

examined. This is done in four parts: *Conceptualizing Antarctica*, *Acting in and beyond Antarctica*, *Regulating Antarctica* and *Futures in Antarctica*.

The first part exhibits the largest concentration of articles representing what the editors call a ‘flourishing new body of critical scholarship on Antarctic politics’ (p. 4). If something characterises this kind of scholarship in general it is the ability to find power manifestations all around us and especially in those places where one would least expect them. Among the diverse topics covered are Antarctic fiction as a reflection of power interests (from romantic utopias to eco-thrillers); the role of ice in general, and of the Western Antarctic Ice Sheet in particular, as a ‘fascinating space of Antarctic politics and science’ (p. 173); the symbolic appropriation of Antarctic resources (from king penguins to glaciers) by advertising campaigns worldwide; and the uses of digital technologies to prefigure possible futures in the White Continent. There are also lengthy analyses, especially suited for neophytes, of the ways in which imperialist and post-colonialist narratives have informed Antarctic politics, the well-known place of science and exploration as political tools, and the role that anticipating Antarctic futures has played in shaping geopolitical forces around the continent.

The second part offers ‘snapshots of key events and players’ (p. 13). Most of the articles here deal with the relationship between the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and other actors, internal or external – like the original signatories, Brazil, China, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union. I must admit that I was a bit perplexed by some of the inclusions and omissions in this part. Regarding the omissions, it is not clear to me why the comparison between Svalbard and Antarctica, and Argentina’s nationalist approach toward the continent are relegated to the third and fourth part instead of being included here. Regarding the inclusions, *The politics of early exploration* looks like the odd one out, while the discussion about *Territorial claims and coastal states* would have made more sense in the third part, in tandem with the examination of the ATS’s reception of the Law of the Sea.

An analysis of the more specific legal instruments and bodies designed to manage the continent is the focus of part three. There are very useful introductions to topics like the historical evolution of environmental regulation, the changing regulatory framework of search and rescue missions through the introduction of the Polar Code and the unique ecosystem approach of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), together with its current and future challenges – for example, regarding the contested definition of ‘rational use’ of living marine resources. It is worth mentioning a concrete case study of inadequate environmental management in the Fildes Peninsula and Ardley Island, the most densely populated areas in the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. Here the authors contrast the well-intentioned provisions

of the Madrid Protocol and other ATS instruments (geared at preserving the environment), with the actual practices of station personnel and tourists. Their conclusion points to one of the sempiternal problems of international regulatory instruments, namely, that in the absence of enforceability mechanisms, non-compliance is not unusual, thus resulting in inefficient environmental management measures.

The fourth and final part consists of shorter and longer term speculations regarding the future of Antarctica and the ATS, from their place in an evolving global geopolitics to their capacity to confront new environmental challenges. There is one worry that keeps resurfacing here; to wit, the question whether the ATS will be able to cope with rapid change or whether it will drag behind. As the different authors note, if past performance can tell us anything about probable futures, then the slow pace and little proactivity so far shown by the ATS are troubling signs for the decades to come.

Since the creation of the Humanities and Social Sciences Expert Group (HASSEG) within the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) in 2010, the Antarctic humanities and social sciences have undergone a real boom. All in all, this handbook is an excellent reflection of it, for good and for bad. For good, this collection includes pieces by the best-known experts in their fields. Among others, Klaus Dodds and Alan Hemmings on geopolitics, Adrian Howkins on environmental history, Christy Collis on post-colonial Antarctic studies, Aant Elzinga on the politics of science, Rüdiger Wolfrum and Julia Jabour on the ATS’s legal framework, and Peter J. Beck on the historical relationship between the ATS and the UN. While some of the material will look familiar and not particularly new to those already immersed in this literature, it will be welcome by those who want to get first a grasp of Antarctic politics. This leads me to the bad, or rather the more problematic, feature of this volume. Being a clear reflection of the interests of a new generation of Antarctic scholars (most of them working in the tradition of critical studies), there is quite a lot of overlap and repetition of certain themes, while others are simply overlooked. To mention a few, bioprospecting, the role of non-state actors in the ATS and the legitimacy of this system both internally and vis-à-vis other comparable international orders were some that I missed. Having said this, this handbook ought to be in the shelves of those who profess an interest in this polar region. Not only will it serve as a quick reference on a large number of topics, but it will remain representative of a new, lively era of social and humanistic Antarctic studies. (Alejandra Mancilla, Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo, PO Box 1020, Blindern 0315, Oslo, Norway ([alejandra.mancilla@ifikk.uio.no](mailto:alejandra.mancilla@ifikk.uio.no)))

### Reference

Jensen, L.C., & Hønneland, G. (Eds.). (2015). *Handbook of the politics of the Arctic*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

**Footprints in the snow: the long history of Arctic Finland.** Maria Lähteenmäki. 2017. Helsinki: Prime Minister’s Office (12/2017). 211 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 978-952-429-0. Available free at: [https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/80043/VNK\\_J1217\\_Footprints%20in%20the%20snow\\_net.pdf?sequence=1](https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/80043/VNK_J1217_Footprints%20in%20the%20snow_net.pdf?sequence=1). doi:10.1017/S0032247417000493

This is an interesting and thought provoking book from which general readers of *Polar Record* will gain much information, coupled with some important insights. It marks the 100th anniversary of Finland gaining independence from Russia. The stress is, of course, on the country’s location, mainly between 60° and 70°N, and its overall Arctic character that has come to the fore relatively recently. In addition to the bulk of the text, written by the author herself, there are several ‘info boxes’ presenting an interesting range of relevant topics, mostly written

by colleagues of the author at the University of Eastern Finland and other institutions in the country.

