

was implemented in July 2010), expanding search and rescue capability, and building new icebreakers. By contrast, Byers places more emphasis than some other commentators on the Inuit population. The Inuit are Canada's strongest claim to sovereignty in the region and he is correct in arguing that more should be done to build up northern infrastructure and reform the region's education system. In his discussion of the role of the Inuit in these changes, Byers mentions a photograph taken in Igloodik of a young Inuit boy sitting on a Coast Guard helicopter and points out that that boy and his people's history carry more weight in international law than all the helicopters the Coast Guard can muster (111–12). It's a point that seems obvious upon reflection, yet it is one that is often forgotten in the hype about new icebreakers and patrol ships.

All things considered, *Who Owns the Arctic?* is a good place to start for anyone looking to understand the issues behind the headlines. It is a fairly comprehensive and straightforward analysis of each of the major sovereignty disputes confronting Canada in the Arctic today and why we should be paying more attention to them.

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***Matthew A. Henson's Historic Arctic Journey: The Classic Account of One of the World's Greatest Black Explorers.* Foreward by Robert E. Peary. Introduction by Booker T. Washington. Introduction by Deirdre C. Stam. The Lyons Press, Guilford, Connecticut, 2009. 224 pages.**

Matthew Henson's account of Peary's expedition to the North Pole is a reprint from the original 1912 edition of "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole" and published as Volume V of The Explorers Club Classics Series. In the new 100th anniversary edition, the title was changed to "A Black Explorer at the North Pole" (61) in recognition of modern language usage. The book provides additional material from the archives of The Explorers Club including photographs, a list of Henson's honours, and a bibliography of celebratory accounts of his achievements. Besides Robert Peary's original foreword and the historical introduction by Booker T. Washington, a new introduction of fifty pages for the Explorers Club Edition was added by Deirdre C. Stam (Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University), which views Henson's account with the eyes of today.

In his introduction written a century earlier, Washington highlighted Henson's special capability. When Peary was asked why Henson, a Negro, was the only man besides four Eskimos (Inuit) to accompany him on the

final dash to the North Pole, he answered that this was "primarily because of his capability and fitness for the work and secondly on account of his loyalty. He is a better dog driver and can handle a sledge better than any man living, except some of the best Esquimo hunters themselves" (57).

In the beginning of his account, Henson gave a short autobiographical introduction. He was a seaman when Lieutenant Peary hired him as body servant in 1888, when he worked as a civil engineer in Nicaragua. From 1891 onward, Henson accompanied Peary to the Arctic, north of Greenland. During the 1893–1895 expedition, Henson and Peary nearly died; in 1899, Peary lost all but one of his toes due to frostbite; and in 1906, Peary and Henson reached 87°6′N, at that time the Farthest North record. The final dash to the North Pole started in 1908. Nearly each day, Henson wrote an entry in his diary or summarized the events of the past days during 1908–1909. He described the lamb-like Eskimos, whom he later called "boys," when working together in a dog sledge team. Hunting, repairing, and building Peary's sledges were his main tasks during the polar night at Cape Sheridan. He also took care of the dogs, who were essential to attaining the Pole. Peary, with his crippled feet, was dependent on the smooth ride of a dog sled, while the other expedition members had to pioneer and prepare a way by cutting a path in the huge pack ice and build him a warm igloo each night. The reader follows Henson to the North Pole and is also puzzled, like the faithful black servant, when Peary avoided shaking hands with him as well as to thank him and the four accompanying Eskimos for their help, because without them Peary never would have made it. The way back after their success developed into an exhausting nightmare with broken sleds, storms, and never-ending leads in the ice, which stopped them for days. The book ends with a description of the weeks after their safe return to ship. This includes a short paragraph about Peary's attitude against the cabin and belongings of Frederick Cook, who claimed to have been at the North Pole a year earlier.

The background of Henson's account was his pride at being the first black man at the North Pole. His book was a very important contribution to polar history, providing a different look upon Peary, his general behaviour, and especially upon his last expedition.

