

space that somehow deliver power to the aurora, the unknown mechanisms that must be operating 5000–10 000 km above the atmosphere to produce the auroral glow, and the mysterious mechanisms that allow the electrical wind from the sun to couple to the earth's magnetic field.

The reader is urged to carefully observe the aurora: to watch and, particularly, to listen. Observing hints are offered and very practical advice about photographing aurora in cold weather is given. Controversial reports of sound associated with the aurora are presented (scientists say "no" — everyone else says "yes"), and Professor Davis provides information and encouragement about how non-specialists can have their observations placed into the scientific record.

A chapter discussing legends of the aurora is included. However, unlike the presentations in other aurora books, which typically attempt to survey auroral folklore throughout the Arctic, this presentation is a personal view that reflects upon stories and explanations the author himself has heard from people living in Alaska and Canada. This approach deals more with the reactions of people to the aurora than with its cultural importance. This is refreshing and, I believe, much more enlightening than another survey of legends.

This book will be an asset to any library in the North. High-school and college students will find information about the aurora at all levels; with some thought, a physics course emphasizing the aurora could be taught from it. After-work learners will be rewarded handsomely for the time spent with this book. *The Aurora Watcher's Handbook* will be appreciated by any person curious about the aurora, from hunters and hobbyists to auroral experts. Scientists will find it a thorough refresher and more — this auroral researcher learned plenty.

There are several coffee-table books about the aurora available; for spectacular photographs and art reproductions, those other books will satisfy. Much different, the goal of *The Aurora Watcher's Handbook* is to provide a path for an understanding of the aurora, and it is very successful. *The Aurora Watcher's Handbook* is a book for the armchair, not the coffee table.

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WHOSE NORTH? POLITICAL CHANGE, POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. By MARK O. DICKERSON. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1992. (A joint publication of the Arctic Institute of North America and UBC Press.) 233 p., maps, figs., tables, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Softbound, Cdn\$19.95. Hardbound, Cdn\$39.95.

The devolution of government in the Northwest Territories has been a subject of increasing study and debate over the last decade, perhaps as a result of recent recognition of aboriginal rights to self-government. The latest work, *Whose North?* by Mark O. Dickerson, offers a very readable and thoughtful analysis of the circumstances and events leading to political change, with focus on the current question of political legitimacy. For a historian, especially, Dickerson's search into the past as a means of understanding the present and future is a refreshing departure from the complex theories and models which so often characterize traditional political science methodology. The stated objective was to place the process of political change in the N.W.T. within a historical evolutionary context for clearer understanding of the multiple issues and tensions inherent in the more recent pressures for increased decentralization. In this respect, he has succeeded admirably.

The high quality of reproduction is reflective of the contents. The chapters are well organized and clearly identified; the massive number of tables, maps and figures are all listed and accurately captioned; the

index is exceptionally detailed; and the extensive bibliography includes not only the appropriate classic studies and relevant government documents, but is heavily weighted with very recent sources. One has the first impression that many years of careful study went into this work. A closer examination of the contents found no contradictions.

Creative thought is also evident. While there are only three photographs, they are strikingly symbolic. On the one hand, the magnificent cover photograph of an isolated indigenous community leaves no doubt as to "whose North" the author refers to. In stark contrast, the sombre black and white photographs of the 1966 Territorial Council and 1991 Legislative Assembly dramatically illustrate the changes occurring over the past 25 years, not only in terms of gender, ethnicity and formality, but in the age of those bearing the responsibility of government. Without names to focus on individual identity, the reader is drawn to consider the general nature of representation. Throughout, however, all factual information and secondary analysis are fully substantiated by detailed footnotes and further clarified by numerous tables, charts and chronologies. Moreover the text is written in a style for easy comprehension by readers with diverse interests in the North.

The strengths of *Whose North?* lie partly in its logic and readability, which can be easily comprehended by educated yet relatively uninformed readers. Equally significant is the degree of accuracy and relevancy of historical evidence that gives full support to the critical analysis and proffered solutions of current problems. Ironically, any weaknesses are directly linked to the strengths, in that the suggested solutions may become outdated by rapidly changing circumstances. In that event, it is hoped that a revised edition might be published to retain the excellent historical analysis which is of more lasting importance.

