

further one of large amounts of drift ice adjacent to Cape Hoppe with numerous seals resting on the floes. A few pages later one comes, with pleasure, upon a further notable aspect of this book. A very large number of nineteenth century drawings are reproduced, in this case one by Lars Møller, dated 1864, Editor of a Greenlandic newspaper entitled *Atuagagdliutit*, of the mountains in the Itilleq area.

After the introduction one embarks on the main part of the book. This is divided into nine units. The first is a useful account of the prehistory of the area which relates to the 400 years between the arrival of the first Inuit until the creation of the 'social institutions' that emerged immediately before the first European colonisation starting in 1721. The next chapter moves backwards as it were by detailing the European activities in west Greenland, before they moved south. The next two chapters concentrate on the south Greenland situation commenting on the Moravians 'as the source of disagreement seen from the Danish... point of view' both as regards to the Danish mission and their Trading Company (page 23). The situation in east Greenland is then described followed by a detailed demographic description of the Cape Farewell area including family analysis. Then the core of the book is reached with a consideration of how east Greenland immigrants were integrated into what was in effect west Greenland society and with the Moravian groups centred at what was then called Friedrichsthal. When the Moravians left Greenland in 1900 the congregation was living in ten settlements spread over the whole Cape Farewell area. The total population in that year was some 600 people not all of course were adherents of the denomination. Note is made of the special east Greenlandic

characteristics that still differentiate them from the population of the Cape area. The conclusion has two aspects. The first is how attitudes changed among the immigrants from the east coast during the nineteenth century. The second is to use this as a foundation for the study of how history and identity are perceived. The final chapter seems a little out of context since it is a lengthy description of the objects sent home by the Moravians to their rather modest headquarters and which are preserved at Herrnhut at the Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität but reading it makes one realise the seriousness with which the brethren and their families approached their task.

As noted above the book is liberally, indeed lavishly, illustrated and in addition to a whole series of coloured maps and photographs there are many contemporary photographs of the local people, in both formal and informal poses and of the various equipment that they used in their daily activities. There is a full critical apparatus. In addition it should be noted that the presentation of the book is superb and well up to the exhaustive standards traditionally adopted by this publishing house. The binding is solid and long lasting and the cover has a most attractive photograph that sums up the tough environment in which the events described take place. It seems impossible to find anything to criticise. This is an excellent book and one wholly to be recommended to anyone with interests in the Inuit, in Greenland, the Moravians or, indeed, in missionary studies in general. The authors are to be warmly congratulated. (Ian R. Stone, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Rd. Cambridge CB2 1ER (irs30@cam.ac.uk)).

LASHIPA. HISTORY OF LARGE SCALE RESOURCE EXPLOITATION IN POLAR AREAS.

Louwrens Hacquebord (editor). 2012. Groningen: University of Groningen, Arctic Centre. xiii + 172 p, illustrated, softcover. ISBN 978-9-491431-08-1. 25.00€.

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The LASHIPA project was a project carried out under the International Polar Year 2007–09 dealing with large-scale historical exploitation of polar areas. The present volume *LASHIPA. History of large scale resource exploitation in polar areas* constitutes in essence the proceedings of the project's final workshop in St Petersburg, Russia, in November 2009. 13 rather short contributions therefore deal with numerous topics related to polar resource exploitation, although the word 'polar areas' is slightly misleading in this context and should be replaced by 'Arctic' and more specifically by 'Spitsbergen'. This is due to the fact that most research presented in the book deals with the history of exploitation in the Norwegian archipelago.

