-government. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

MORE ON THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY

UNRAVELLING THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY: THE INUIT TESTIMONY. Woodman, D. 1991. Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press. 390 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0833-3. £25.00 Can\$29.95.

For readers who enjoy a detailed mystery, here is a new interpretation of the events surrounding the ill-fated Franklin voyage to the Northwest Passage. Woodman has combined his obvious fascination with the Franklin expedition, plus a fertile imagination, and a sympathetic inter-

pretation of Inuit stories, to re-analyze existing explanations about the travels and fate of the men of the expedition.

It is refreshing to see Inuit knowledge about these events taken so thoroughly into account. Woodman has done some very interesting re-interpretation of the records of Inuit stories. He has brought in an understanding of language and cross-cultural interpretation that makes it clear how easy it was for the Franklin searchers to dismiss Inuit information about the fate of the missing men — and how much they missed as a result. Confusion and duplication of place names, for instance, caused one interpreter to be discredited, yet Woodman's revised analysis allows new information to become apparent, and new conclusions to be drawn.

As well, by putting himself, with insight and imagination, in the shoes of the expedition members, Woodman has worked through some of the questions about the fate of the men. He develops theories, among other things, about the number and direction of parties that went ashore; the likelihood of the march south being prompted by the need for fresh meat; the possibility of survivors having lived with Inuit in the region.

For those interested in the Franklin story, this should be an interesting read, opening fresh possibilities for determining what the lost men did. Readers will need a map of the region, however, as the one provided at the front of the book lacks many of the place names referred to throughout the text. The book also provides a useful lesson in how to use and deal with information gained through interpretation from another language and culture. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

SEEN FROM THE SKY

SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING OF POLAR REGIONS. R. Massom. 1991. London, Belhaven Press and Scott Polar Research Institute. (Polar Research Series). 307 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85293-179-5. £39.50.

The polar regions are particularly suitable for study from space. The massive Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are major elements of the climate system, and exert a controlling influence on world mean sea level. Sea ice plays an important role in climate through its modulation of high latitude ocean-atmosphere interactions. Surface and airborne measurements are costly, hazardous and localised. Satellite Remote Sensing provides a means of achieving the global, synoptic coverage necessary to understand the behaviour of polar ice and its role in climate change. The availability of a reference volume concentrating on this topic is thus both topical and timely.

Rob Massom's book is split into two parts. The first consists of six chapters which provide a concise and pithy overview of the physical basis, scope and historical development of polar remote sensing. Care has been taken to produce a balanced and comprehensive account of current instruments and techniques, and to provide a realistic view of their capabilities and limitations. Future developments