This new reprint honours Henson's contribution to Peary's success on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their reaching the Pole. Stam's new introduction to the Explorers Club Edition describes Henson as "an essential figure—driver of dogs, translator of Inuktitut, skilled jack-of-all-trades, and man of exceptional strength, courage, and endurance," who had followed Peary to the Arctic during six voyages in eighteen years. This scholarly introduction with a lot of endnotes sets Henson and his achievements

in a broader historical context. The author gives detailed insight into the discussions of whether Henson's account was written by a ghost writer or whether it was an authentic autobiographical text. A longer portion of the introduction adds biographical information from other early biographies. Stam tries to find an answer to the question why Henson worked for Peary over twenty-three years with very low pay, and also discusses the question of who got to the Pole first: Peary or Henson. Unfortunately, Henson's accomplishment was not much recognized until his death at the age of eighty-eight years. The list of selected books and articles only counts eight publications from or about Henson until 1955. His posthumous reputation grew perhaps in the shadow of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, when a broad interest in black history developed and five contributions on Henson were published. Until that time, nobody saw him as an equal part of a team. In the 1970s we find eight publications on Henson, which rose to eleven in the 1990s. The highest publications rate is found in the first decade of the twenty-first century with the astonishing number of twenty-two publications between 2000 and 2008. Peary gave Henson much responsibility, when he ordered him to do a lot of things an expedition leader would usually only do himself. For instance, it was Henson's job to reload the sleds with food and scientific instruments for the final dash to the Pole. However, Peary always treated him as servant, never as white person or even as friend. Not until 1937, twenty years after Peary's death, was Henson elected life member of the Explorers Club, which grew out of the Peary Arctic Club formed to support Peary's expeditions.

It is surprising that Stam did not take the chance to compare Henson's report with Peary's account of the same expedition. They not only represented leader and subordinated expedition member, but also (white) master and (black) boy. This kind of relation is mirrored in Henson being the master of his Eskimo boys of the sled team, to whom he gave his orders and whom he considered friends, but of a lower class. It is always very interesting to cross-check events described in two versions. Sometimes this can be more fascinating than a comparison with secondary literature.

It would be much easier for the reader to follow Henson's travel account if a map had been added to the anniversary edition. A detailed bibliography, with a list of all editions of Henson's travel account, as well as a long list of selected secondary literature and a compilation of collectibles and multiples are also added.

All in all, this handy book can be recommended for everybody without access to older editions and who want to get another view on Peary's

expedition to the North Pole, as well as on Henson's importance in a contemporary context, as described in Stam's introduction.

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***The Nordic Model: Scandinavia Since 1945.* By Mary Hilson. London, Reaktion Books Ltd., 2008. 234 pp.**

The Nordic Model has long been a defining element of the Nordic region, both internally and externally, in truth and in myth. But the Nordic region is one in transition—and it is the apparent ever-changing definition of the Nordic region, or its defiance of definition, and the subsequent effect of this on the realities and myths of the Nordic model, that serve as a catalyst for Mary Hilson's book, *The Nordic Model: Scandinavia Since 1945* (2008). However, the book is much more than just an appraisal of the Nordic model; it charts the historical factors that led to the creation of such a model and discusses the problems that arise in defining it in regional rather than national terms, the latter of which is so often the case in Nordic discourses on the subject. For, although the title suggests that this is a book that focuses on the Nordic model, in so doing it ambitiously—and successfully—"attempts to explore the meaning of 'Scandinavia'" (13) itself. In appraising the Nordic region in terms of a *geschichtsregion* (historic region), Hilson examines the region as a collective whole, but not uncritically. Indeed, Hilson takes up the question of whether or not examination of the region as a collective framework is even suitable—and the book justifies Hilson's approach. It highlights the similarities and differences that become apparent through a comparative analysis of the Nordic model.

In the introduction, Hilson offers what can be regarded as an apologia, not only of the subject but of the sources used. It is an apologia that is unnecessary: first, because the question of what Scandinavia or the Nordic region are is an essential one, and the Nordic model is key to understanding the Nordic region in the modern period; and, second, the sources are first-rate. The bibliography, carefully divided into helpful subject headings, contains a wealth of extra reading material with the English reader in mind, and the Swedish bias that Hilson hoped to avoid is, in fact, not avoided but nevertheless justified. The introduction can give the reader the impression that this is a book where clichés and generalizations will abound, referring as it does to Scandinavia as "a small, sparsely populated region on the margins of Europe [... that] seems to have generated an interest out of all proportion to its size" (11). While Hilson seems here to perpetuate the myth