

Nunavut's regions for material advantages' (page 128). Although these squabbles may be a healthy part of the political process, the alarming disparities in wealth and opportunities within Nunavut society are a warning that emerging social divisions may threaten the government's appeal to and legitimacy with the majority Inuit population.

The next two essays, written by John Amagoalik and Zeebedee Nungak, Inuit who have been involved in politics since the 1970s, are proud of Nunavut's creation and optimistic about its future. For Amagoalik, one of the principal architects of the Nunavut government, the creation of Nunavut symbolizes that Inuit have a new sense of visibility and power in contemporary Canadian society.

The next five essays shift the focus of the volume away from politics. Muller-Wille discusses the importance of toponymy in making Inuit sovereignty and land ownership more legitimate and tangible. Kenn Harper concludes his essay with a list of recommendations that he hopes will revitalize the tradition of creative fiction and non-fiction writing in Inuktitut. This tradition is necessary because, aside from pamphlets and government documents, there is no literature available in Inuktitut. Harper recommends that the Nunavut government publish a periodical that concentrates on culture, language, history, and poetry and that avoids political themes altogether.

Laila Sorensen's article on the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) highlights another irony associated with the creation of Nunavut. The IBC, which provides an 'audio-visual bridge' between Nunavut's regional centers and its remote settlements, provides an important forum for Inuit of all backgrounds to share their ideas about Nunavut. This is why IBC's producers claim 'that Nunavut would not have become a reality had IBC not existed' (page 176). Faced by government cutbacks and other programming challenges, it is doubtful IBC will be able to continue to produce a wide range of Inuktitut-language programs for Inuit of all ages.

Chapters 9 and 10 deal with Nunavut's role in supporting hunters. While George Wenzel details Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's harvesting support program, Helle Høgh provides an insightful analysis of the cultural politics of Nunavut's three most recent bowhead whale hunts. Ironically, many Inuit felt that the illegal bowhead whale hunt of 1994 was actually the one that most accurately represented Inuit values and tradition. By contrast, the government-funded and organized hunt of 1996 actually violated Inuit ideals of hunting and cooperation.

In short, this volume covers a broad range of topics in a small space. Despite its diversity, however, I was disappointed with its redundancy and its lack of editorial rigor. The first two chapters each present a rather cursory summary of the results of the Agreement, while chapters 1 and 3 present similar portraits of Nunavut's social and political history. The overlapping sequences should have been either combined into one or edited out. Also, I was struck by the uneven quality of the contributions. Whereas a few articles successfully analyze a particular theme,

others lack a clear focus and a cohesive argument. Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of this volume is how little one learns about Inuit reactions and responses to Nunavut. Except for a few well-polished essays from several Inuit leaders (whose comments are printed regularly in newspapers), the opinions and perspectives of Inuit, young and old, male and female, 'modernist' and 'traditionalist,' are curiously absent. And except for a few statistics and charts revealing per capita rates of federal transfers to the territory (which are the highest in Canada by far), it is unclear how Inuit are actually benefiting from the creation of Nunavut. In fact, I was surprised that the editors chose not to address one of the Nunavut government's most controversial distinctions (from the perspective of indigenous leaders in Canada) — the fact that it is a non-ethnic-based government. Is this structure capable of dismantling the caste-like divisions that continue to divide Inuit and non-Inuit (and now wealthy Inuit and non-wealthy Inuit) into separate social groups? Other important questions that could reveal how Inuit are participating in the Nunavut government as well as how important it is to them are overlooked. The reader should know, for example, the percentage of middle- or senior-level management positions held by Inuit and how many non-Inuit employees can do their jobs in Inuktitut. These are the types of questions that need to be asked in order to assess if Inuit have truly regained control of their lands and their lives. (Edmund Searles, Inuit and Circumpolar Study Group, Université Laval, Québec G1K 7P4, Canada.)

THE WEST ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET: BEHAVIOR AND ENVIRONMENT. Richard B. Alley and Robert A. Bindshadler (Editors). 2000. Washington, DC: American Geophysical Union (Antarctic Research Series 77). xii + 296 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-87590-957-4. US\$65.00.

The stability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) should be of concern to everyone. There is enough ice stored within the WAIS to raise global sea levels six metres. Large parts of the ice sheet rest on a bed below the sea level, and ice flows from these regions via floating ice shelves to the open ocean. Many have speculated that if the ice shelves were removed, the WAIS configuration would change as a consequence. In order to assess the likelihood of this happening, an understanding of the WAIS 'system' is required. That is to say, the processes affecting the WAIS at present, and in the past, need to be identified, measured, and modelled. In the last few years there has been a great effort to determine the form and flow of the WAIS, and the external controls that affect this behaviour. This excellent volume provides a summary of recent findings concerning the understanding of the WAIS in terms of its present-day set-up, and its behaviour in the geologically recent past. It is through comparing the current situation with situations in the past that caused changes in the ice sheet that the likelihood of future changes can be predicted.

This book represents a collection of review articles.

