

Albeit in title slightly misleading as not referring to the Arctic Ocean per se, the second part of the book contains three chapters dealing with different notions of an Arctic treaty as envisioned by Pharand, referring to an institutionalised Arctic regional council (Bartenstein and Charron) as well as an overarching treaty similar to that in the Antarctic (Jabour). While Bartenstein and Charon in their respective chapters compare Pharand's idea of a treaty-based Arctic Regional Council with the existing Arctic Council as well as with contemporary Arctic governance, Jabour draws on the Antarctic and convincingly fleshes out significant structural similarities between the north and the south in spite of their differences in legal status. While a treaty for the Arctic is commonly considered as not feasible (see most recently Young 2015), Jabour in conclusion, and certainly providing critical food for thought, asks: 'Perhaps a hitherto realistic threshold that has prevented serious consideration of a treaty as now been reached' (page 107)?

The third part of this thought-provoking volume in four chapters covers issues relating to the Polar Code, the LOS Convention and in particular its article 234 regarding ice-covered waters, as well as the status and politics regarding the Northwest Passage. While, given the different subject matters, there are unavoidable overlaps in content with other volumes on the issue (most notably Weidemann 2014), the focus on the Canadian perspective makes the complexity of the issues ever more clear. Furthermore, these chapters provide significant input for the academic debate and are as such an important contribution for the discourse on Arctic law of the sea and navigation. The somewhat provocative terminology in De Mestral's chapter, 'arm-chair experts' and 'legal sceptics' (page 124) and Rothwell's US-focused analysis on the legal status of the Arctic Straits underline the discussion-based incentive of these chapters.

The discussions surrounding the difference of perception regarding Arctic Straits is further emphasised in the third part of this book. While US-Canada relations stand at the fore, draw on Pharand's scholarship, explain and discuss historical and contemporary issues pertaining to the Northwest Passage as well as the sector theory, it is especially the chapter by Edge and VanderZwaag which caught this reviewer's attention. The reason is the detailed assessment of bilateral relations between Canada and Russia, at the same time bringing to the surface the many shared interests in the Arctic, the different levels and facets of cooperation as well as, after all, the fragility thereof: while starting off with a quote by former Russian ambassador to Canada Mamedov from 2009 which highlights the peaceful cooperation between the two countries, the authors' postscript further shows Canada's 'Arctic reactions' relating to the crisis in Ukraine which resulted in Canada temporarily suspending this cooperation as a direct political response.

Russian and Canadian practices regarding the sector principle constitutes the core issue of Oude Elferink's marvellous

first chapter of part 4, weakening any claims regarding uncontrolled Russian practice in the context of its Arctic 'claims.' To the contrary, Oude Elferink shows how closely Russia adheres to international law while at the same time unveiling the shortcomings in Russia's reliance on the sector principle. In how far the law of the sea and the application of territorial sea baselines is impacted by changing physical conditions, already observed by Pharand in 1973 (Pharand 1973), is further elaborated upon in Schofield's and Sas' chapter. By writing 'elaborated upon' this reviewer refers to a chapter of utmost precision, by far exceeding commonly found article length in a volume like this. Including two annexes and a bibliography for ice and maritime delimitation, this chapter amounts to 124 pages of which 43 are written text. In this reviewer's opinion a shortened paper would have made the challenging but highly intriguing content more easily accessible. As it stands, however, legal analysts will find a wealth of information in this chapter. Others not too familiar with the topic might want to look for more compressed articles on the issue. The two last chapters in this part and of the book on Arctic delimitation as well as Arctic information platforms and international law seem somewhat 'squashed' by Schofield's and Sas' contribution and from an editorial perspective should have been placed earlier. Especially Serdy's thorough analysis of the outer continental shelf and Canada's delimitation with neighbouring states, particularly in light of the US non-ratification of the UN law of the sea convention, is noteworthy.

International law and the politics of the Arctic Ocean is a book which truly honours Donat Pharand and the editors must be applauded for having generated such an outstanding volume. While providing core knowledge on the Arctic's, and particularly Canada's, legal environment, the contributions are skilfully chosen as to represent substantial findings that Pharand has produced over his long career. Yet, these are not only represented, but discussed, expanded and adjusted to current realities in a thought-provoking and inspiring manner. In order to further develop legal and political scholarship in the Arctic, this book is of crucial importance. (Nikolas Sellheim, Faculty of Law, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland (nikolas.sellheim@ulapland.fi)).

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Security and sovereignty in the north Atlantic. Lassi Heininen (editor). 2014. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. xv + 126 p, hardcover, illustrated. ISBN 978-1-137-47071-3. £45.00.

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The present volume is a collection of papers presented at the first Arctic Circle conference in October 2013 in Reykjavík.

Under the framework of the 'Security in the Arctic' panel and its session on 'Historical, current and future north Atlantic security (micro-states, small states, middle powers and super powers)' seven papers deal with the north Atlantic and the role of Greenland, Denmark, the US, Russia and others therein.

