

and immediately go north to help or be involved in this Arctic paleolimnology community effort.

So, what kind of printed work is this, finally? A textbook? Not really. A memoir? Not only. A fascinating journey—both spatially and temporally—into a truly interdisciplinary field of research, told by one of its founders? Certainly. I would highly recommend it to any graduate student starting a project in any field of physical geography, biology, ecology, archeology, or anything involving freshwater ecosystem dynamics at different spatial and temporal scales. More generally, the book is quite relevant for Arctic researchers wishing to know more about paleolimnology and for paleolimnologists interested in Arctic fieldwork and the challenges specific to high-latitude environments. I would add that it can also be of great interest to science historians studying the development of novel ideas (see the many examples of transdisciplinary coffee discussions in the book) and the patient and time-consuming lab analyses (and controversies—you need those, too). This is a book I wish I had read twentyish years ago, at the start of my tortuous scientific career.

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*Frédéric Bouchard, Assistant Professor  
 Department of Applied Geomatics, Université de Sherbrooke  
 2500 Boulevard de l'Université  
 Sherbrooke, Quebec J1K 2R1, Canada  
[frederic.bouchard5@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:frederic.bouchard5@usherbrooke.ca)*

LAKE LADOGA: THE COASTAL HISTORY OF THE GREATEST LAKE IN EUROPE. Edited by MARIA LÄHTEENMÄKI and ISAAC LAND. Helsinki: The Finnish Literary Society, Studia Fennica Historica. 2023. ISBN 978-951-858-628-2. 233 p., maps, b&w illus., bib. Softbound. US\$47.90. Also available in ebook and pdf format.

*Lake Ladoga: The Coastal History of the Greatest Lake in Europe* offers an overarching, multidisciplinary take on coast history through the examination of the greatest lake in Europe. The northern Ladoga region and its drainage basin serve as a scene for the representation of natural and cultural changes. These changes have historically occurred in a transnational context in which Russian, Scandinavian, and other Indigenous interests have competed. The edited volume is divided into four sections, each exploring a separate theme, and a postscript.

The first part focuses on coastal history. In the first chapter, “Transnational History of Ladoga,” Maria Lähteenmäki begins with an overall picture of Lake Ladoga and its impact on the transnational history of the area. The chapter connects the unique characteristics of the northern Lake Ladoga area to the wider context of the global family of great lakes.

In the chapter, “Taking Lakes Seriously,” Isaac Land refers to “sea blindness” and the pervasive inability to recognize the influence of bodies of water on human activity (p.28). Lakes and their shorelines have had, and continue to have, an infinite influence on human existence, not only as providers of resources, but as features of culture.

In the third chapter, “Coastal Environmental History: Aims and Perspectives,” Tuomas Räsänen demonstrates why the coastal environmental history is an integral but distinct branch of environmental history. Coastal areas play an important role in economic prosperity, such as in providing routes for the transportation of goods, but the resulting impacts of these human endeavours are rarely beneficial to shoreline environments. For example, oil drilling, trade, and transportation create enormous economic benefits, but the risk of oil spills can be disastrous for coastlines. Given this, it was surprising that Räsänen concentrates on the negative aspects of the fishing industry and overfishing, while oil drilling and spills were only briefly mentioned at the end of the chapter (p. 46).

Part II considers the settlement and population history of the Ladoga region. Thomas Rosén’s article, “Scandinavian Eastern Viking Routes and Settlements,” provides an intriguing glimpse into the controversy surrounding the Scandinavian presence around Lake Ladoga from the ninth century onward. It is also an important example of how history is interpreted and sometimes manufactured to serve ideological interests. Rosén points out that contemporary written sources and chronicles are scarce, contested, and open to interpretation. Language is naturally malleable, and it evolves through time; readers of this chapter with

different backgrounds and motives will undoubtedly form varying opinions based on the sources.

Archaeological findings are not without problems either, as Kati Parppei notes in her paper, “Early Population in the Ladoga Region.” Archaeological findings are often fragmentary and can be interpreted in ways that conform to nationalistic agendas, especially in contested borderlands like the Ladoga region. Then again, contemporary contextual sources about the origins of the population have internal biases, Parppei argues, since different groups have been named by others. Mostly, throughout history, laypersons have had little time for identity politics; such concerns have been the luxury of the elite and later, a subject for historians.

