

advisory role. Home rule, however, has changed this, placing those sections of the civil service that can be financed by Greenlandic taxpayers into Greenlandic hands; Greenlanders also control some other areas for which the Danish government still gives substantial economic aid. But other responsibilities, including foreign policy and defence, are still under Danish control, leaving the home rule authorities in the age-old advisory position. But what of the willingness of the Danes to abandon control? Historical research has shown that since the 1860s reforms have been initiated by benevolent Danish civil servants, prompted after World War II by the Greenlanders themselves. In contrast, home rule was overwhelmingly initiated by Greenlandic politicians. There had been a growing opposition to the rapid post-war modernization which brought with it greater Danish influence. But if any one reason for the demand for home rule could be singled out, it might be Greenland's entry into the Common Market in 1972 despite a 70 per cent Greenlandic vote against membership.

In his discussion of the origin of Greenland's home rule, Jens Brøsted firmly places himself with the opposition, namely the Siumut and relatively small Inuit Ataqûtiit parties, overlooking the Atâssut party which has the support of roughly half the electorate. Overall, Brøsted criticizes the home rule agreement on one major point: it is an agreement based on delegation of power from the Danish parliament, and therefore governed by constitutional rights, and not one between two independent nations. Brøsted spells out in detail how detrimental this arrangement is. Although there is some uncertainty as to the degree to which the Greenlandic opposition parties were actually influenced by this criticism, Brøsted's investigation of the Commission's report, its preliminary work and the political debates between 1972 and 1979 is skilful and painstaking.

As he believes soundly that Danish policy towards Greenland is not one of mere benevolence, Brøsted must find some other reason why the Danes granted a greater degree of self-government. He first points to the general tendency in Denmark in the early 1970s to decentralize state administration, exemplified by the 1970 municipal reform which transferred tasks hitherto managed by the state to local administration, leading consequently to more local taxation. Quite correctly Brøsted shows that similar reforms were immediately prepared for Greenland. His second point, though, is more speculative, but may well be true. He believes that the Ministry for Greenland, fearing that problems in Greenland might become uncontrollable, preferred to allow the Greenlanders to cope with them themselves in a presumably cheaper and more efficient manner.

The main problem during the home rule negotiations was that of ownership of sub-surface land, especially the resources which might be there. Quite appropriately Brøsted dedicates a large part of his book to that problem. Not surprisingly both sides desired to be in control. The Greenlanders based their claim, at least in the later part of the negotiations, on the rights of aboriginal peoples, while the Danes upheld the view that Danish law placed ownership with society as a whole, ie, the state. No wonder that the question of whether Greenlanders were a nation, a people with its own sovereign rights, became a vital side theme in the negotiations. The outcome became a compromise with joint management of raw materials; the juridical dispute remains unsolved.

Jens Brøsted takes great care to supply the Greenlanders with every possible argument so that they may eventually win their case. My main objection to this otherwise scholarly, accomplished work is that he seems to put too much confidence in formal juridical arguments, in other words there is too much word-twisting and too little of commonsense reasoning which, to my knowledge, carries much weight in Danish jurisprudence. Nevertheless Brøsted's book can safely be recommended to anyone who takes an interest in the issue, provided they can master the Danish language.

NORTHERN OIL AND GAS EXPERIENCES COMPARED

[Review by N. Farquhar* of *The Scottish and Alaskan offshore oil and gas experience and the Canadian Beaufort Sea* by J. G. Nelson and S. Jessen. Ottawa, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee; Waterloo, Ontario, Faculty of Environmental Studies, 1981, xix, 155 p, illus. Softcover. Canadian \$6.50.]

The authors of this report have developed a framework, a 'management assessment model', for comparing offshore oil and gas development experiences within diverse political systems. Just as

* Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.

important, they have provided a substantive comparison of three northern development situations: by reviewing the effectiveness of management in Scotland (mostly the Shetland Islands) and Alaska (the North Slope), they make recommendations for the future management of Canada's Beaufort Sea–Mackenzie delta region. This seems a viable application of northern development experiences at a regional planning level.

The process of development is well covered in the report, with emphasis on environmental rather than social planning and impact control. Interests, events, and legislation are described. Management strategies and development conditions are outlined for all three areas, including a point-by-point assessment of the effectiveness of management in Shetland. Appended to the report is the authors' Beaufort Sea questionnaire, developed from the management assessment model, and the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee's response to it.

From the Alaskan and Scottish experiences, the authors note that regional governments are most effective in protecting regional interests, and thus should be deeply and vigorously involved in development planning and management. In this respect the Alaskan coastal zone planning process and the onshore planning policies of the Shetland Islands Council are important models for the development of the Beaufort Sea–Mackenzie delta region. Land ownership and strong local government are seen as fundamental to effective regional planning, so that national governments and business interests work within a system which looks after local interests.

Development in northern regions is so dynamic that any published report will be a little outdated. In Shetland, for instance, the recent completion of the Sullom Voe terminal has led to unemployment, and the new 'welfare state' has come in for some criticism. In Alaska, praiseworthy baseline monitoring and planning programmes are to be reduced or eliminated by cuts in federal spending, at a time of proposed accelerated exploration and development of the continental margin. Meanwhile in Canada, the boom of interest in Newfoundland's offshore oil resources has been strongly influenced and controlled by an assertive regional government, providing a particularly good model for planning in the Beaufort–Mackenzie region.

Though necessarily broad and brief, this report provides important background information for, and constructive suggestions for improvement of, the Beaufort–Mackenzie planning process. Just as offshore drilling technologies can be shifted and modified for use in northern areas, the authors prove that development management strategies can be transferred and adapted among northern peoples and governments.

EVIDENCE FOR PRE-PLEISTOCENE GLACIATION

[Review by Peter Friend* of *Earth's pre-Pleistocene glacial record*, edited and collated by M. J. Hambrey and W. B. Harland. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1981, xv, 1 004 p, illus. Hardcover £98.00.]

The object of preparing this book was to assemble the geological evidence for early periods of glaciation in the earth's history. The early periods are those before the beginning (two million years ago) of the Pleistocene period, when the major glaciation that is still with us, reached its climax. The sorts of evidence involved are the occurrences in certain ancient sedimentary rocks of local features, like pebbles in characteristic settings, that are considered to indicate glacial processes of sedimentation.

The book is a remarkable 'data bank', rather than a book to be read from cover to cover. It results from contributions by an international group of more than 170 authors, organized by an international committee. But its completion is due to the vision and drive of one man (W. B. Harland), and the editorial devotion and stamina of another (M. J. Hambrey). So diverse and complex is the information available on each of the many localities at which evidence for early glaciation has been discovered, that it was decided to assemble the information in a standard way, using a carefully designed questionnaire. Most of the book consists of individual articles, over 200 in number, each describing a locality, under standard headings and well illustrated with maps.

* Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ.