

for sections of the book, not individual sites. British readers may not feel at home with some American usage, such as 'stay off of scree slopes.' And I wonder if the features at Hannah Point identified as 'Shag Point,' 'Suicide Wallow,' and 'Big Damn Rock' are the author's own inventions?

One further comment must be made about the book's appearance. Its 128 pages plus cover are in landscape format, about the area of a paperback book, and bound with wire rings. The quality of printing and reproduction is excellent, but the design is, quite frankly, a mess. Unless one enjoys numerous side bars and information panels in a bewildering kaleidoscope of colours.

This review may seem somewhat critical, but never mind. Ron Naveen has done a very good job at collating useful and important information, which will certainly help all concerned to keep human impacts in the Antarctic Peninsula region to the absolute minimum. The book was worth producing for that reason alone. And worth owning just for Ron's great photographs.

The Oceanites site guide is available from the book store Longitude, 718 Broadway, No 9C, New York, NY 10003, USA. (Nigel Sitwell, 92a Earlsfield Road, London SW18 3DP.)

EAGLE OVER THE ICE: THE US IN THE ANTARCTIC. Christopher C. Joyner and Ethel R. Theis. 1997. Hanover, NH and London: University Press of New England. xvi + 303 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-87451-778-8. \$US49.95.

In its reporting of American activities during the 1957–1958 International Geophysical Year, the *New York Herald Tribune* noted that: 'Americans taking part today in conquering the frozen Antarctic continent at the bottom of the world — probably the last frontier on Earth before the conquest of outer space — are setting some unbelievable records' (1 July 1958). With little hint of understatement, the newspaper proceeded to record a litany of American achievements ranging from early-summer-season flying to recording the lowest temperatures on the Antarctic continent. The subsequent creation of a South Pole station further codified that sense of geographical and technological triumph. On the one hand, the tone of the article was undoubtedly shaped by the widespread desire in the United States to demonstrate its technological, scientific, and cultural superiority over its Cold War ideological adversary, the Soviet Union. Americans were made of the 'right stuff.' On the other hand, it could be argued that long-standing traces of moral exceptionalism and triumphalism were being manifested in Antarctica, as they had been in other parts of the world.

Eagle over the ice is a collection of essays concerning American polar policy and achievements since the 1960s. Ostensibly, it is concerned to chart, in some detail, the making and implementation of US Antarctic policies in a variety of contexts ranging from the funding of scientific research to the ratification of the Protocol on Environmen-

tal Protection. It clearly differs from existing publications such as Frank Klotz's *America on the ice*, because Christopher Joyner's position at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, has enabled him to develop close relations with key American policy-makers such as Tucker Scully (see Klotz 1990). As a consequence, the footnotes are littered with references to interviews with Scully and individuals based in organisations such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of State. The book also represents the final outcome of a lengthy period of research by the senior author on the interaction between international law, politics, and environmental issues. Some of the material on US Antarctic policy-making has already been published by Joyner in a recently edited collection entitled *Governing the Antarctic* (Stokke and Vidas 1996).

The timing of publication is also fortuitous in the sense that US Antarctic policy has just undergone two extensive reviews of its scientific and logistical priorities. In 1996, the Committee on Fundamental Science, of the National Science and Technology Council, produced a review of the US Antarctic Program. The following year, the US Antarctic Program External Panel also analysed American policy for the Antarctic continent. The main conclusion of these reports has been that the American government will retain 'an active and influential presence' in Antarctica. This commitment for influence is to be bolstered not only by the upgrading of McMurdo and Palmer stations, but also through a process of modernisation directed at Amundsen–Scott Station. The 1997 report recommended that the latter station should be in effect completely replaced by the year 2005. In the field of research, support of collaborative international science is reaffirmed by US participation in a range of projects, including the Cape Roberts Drilling Project in the Ross Sea sector.

In organisational terms, this book is well presented with regards to the themes addressed. However, the investigation of US Antarctic policy is a curious mixture of careful analysis, uncritical celebration, and banal generalisation. There is no doubt that Joyner and Theis present many helpful points on the production and implementation of American policy-making. The chapters on scientific research and environmental issues, for instance, are filled with useful information for the general reader. Yet, in other parts of the book, the authors have touched upon some issues concerning environmental ethics and ideological interests without really giving them due elaboration. It would have been very interesting to have read, for instance, whether there is a strong normative ethical commitment to the Antarctic on the part of American policy-makers and/or institutions. Phrases such as maintaining an 'active and influential presence' are by themselves rather vague. This is significant because there has been comparatively little concern for moral and ethical debates about the future of the Antarctic in contrast to the legalistic concerns.