Part III focuses on industrialization and its consequences through case studies and the changing conditions of water quality in Ladoga. “Industrialization of the Jänisjoki River: Hydro-Social Rhythms of Waterways,” by Pertti Rannikko and Jarmo Kortelainen, illustrates the wide-ranging effects of industrialization on rivers and their surroundings. The Jänisjoki River, within the Ladoga region, provides energy, resources, and transportation routes, and was one of the earliest areas to industrialize in Finland. The authors detail the arrival of industry, including logging with the associated creation of pulp and paper mills, dams for generating hydroelectricity, agriculture, and the establishment of communities. Besides the positive effects for communities, these activities had a number of negative impacts on natural waterflow, the health of fish stocks, and the contamination of rivers.

In the paper, “Industrialization and De-industrialization in Pitkäranta,” Karl-Erik Michelsen provides a thorough review of the mining activities and the use of wood resources in the region. Industrialization is rarely a linear phenomenon; the Pitkäranta community has seen multiple waves of booms and busts. Nevertheless, Pitkäranta was rich in resources and positioned geographically and culturally to accommodate economic growth that connected Russia and Finland to Europe (p.133).

Colpaert and Gbagir’s article, “Changing Waters of Lake Ladoga,” while perhaps technical for some readers, presents important data illustrating the changing conditions of the lake. The co-authors’ mention of the local effects of climate change deserves extra credit.

Part IV begins with the experience-based chapter “Beloved Lady Ladoga: A Multisensory History,” in which Maria Lähtenmäki and Oona Ilmolahti present the important human aspect of the role of specific surroundings in the formation of individual memories. How people sense things creates unique experiences and memories of locations. In written oral histories of Lake Ladoga, humanization of the lake is omnipresent. Further, a certain holiness and sacredness, even the transcendental nature of Ladoga, is clearly present.

The “Finnish-Russian Sortavala Archipelago in Transition, 1917–2020,” by Ismo Björn, paints a different picture of Ladoga. This paper describes how shifting

geopolitical events changed the demographics and ethnicity of the Ladoga coastal communities. The author focuses on the differences between permanent residents and those who occupy the region seasonally. Known as the Finnish period, the experiences of the wealthiest people involved spending the long summers in blissful leisure at their villas in prime locations on the islands, unperturbed by human activity outside their social sphere. Meanwhile, local people inhabiting the area year-round worked long, laborious hours fishing and farming. The situation remains somewhat similar in present-day Russian Ladoga; the affluent dacha owners and locals live very different, separate lives.

In the article, “Environmental Conflict and the Birth of the Russian Ladoga Skerries National Park,” Alexander Osipov reminds readers that environmental conflicts are not primarily about nature itself, but about rival interests and discourses concerning natural resource utilization. The paper focuses on clashes over the territory of the northern Ladoga during the establishment of the Ladoga Skerries National Park. The park was proposed as a way to shift away from the polluting industries that were causing environmental degradation, toward tourism as an economic opportunity. Unlike other areas usually designated for parks, this park was established in a relatively densely populated area where interests differed over how land was to be used. The various stakeholders voiced concerns about losing the ability to access and use land within the park. The ultimate creation of the park was seen as a success, but not without some shortcomings, including the lack of legal protection in some areas.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by excellent maps and illustrations. The images are curated and captioned properly to suit the narrative. This makes one wonder why a photograph from the Ladoga area was not used on the cover of the book. The overall appearance of the volume is clear and simple, but a slight letdown given the book’s very interesting and engaging contents. This is not a criticism of the editors, since the cover is in line with the other publications of the *Studia Fennica Series*.

The book is fairly accessible to all audiences, as most of the complex concepts are explained thoroughly. An excellent example comes from Issac Land’s explanation of “paramaritime” and “hydrosocial” (p. 32). Both terms refer to the multifaceted interactions between waterfronts and human activity. The volume is well written, and each chapter flows smoothly. There are some irregularities in writing styles among authors; however, this should not challenge readers too much.

A volume representing such a wide array of topics, based on a broad region, is obviously going to express a variety of perspectives. The approaches authors have employed in these multidisciplinary and transnational articles skillfully support their work. The multidisciplinary character of the volume combined with the vast range of source material makes this a well-rounded representation of the Lake Ladoga region. I highly recommend this book to those interested in the local and environmental history, histories

of the waterways, and the Karelian region regardless of any previous knowledge of the topics.