Security and sovereignty in the north Atlantic thus consists of seven chapters each of which deals with one of the states and powers in question. The outcome is a short, but concise compilation of different actors in the region. While

not in the Arctic as such, the overall state-centred security question in the north Atlantic has direct repercussions on the structure and future of Arctic governance while, of course, large parts of the north Atlantic indeed are located in the Arctic region.

After a brief introductory chapter by Lassi Heininen and Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, which outlines the scope of the book and contextualises the papers in the overall thematic framework, Bertelsen opens up the discussion on the security question in the north Atlantic with the role of *Denmark in devolution and withdrawal: Denmark and the north Atlantic, 1800–2100*. In a comparatively compressed swing Bertelsen depicts the history and discusses the prospects of devolution of Danish power in the region in question. He locates the independence movements and aspirations in Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands in it and by taking Icelandic independence in 1944 as the benchmark for Greenlandic and Faroese independence. He concludes that it is ‘foremost the domestic importance of human capital and secondly of fiscal independence’ (page 23) which are crucial in going beyond self-rule. Albeit short, this chapter serves as a valuable introduction to Danish sovereignty issues in the north Atlantic which invites for further reading on the matter (for example Körber and Volquardsen 2014).

Gustaf Pétursson’s contribution tackles the interesting interplay between military and human security. By focusing on *Icelandic security in a changing regional and geopolitical landscape: limited capabilities and growing responsibilities* he shows how Iceland’s limited capabilities to respond to human security concerns, exemplified by search and rescue needs, translates into closer reliance on NATO. Here, he argues, military infrastructure under the auspices of NATO is essential in providing human security services, for example through coast guard duties. While this may be the case, Pétursson however also points to the fact that in light of the Ukraine crisis Russia might interpret this as a (re-)militarisation of the region (page 39).

Greenlandic paradiplomatic relations are studied by Maria Ackrén. Readers unfamiliar with the concept of ‘paradiplomacy’ are quickly enlightened by the author as she frames the concept as ‘actions of regional governments or sub-national jurisdictions taken on international relations where they develop their own international agenda’ (page 44). With regard to Greenland, this occurs on several levels, for example through bilateral agreements with the EU, cultural or environmental co-operation or in the international indigenous movement. Ackrén nicely outlines the Greenlandic strains of paradiplomacy, resulting in a brief discussion on an own Greenlandic Arctic Strategy.

A steeper geopolitical angle is chosen by Michael T. Corgan who discusses *The USA in the Arctic: superpower or spectator*. Corgan convincingly shows how in light of the recent Arctic policy adopted under the Obama administration in 2013 the Arctic has never been at the forefront of US foreign policy. In fact, political recognition on a federal level is of rather recent origin and was first more clearly framed under Clinton. Corgan further compares the priorities in the US policies towards the Arctic and therefore updates and confirms already existing literature on the issue (see for example Steinberg 2014 on Bush’s Arctic policy)

The chapter *Russian military strategies in the high north* by Valery Konyshov and Alexander Sergunin excels great timeliness. The authors argue that increasing military presence is not necessarily a new development but part of the overall modernisation of the Russian military especially in light of the opening

of the northern sea route. While not as such new information (see for example Foxall 2014), the authors have included some element of threat perception in the Russian Federation. They point to the fact that even in spite of the increasingly civil utilisation of military capabilities, USA/NATO activities in the Arctic are still perceived as a threat to Russian security (page 81–85). In how far Putin’s recent announcement of adding 40 intercontinental ballistic missiles to Russia’s nuclear arsenal (Withnall 2015) are part of the process of military modernisation can only be speculated upon. However, Konyshov and Sergunin do indeed refer to plans like these in their paper (page 92). Consequently, political rhetoric amidst the tensions between ‘the West’ and Russia rather than the missile addition being a response to perceived NATO aggression may play a role in this announcement.

In the last chapter of the present volume Sandra Balão traces the EU’s involvement in the Arctic and screens *The European Union’s Arctic strategy(ies): the good and/or the evil?* In essence the paper aims to assess the ways in which policies towards the Arctic in the European Union could be designed. It appears, however, that Balão approaches the issue relatively uncritically. Only marginally she touches upon the controversies surrounding the EU as an observer to the Arctic Council, which, at the time of writing, is on an *ad hoc* basis. Instead, she primarily summarises existing policy documents in the EU and fleshes out their main characteristics that could feed into a coherent Arctic strategy for the EU. Contrary to what the title of the paper implies, unfortunately an analysis of pros and cons of the EU as an active Arctic actor with a strategic Arctic policy cannot be found.

With Balão’s paper the book ends. Unfortunately no concluding chapter can be found which would bring the findings of the chapters into a coherent whole. While the introductory chapter attempts this, a concluding chapter as a discussion on the presented information would have been beneficial. As such, the book is after all a loose compilation of papers dealing with a rough scheme: security in the north Atlantic and in the Arctic. ‘Security’ here clearly is centred around military security and other securities, such as human, environmental or cultural, are merely marginally touched upon. Of course, a short volume such as the present cannot cover the complex array of different understandings of security and the book’s title as well as the introductory chapter clarify the state-based understandings of ‘security’ in this volume.