In the first chapter, Dickerson sets out his objective, approach and thesis. Precise definitions of "political development" as compared to "political change" are crucial to Dickerson's thesis, which argues that political change is not synonymous with political development but can just as readily lead to decay, in spite of the growth of political structures and institutions. From this perspective, a "southern" transplant of Canadian democracy may well fail to meet the cultural and governance needs of the northern aborigines.

From here, the plot of the book follows a natural sequence, with the second chapter setting the stage by outlining the influence of climate, geography, demography and early European contact. The first act of this four-part historical drama begins in chapter 3, which describes the evolution of process and policy decisions under the appointed council from 1920 through 1950. The next chapter, aptly titled "Changing the Policies, Not the Process . . . 1950-1967," focuses on the persistence of colonial attitudes despite the introduction of new policies to meet the more socially conscious sensitivities of postwar liberalism. Chapters 5 (1967-79) and 6 (1979-91) trace the changes in political structures required to facilitate the devolution of power to the territorial government.

Dickerson builds up compelling historical evidence to show that differing attitudes of the native and non-native residents are deeply rooted in the more distant past, as are their means of dealing with those differences. The conclusion seems almost self-evident: the justification for more decentralization of power to the local or regional level to meet the diverse cultural needs of a territory perhaps more fragmented by multi-level differences than southern Canada. As Dickerson argues, too many aborigines have testified formally and informally to their dissatisfaction with authority centralized in Yellowknife, despite the apparent enthusiasm expressed by the non-native community. Thus, while the Northwest Territories achieved representative government and moved steadily towards more responsible government along the precedent set by Alberta and Saskatchewan, this "political change" does not signify "political development" according to Dickerson's definition.

Having declared the source of tensions as being attitudinal differences rooted in diverse cultural traditions, the author attempts to allay any fears and doubts about the wisdom of granting "Native self-government." Explaining how local or regional autonomy is the "cornerstone" objective of native land claims, economic development and cultural

preservation, he shows that the linkages are in circle and interdependent. Citing 1793 as the beginning of North American pressure for more local autonomy, Dickerson builds a persuasive argument against centralized power and bureaucratization but with the caveat that the success of the proposed decentralized authority "will, in the end, depend on Native people in the communities not on outsiders." As a possible solution, he describes a "local-regional-territorial model" as a "county-type" government adapted to fit the framework of the existing territorial government structure.

The final chapter reflects the perceptive analysis of one who has considered seriously all the alternatives, who has listened attentively to northerners, who has developed unusual understanding and empathy, and who has spent years studying the nature of process and policy in establishing legitimacy in political systems. Some may question the degree of trust and confidence Dickerson places in the ability of indigenous northerners to govern themselves, but his conclusions cannot be ignored:

Self-governing powers are the key to constructing a legitimate political system in the NWT — a system in which there is an accord between political values and structures, and a system to which Native people can consent.

The title *Whose North?* is clearly designated as a question of the future. This book deserves serious and contemplative consideration by all Canadians and, in particular, those directly involved in policy decisions affecting the future direction of the Northwest Territories Government.

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NORTHWEST GREENLAND: A HISTORY. By RICHARD VAUGHAN.
Orono: The University of Maine Press, 1991. 208 p., maps, b&w ill., bib., index. Hardbound. US\$29.95.

I read this book with great interest, and given my own background and personal involvement in geophysical research in the Thule District during 1964-84 and continuing involvement in polar research, I have learned a lot. The book is very informative and contains numerous quotations and references, which make it valuable, but also occasionally make reading difficult.

In the introduction, Vaughan argues in favour of the use of the name *Avanersuaq* — the Inuit term for "farthest north" — today used as the official name for the Thule District. He should, however, have assisted readers by including the name "Thule" in the title of the book to advertise the area in focus. To many potential readers, Northwest Greenland means the area from Sisimut/Holsteinsborg to Upernavik. A more descriptive title would have been: "The History of Exploration of the Thule District in Northwest Greenland."

