

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC POLICIES

[Review by G. de Q. Robin* of *Issues in Australia's marine and Antarctic policies*, edited by R. A. Herr, R. Hall and B. W. Davis. Tasmania, Department of Political Science, University of Tasmania, 1982, xii, 201 p, illus. A\$7.95 softback.]

The ten papers of this volume were presented at a series of public policy seminars held in the University of Tasmania during 1982. Some of the papers deal with resources, while others cover practical problems—how to define the 200 nautical mile [368 km] Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Australia, or how to provide effective surveillance of the zone. Five are concerned with Antarctic issues. Bruce Phillips of the Division of Fisheries Research, CSIRO, effectively describes Australia's Fisheries resources, with useful distribution maps. The mineral (especially petroleum) potential of Antarctica is surveyed by P. J. Cameron, Exploration Manager of Weeks Australia Limited. These and other surveys provide authoritative and up to date introductions to the policy issues discussed in the remaining papers.

Two authors of policy papers speak with particular authority. Ambassador Brennan, who led the Australian delegations both to the third UN Conference on Law of the Sea and to the Convention on Antarctic Marine Living Resources, discusses marine and Antarctic policies with great clarity. Australia's aim is to see international agreements reached and to carry out these agreements. Brennan is a firm believer that consensus agreements can be reached internationally on even such difficult topics as the Law of the Sea. In order to reconcile territorial claims with their international obligations in Antarctica, Australia proclaimed a 200-mile [368 km] fishing zone around Australian Antarctic Territories on 1 November 1979, then on the following day allowed foreign fishermen to fish within the zone.

Professor David Caro, a physicist, Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the Federal Government's Antarctic Research Policy Committee, states that Australian support for Antarctic science is based on three factors: scientific curiosity, the possibility of resources, and assertion of national sovereignty by scientific activity. He accepts that different people give these factors different priorities, but reading his analysis suggests a simple truth. The great opening up of Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year (IGY) resulted from governments putting substantial resources at the service of science; now governments support Antarctic science because it serves their policies. This may have been inevitable, and it may not have been equally true for every country. But where it has happened most, something important has been lost from polar science.

A welcome aspect of this volume is the presentation of differing views from a variety of sources. Dr Keith Sater of the University of Sydney suggests that the Antarctic Treaty will run into trouble during reconsideration in 1991 because the conditions that worked for cohesion in 1959 will have largely disappeared. David Lewis, who has a close working experience with Antarctic and marine conditions through his Antarctic voyages in small craft, pleads for laymen to have more voice in policy forming discussions. Both Lewis and Sater favour an international park concept and preservation of the Antarctic environment, under either Australian or UN authority.

If the high standard of these Public Policy Seminars is maintained, their production in book form with more permanent binding would be well justified. The organizers certainly deserve congratulations for the quality of the papers in this volume.

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RECENTLY RECEIVED BOOKS AND REPORTS

The traditional Eskimo hunters of Point Hope, Alaska: 1800–1875. BURCH, Ernest S. Jr. Point Hope, North Slope Borough. 1981. 90 p, illus.

Comprehensive account of land use by the Tikirarmiut people of the Point Hope region between 1800 and 1875—a period chosen because it was the last in which native activities could reasonably be considered to have occurred with minimal Euro-american influence.