We find a preface, seven main chapters and an epilogue. The preface lays emphasis on 'the long history of Finnish cold knowhow' and is 'a reminder... that Finland's interest in the north is not merely a product of the global switch of attention... that took place in the 1990s, but that interest in the region goes back several centuries...' The first full chapter addresses the 'irresistible lure of the north' and goes back as far as it is possible to go, addressing such questions as what language was spoken by the first inhabitants of the area, where they came from and how they lived, and, a little later, the relations between the Finns and the Sámi. So far this reviewer was content to be aware that he was abreast of much of what he was reading but he was brought up short by the first 'info box' which was on the subject of 'Finns in the sagas'. This short text by Sirpa Aalto was extremely interesting and has induced him to undertake a complete reading of the *Saga of St Olaf* in which they are mentioned. There are subsequent sections entitled 'The north as the home of frosts', which steps right back into the times of King Gustavus Vasa, Olaus Magnus and Mikael Agricola, followed, logically enough, by 'The beginnings of Arctic policy' and 'Learning becomes more international'. In this, we are informed that no fewer than 4200 doctoral theses etc. were submitted at Turku Academy in the period 1640–1828. This seems a large number for what might have been regarded as a cultural backwater at the time. Clearly this perception is completely wrong.

Chapter 2 concerns 'All eyes on the Arctic Ocean and Siberia' and stresses the imaginative and important work of Finnish scholars, such as Matthias Alexander Castrén, concerning the northern area of Russia and especially the linguistics of its peoples. This naturally leads to Elias Lönnrot and *Kalevala*, the national epic. An interesting 'info box' relates to the Nordenskiöld of whom, quite apart from the leader of the *Vega* expedition, there appear to have been an almost bewildering number. The section on the 'Politicization of research in the Arctic' is thought provoking.

We then pass to Chapter 3 'Finland's access to the Arctic Ocean' and this contains much about Petsamo and district that was Finnish until after World War 2, about the Skolt Sámi and about the projected railway that was to lead thither. This is one of the 'meatier' sections of the book and it filled in several gaps in this reviewer's ignorance, as one suspects it would do for most readers of our journal. The related 'info box' is by Pasi Tuunainen and on the fascinating topic 'The Finns – experts in winter warfare'. This had particular resonance for this reviewer since I duly became such, or so I thought, in the winter of 1965–1966 in Canada. Readers with experience of the military mind

worldwide will not be surprised to learn that after we had all 'qualified' in winter warfare we were duly shipped off to Aden, much hotter and much more unpleasant!

The book now moves towards the present. We have Chapter 4 'Re-profiling the north', which includes sections on gold and then onto maritime matters generally. Then there is Chapter 5 'Communities opening up to the world', the thrust of which is fairly obvious having much on the 'mobilisation' of the Sámi and an 'info box' on 'The changing face of reindeer herding'. Chapter 6 addresses 'Finland and sustainable development', which is fairly self-explanatory but contains a section that brought this reviewer to a dead stop. This is entitled 'The sauna emoji epitomises Finland'. I had not the faintest idea what an emoji is. Now I am aware that is just one more of those trivial ephemera that so bedevil life these days. We are informed that this one was 'launched' by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2016 and it seems clear that the people in that department are seriously under employed if they have time to waste on this sort of thing. Then we move, in the reversal of the usual direction, from the ridiculous to the sublime with a most interesting section on Sibelius.

The final chapter 'Finland – a globally integrated Arctic country' is an efficient summing up but it does contain the statement that the accession of Finland to the European Union (EU) meant that the EU was 'extending its territory beyond the Arctic Circle for the first time'. However, reading further down the same page (177) we note that Greenland left the then community in 1985. Curious. There is a useful epilogue rounding off the whole work but it contains a statement that, as a loyal resident of the Isle of Man, this reviewer cannot allow to pass unchallenged. The author repeats the old *canard* that one hears very frequently in Finland, that Finnish women were the first in Europe to gain the right to vote and that this was in 1906. This is not so. Isle of Man women were voting from 1881 and our island is certainly in Europe.

These *caveats* apart, this is an excellent book. The author has demonstrated the breadth of her scholarship in a comprehensive way that is most convincing. At the same she demonstrates a lightness of touch that is welcome, particularly in a work of this kind, making it entertaining and easy to read. The book is well presented with skilfully chosen illustrations and it would be perfect for those with polar interests but who might not know very much about Finland. And *mirabile dictu* it is available free as a pdf. It should command the wide readership that it thoroughly deserves and the author can rightly expect our appreciation and thanks (Ian R. Stone, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER ([irs30@cam.ac.uk](mailto:irs30@cam.ac.uk))).