

The fast-changing Arctic. Rethinking Arctic security for a warmer world

Barry Scott Zellen (ed.)

University of Calgary Press, Northern Light Series, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 2013. Co-publisher: Arctic Institute of North America. ISBN:978-1-55238-646-0, soft cover, 395 pages.



General feature of the book is that it brings a pragmatic view on the consequences of global warming of atmosphere, sea ice decline in Northern hemisphere in particular. Contrastingly to many books at market that focus on recent climatological and environmental changes happening in the Arctic ocean, *The fast-changing Arctic* overviews the aspects of ongoing transformation in the Arctics with main emphasis given to tourism impact, increased availability of mineral sources, fishing industry, human habitation, economic, military, and defense consequences. Among many topics presented in the book, the likely effects of increased shipping through the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route are focused. The book is not a typical scientific study, it is rather platform for several professionals and academicians who comment history and possible future scenarios of environment, geopolitical and security issues in the Arctic.

The book consists of 16 chapters divided into four main sections: (1) Arctic Climate Change (2) Cooperation and Conflict: Paths forward, (3) Regional Perspectives, and (4) Concluding Observations. Apart from the editor (B. Scott Zellen), almost two tens of international co-author of 16 chapters contributed to the book. Their professional backgrounds are mainly geopolitics, law, geography, marine sciences, international relations and defence strategies. A reader will undoubtedly welcome a brief overview of professional career which is given in the extent of 1-2 paragraphs for each co-author. From geographical point of view, the book overviews strategies of five coastal Arctic states (USA, Canada, Norway, Russia, Denmark/Greenland) in recent common themes of national and international importance. The themes comprise i) Environmental concerns, ii) Resource development, iii) Sovereignty, iv) Governance, v) Scientific research, and vi) Shipping.

Some co-authors discuss the likely changes in demography of Arctic regions. It is because of the fact that many professionals attempt to evaluate potential impact of climate change on population of North polar regions in order to predict future development of demography. In this respect, the book brings views on Kahl's Demographic and Environmental Stress model (DES). In brief, Daniel and Michael Clausen, the authors of a chapter, recommend to be a bit careful about DES model outputs since several important aspects, such as *e.g.* stress caused by a combination of factors and their particular importance, were not considered in the model.

As regards security in Arctic regions, majority of the co-authors stress the importance of a dialogue and collaboration between countries involved into ship transportation in coastal Arctic seas that are expected more open in future. In one of the concluding chapters, L. W. Bringham concludes that „*The Arctic will become a shipping superhighway*“ which again supports the idea of co-operation and a necessity of coordination of exploitation of traffic routes in Arctic seas.

The book can be recommended to the professionals in the field of international relations, geodemography, strategic studies, and members of international organizations that have Arctic issues in their scope.

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