

demic literature on the cultures of imperial exploration, it seems surprising that the book should end on the demise of the Scott expedition. What is interesting about the Scott expedition is precisely its enduring relevance of the polar ice for English audiences in the post-Scott era. Why are the English, as opposed to the Scots, Irish, or Welsh, so fascinated with things polar? Spufford has nothing to note, for example, on the culture of polar exploration in late twentieth-century Britain. This is important because it touches upon not only the commemoration of past polar explorers such as Scott but also public responses to contemporary polar personalities such as Fiennes, Stroud, and Swan. In a post-imperial age, imperial institutions *par excellence*, such as the Royal Geographical Society and *The Times*, continue to promote polar heroics either through generous coverage or sponsorship, in spite of the fact that the polar continent has been thoroughly mapped. Whilst Spufford's book is full of insight and historical detail, it does not help address the enduring legacy of polar exploration to the English imagination and, in that sense, it was disappointing to this reader. (Klaus Dodds, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.)

**THE EAST–WEST INTERFACE IN THE EUROPEAN NORTH.** Margareta Dahlström, Heikki Eskelinen, and Ulf Wiberg (Editors). 1995. Uppsala: Nordisk Samhällsgeografisk Tidskrift. vi + 155 p, maps, soft cover. ISBN 91-972338-4-6.

The Cold War has officially been pronounced as over, and this has definitely led to a greater emphasis on regionalism, especially its implications for the peripheral, marginalised areas within nation-states. In the decentralized, restructured, and consolidated world economy that has emerged since the 1980s, with new communications technologies, new forms of corporate organization, and new business services having intensified 'time–space compression,' the logic and apparatus of statehood is not conducive to trans-national integration. The regional alternative to statism seems potentially compensatory, in terms of the quality of world order, for both the erosion of hegemonic stability and the more acute forms of pathology that are afflicting the weak nation-state. However, almost any generalization about regionalism is suspect because of unevenness of different regional settings and of the varying degrees to which economic, political, and cultural life has been regionalized. Also, because formal regional structures are still being constituted overwhelmingly with state actors as members, the framework of nation-states continues to be a source of friction. The main reason for this, of course, is that the functional logic of statehood hinges on reinforcing differences between nations while reinforcing similarities within nations. The key questions that arise therefore are: can a new geopolitical equilibrium be established between 'national–territorial' and 'local' interests through regional integration? Can regional frameworks help in realizing the critical shift from 'dominance' to 'non-dominance' as the fundamental principle of political governance? The ques-

tion is, in other words, how to achieve and sustain 'positive regionalism,' one that promotes environmental sustainability, human rights, human-resource development (especially in relation to vulnerable minorities and indigenous peoples), and demilitarization of both space and mind?

The central focus of *The east–west interface in the European north* is on cross-border interaction and cooperation between western and eastern Europe in the so-called 'northern periphery,' that is, between the northernmost parts of Finland, Norway, and Sweden and the northwestern corner of Russia. Both the experiences of and the preconditions for trans-national cooperation in the European north — currently manifest in the efforts of the North Calotte Committee and the Barents region initiative — are critically investigated from socio-cultural, economic, and political perspectives. What does the end of the Cold War mean, in practice, for people in the northern periphery of Europe? Can a common northern identity across the east–west divide in the Euro-Arctic be forged, or are Russians and the inhabitants of the Nordic countries fated to live in different worlds? How real and meaningful is the cultural gap between the two, and how will it affect trans-national business cooperation in the area? Will the peripheral regions of the north be able to overcome the legacy of peripherality and effectively participate in the profound technological and organizational restructuring of the Nordic and Russian economies in an environmentally sustainable manner? These are the kinds of questions raised in this book.

The book consists of 10 chapters, including a concise introductory essay. In chapter one, the editors point out that a new northern dimension has been added to the European integration process by the EU membership of Finland and Sweden, and they describe the cross-border interaction in the north as a 'strategy for regional development in more peripheral parts of neighbouring countries' (page 1). They argue that, notwithstanding several major structural differences between the partners concerned (that is, governments of the four countries involved, eight sub-national regions, and representatives of indigenous peoples), there is a common stake in the sustainable development of the European north. Security, ecology, and economy are pinpointed as the major driving forces behind the cooperation efforts in the resource-rich Euro-Arctic, which, 'with its remote location, harsh climate and vast territory...has been a typical geographical periphery. Its socio-economic developments have been controlled by external decision-makers, mainly from the national capitals' (page 3).

In chapter two, Kimmo Katajala writes about the role and great impact that the major metropolis of St Petersburg had on eastern Finland during the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries, in almost all sectors of production. Correspondingly, the development of the transport networks was closely tied to the demands of industry and trade. Although this influence was almost erased by the October Revolution, current developments have clearly

revived an interest in it. He points out that 'the structures and preconditions of the trade are now in a phase of formation' and concludes that 'it is a task of political decision-making to create the institutional and physical basis which the local, regional, and foreign trade can thereby build upon' (page 27).

