

explains the need to reduce. The edition includes a thorough bibliography and index, as well as seven appendices, which include such related documents as accounts of short boat journeys taken from the *Plover* and Dr. John Simpson's essay on the Iñupiat of northwestern Alaska. Bockstoe's Introduction generally attempts to place Maguire's service in the larger historical context of the Franklin search, especially that branch of it directed through the Bering Straits. Because of the significant anthropological interest of the journal, more attention to this facet of Maguire's account might have been given in the Introduction, although to Bockstoe's credit, the annotations are rich in information about the customs and beliefs of the Iñupiat encountered.

In short, this is a well-executed edition of the earliest surviving account of a sustained foreign presence with the Iñupiat of northern Alaska.

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**THE AGE OF THE ARCTIC: HOT CONFLICTS AND COLD REALITIES.** By GAIL OSHERENKO and ORAN R. YOUNG. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. 216 p., graphics, maps, illus., notes, index. Hardbound. US\$59.50.

*The Age of the Arctic* is essential reading for those seeking to grasp the political realities of present-day life in the circumpolar North. The authors' breadth of knowledge grounded in law and government is especially noteworthy and should assist greatly in providing the reader with a solid basis for analyzing the complex socioeconomic and geopolitical relations that presently characterize this area of the world. Of particular significance is Osherenko and Young's insistence that the region be analyzed as an international as well as domestic arena in which all parties, including aboriginal Native inhabitants, local, state and national governments, environmentalists, and multinational corporations, have their vested interests that must be clearly recognized and taken into account if conflicts among them are to be adequately addressed. It is further proposed that we are now entering a new "Age of the Arctic" — and that those wishing to "bring peace and stability to a world of conflict" need to know and understand this region far more thoroughly than has been the case thus far.

Approaching this task from a perspective as mediators, the authors begin by describing the participants ("players," in the lexicon of geopolitical theory), their interests, and those concerns of greatest importance to them. In an early chapter, issues of security in the Arctic focus initially on military and strategic activities of the United States and the Soviet Union. This is followed by an analysis of the implications of this militarization for the other arctic-rim states as well as the competing interests of subnational groups such as state and local governments, industry, environmentalists, and Native populations. Three similarly oriented chapters follow in which the interests of industry and commerce, indigenous peoples, and environmentalists are explored, with corresponding discussions of points of conflict between (and among) them. Thus, for example, in the chapter addressing environmental concerns, important distinctions are examined among the perceived interests of Friends of the Earth, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and Greenpeace in protecting arctic lands and seas.

With this background knowledge in hand, the reader is prepared to analyze key theoretical issues underlying major economic, political, and social conflicts presently occurring in the Arctic — conflicts associated with events such as the opening of northern waters for oil and gas development, the damming of northern rivers to generate hydroelectric power, the consumptive use of wild animals

by indigenous peoples, and the designation of large tracts of arctic land as wilderness areas.

In this section of the book, Osherenko and Young focus on the key aspects of these conflicts that impede their resolution, and in so doing they point out the limits of more conventional responses. They first remind the reader that as a social phenomenon, conflict always involves interrelationships *among* parties rather than merely behaviors of given parties. Thus, a key element in any analysis of conflict is the extent to which the parties concerned (whether they be individuals, corporations, or nation states) are required by the circumstances to act interdependently, as opposed to pursuing their separate objectives. Illustrations utilized in discussing this principle include an analysis of relations between the United States and Canada over the status of the Northwest Passage; antagonisms between animal rights advocates and Native groups over the harvesting of wild animals; and frictions occurring among petroleum companies and environmental organizations, Native northerners, and the fishing industry over the opening of outer continental shelf areas for oil and gas exploration. In each instance, conflicts are never attributed to the attitudes or actions of any particular party. Rather, each group is seen "as a facet of the relationship between or among the parties."

The authors point out that conflicts often erupt when the various objectives involved cannot be fulfilled simultaneously or when the pursuit of one interest interferes with the desire for another. Illustrative of this point are the contradictory goals exhibited by the Government of Norway and various Sami groups over the proposed Alta Dam. Here, the government's effort to produce more hydroelectric power is seen as being incompatible with the interest of the Sami in protecting the habitat required for reindeer herding. A similar example is found in the antagonism expressed between the North Slope Iñupiat of Anaktuvik Pass and the U.S. Park Service over the use by the former of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) while traveling through park land to reach traditional hunting areas. In this instance, the government's priority to protect public land from damage by ATVs is sharply at odds with present-day subsistence practices undertaken by Iñupiat hunters. The book contains numerous other illustrations, all reminding us that conflicts over the allocation of resources among competing users in the circumpolar North is an even greater problem now than in the past.

A second set of conflicts common to the Arctic involves the distribution of benefits (and burdens) among competing claimants. In highlighting this problem, the authors ask: What constitutes an appropriate division of the economic return or rent from oil and gas production in Alaska among the federal government, the State of Alaska, and the North Slope Borough? Should the federal government share any proceeds it derives from the outer continental shelf oil and gas development with the state government or with local communities? Should public agencies at any level try to collect economic returns from commercial fishing in arctic waters? What can be said for and against the innovative proposal to address the problem of distribution in Quebec by providing support in the form of income security programs for indigenous hunters and trappers in return for accepting the use of northern rivers for hydroelectric power production?

Whether these conflicts are allocative or distributional in nature, they often take the form of clashes over what political agency should be the locus of authority in making binding decisions over human activities in the region. Needless to say, this question is being addressed at all levels of governance, whether international, national, state, or local. Furthermore, as the authors point out on several occasions, another significant category of jurisdictional conflict in the Arctic has arisen in connection with the emerging tribal sovereignty movement. And while these claims are more likely to focus on issues of wildlife management, education, and various forms of tribal government than on geopolitical separation, they nevertheless generate sharp disagreements with existing governmental authorities adverse to seeing any diminution of their own power by new indigenous political groups.

Still, competition does not always characterize the relations between organizations at odds with one another. An opponent today may well become a friend, ally, or supporter tomorrow. Thus, while environmental and Native groups have differed on encouraging oil exploration in the coastal zone of north Alaska, they have found common ground in opposing the efforts of the military to designate certain areas in their region as restricted zones. Such "cross-cutting cleavages" are often seen as beneficial by those seeking ways to reduce present and future areas of tension. That is, the various parties in a given conflict are more likely to be restrained in their relations with opposing groups if they see that their actions now might alienate possible support needed in a later struggle.

By means of these and other insights, the reader is provided with new and creative approaches to solving problems of public and private sector conflicts in the Arctic, internationally as well as nationally. As we enter the final decade of this century, such efforts are long overdue. Today, much of the Arctic continues to be characterized by a formidable unequal distribution of power between Native peoples living in the North and representatives of various governmental agencies located far to the south. At the same time, our northern regions are facing environmental degradation of immense proportions. For providing detailed knowledge of how we might better resolve these and related conflicts in a new "Age of the Arctic," we have much to thank the authors of this fine book.

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