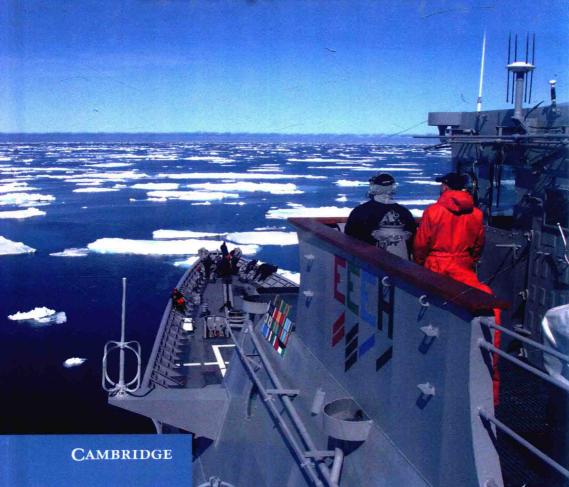
ARCTIC SECURITY IN AN AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Edited by James Kraska



Arctic Security in an Age of Climate Change

Edited by

JAMES KRASKA

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ARCTIC SECURITY IN AN AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

This is the first book to examine Arctic defense policy and military security from the perspective of all eight Arctic states. In light of climate change and melting ice in the Arctic Ocean, Canada, Russia, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, and the United States, as well as Iceland, Sweden, and Finland, are grappling with an emerging Arctic security paradigm. This volume brings together the world's most seasoned Arctic political-military experts from Europe and North America to analyze how Arctic nations are adapting their security postures to accommodate increased shipping, expanding naval presence, and energy and mineral development in the polar region. The book analyzes the ascent of Russia as the first "Arctic superpower," the growing importance of polar security for NATO and the Nordic states, and the increasing role of Canada and the United States in the region.

Dr. James Kraska serves as the Howard S. Levie Chair of Operational Law at the U.S. Naval War College, where he also teaches on the faculty of the International Law Department. Kraska is a commander and judge advocate in the U.S. Navy. He has served as legal adviser to joint and naval task force commanders in the Asia-Pacific and has completed four Pentagon major staff assignments. He was the principal military contributor to the president's U.S. Arctic Region Policy, and he coordinated Arctic issues and law of the sea for the armed forces at the National Security Council and International Maritime Organization. Author of Maritime Power and the Law of the Sea (2011), Kraska also holds appointments as Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia and as Guest Investigator at the Marine Policy Center, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. In 2010, he was selected for the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement by the Navy League of the United States.

For Kim, Olivia, and Caroline

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Foreword

ARCTIC FUTURES: THE POLITICS OF TRANSFORMATION

Oran R. Young

It is beyond doubt that the Arctic is experiencing transformative change. Driven by the interacting forces of climate change and globalization, this transformation has turned the spotlight of public attention to a region previously known to the outside world largely as a homeland for indigenous peoples and a playing field for intrepid adventurers. Rapid melting of sea ice has given rise to visions of an ice-free Arctic Ocean during the foreseeable future. While uncertainty makes projections hazardous in this realm, it is reasonable to expect that the Arctic basin will be ice-free during parts of the year by 2050, and perhaps during much of the year by 2100.1 Equally important from the perspective of commercial shipping and natural resource extraction, much of the remaining ice will be first-year ice in contrast to thicker and tougher multiyear ice. Combined with projections indicating that a sizable fraction of the world's remaining undiscovered reserves of oil and gas are located in the circumpolar Arctic, this development has sparked a surge of interest in the region among multinational corporations desiring to exploit Arctic hydrocarbons and minerals, shipping companies attracted by the prospect of using Arctic sea lanes for intercontinental as well as coastal commerce, and environmental organizations concerned about the ecological consequences of a rapid growth of economic activities in the region. It is no exaggeration to say that the Arctic has crossed a threshold leading to what systems analysts refer to as a state change. Like state changes occurring in other complex systems, the transformation now occurring in the Arctic is altering the landscape dramatically, proceeding at a rapid pace, and producing results that are almost certain to be irreversible.

¹ The actual decline in Arctic sea ice has been more rapid than climate models have anticipated. It is possible but by no means certain that this will lead to an ice-free Arctic basin sooner than current projections anticipate. See H. Koc et al. eds., Melting Snow and Ice: A Call for Action. (Tromsø: Norwegian Polar Institute, 2009).