Kraikovski and others' chapter deals with the logistics surrounding Russian hunting expeditions to Spitsbergen and notes that already by 1709 ships set sail to the Arctic to conduct commercial hunting. Although only around 1% of the shipping in the White Sea area actually sailed to Spitsbergen, this was particularly necessary for three distinguishable towns and regions, namely Mezen', Onega and Archangelsk. It is followed by a chapter written by Kraikovski alone which looks at the economics of the Spitsbergen hunts *vis-à-vis* Murman fishing. Although expeditions could last up to 15 months,

revenues for the hunters were not necessarily higher than for the ordinary fishermen. Only skippers earned significantly more than fishermen. These two articles fill a very important gap of an important economic activity in the 18th century, but which, at least in a Russian context, is little explored. It therefore aligns with important works such as Shannon Ryan's *The ice hunters* (Ryan 1994) on the history, economics and logistics of the Newfoundland seal hunt or Mirovitskaya and others' important contribution to understanding the North Pacific fur seals regime (Mirovitskaya and others 1993). Especially Kraikovski's mentioning of a 'marine charter – a collection of unwritten rules and customs of Pomor walrus hunters recorded in the late 18th century' (page 20) stimulates further investigation and could be of interest for anthropologists and lawyers alike.

Aalders' chapter on the perception of polar resources gives very valuable insight into the living conditions in 18th century Russian and Dutch hunting stations in Spitsbergen. Interestingly, Russian hunters pursued different habits in adapting to Spitsbergen's environment by hunting endemic animal species, enabling them to stay throughout the winter. Dutch whalers on the other hand only stayed during the summer and brought along their own meats. Aalders' brief reference to the background of the wastefulness of Russian and Dutch hunts, however, does not seem very convincing. She writes: 'They [the hunters] did not take any care to avoid over-exploitation of the resources and exploited these in a wasteful way. This probably had to do with Spitsbergen being a No-Man's Land where anyone could go to exploit its resources' (page 46). While this may be certainly the case she fails to mention that an ecosystem- or population-based ethic did not exist in the 18th century and that the wealth of

the oceans in general appeared inexhaustible. In Aalder's and Kraikovski's chapters a small consistency issue surfaces: the authors seem not to interpret historical documentation on the hunt in Spitsbergen evenly. Kraikovski for example challenges an early 19th century account on the size of the hunt as carried out in late 18th century (page 18) while Aalder appears not to question its validity but rather refers to large-scale catches to 'seem almost incredible' (page 42).

Haas looks at the Dutch Spitsbergen expedition in 1920 to establish mining operations and the settlement of Rijpsburg and in how far the Norwegian government, although already the Svalbard treaty had been signed, feared for geopolitical implications of this Dutch endeavour. This chapter seems to be a snapshot of the overall geopolitical ambitions at that time and does not provide too much groundbreaking information. Contrarily, Kruse delves into the geopolitical position of Spitsbergen and its resources from a British perspective. She provides an interesting insight into the differences in opinion on the archipelago in the late 19th century and throughout the First World War. Especially the prospect of oil as becoming a strategic resource played a role in Britain not expressing any claims to Spitsbergen. DePasqual deals with the technical side of mining on Spitsbergen and the technologies applied for transportation and storage of coal. This is certainly unique and although I personally have not come across a similar chapter in other books relating to Arctic resources, this is indeed fitting and broadens the horizon on the practical side of early resource extraction in a harsh Arctic environment. The proceedings-style of the book rises to the surface in Portsel's very short paper on the history and Soviet period of the mine in Barentsburg. The topic is certainly interesting, but the paper appears to be a draft and seems printed in an unedited form. From an editor's perspective, the inclusion of this chapter appears unnecessary.

Avango and Houtz contrast Swedish narratives on the heroism of polar exploration with the narratives by and about Swedish workers in the Swedish mine during the early 1920s. Based on literature reviews from that time they flesh out several narratives, but first and foremost that workers had to be made of 'the right stuff' (page 94) in order to endure the harsh Arctic living and working conditions. But also scientific enquiry as a means of heroism played an important role in self- and outside perception of the mine workers.

Hartnell in principle conducts a self-assessment of the LASHIPA project within the context of heritage protection in Svalbard. Making reference to the provisions on heritage protection in the 2001 Environmental Protection Act and to the World Heritage Convention he briefly outlines the practical difficulties but the important role of the LASHIPA project in using the available legal mechanisms to protect Svalbard's industrial past. An interesting parallel with regard to the practices and legal mechanisms pertaining to the protection of heritage could be drawn to the protection of sacred sites in the Arctic, an increasingly visible issue in Arctic research, best exemplified by the conference 'Protecting the sacred: recognition of sacred sites of indigenous peoples for sustaining nature and culture in northern and Arctic regions' held in Rovaniemi, Finland, in September 2009.

