

peoples, but their responses, thus balancing documentation of marginalization and victimization with discussions of resistance and persistence.

A nice distinction was the incorporation of a chapter about the whalers of Lofoten, a 'non-aboriginal' group that experiences many of the same issues as aboriginal peoples. By including this group, the book vividly encourages the discussion of definitions of indigeneity, the limitations and possibilities of 'aboriginal' rights, and of similar topics.

Each chapter provides a set of questions for the student to ponder, and a resource guide that lists key written works, films and videos, web sites, and native organizations' addresses. More editorial rigor could have been used here: some chapters provided contact information for accessing videos and films (very useful), while others only provided names of films.

Like all edited volumes, some chapters are stronger than others. A few suffer from organization, a few from internal repetition. The chapter on the Kaska of Canada focuses almost exclusively on language retention — while this might be the most critical issue for the Kaska, more attention to other issues would have been welcome. Overall, however, the authors have achieved an admirable level of providing evocative detail about the key issues that face the peoples discussed. The book is an easy read, and suffers from minimal typographical errors. Pictures, though few, are of good quality.

No review would be complete without the inclusion of, albeit picayune, complaints of shortcomings. As a geographer I would prefer to have seen a standardization of maps. Some are excellent, some marginal; a number do not include places named in text. Another pet peeve: the chapters, while providing selected references to published sources, use citations sparingly. I do find this an alarming tendency in texts specifically pointed primarily at an introductory academic audience. At the very time at which professors are trying to instill a sense of necessity to cite works used, I wonder about assigning texts that flaunt this convention. It may make the reading flow, but it also provides the wrong message to students about the need to acknowledge sources.

Most problematic (but not without its value!) was the fact that the text and questions in a few places assume that the audience will be mono-cultural or not of certain cultures ('Would we allow Hindus, who do not eat meat...to tell us that we cannot eat hamburgers?' [page 180]; 'What characterizes a culture? Use our own culture as an example' [page 129]). These lapses in attention to the potential diversity of the audience will unwittingly provide opportunities for contemplation and discussion regarding the ever-pervasive hegemony of Euro-North American culture.

Minor grievances aside, *Endangered peoples of the Arctic* will provide a useful and timely text for those interested in the diversity of northern peoples, in the commonalities of the issues that face them, and in their respective responses. (Gail Fondahl, Geography Pro-

gramme, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, British Columbia V2N 4Z9, Canada.)

Reference

Minority Rights Group. 1994. *Polar peoples: self-determination and development*. London: Minority Rights Group.

THE SOUL OF THE NORTH: A SOCIAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, 1700–1940. Neil Kent. 2000. London: Reaktion Books. 416 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-861-89041-9. £35.00; US\$45.00.

In his book *The soul of the north*, Neil Kent makes an important contribution to research on the social, architectural, and cultural history of the Nordic countries from 1700 to 1940. Kent's book constitutes essential reading for all those who are interested in Nordic culture, specifically that of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is also essential in a broader sense to historians of social history. Although there are many books dealing with the subject of Nordic diplomacy, politics, and even art history in the English language, there is a dearth of material on the interdisciplinary subject of social and cultural history, and, in this regard, Kent's book fills a long awaited area of study. He examines this area in considerable depth and fills the many lacunae still abounding with respect to social history in the Nordic countries.

In this unique study, Kent gives an informed description of Nordic history and culture, analyzing both domestic concerns of religion and spirituality (including that of the Saami and Greenlanders), family life, sexuality, health, hygiene, prison life, and urban and rural life, as well as Scandinavian colonial expansion in the Arctic and the tropical Caribbean colonies. Although concentrating on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Kent provides a broad view of rarely addressed aspects of Nordic culture. He also explores how Nordic society was affected by architecture and art. Despite poverty and sparse populations, art and architecture were used by kings from Christian IV to Alexander I to beautify capital cities, which was done with a view to deploying symbolism to express moral and political values, bringing order to domestic and public life.

Kent has carried out copious research on these matters, using his proficiency in Scandinavian languages, so essential to such a study. This book is based on statistics and demographic material, which are demonstrated with pertinent literary references, as well as architectural and visual examples. Kent also provides two very informative historical chronologies of important political events and cultural and scientific advancements.

The encyclopedic detail and depth with which *The soul of the north* is written, manifests Kent's knowledge of geography and social history. The focus given to the colonial periphery of the Nordic countries is striking: the Arctic possessions, like Greenland and Iceland and their growing national identities, as well as the Caribbean colonies, such as the Danish Virgin Islands and St Barthel-

emy, with their little acknowledged history of slavery. Kent is insightful in his description of how colonial endeavors brought wealth to the Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Denmark.

