

In conclusion, the author has summarized the advantages to the Inuit (Inughuit) of Western technology, particularly rifles in the early 1900s and motorboats and snowmobiles in the 1960s. On the other hand, early contacts with Westerners also brought epidemics, which, for a time, inflicted considerable harm on aboriginal people. In reverse, the White man owes a great debt to the Inuit (Inughuit) for their expertise as travellers, and in many other ways. In recent times, for example, their empirical observations of the habits of muskoxen in the Grise Fiord area provided a sound basis for decisions on the management of the species.

This book is a treasure trove of information, and it is strongly recommended that it should be read—and read again—by all interested in the Canadian Arctic in general and in its Native people.

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CHANGING TRACKS: PREDATORS AND POLITICS IN MT. MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK. By TIMOTHY RAWSON. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2001. 326 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index. Hardbound, US\$39.95; Softbound, US\$24.95.

I never met Adolph Murie, a central character in Timothy Rawson's book. We corresponded in the late 1960s, in a successful effort to stop distribution of a postcard: it depicted a snarling wolf, with the caption: "These vicious beasts are among the most bloodthirsty in Alaska." In the early 1970s, when I hoped to visit with Murie at his home in Wyoming, I was a few months too late: he had died.

Over my extensive career as a wolf research biologist, my copy of Murie's *Wolves of Mt. McKinley* has become dog-eared and worn. His publication was a classic, the first wolf monograph, still full of insight today. After reading Timothy Rawson's book, I feel I know Adolph Murie—partial compensation for what I missed.

Rawson's intention was not to write a biography. Although Murie's youth is referred to early in the book, he is not a focal character until halfway through. Yet in any good biography, context is everything, especially when chronicling the evolution of ideas. Rawson does a thorough job describing the contribution of earlier thinkers, such as park biologist Victor Cahalane, Assistant Parks Director Harold Bryant, and academic Joseph Grinnell. These people, and those who held opposing views, are brought to life largely through reference to archival letters. The interactions among the protagonists make for fascinating interplay. But most importantly, they describe a dilemma faced by the U.S. Parks Service: whether to leave nature alone in the national parks, or to appease public pressure by killing predators.

That dilemma forced Murie, champion of expanded sympathy for the wolf based on ecological understanding, to set snares for the very wolves he had studied. While the "catch 22" in which he found himself—having to kill wolves in order to save them—is poignant, even disturbing, for the reader, Murie is never more than a central figure in the Parks Service's dilemma.

This dilemma makes the book much more than an early history (up until 1953) of predators and politics in Mt. McKinley National Park. It really describes an early clash between two worldviews: the utilitarian view of nature, as stock and commodity for us, and the ecological/evolutionary view that nature has intrinsic self-worth. Few issues in environmental management have proven to be such a litmus for the conflict in worldviews as the wolf. Rawson's description of events at McKinley is significant to the history of this conflict, one in which much more than the wolf is at stake.

Rawson sticks mainly to the swirling conflict over wolves and Dall's sheep at McKinley, played out by hunters, biologists, and bureaucrats. However, in the last chapter, "Evaluation and Consequence," he paints the wolf of today in new clothing—loved and respected to a much greater degree through the popular writings of scientists like Murie and the interest of cinematographers, beginning in the late 1950s with the Crislers' film and book *Arctic Wild*.

But much of the intrigue in the book, for me, stems from the surprisingly similar modern-day wolf-predator war that my wife, my students, and I have gone through ourselves, over wolf management in Ontario's Algonquin Park. Our research, like Murie's, was central to the conflict, and like Murie, we were castigated and praised. What the advocates of wolf killing wrote and said back in the 1930s and 1940s about wolves in McKinley is the script for today! On one side is an unbelieving incredulity by sportsmen's organizations (in McKinley's case, the prestigious Camp Fire Club) that anyone or any agency could champion a competitor for the harvest of big game. Theirs is the utilitarian view. Against that have ranged the arguments based on ecological research (used back then by the U.S. Parks Service and the American Society of Mammalogists) for leaving natural processes like predation alone in wilderness parks, out of respect and the humility of knowing that we can never understand ecosystems. That is the ecological/evolutionary view.

Those involved in wolf management in Alaska and Denali today would likely agree that much is still the same—although, as Rawson points out, a new element in the equation is the voice of conservation-oriented people all over North America. Nonetheless, the state still advocates considerable wolf killing, and so do many Alaskans. And at Denali (McKinley) National Park, recent intensive wolf research has shown that, on average, 14% of annual mortality in park wolves is caused by humans.