The book contains several rather minor editorial shortcomings that could have been alleviated through more thorough proof-reading and copy-editing. For example, consistency in spelling is an issue in the book: althingi versus alþingi, Reykjavik versus Reykjavík, Quebec versus Québec. Several errors in grammar and sentence structure can be found. For example ‘The government of Greenland has taken has a cleartwo-step toward exploration’ (page 49) or ‘The agreements with the EU is not just focused on the fishery sector’ (page 50). It is also new to this reviewer that the EU aims to achieve ‘permanent observer status in the Arctic Circle’ (page 114).

All in all *Security and sovereignty in the North Atlantic* is a book which contains interesting chapters that provide information which trigger further inquiry. Throughout the book, however, this reviewer was hoping for sometimes more daring chapters. Since this is certainly a very subjective point of criticism, this short book is certainly recommendable for those interested in sovereignty- and military-security-issues in the North Atlantic. (Nikolas Sellheim, Faculty of Law,

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The man who found Captain Scott. Antarctic explorer and war hero. Surgeon Captain Edward Leicester Atkinson (1881–1929) DSO AM MRCS LRCP, Royal Navy. Michael C. Tarver. 2015. Brixham: Pen-dragon Maritime Publications. 200 p, hardcover, illustrated. ISBN 978-09552208-1-4. £17.80.
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Dr. Edward Leicester Atkinson was chief medical officer on Captain Scott's British Antarctic Expedition 1910–1913, held command of the base at Cape Evans in the final year of the expedition, and led the search party which found the remains of Scott, Wilson, and Bowers, enabling their records to be brought back to civilisation. Despite having such a prominent role in such a famous expedition, the self-effacing Atkinson has largely remained a character in other people's stories. Michael Tarver has at last sought to redress the balance and bring us a dedicated biography.

Antarctic Explorer and War Hero collates information from a wide range of sources to tell the story of a man whose life spanned the globe and several disciplines. As one would expect, Atkinson's role and actions in the Antarctic are described in some detail, but welcome attention is also paid to his pre-Antarctic life, and even more to his years of relentless service in the First World War, culminating in the heroism which saved five lives on the doomed HMS *Glutton*, nearly at the expense of his own. Readers who think of Atkinson as imperturbably puffing a pipe while dissecting fish at the bottom of the world may be surprised and interested to learn of his high-octane career of getting shot at in Gallipoli and shelled at the Somme, or supporting the White Army after the Russian Revolution. Atkinson won the Albert Medal in Gold and was the youngest man to achieve the rank of Surgeon-Captain in the Royal Navy: as this book amply shows, he deserved every ounce of it.

That the information gathered here can be so extensive is especially admirable in the face of how fragmentary the source material apparently was. Tarver tells us that 'research has presented many difficulties in seeking to establish important details, some of which for unexplained reasons, have been deleted from the national records.' Perhaps to compensate for this, or simply to paint a fuller picture, Tarver provides us with extensive background information for various aspects of Atkinson's life, which puts his experiences in context and allows the reader to appreciate his situation more fully. The book's generous illustrations assist in this; although quite a few of them

do not involve Atkinson personally, they are directly relevant to his experiences, and serve as a useful visual counterpoint to the text.

Unfortunately, this bounty of information is often weakly organised, and the frequent digressions into exposition and analysis, while interesting, further disrupt a thread of narrative causality already frayed by advances and backtracks in the timeline. This is not helped by the prose, which is not artfully written, and is sometimes difficult to parse. Tarver contests some of the criticism directed at Atkinson by Antarctic historians (principally that in Karen May's first article), and has a point, but for how much time is spent on his arguments they are not presented as clearly as he might wish.

Adding to the confusion of the text is an inconsistency of format. Sometimes quotes are in inverted commas, sometimes they're italicised, and sometimes they aren't delineated at all. Titles of publications range from simple italics to bold all-caps. A few random facts get a direct citation, but the rest of the book is left to be covered nebulously by the bibliography. Together with a number of images which are blurry, awkwardly framed, or obviously scanned from print, one is left feeling a want of adequate care. Overall, Tarver would have benefited greatly from an objective editor with a critical eye, who could have suggested reorganisation and rewording (and a certain amount of proofreading) to make the book more readable, and ensured the best presentation of the material.

Antarctic Explorer and War Hero is an impressive assemblage of facts, but they don't really convey a sense of the man they are describing. Atkinson himself seems to take a back seat to the data and analysis, and as a result feels more like a recurring incidental character in his own life than a person one gets to know over the course of the book. It could be argued this is a matter of personal taste, but if Tarver's aim is to raise his subject above reproof, his purpose would be served more fully by communicating what a warm, selfless, and honourable man Atkinson was, rather than simply running through his exploits. Atkinson didn't keep a journal, but others' accounts of him, and his own correspondence, give a picture of that admirable character which is missing here. With the exception of Cherry-Garrard's 1937 eulogy, printed nearly in full at the end, very little space is given to the sort of quotes that would bring the man to life in the reader's mind.

Despite its flaws, *Antarctic Explorer and War Hero* is still an achievement of research, the more so for the digging it entailed.