

## Book Reviews

The last of this series of three booklets is from the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies' Polaris Series and it combines eight papers concerning strategy and the Arctic. The opening paper by James R. Gibson dates back to 1972, and despite its age, comparison of the geographic-climatic-population differences between the Canadian and the Soviet Arctic serves to place Arctic strategic matters in a clear context. There is a relatively well populated zone, with a summer worthy of the name, and a sea coast which can be used for transport. Ours is more solidly cold and sparsely populated — perhaps because Canada has never had a central government policy of exiling dissidents to Baffin Island.

Subsequent papers by Ron Purver, George Lindsey, John Gellner, Nancy Weeks, Erik Solem, and Elizabeth Young set out the strategic and political issues of the Arctic from all aspects.

Will the Arctic be turned into what John Gellner calls "the strategic forefield" and should it? Should the Arctic be declared a nuclear-free zone? Papers in this series note that the Soviets have consistently promoted the nuclear-free zone concept for the Arctic, excluding the Soviet Arctic. The Soviet Arctic is already a "strategic forefield" for them, by nature of their geography, and with a population which has been growing ever since the Czars began banishing troublesome people to Siberia. Yes, the Soviets would like the Arctic — our Arctic — to be a nuclear-free zone, just as they would like Scandinavia to be nuclear-free, provided they can use the Baltic Sea for their nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships.

When the Arctic is placed in context of changing strategies of East and West, the new weapons systems under development and the new threats, the Canadian Arctic, in fact, appears destined to become a major area of superpower confrontation.

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seven of the twelve original Parties to the Treaty: Argentina, Chile, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France and Norway. The other five states (Belgium, Japan, South Africa, the Soviet Union and the United States) have never made any territorial claims, the policy of the two superpowers being not to recognize anybody else's claim either. Twenty states have now acceded to the Treaty: Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, East Germany, West Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, The Netherlands, Papua-New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay. Of these, Brazil, China, West Germany, India and Uruguay have conducted the necessary scientific activity to qualify as Consultative Parties.

Chapter III traces the origins of the treaty from 1948 to its conclusion in 1959 at the height of the Cold War. At the time, the United States was anxious to deny access to the Antarctic continent to the Soviet Union and it decided to forego any claim for itself in spite of the previous expeditions by US citizens. It therefore presented a proposal, which was incorporated in the Treaty, freezing all claims, but without prejudice to reviving claims or advancing new ones later.

In his analysis of the system of consultative meetings (Chapter IV), which system constitutes the decision-making mechanism, the author underlines the privileged position enjoyed by the twelve original contracting Parties. They cannot lose their consultative status, whereas the other Consultative Powers may lose such status if they cease to carry out the "substantial research activity" required by Article IX of the Treaty. The following three chapters are devoted to conservation measures, the role of the meetings of experts and the role of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research. The latter, it is concluded, "has become the central scientific support organization of the Consultative Powers and serves a vital function for the Antarctic System."

Chapter VIII deals with the duties of acceding States and the special question of whether they are bound by the Recommendations adopted by the Consultative Powers prior to their accession. Chapter IX on Administrative Arrangements underlines the fact

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## Learning from the Antarctic

by Donat Pharand

*The Antarctic Treaty System:  
Politics, Law and Diplomacy by  
Jeffrey D. Myhre. Boulder, Colo-  
rado: Westview Press, 1986, 162  
pages, US\$19.50.*

In only 117 pages of text (eleven brief chapters) Jeffrey Myhre has managed to provide us with a reasonably complete picture of the Antarctic Treaty System: its origin, its *modus operandi* and its chances of survival.

After a general overview in Chapter I, Chapter II on territorial sovereignty gives a succinct summary of the various bases for the claims made by