In a different vein, the authors' presentation is restricted in part by their concern about how particular institutions, individuals, and programmes may contest and

negotiate US Antarctic policy. In that sense, the list of interview questions reproduced at the end of this account gives little sense of how particular individuals, such as Tucker Scully, conceptualised or contested the authors' interpretations of 'national interest' or 'global concerns.' At times, therefore, the account and footnote material appear a little too seamless. In most accounts of the international politics of Antarctica, there is a tendency to draw upon certain key figures and their expertise without much consideration being given as to how different accounts or explanations may be ignored on account of particular sources and contacts. At the very least, it would have been interesting to contemplate whether 'outside' observers consider America to be the leading diplomatic and scientific player in Antarctica.

My deepest reservation about *Eagle over the ice* concerns some of the banal claims made about the importance of the US in Antarctica. The declaration on page 1 that the US is the 'chief architect of law and policy for the Antarctic' may be reasonable given its key role in staging events such as the 1959 Antarctic Conference in Washington, DC, and its domination (along with other northern hemispheric nations such as the United Kingdom and the former Soviet Union) of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Party Meetings, but this is also the country that tried to bully (in a diplomatic sense) southern hemispheric countries in the 1950s to accept a degree of nuclear testing in the Antarctic. Article V of the Antarctic Treaty later banned all forms of nuclear testing in the Antarctic region, leaving a number of southern hemispheric nations acutely concerned at the American deployment of a small nuclear reactor at McMurdo in the 1960s and 1970s. Moreover, the United States remains the largest industrial polluter in the world, in spite of its concerns through the years for protecting the environment of Antarctica. These general points may seem unfair given that this account is centred on the achievements and execution of US Antarctic policy. However, it is not unreasonable to think that a more critical evaluation of America in Antarctica would have been possible if a wider range of sources on environmental politics, north-south relations, and global politics were used. To this end, it is strange that, for a book published in 1997, most of the academic and interview-based material seems to date from before or during 1992.

The final observation to be offered on *Eagle over the ice* is that this book is perhaps a missed opportunity in the sense that it is ultimately a very conventional narrative of American polar policy since the 1960s. A concept such as 'national interest' deserves more critical scrutiny in a period when many scholars are discussing globalisation, trans-national capitalism, and the rise of supra-national relationships. Notions of the 'national' have become increasingly blurred as state authority has been constrained or, in some cases, even compromised by trans-national forces such as the global financial system. The international politics of Antarctica have not been isolated from these globalising trends, as states have had not only to

forge new relationships with other organisations such as NGOs, but also to handle new trans-boundary information networks. What exactly is 'American' in the context of American national interests in Antarctica, and has it changed through the years? Are there other voices and/or institutions that purport to represent American national interests in a different fashion? Furthermore, there are a large number of books that deal with the international politics of Antarctica in isolation from mainstream world politics. It could be argued that one of the key challenges for humanities and social science scholars interested in the Antarctic is to demonstrate how this particular geographical region can be used to contest and/or challenge dominant realist or institutionalist-based approaches to foreign policy and national interests. (Klaus J. Dodds, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.)

References

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THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI: AN EXPLORER'S LIFE. Mirella Tenderini and Michael Shandrick. 1997. Seattle: The Mountaineers; London: Bâton Wicks Publications. 188 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-898573-18-2. £17.99.

Luigi Amedeo di Savoia-Aosta, the Duke of the Abruzzi, was one of the great climbers — or, perhaps more accurately, one of the great organisers of mountaineering expeditions — of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1897, he led a party that was the first to make an ascent of Mount St Elias, long thought to be the highest peak in North America. In 1906, he organised and led an expedition that explored the mysterious Mountains of the Moon, the Ruwenzori Range of central Africa. And three years later, despite not reaching the summit of the then-unconquered K2, he established a new altitude record of 24,600 ft, his party climbing higher than any other people ever had.

The Duke also had one memorable entry into the world of polar exploration. In 1899–1900 he sponsored and led an attempt on the North Pole, using Franz Josef Land as his base. 1899 was an exceptionally ice-free year, and his ship *Stella Polare* was able, with only slight hindrance, to sail to Teplitz Bay at Rudolf Island. During that winter, Abruzzi had to have the ends of his fingers amputated from his severely frostbitten left hand, and he therefore turned the leadership of the polar party over to Umberto Cagni, his second-in-command and long-time partner in adventure. In March 1900, Cagni set out with a party of 10 men and 102 dogs to try to reach the Pole. The final of his three detachments pushed on until 24 April, when the members reached 86° 34', a new farthest north, breaking the mark