The soul of the north traces how the authority of the church, monarchy, and aristocracy were gradually replaced in Scandinavia by the interest in society as a whole, with religious and racial tolerance becoming the accepted norm. Through the course of this book, the reader experiences the move from tyranny towards the individual in democratic nations, fostered by growing public education and literacy, a result of challenging times of poverty. This, according to Kent, created the foundation for what is known today as the Scandinavian welfare system. This leads him to some insightful conclusions in considering the historical roots of Scandinavian culture, in which a growing secularized society has focussed on medical and technical development as part of a collective identity above individual rights and desires, placing greater emphasis on conformity.

To summarize, *The soul of the north* is an innovative and scholarly exploration of Nordic culture, building a multi-layered picture of particular social groups, which belies prior assumptions about Scandinavia and will hopefully provoke interest in a previously neglected subject. The reader is provided with a vista in which it is possible to establish a number of links between Scandinavia and Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, although, ultimately, the reader is left with a deep understanding of the uniqueness of Nordic social and cultural history and the necessity to preserve its identity. (Siu Challons-Lipton, Graduate Art History Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA.)

LIFE IN THE COLD. Gerhard Heldmaier and Martin Klingenspor (Editors). 2000. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. x + 546 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 3-540-67410-1. £86.00; US\$129.00.

It is a remarkable achievement that the proceedings of a conference occurring in August should be available for purchase in book form by November in the same year. This feat is even more astonishing when the reader is informed that the book contains 55 chapters from researchers in 16 different countries.

Life in the cold comprises the proceedings of the eleventh international symposium dedicated to the understanding of animal life in the cold, which was held at Jungholz, Austria, between 13 and 18 August 2000. This series of conferences began in 1959, and meetings have been held at irregular intervals since then. Although the conferences originally focused on torpor and hibernation, this has changed in recent years to include scientific advances made in the areas of the neurobiology of thermoregulation and the biochemistry and physiology of heat production.

The titles of the chapters and sections underline the wide-ranging nature of the expertise covered. The first section relates to the evolution and ecophysiology of

torpor, and includes papers on heterothermy and hibernation in mammals, marsupials, birds, and reptiles. These are mostly temperate species, although there is one contribution on the remarkable Arctic ground squirrel by Brian M. Barnes and C. Loren Buck. It is noted that during torpor, the metabolic rate of these animals rises proportionately with decreases in ambient temperature below 0°C, while body-core temperatures remain constant. At ambient temperatures greater than 0°C, metabolic rate remains minimal and relatively constant, while body-core temperature increases, implying temperature-independent inhibition of metabolism. It is concluded that if brain temperature increases as ambient temperature decreases below 0°C, then this may ultimately influence torpor duration in this species.

The second section is entitled 'Physiological mechanisms of torpor,' and comprises chapters relating to the biochemistry of hibernation and torpor, particularly pertaining to small rodents. Again, the ground squirrels represent the polar species, with an analysis on control of cardiac and ventilation frequencies, a nine-year entrainment study of circannual rhythms, and follicular development and hibernation.

The third ('Biochemical and molecular mechanisms of torpor') and fourth ('Energy balance and cold adaptation') sections are more general in form, with no specific references to polar species. Here it can be seen that there is a current revival of the discussion about the ecological significance of torpid states, mostly because technical developments in remote sensing have allowed more in-depth *in vivo* studies. These studies have indicated that torpor is more frequently used in animals and birds in thermally moderate environments than previously thought — that torpor is not necessarily restricted to being just an adaptation to the cold or a response to food shortages. Torpor thus appears to be a widespread strategy employed to reduce energy dissipation or to build up energy reserves. Thus the traditional view of torpor as being specifically an adaptation of endothermic mammals and birds needs some reviewing, and its use in monotremes and reptiles may imply that it is a shared primitive character state (symplesiomorphy), rather than derived character state (apomorphy) unique to one group of animals.

No book can be produced in such a short period without some cost to its quality. In the case of *Life in the cold*, this is revealed in occasional eccentricities in grammar that would have been caught by proof-readers and editors with a less gruelling schedule. Unfortunately, the index also suffers from rushing, and seems to be based on key-words supplied by each author. This is a pity, because a comprehensive book like this deserves a good index.

On a positive note, this book is an excellent representation of the state of current research into hibernation and torpor. It is not a book for the casual reader, but for biologists and students with at least some background in the subject. At £86, it is an expensive addition to any library, and, since the discipline is