Following the introduction, the book contains 10 chapters, which deal with the Inuit and their relations to their neighbours (chapter 2), whalers and explorers in the region (3), the relationships of Inuit and whites (4), changes to Inuit economy (5), the demands of subsistence and science (6), the meteorite rush (7), archaeology and anthropology (8), the construction of the American Thule Air Base in Greenland (9), and the Inuit in the 20th century (10), as well as an epilogue. Each chapter begins with a description of historical developments in the region. These are parallel and overlapping in many respects, making for boring reading if the book is read without breaks.

In the introduction two maps are included, neither of which is very informative. The map of the Thule District contains several errors. For example, the settlement of Uummanaq is incorrectly placed on the map and Cape Cleveland is poorly designated. A list of old Inuit names, known from the literature, would have helped the reader. It could easily have been included in the epilogue, where Vaughan

discusses the propensity of non-natives to ignore native place-names and rename prominent geographical features.

Vaughan has certainly gone through extensive literature, but while appreciating all the information he gives, some scepticism remains because of some errors and the lack of important information, especially in relation to present-day conditions.

Thus, in the introduction he states that the Danes yearly hoist the Danish flag at Carey Øer (Carey Islands) to remind the Canadians of the Danish claim to ownership, totally neglecting the "Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of Canada" of 23 July 1974. A dividing line between Denmark and Canada has been defined by a series of points, including point 114 clearly west of the western point of Carey Øer. Meteorological data is transmitted every three hours from the Danish automatic weather station at Carey Øer to the international community. Here and in chapter 9, "America in Greenland," information is given on sovereignty and the U.S. acceptance in 1917 of Danish political and economic interests in all of Greenland. Vaughan only mentions in passing the decision reached in 1933 by the International Court in the Hague acknowledging Danish sovereignty over the whole of Greenland.

He does mention that a new Danish constitution in 1953 meant that Greenland, including *Avanersuaq*, became an integrated part of Denmark, but he does not mention that local community councils have been elected since 1975 and that Home Rule for Greenland was established in 1979. He is right when in chapter 10, "Inuit in the Twentieth Century," he tells that the Danish influence in the *Avanersuaq* area today is substituted for by the influence of West Greenlandic Inuit. To this I could add, from personal experience, that the local Inuit feel that the Danes, as opposed to the West Greenlanders, at least acknowledge their lack of knowledge concerning arctic hunting.

Chapters 2, "Inuit and Their Neighbors in Early Time," and 3, "Explorers and Whalers," provide information about early exploration. As a consequence of the structure of the book, some of this information is repeated in chapters 4, "Eskimos and Whites," and 5, "Inuit Economy."

In chapter 6, "Demand for Subsistence and Science," information is given about hunting, the local animals, and the usual food, fuel, and clothing. The 16 photos shown here (in poor reproduction) give information about dwellings, clothing, animals, and modern technical facilities.

"The Meteorite Rush" (chapter 7) informs us how the locals used meteoritic iron and what happened when it was removed for scientific examination and transported to the world's geological collections. Another effect of the rush for meteorites in Greenland was the establishment in 1878 of the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, which is still evaluating scientific activities taking place in Greenland.

In chapter 8, "Archaeology and Anthropology — the Eskimo as Research Material," Vaughan gives the history of anthropological investigations in the area, indicating the probable misuse of the local population as research material. This was a general worldwide problem in former days. For many years now, all research on humans in Greenland, including the Thule District, has been evaluated according to modern scientific-ethical principles.

In chapter 9, "America in Greenland," Vaughan describes the development in the area after the establishment of the Thule Air Base (TAB) in 1951-52. It is not clearly stated that the establishment of TAB was based upon the U.S.-Danish Defence Agreement of 1951. I find minor errors concerning present activity at TAB and about the most northern Danish military base, Station Nord, which in fact is and always has been a Danish station, today receiving most of its supplies directly from Denmark. Only the fuel lift is conducted from TAB.

In "Inuit in the Twentieth Century," chapter 10, Vaughan gives his fair judgement of the Danish state's colonization of Greenland as seen from the perspective of a general European global expansion. He dares not here or in the epilogue, however, give any opinion about the future development after the end of the cold war and the decrease of military engagement in the area.