Gustafsson provides the reader with a very brief overview of the emergence of the modern whaling industry, commonly known to be based on the Norwegian Svend Foyn. But as Gustafsson shows, Foyn's invention of the explosive-based harpoon was by no means based on his creativity alone, but rather on several similar ideas that were considered failures

and which Foyn used to bring the explosive harpoon to perfection. Therefore, Foyn's outstanding position within Norwegian discourse is as such not justifiable. Only the incorporation of 'cultural, environmental, market, political, economic and social aspects in addition to technical ones' (page 116) enables the reaching of a satisfactory analysis of similar processes. This is indeed an important point and can certainly be applied in many different contexts. While as such not a groundbreaking finding a re-analysis of polar and other 'heroes' using this methodology would certainly yield interesting results.

Hacquebord's certainly interesting chapter on geopolitical and associated resource considerations in the Arctic shows its major weakness in being out of date. While the book itself is from 2012 and only finds reviewing in *Polar Record* now, also at the time of publication some of the information was already outdated. For example, Hacquebord only refers to the Arctic Five Ilulissat, which is consistently spelled as 'Ilulissat', meeting in 2008 while for example another meeting of the Arctic Five took place in Chelsea, Canada, in 2010. With regard to recent or ongoing geopolitical developments I would therefore rather refer to the freely available volumes of the Arctic Yearbook at www.arcticyearbook.com. Yet, by contrasting past and present resource exploitation, Hacquebord notes that 'in the past, companies had more possibilities to exercise power in remote places such as the Arctic' while '[t]oday companies start prospecting and exploitation after the political issues have been settled' (page 143). This is an interesting finding and warrants further investigation from a geo-economic perspective.

An enlightening insight into the significance of Arctic climate change in US military discourse is given by Doel. He convincingly shows how climate change in the Arctic and concern there over is not a recent development, but was already an issue in the early stages of the Cold War. While recent concerns deal with concerns over sustainability of socio-ecological systems, early concerns were more of a strategic nature as the Soviet Union's knowledge on the Arctic trumped that of the United States, ultimately resulting in a military advantage. A paper on the geostrategic considerations in the discourse on Arctic climate change during the Cold War also for the other Arctic countries, especially Russia, would be truly beneficial to understanding the history of Arctic and polar geopolitics.

Wråkberg wraps up this book by providing very basic information on the law of the sea and Arctic governance. He links knowledge creation with (potential) geopolitical elements. This brief chapter is indeed enlightening in its second half, but could have benefitted from further development of the ideas brought forth therein. However, given the scope of the book, full-fledged research articles vis-à-vis the proceedings-framework of this volume do not seem appropriate.

LASHIPA is in many respects an interesting volume that provides substantial information for the understanding of resource exploitation in Svalbard. From an editorial side it shows several shortcomings while also the papers vary in quality. This notwithstanding, this work is a valuable contribution to an interdisciplinary approach to Arctic history. (Nikolas Sellheim, Faculty of Law, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland (nikolas.sellheim@ulapland.fi)).

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SIBERIA: A HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE. Janet M. Hartley. 2014. New Haven, London: Yale University Press. xx + 289, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 978-0-300-16794-8. £25.00.

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This book is a thoroughly comprehensive, and yet easy to read, introduction to problems that have frequently been seen as defying easy explanation. Namely who are the peoples of Siberia and where did they come from? It is definitely not a history of Siberia *per se*, for that one would have to look elsewhere, and it would be useful to familiarise oneself with the outlines before perusing this volume, but from the first chapter one is swept along in the author's infectious and attractive prose on a journey towards understanding, and there are rather few books nowadays about which one can write that.

