

the physical and human dimensions of the polar regions. (Surprisingly, Young neglects to cite this widely used text.)

This reviewer, having participated in northern studies for some 35 years and admittedly a product of the "Golden Age" of Kimble and Good, had hoped that at long last a comprehensive successor to *Geography of the Northlands* was now to be available. Alas, although promoted as "An Introduction to the Far Northern World," it lacks the breadth such an introduction should be expected to provide.

I took a chance, notwithstanding, and adopted the new book as the text for my most recent offering of the upper-division course on the Northlands. This review incorporates that experience, including student response.

Young's initial chapter (entitled "Bears, Boreas, and Celestial Mechanics: How We Define and Subdivide the Polar Regions") is exceptionally clear, precise and well presented. Similarly his second chapter, "Polar Weather and Climate," is very much on target, lucid, non-technical and stylistically agreeable. Both chapters achieve the author's purposes admirably, with just the right level of detail and complexity one hopes to find in an adopted text.

Subsequent chapters, however, occasionally tend to go overboard — a 32-page treatise, or almost 10% of the entire book, on "Birds of the Arctic," for example. This is considerably more than most who seek a regional survey ever feel they need, or want, to know on the subject. On the other hand, the chapter falls short as a field guide to the arctic bird life aficionado.

The only photographs are black and white and frequently the contrast is insufficient to properly represent the intended subject. Line drawings, however, which are abundantly distributed throughout the text, are very clear. Economics undoubtedly ruled out color, but without it a field guide loses much of its utility. Maps scarcely appear at all and the omission of a general place location map, which could have constituted a frontispiece, is most regrettable.

The greatest deficiency of this introduction to the Arctic is, by far, the almost minuscule attention given to the reality of humankind in the North. Only the final chapter, "The Human Presence in the Arctic," focuses on people. Even there the topic is the ancient ancestors of today's northern people, with contemporary cultures essentially ignored. You will search in vain for the ways and the works of what is, in the final analysis, the most significant life form found in the circumpolar North. When Young deals with ice, vegetation, and terrestrial and marine animals he generally does very well. Unfortunately he stopped too soon for the work to be considered an overall introduction to this most fascinating part of the world, a region within which people must be recognized as a primary element.

One student stated in his evaluation of the text selected for the course, "The book talks about bits and pieces of the northern lands but it never puts them together to give the reader a grasp of what the Arctic is really like." This may be a reflection of youthful extremism, but then again, when you omit the people perhaps you have not discharged your self-appointed task: to both introduce and to field guide the Arctic. The course grade, incidentally, that the quoted student received was "A." If required to assign one to the text it would have to be "Incomplete."

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KALAALLIT NUNAAT — GRØNLAND — ATLAS. Edited by CHRISTIAN BERTHELTSEN, INGER HOLBECH MORTENSEN and EBBE MORTENSEN. Graphic layout by METTE and ERIC MOURIER. Nuuk: Grønlands Hjemmestyre, Pilersuiffik, 1989. 130 p. and statistical section, 24 p. Price not indicated.

The first paragraph of the Preface reads: "Kalaallit Nunaat — Atlas is a teaching material, aimed at the eldest pupils in High School (Folkeskolen) and later training. But others with interest in Greenland can also enjoy it." Indeed, yes; anyone with polar or geographic interests will find this an absorbing work. It is beautifully produced, illustrated to perfection and very carefully put together. Hans Egede's famous map of South Greenland, dated 1737, forms the endpapers, front and back. The maps are original productions and most of the figures and descriptions are prepared specially for the atlas. The list of contributing organizations and people, both in Greenland and in Denmark, is very long. The text is bilingual, Greenlandic and Danish. It is to be hoped that there will sometime be an English edition.

The information brought together is all-embracing. The first two-page spread after the general introductory maps deals with Disko Bay, which is used to show a detail of the history of the ice cap and, in particular, the formation of the Jakobshavn ice fjord, one of the most spectacular sights of the Greenland landscape and seascape, which are spectacular enough anyway. There is a general account of the ice cap a few pages later on. Individual presentations cover sheep farming, geology, national parks, climate, sea currents and marine food chains, sea ice, transportation (by sea and by air), tides, seasonal light behaviour, aurora and magnetic fields, telecommunication, freshwater resources, plant cover and zonation, birds, culture and communication, fisheries, housing from 1901 to 1985. Pages 50-89 deal seriatim with the individual *kommuner* into which the country is divided for administrative purposes, each with an excellent map and a page of description and illustration. Nuuk (Godthaab), the capital, is given four pages. There is an illustrated analysis of hunting and fishing for private use, treated month by month. Finally are a lexicon section covering matters relating to Greenland and to the northern regions in general and a bibliography. The Culture and Communication section gives a very brief account of the past history of peoples in Greenland, from 2500 B.C. to 2000 A.D. The foreword mentions somewhat apologetically that the planned dimensions of the atlas made it impossible to cover "all geographic aspects."

This is an utterly fascinating book. Your reviewer has spent many hours buried in it. I should add that I received it as a gift from the director of the Greenland National Bank.

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COPING WITH THE CASH. Prepared for the Legislative Assembly of the NWT Special Committee on the Northern Economy by the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP OF THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA. Yellowknife: GNWT, 1989. 133 p.

With two land claims already implemented in the Canadian North and the three largest at the Framework Agreement stage, *Coping with the Cash* provides a timely and detailed evaluation of the performance of implemented land claims settlements and uses analysis of this experience to address the important question of optimum approaches to expenditure of compensation monies. The work is essentially in two parts, utilizing a critical review of the economic performance of existing claims (James Bay, Inuvialuit and Alaska) as a basis for discussion of possible impacts of the Dene-Metis claim in the Northwest Territories. The first chapter examines the performance of existing claim agreements, the second examines the probable economic impact of the N.W.T. claim, while subsequent chapters review the impact on the private sector and government. The work concludes with a review of investment scenarios.