In chapter three, Geir B. Hønneland relates the process of region building in the European north to the question of identity politics. He critically examines the problem of a 'northern identity' and explores the complex notions of 'self and other in the northern periphery.' The key argument of this competent contribution is that, notwithstanding the possible common sense of belonging to the northern periphery and the common stake in its environmentally sustainable and socially just development, considerable differences exist between Nordic and Russian business culture, customs, and political and social organization. Hønneland argues that 'absence of a cross-national feeling of community may prevent or impede the development of the necessary infrastructure and common institutions, which in turn are essential for reaching the established goals of stability and prosperity in the area' (page 32) and emphasises that 'only thorough knowledge about the other side can prevent these differences from becoming actual hindrances to a fruitful co-operation' (page 44). Readers familiar with the discourse and practices of indigenous movements in the circumpolar north, however, might wonder over the exclusion of even a reference to Sami identity in this chapter.

In chapter four, Petri Kinnunen looks across the border to survey and record the views and expectations of people in northern Finland and northwest Russia, and identifies significant socio-economic and cultural differences between the two countries. This empirical study raises some pertinent questions: will the partial opening of the border between northern Finland and Russia contribute to a decrease in mutual prejudices between Finnish and Russian people? Are young people more open-minded to new cross-border interaction and influence than elderly people? How have recent major changes been reflected in the living conditions as experienced by people on both sides of the east–west divide in the north? Overall findings of Kinnunen's study reveal that Finns and Russians in the border region not only 'view the opening of the border differently' but also 'seem to know very little about one another' (page 53).

The next three chapters deal with more general and political themes. In chapter five, Bo Svensson compares the Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish foreign-policy objectives concerning central and eastern Europe, particularly Russia, and analyses how these relate to the processes of trans-national regionalization in both the Barents region and the Baltic Sea region — with emphasis on the former. Focusing changes and priorities in the post-Cold War policies of the Nordic states, Svensson reveals that despite certain similarities in the manner in which the three have reacted to recent changes in central and eastern Europe, significant differences remain in their regional priorities.

Quite obviously, therefore, 'even if national interests are not in conflict with transnational region-building and regionalization, the priorities made by national governments very much shape the ongoing processes' (page 70).

In chapter six, Ulf Wiberg argues that the northern peripheries, no longer inhibited by the Iron Curtain, should make good use of this historic opportunity to achieve a role as a 'gateway' and find new outlets to release and realize their economic potential. The prospects of 'pluralistic east–west integration' in the Euro-Arctic, however, shall greatly depend on their ability to find a way out of the high level of present-day dependencies on external decision-making. This may not be easily achieved, cautions Wiberg, because, 'as a consequence of the strong structural pattern of peripherality, formed by dominating hierarchical national structures in the northern parts of Finland, Norway, and Sweden, there are weak platforms for bottom-up creation of partnerships or strategic alliances within both a national and a Nordic framework' (page 79). The nature and extent of openness in the Russian policy-making towards trans-national integrative efforts with bottom-up profile, perspectives, and strategies also need to be ascertained. Furthermore, problems such as high costs due to long distances, small regional markets, and lack of direct transportation and communications links between potential partners need to be tackled. According to Wiberg, the Barents region cooperation represents the most far-reaching concept for east–west integration in the Euro-Arctic and 'of special interest is to see if the concept for co-operation can act as a device for the solving of ecological problems in the Russian part of the territory and launch an economic upswing in the northern periphery of Europe' (page 83).

In chapter seven, Heikki Eskelinen examines the special role of infrastructure in promoting regionalism in the north, with special reference to Russian Karelia and the Finnish–Russian border areas. The adequacy of existing transport networks in the region is assessed, the urgent requirements for further expansion and upgrading of infrastructure as a crucial element for economic development on both sides of the border are underlined, and the difficulties on the way are pointed out. Eskelinen emphasises that the infrastructure network should be developed in such a manner that it serves transit traffic in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable way, contributing at the same time to the strengthening of mutual cross-border connections between neighbouring regions and localities.

The last three chapters of the book deal with more specific themes related to the emerging political economy of the European north. In chapter eight, Jukka Oksa and Olli Saastamoinen analyse the role of cross-border cooperation in the restructuring process of Russian Karelian forestry. One major asset of this contribution is a concise and critical discussion of emerging new actors with their cross-border connections and conflicting interests. In chapter nine, Elisa Haapanen focuses on foreign capital investment in Russian Karelia, analyses the importance of joint ventures and foreign-owned enterprises in the region,

and examines different expectations and motives of foreign investors and Karelian authorities, and conflicts caused by these differences. Haapanen stresses the need for a more predictable business environment with a sound legal base, in addition to tackling more immediate problems like taxation, regulation of exports and imports, the banking system, and national legislation as a whole. In the final chapter, Margarethe Aanesen takes a close look at the environmental problems in the border area between Norway and Russia. Problems of achieving mutually agreeable solutions are analysed using game theory.