The author list is an impressive register of world-leading scientists in the field of Antarctic studies. It is a testament to the editors that the individual chapters not only hold well as discrete articles, but blend together effectively to ensure the book has an organised and appropriate structure and flow. Many of the papers refer to each other, lending solidity to the stories put forward.

The book begins with an overview of the volume by the editors. This preface provides both a well-conceived historical context of the issues that the book addresses and a finely worded synopsis of the major findings that it records. The book is subsequently organised into five parts. The first is called the 'Setting,' in which there are two chapters on the physiography of the present-day ice sheet and the geological setting on which the ice sheet rests. In part two, the 'History' section, three chapters describe what is known about the changes to the WAIS that occurred in the recent geological past. For example, information about the last glacial–interglacial cycle is recorded in sea-floor sediments bordering the ice sheet, while more recent information (from the Holocene) is derived from the ice itself. Part three presents two chapters about the external controls that affect the WAIS, namely the ocean conditions and the sub-glacial geology. The oceans surrounding West Antarctica are important because they supply moisture to the atmosphere, which eventually leads to snowfall on the ice sheet. Thus, changes to the ocean conditions will cause changes to the ice-sheet mass balance and, hence, its configuration. Geological controls are also critical to the manner in which ice flows. It has been recently proposed that fast-flowing rivers of ice, called ice streams, are controlled by the sub-glacial geology. Changes to the geological setting therefore affect the flow of the ice sheet and, once again, its configuration. The fourth section, entitled the 'Flow' of the ice sheet, includes three papers on the dynamics of the WAIS. The discussion is based largely on field and remote-sensing measurements. In addition, a fourth chapter shows how these measurements can be used to construct numerical models of the ice sheet. This organisation is well thought out, because it is on numerical models that predictions about future changes to the WAIS will be based. Finally, the book includes a section on 'Case studies,' in which four articles present the current knowledge of four critical regions of the WAIS (Rutford Ice Stream, Pine Island Glacier, and ice streams B and C). The investigation of WAIS ice streams is critical to the subject of ice-sheet stability because these systems transport huge quantities of ice from the interior of the ice sheet to its margin. Importantly, one of these ice streams, Ice Stream C, has 'switched off' in the very recent past (30–130 years ago), which suggests that ice streams are not necessarily constant features in an ice sheet, but are susceptible to changes. These changes, and the causes behind them, are discussed in detail.

This book is excellent for a number of reasons. First, the idea behind the work is important and timely. I know of no other book that covers this subject area. Second, the

authors of the various chapters are highly regarded experts in their fields, which adds robustness to the arguments presented. Third, the flow of the book is extremely well organised and thought out. The editors deserve special praise for maintaining a strict line on the length of articles (they are all concise) and the use of cross-referencing, which does a lot to make certain the book holds well together as a single volume. I also find the book excels in combining information from a variety of techniques and subjects. For example, data referred to are derived from field measurements (including borehole drilling), satellite remote sensing, airborne geophysics, and shipborne geophysics. Further, the scientific disciplines covered in the book comprise glaciology, marine and terrestrial geology, climatology, and oceanography.

This book not only provides a benchmark of the current understanding of the WAIS but, in doing so, shows how such knowledge is possible only when information from a variety of techniques and subjects is combined. This work implies to me that future predictions of the stability of the WAIS will not be made by glaciologists. Instead, the ability to make such predictions will only be possible to those who have an appreciation for Earth systems science as a whole. I recommend this volume with much enthusiasm. (Martin J. Siegert, Bristol Glaciology Centre, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1SS.)

THE ICE MASTER: THE DOOMED 1913 VOYAGE OF THE KARLUK. Jennifer Niven. 2000. London: Macmillan. xiv + 402 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-333-77060-6, £16.99.

Karluk, one of the vessels of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, led by Canadian/American explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and bound initially for Herschel Island, entered the pack ice on 1 August 1913 between Point Hope and Point Barrow in the Chukchi Sea. By late August, she was solidly beset just east of Prudhoe Bay. Initially the ice drift carried her east, but then it reversed and the ship began to drift steadily westwards. On 20 September, Stefansson, accompanied by two of the expedition's scientists, his secretary, and two Alaskan Eskimos, left the ship to sledge ashore, ostensibly to hunt caribou. Captain Bob Bartlett, a Newfoundlander with vast experience of handling ships in ice and in dog sledge travel, was left in charge of the ship.

Karluk drifted generally westwards until, on 10 January 1914, she was crushed by the ice and sank, some 130 km north of Ostrov Vrangelya (Wrangel Island). Fortunately there was plenty of time to offload a substantial quantity of equipment and provisions on to the ice, and a relatively comfortable camp was set up. Bartlett's plan was to wait until the days were longer and temperatures were somewhat higher and then, having installed a series of depots along the way, to guide the entire ship's personnel ashore, using dog sledges to transport equipment and supplies. A vanguard party of four men unfortunately disappeared; their remains were found on small, rocky Ostrov Geral'da (Herald Island) in 1924. Then a splinter party of four men, led by Dr Alistair