In the introduction the author refers to popular perceptions of Siberia, its enormous size, ferocious climate, thinly spread population, the old fur trade, 'a place of terror and exile', and so forth, and goes on to affirm that her aim is, within a 'broadly chronological' approach, an attempt to understand 'the experiences of explorers, missionaries, priests, traders, officials, exiles and convicts' in tsarist and post tsarist Siberia. Starting with the advance into Siberia towards the end of the sixteenth century, the author examines the indigenous peoples and the problems of communication faced by anyone penetrating the region. She then proceeds to cover immigration in the seventeenth century and the development of the territory in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries following on with the traumatic events of the twentieth century. She lays stress on the differences between Siberia and European Russia concentrating on involuntary and voluntary immigrants, the role of the indigenous peoples and the difficulties of administration in such a vast area. And all this is in fewer than 300 pages with no hint of inadequate detail, hurried prose, or poor referencing!

For this reviewer the most interesting sections included those on the Old Believers, about whom there is a sensitive account laying due stress on the fact that many of them chose immolation in fire in preference to adopting the changes that they viewed as 'a heretical challenge to sacred symbols' and even as the work of the devil. Readers of this journal will be interested in the accounts of the Great Northern Expedition, although it is not named as such, and of other exploratory ventures in the north. Such characters as Laptev, Pronshishchev (and his redoubtable wife), Steller, Krashennnikov, Müller and Gmelin stalk the pages and a necessarily concise account of Russian America is presented laying emphasis on its continual supply problems but omitting the part that the Hudson's Bay Company

played in alleviating these to a certain extent. An important chapter covers the advent of the Trans-Siberian Railway which was the 'root cause of the transformation of Siberia' and a full account is given of the multifarious difficulties faced by the engineers in the process of construction. The completion of the railway was of great importance with regard to the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) and this leads into a section on Japanese immigration into the Russian far east which started at the beginning of the twentieth century. There were 3000 in Vladivostok in 1902 for example. Comment is also made on the Chinese in Siberia. Immigration from Russia was stimulated by the emancipation of the serfs in 1861 and there was mass migration followed by another surge after 1906. The Stolypin reforms that were current at the time and were intended to assist peasants setting up as farms represent merely one of the series of lost opportunities that seem to have afflicted Siberia and its inhabitants since the very earliest days. The extraordinary development of agriculture in the years before 1914 receives due attention and it was startling to this reviewer when the author pointed out that by that year butter was the fourth most important export after grain, flax and wood and that there were some 4000 creameries in Siberia. Extraordinary for an economy that was then and still is regarded as more or less totally extractive.

The author handles the traumas of the 1920s with care and provides an excellent analysis of why the 'whites' were doomed to defeat. She cites fact after fact with regard to the development of the territory from the 1930s to the 1960s noting that by the latter year illiteracy was 'almost eradicated' and that by 1975 there were 51,000 higher education students in Siberia. A final chapter entitled 'The New Siberia' notes the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent reduction in the population of Siberia reflecting unemployment and higher mortality rates. The book finishes with what I take to be a note of optimism for the future of this perplexing land.

Considering its relatively modest length, the critical apparatus of the book is most impressive and reveals that the author has been living with the project for a long time. The illustrations are carefully selected and the maps are models of their kind.

To sum up: this book should be read by all with interests, however vestigial, in Siberia. As is pointed out there is something in the very name that attracts and repels but it cannot be ignored. No matter how profound is the reader's prior knowledge, no matter how many times has he or she been there, a reader will learn much from this book and be fascinated and entertained into the bargain. (Ian R. Stone, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Rd., Cambridge CB2 1ER (irs30@cam.ac.uk)).

THE ARCTIC CLIMATE SYSTEM (second edition). Mark Serreze and Roger Barry. 2014. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 404 p, illustrated, hardcover. ISBN 978-1-107-03717-5. £75.00.

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While the Arctic sits in uncertain times experiencing amplified warming and rapid change, there is no better time for the second edition of *The Arctic climate system*. It brings an overview of climate interactions between atmosphere, land and ocean, detailing the complex systems at play. A wealth of knowledge