The last chapter leaves plenty of room for thought. Rawson provides evidence that the retirement or death of

key figures and their replacement by others was central in resolving the wolf-sheep conflict at McKinley. That has a nice evolutionary ring to it. Because the book is about the development of ideas, the reader cannot help thinking about what is next: the conflict over wolf management in Alaska or elsewhere is far from over. If new ideas are lined up for the next generation to take on, perhaps they will include the emerging challenge of buffering, linking, and networking parks with protection for large, space-demanding carnivores.

Rawson is a good, clean writer: the book is easily understood, exceedingly well researched and referenced, and full of intrigue as you follow the interplay of personalities.

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ASPECTS OF ARCTIC AND SUB-ARCTIC HISTORY.

Edited by INGI SIGURÐSSON and JÓN SKAPTASON. Proceedings of the International Congress on the History of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region, Reykjavík, 18–21 June 1998. Reykjavík: University of Iceland Press, 2000. 623 p., 30 maps, b&w illus. Softbound. US\$30.00.

This book incorporates all but a few of the papers presented at the 1998 International Congress on the History of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region. All the essays are in English, and the editors deserve much credit for maintaining a high linguistic standard without falling for the temptation to interfere with individual writing styles by imposing their own elegant English.

The conference, held in Reykjavik under the generous auspices of several Icelandic cultural institutions, drew scholars from many countries and disciplines and covered a wide, but uneven range of topics, only a few of which can be highlighted here. Faced with such an eclectic spectrum of subjects and scholarly approaches, the conference organizers and editors, Ingi Sigurðsson and Jón Skaptason, created three broad categories: “Centre and Periphery,” “Indigenous Culture and External Influences,” and “Farming.” Added to 20 single lectures on a variety of topics were round-table discussions with short papers on “Historical Sites and Heritage Management,” “Preindustrial Navigation in the North,” and “The Position of the Karelian Autonomous Socialist Republic within the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 30s.” This review will not use the editors’ categories, however, because the link to the various headings—or even to the volume’s title—is decidedly tenuous in several otherwise illuminating papers.

Not all of the essays are crisply argued, but as a group they demonstrate why the Arctic and Subarctic areas of the world deserve the attention of historians and archaeologists, as well

as of politicians, administrators, and scientists. This is especially true given the strong reminder that in the Far North, as elsewhere, “history” has so often been mined to establish political and economic “entitlement” to one region or another.

Several contributors illuminate political and administrative problems arising from tension between national and provincial entities or between officialdom and individuals. In “Centre and Periphery in Wartime: Iceland and Denmark during the Napoleonic Wars,” the Icelandic historian Anna Agnarsdóttir deftly interweaves all of these strands. Balanced in its approach and as well informed about Danish and English politics as about the Icelanders’ measures against famine, her article is alone in spotlighting English participation in North Atlantic concerns over the past several centuries. Jens E. Olesen’s “Iceland in the Politics of the Kalmar Union” is so meticulous in outlining the part played by the Hanseatic League that the short shrift given to the English position is likely to leave some readers with a sense of imbalance.

The Canadian scholars K.S. Coates and W.R. Morrison define the geographic scope of these conference papers in terms of temperature: “Without winter, the North is only a direction, not a place; the two are thus inseparable” (p. 409–410). Put differently, isotherms (imaginary lines on a map indicating areas with the same mean temperature) are as important as latitudes in determining what constitutes Arctic and Subarctic regions. A number of the papers in the present volume therefore stress the impact of climatic conditions on such issues as demography, social customs, agriculture, fishing, forestry, trade, and communications. These essays on basic economic issues form an important and satisfying part of the book.

Creating a coherent narrative about past and present development in northern regions demands a multidisciplinary approach. Documentary evidence—the historian’s traditional source material—is often absent even for fairly recent events, and it certainly becomes scarcer the farther we go back in time. The continuous process of illuminating the past in the Arctic and Subarctic thus requires historians to consult tangential disciplines: archaeology, anthropology, climatology, philology, and linguistics, to name only a few. It is therefore surprising that among the 66 contributors to *Aspects of Arctic and Sub-Arctic History* there are only three archaeologists, with just two of them reporting on recent first-hand experience. Fortunately, both “The Eskimo Cultures in Greenland and the Medieval Norse: A Contribution to History and Ethnohistory,” by Hans Christian Gulløv, and “The Norse in the North Atlantic: The L’Anse aux Meadows Settlement in Newfoundland,” by Birgitta Linderöth Wallace, are models of updated research placed in a well-defined context.

I also question the omission at this conference of scholars from England, Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the Iberian Peninsula, who could have provided useful perspectives on their nations’ activities in the North Atlantic from the early Renaissance onwards. The Nordic