The compensation monies that accompany the retention of land in the land claims process in the North have to provide the basis for sustained well-being for indigenous peoples. At first glance these monies are substantial — compensation for Alaska natives was \$962.5 million, for the Cree \$225 million and for the Inuvialuit \$152 million — but their ability to contribute to the long-term well-being of indigenous populations depends on the manner in which they are spent, invested and managed.

Financial management is in the hands of settlement corporations, organizations constituted through land claims settlement legislation to administer a claim on behalf of beneficiaries. Financial performance of existing settlements is mixed; native corporations own airlines, mining companies and various business ventures. In many instances, however, business performance has been weak, although the provisions of Canadian settlement legislation has meant that Inuvialuit and James Bay settlement corporations have fared far better than their Alaskan counterparts. The study pulls no punches in discussing problems and failures but takes pains to argue that they largely result from pent-up expectations on behalf of beneficiaries regarding the benefits to be brought by settlement of land claims, by the wide range of interests and mandates to be accommodated by settlement corporations and by the North's economic geography, which renders many business ventures marginal at the best of times.

A central problem lies with the mandate of settlement corporations, which is often divided between perpetuating revenues and promoting community well-being. Ideally corporations should generate long-term stable revenues, but after waiting so long for the settlement of claims it is perhaps too much to ask that beneficiaries forgo immediate rewards in order to build large cash funds for the future. Some Alaskan corporations resolved this problem by paying out a fixed dividend each year; some corporations have been paying out dividends on negative income and have yet to generate positive revenue flow.

The complexity of decisions facing native groups is a reoccurring if not overt theme. They are making decisions that affect their destinies — should they satisfy immediate needs or future needs? Should they invest visibly and locally within the North, where risks are high and opportunities few, or in the urban South, where long-term returns on investment would be maximized? Should they centralize control of funds (this smacks of paternalism) or free them up for individual investment (this maximizes risk)? Should they spend monies on community works or invest monies for future gains?

The study makes the point that ironically (yet perhaps not surprisingly) the big financial gainers from land claims may well be the corporations who move into the North as impediments to development are removed through land claims settlements and who, unlike the native groups, have relatively simple economic objectives and long experience in market economies. Native peoples would gain from such development only if they obtained direct economic spinoffs and their land claims compensation had not to be spent ameliorating the impacts of adverse externalities. For those who view land claims capital as a major source of development capital in the North, the report makes disappointing reading, arguing convincingly that the South is a stronger and safer investment, especially if the interest from compensation monies are to make a long-term contribution to community well-being in the North.

The study correctly makes the point that the greatest asset that native groups will have pursuant to the claim Final Agreement is residual land. But here yet another decision-making dilemma emerges (and is discussed), that of selecting a balance of lands between lands for traditional purposes and lands for commercial purposes.

The work would have benefitted from more careful consideration of community-level needs and aspirations, and failure to more adequately deal with this is perhaps a reflection of its macro-cosmic sweep. Most natives live in small, scattered communities, retain strong ties to the land and live in an economic milieu characterized by part-time market economy employment. Transfer payments and

hunting and trapping and settlement impacts will (or should be) felt at the community level. Although some of these things are treated on aggregate (e.g., hunter/trapper support), no real consideration is given to the complex structure of community economy or the relationship between economy and culture, and Brody's analysis of community economic structure and possible futures gets short shrift, while there is no mention whatsoever of Michael Asch's musings on the question of appropriate community-level activity. Detailed analysis in this area is of some importance given the fact that the report is produced by the Sustainable Development Group at the Arctic Institute and that a major recommendation of the report is that monies be invested in stable dividend earners outside the N.W.T. and that the interest be used to promote native aspirations.

As with all works, there are quibbles. The title may give unease — the implication perhaps being that native people have difficulty coping with cash. On the other hand, small populations and lack of training means that native groups do not have the human resources available in other societies, especially at the community level, and are faced with major investment and expenditure decisions affecting their long-term well-being that would make even the most seasoned executive wince. Although the work is concise and generally tightly written, some improvements could have been made to the presentation. The practice of using block capitals to emphasize what the authors consider to be major points is particularly infuriating, detracting from the flow of the text, and nowhere does the text format match that of the lucid and informative graphics.

To those with involvement or interest in the land claims process there is much that is familiar in this work; there is also much that is new. The detailed financial analysis is new, and comparative performance of implemented claims in one volume is very useful. The sound recommendations that a generous and accommodating implementation process is required, that native people can only make the transition to a post-settlement world with appropriate training opportunities and strong government support are not new, but there is no harm in reinforcing an important message, especially if it is accompanied by detailed supporting data, as it is in *Coping with the Cash*. Beyond this the synthesis is an invaluable and practical contribution to the very important question of land claims implementation that should be compulsory reading for both government bureaucrats and native leaders.

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- MIN TID I GRØNLAND, GRØNLAND I MIN TID. By ERIK L. BALSLEV SMIDT. Copenhagen: Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck, 1989. In Danish. 214 p.

The subtitle of this book is *Fishery, Biology, Community*. It is a "professional autobiography," an account of a life's work, an up-to-date account of developments in climate and fishery in Greenland in the present century seen from the sea, which is the proper viewpoint. Erik Smidt shows clearly that in the North, and in the history of the Greenlanders in particular, the sea is the chief resource and that the Greenlanders are an eminently maritime people.

Dr. Smidt is a Dane, which means that he belongs to one of those Scandinavian countries to which many of us look for good sense,