To sum up, *The east–west interface in the European north* ‘intends to contribute to the analysis of region building process in the northernmost part of Europe’ (page 7), and, in the opinion of this reviewer, does so fairly competently. The key strength of the analysis in the book lies in applying a more critical approach to the subject in hand and combining theoretical insights with empirical studies. Those engaged in Arctic studies should find the book quite useful and thought-provoking. However, the nature and scope of the book is somewhat restricted, which is partly due to the fact that all its contributors are Nordic scholars. Using Russian references is a poor substitute for utilizing the knowledge and perspectives of Russian scholars themselves. What is also missing is the indigenous voice. As the editors themselves point out, ‘there is a minority of indigenous Sami people in the northernmost area in all four countries, approximately 42,000 in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark counties in Norway, 10,000–15,000 in Norrbotten in Sweden, 5000–7000 in Lappi in Finland, and only about 2000 in the Kola Peninsula in Russia’ (page 3). It needs to be pointed out that indigenous peoples and their voices/perspectives have until very recently occupied a marginal site in the study of national, regional, and international politics. Throughout the circumpolar north, there are marginal sites, occupied by marginalized and excluded people whose demands for inclusion can and do change the nature of the dominant political discourse. In other words, there are ‘peripheries within peripheries’ in some parts of the European north. Given the central concern of the book it would have been quite illuminating and rewarding to invite indigenous perspectives. The indigenous voice(s) might call into question a dominant theoretical interpretation and set us to work modifying and adapting a prevailing theoretical orientation or lead us toward the development of an entirely new paradigmatic framework for interpreting and studying Arctic politics. (Sanjay Chaturvedi, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh 160 014, India.)

**REGIONAL SATELLITE OCEANOGRAPHY.** Serge Victorov. London: Taylor & Francis. xiv + 306 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-7484-0274-8. £24.95.

This book sets out to describe and detail a particular branch of science — regional satellite oceanography — that is a marriage of remote sensing and oceanography. The author is the head of the Laboratory for Satellite Oceanography and Airborne Methods, part of the State Oceanographic

Institute in St Petersburg, Russia, and the book focuses strongly upon the regional oceanography of the Baltic Sea. The messages that the book carries are naturally aimed at members of the oceanographic and remote-sensing communities, but also at people working in the development, monitoring, and control of coastal regions and exclusive economic zones.

The introductory chapters of the book concentrate on how information from satellites and other remote-sensing platforms is incorporated usefully into oceanographic investigations. This also provides an intriguing mini-history of the efforts of Russian oceanographers and remote-sensing scientists to take advantage of the developments in satellite technology, in spite of the difficulties imposed by lack of funding, limited access to information from military satellites, and, most critically, the fact that they were unable to import computer hardware and software from the western world.

The third chapter of the book considers the methodology of regional satellite oceanography, with a great deal of attention given to the design and execution of field activities in support of the collection of satellite data, and vice versa. The fourth chapter proceeds to review a broad selection of worldwide activities during the last six years in the context of regional satellite oceanography. Of most interest to polar researchers are descriptions of the Norwegian operational ocean monitoring and forecasting system, the Russian space-based ice-information system, and the US Coast Guard’s initiative in placing high-bandwidth satellite receivers onto icebreakers.

The core of the book is a large chapter devoted to a case study of the Baltic Sea as an example of regional satellite oceanography. It first defines and describes a geographic information system that defines Baltic Europe — those areas of Europe affecting and affected by the Baltic Sea — and reviews the demography and environmental conditions that prevail in that area. Included in this discussion are more historical insights into the management of the Baltic region. Subsequent sections of the chapter explore the use of satellite remote sensing to study the dynamical oceanography and biological phenomena (including pollution) pertinent to the Baltic Sea, and the efforts to monitor the marine and coastal environments in Neva Bay, located at the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland and home to St Petersburg.

The author concludes with a well-argued recommendation to direct more effort and resources to the goal of a synergistic approach to regional satellite oceanography that crosses international boundaries, and, furthermore, to concentrate such research upon problems in coastal zone monitoring and management.

In summary, the book is a valuable contribution to the scientific literature in remote sensing and oceanography. The worth of the book is enhanced by the particular perspective of its author, who has been unavoidably involved with solving many of the scientific and technical challenges that are posed by the discipline of regional satellite oceanography. In addition, the book provides a