Perttu Tikka  
*Department of Geographical and Historical Studies*  
*University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus*  
*PO Box 111, FI-80101, Finland*  
[perttut@student.uef.fi](mailto:perttut@student.uef.fi)

JOURNAL OF ARCTIC CLIMATE AND SECURITY STUDIES, Vol. 1, No. 1. Summer, 2023. Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, U.S. Department of Defence. Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama: Air University Press. 190 p., maps, color illus., Free. Available only in PDF

This review introduces the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) Ted Stevens Center of Arctic Security Studies (TSC), one of six regional centers for security studies. It also reviews the first issue of the TSC's *Journal of Arctic Climate and Security Studies* (2023). The center is part of a change in U.S. security policy that focuses on homeland defense that now includes Alaska. Instead of using Alaskan-based troops to fight in the Middle East, as it did during the past 20 years, DOD is reorienting armed forces stationed in the Arctic to bolster domestic security and to meet the United States' NATO Article 5 commitment.

Melissa Dalton, former assistant secretary of defense with center oversight, outlines the TSC's three main tasks in her journal essay. These tasks are to provide executive education for DOD senior leaders; to foster outreach and engagement for Alaska military organizations, Native Peoples, and allies; and to conduct high-quality research and analysis to improve DOD's Arctic knowledge base.

The TSC established short seminars and five-day courses on the Arctic for senior civilian and military leaders, which are held both remotely and at various Alaska locations. Center staff facilitate outreach and engagement by interacting with Alaskan Indigenous communities and hosting tribal leaders at meetings and ceremonies. TSC associate director Craig Fleener is an accomplished Indigenous leader involved with the Arctic Council Permanent Participants and a senior Alaska Army National Guard officer. TSC leaders such as retired Coast Guard Admiral Matthew Bell, the center's dean, attend international forums such as the annual Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik. Thus, the center seems to be meeting the first two tasks adequately. This review will focus on the last task—conducting high-level Arctic research and analysis—by looking at the scholarly quality of the TSC's first journal issue and the capability of the center's staff to engage in its own original scholarly research.

Fittingly, the journal begins with well-wishes by the Ted Stevens family, followed by Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski's introduction. As assistant secretary of the Interior, Ted Stevens advanced Alaskan statehood,

becoming an Alaskan state representative for two terms, the second as House majority leader. In 1968, Alaska's governor appointed Stevens to the U.S. Senate, a seat he held until 2009. Lisa Murkowski was appointed as U.S. Senator in 2002 and has subsequently been re-elected four times.

The TSC journal is introduced by the center director, retired Air Force Major General Randy "Church" Kee, whose vision is that the flagship journal "represent[s] a broad set of viewpoints." Thus, "submissions from Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic as well as Allies and partners represent our commitment to a diverse and networked approach to support broad and multidisciplinary Arctic and regionally oriented climate security" (p. 1).

The journal continues with Ambassador David Balton's essay summarizing the attempt by the Biden government in 2022 to create and implement Arctic policy for the United States. The essay illustrates how U.S. Arctic policy is spread across several agencies from committees to departments, leaving policy diffuse and largely ineffective. To control the many Arctic policy-shaping bodies, the federal government did what it does best: created two more bureaucratic entities. The Arctic Executive Steering Committee and the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee are both run from the White House by Balton.

In his essay, James A. Hursch, Defense Security Cooperation Agency director, explains that his office represents the nexus of U.S. foreign and defense policy in the Arctic because it supplies allies with weapons and military programs to enhance their security. The author unofficially bids farewell to so-called Arctic exceptionalism, whose proponents proclaim the northern region a zone of peaceful cooperation free of militarism, with the Arctic Council leading the way.

Essays about U.S. Arctic security policy from the DOD's perspective continue with contributions from the commanding general of U.S. Northern Command, the commanding general of the Alaskan Command, and the commanding general of the recently reactivated 11th Airborne Division (Arctic), Major General Brian S. Eifler. Eifler and co-author Natalie M. Hardy quote extensively from the boldly (and largely erroneously) titled U.S. Army publication, *Regaining Arctic Dominance—The U.S. Army in the Arctic* (2021).

To the contrary, the U.S. Army has never had Arctic dominance, shown by the service's failure to staff, equip, and train units for Arctic combat (or even survival) during WWII. For example, the attempt to retake the Attu Island in the Aleutians, which the authors refer to as evidence of dominance, was nothing short of a military disaster due to the U.S. Army's unpreparedness for Arctic operations. The 7th Infantry Division, which led the 1943 counterattack against 500 Japanese troops occupying the island, was untrained and poorly equipped for the frigid Arctic weather. Although they retook Attu, the troops suffered more casualties attributed to weather, disease, and vehicle accidents than to combat. Although there were fewer casualties when U.S. forces later reoccupied abandoned