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Many observers have sought both to document and to understand the causes of the biogeochemical elements of this transformation. Others have taken up the challenge of assessing the economic calculations underlying the attractions of oil and gas production, commercial shipping, industrial fishing, and even adventure tourism likely to occur in the region in the decades to come. But what are the political implications of this suite of developments? How will the transformation of the Arctic affect the interests and capabilities of both Arctic and non-Arctic states? What will be the consequences for interested nonstate actors, including indigenous peoples' organizations as well as multinational corporations and environmental NGOs? Will we see fundamental shifts in the Arctic policy agenda? Will existing governance arrangements like the Arctic Council be up to the task of promoting cooperation and avoiding conflict in this setting? Arctic Security in an Age of Climate Change provides the first book-length effort to wrestle with these questions in a sustained and rigorous fashion. While it does not provide all the answers, it does give us a lot to think about as we seek to come to terms with these issues.

ARCTIC STATE CHANGES

From a political perspective, the essential feature of the transformation now occurring in the Arctic is a tightening of the links between global forces and regional processes. During the Cold War, the Arctic was divided into two armed camps with the Soviet Union on one side and the United States and four of its NATO allies - Canada, Denmark, Iceland, and Norway - on the other. The region loomed large in strategic calculations, not because of its intrinsic value but because it provided an attractive theater of operations for strategic weapons systems and especially nuclear-powered submarines equipped with submarine-launched ballistic missiles. However, the sensitivity of the Arctic in military terms had the side effect of inhibiting other activities in the region. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the Arctic emerged as a low-tension area of limited importance in global terms. Starting with Mikhail Gorbachev's "Arctic zone of peace" speech in October 1987, the region became a target of opportunity for those interested in promoting various forms of international and transnational cooperation. A flurry of regional initiatives ensued, culminating in the establishment of the Arctic Council in 1996 and in the development of the council into an increasingly prominent vehicle for addressing Arctic issues and promoting international cooperation in the intervening years.

The state change occurring now involves a dramatic shift in the role of the Arctic in the global system. Climate change, whose effects are being felt in the Arctic both sooner and more dramatically than in other areas, is a consequence of anthropogenic forces originating far beyond the bounds of the region. For better or worse, the Arctic has emerged as the leading edge with regard to the impacts of climate change. Ironically, the rapid growth of interest in exploiting the Arctic's natural resources and taking advantage of new opportunities for commercial shipping

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reflects the needs of those responsible for the biogeochemical forces that have given rise to the transformation in the region. The Arctic is thus on the receiving end of a combination of forces whose origins lie far beyond the boundaries of the region itself. It may be going too far to describe these developments as the start of a new chapter in core-periphery relations; however, the asymmetry is striking. Global forces largely beyond the control of Arctic stakeholders and rights holders have triggered a cascade of changes that have brought the region to the attention of powerful political and economic leaders who showed little or no interest in the Arctic in earlier times and who are not particularly sensitive to the fate of the Arctic and its permanent inhabitants today.

What can we say about the political consequences of this new relationship between the Arctic and the outside world? In this commentary, I draw attention to three prominent features of the politics of transformation: one involving the interests of the "ice states" in contrast to the Arctic states, a second involving the interests of non-Arctic states as distinct from the Arctic states, and a third reflecting the growing importance of nonstate actors in world affairs.

ARCTIC STATES/ICE STATES - TENSIONS WITHIN THE FAMILY

Since the late 1980s, eight states (Canada, Russia, the United States, and the five Nordic states) have taken the lead in launching cooperative measures in the Arctic first in the form of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy adopted in 1991 and then in the form of the Arctic Council established in 1996. The acceptance of the Arctic Eight as the appropriate grouping of actors to take these steps was not a foregone conclusion. Some key actors fought hard at the time to limit these initiatives to the Arctic Five or, in other words, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States. Nonetheless, with the initiation by Finland of the Rovaniemi Process in 1989, the Arctic Eight became the accepted cast of characters for purposes of addressing Arctic issues at the international level. For all practical purposes, the question of membership was laid to rest.

The current transformation has triggered renewed interest in this question. Because both the biogeochemical and the socioeconomic forces at work in the Arctic today focus largely on the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas, the five ice states have taken steps to enhance their ability to dominate Arctic policy, without engaging Finland, Iceland, and Sweden and without showing much concern for the views of the indigenous peoples' organizations that have the status of Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. To be sure, the Arctic Five have made a point of stressing their adherence to applicable international agreements (e.g., the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea [UNCLOS]) and their commitment to managing Arctic affairs in a law-abiding manner. In the 2008 Ilulissat Declaration, for instance, they made much of the proposition that they are in a unique position to address the consequences of biogeochemical and socioeconomic changes in the