

Canada and the Changing Arctic: Sovereignty, Security, and Stewardship.
By Franklyn Griffiths, Rob Huebert, and P. Whitney Lackenbauer.
Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2011. xxix + 310 pp. Notes,
bibliography, index.

As global warming promises to unleash the dark clouds of harsher storms, coastal flooding, desertification, and other catastrophes upon the planet, some have searched for a silver lining in those clouds. It is clear that many perceive a warming Arctic, bereft of sea ice, as that silver lining. Canadians expect that ships will soon flock to the Arctic sea to exploit resources and seek unhindered passage for their goods. What will Canada's response be? Will we have a strategy in place to address the problems these foreign ships will bring? Will our laws and policies apply? These are some of the questions at the heart of *Canada and the Changing Arctic*. The authors of this book were brought together by the Canadian International Council (CIC) to prepare "white papers" (policy proposals) and the "results of their research form the core of this book" (4). The book's Introduction presents the three authors, an historian and two political scientists, and summarizes their views on Arctic sovereignty, security, and governance. It does an excellent job of outlining and comparing and contrasting their arguments (5–12).

The second chapter, written by Rob Huebert, attempts "to achieve an understanding of Canadian Arctic sovereignty and security in the context of a fundamentally changing Arctic" (13). He defines the terms "sovereignty" and "security" for the reader, noting that our notions of security have changed over time from strictly military security to encompass ideas such as food security and environmental security. He then explores in more detail the threats to our sovereignty and security resulting from climate change, resource development, and geopolitical forces, with a focus on the Northwest Passage.

In chapter 3, author P. Whitney Lackenbauer attempts "to articulate a feasible and practical strategy that integrates elements from all the major parties' agendas and that might be the basis for cooperative progress" (71). In doing so, he reviews the recommendations of numerous northern stakeholders, including territorial governments and Aboriginal organizations. Lackenbauer advocates a "3D" approach—incorporating defense policy, development, and diplomacy—in an integrated northern strategy. Lackenbauer reviews Canada's historical approaches to sovereignty assertion, noting that national governments have traditionally taken a crisis management approach, and concludes with a review of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "use it or lose it" position. He then transitions to

a discussion of “scenario based thinking” focusing on his 3D approach, and discusses each of these subjects in detail.

Chapter 4 was written by Franklyn Griffiths. It reviews some of the basic characteristics of the Arctic before proceeding to propose a plan to develop a Canadian Arctic strategy. For Griffiths, the Arctic is a periphery, pacific (i.e., peaceful), dependent, fragmented, and under-institutionalized. He suggests that the twin “watch words” of a Canadian strategy should be “stewardship” and “sovereignty,” and that “strengthening capacity for collective action” is essential (183). The author goes on to promote three objectives for the strategy: elevate Arctic international relations to the highest political level amongst Arctic nations; engage the Russian Federation in stewardship efforts; and invigorate the Arctic Council to enable it to support stewardship projects in the Arctic. He concludes with a summary of recommendations for developing a Canadian Arctic strategy.

The final chapter of the book updates the reader on issues and events from 2009 (when the original papers were written) to 2011 (when the book was published). The first part of the chapter focuses on Canada’s new Northern Strategy, released on 26 July 2009, which promotes partnerships with northern Canadians and with Canada’s circumpolar neighbours. Lackenbauer comments that this strategy “is a rather abrupt change of tone from previous political messaging” (228). The second part of the chapter addresses security issues in the Arctic, with an emphasis on the Canada First Defense Strategy, and the activities of Russia, Denmark, and the United States in the Arctic.

The chapter then turns to the issue of governance, and the author comments that “some of the most exciting developments since early 2009 relate to governance” (237). In this regard, he notes Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon’s comment that geological research and international law would resolve boundary disputes, the settlement of the boundary dispute between Russia and Norway, the extension of Canada’s jurisdiction under the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act to 200 nautical miles, the convening of the “Arctic 5” meeting, and the release of Canada’s Arctic foreign policy statement in August 2010. The book concludes with this foreign policy statement attached as an appendix.

This book provides a useful review of Canada’s domestic and foreign northern policies, and insights into other Arctic nations’ northern interests and strategies. It will be a useful text for students of northern policy, northern and international affairs, and international law. It will also be useful to public servants working on northern and foreign policy, and to anyone seeking a better understanding of Canada’s North and our interests in the Arctic. As

with any book that studies policy issues in depth, it contains numerous, sometimes confusing, acronyms, and fortunately the authors have provided an alphabetical listing of them and their meanings. The book has excellent maps, illustrations, and photographs that assist the reader in understanding the text and context of the authors' arguments. It is a timely work, given the impending decisions to be made on the sovereignty claims of the Arctic nations, and the increasing rate of sea ice decline in the Arctic Ocean.

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***The Reindeer Botanist: Alf Erling Porsild, 1907–1977.* By Wendy Dathan. Calgary: University of Calgary Press co-published with the Arctic Institute of North America, 2012. Xxii + 726 pages. 80 b&w photos, 7 maps, notes, bibliography, index.**

Botanists are often thought of as mild mannered, quietly studying amongst mounds of floras, surrounded by large metal cabinets. Few envision such folks facing the demands and dangers of the field work that has attracted so many of us to the pursuit. Still fewer have experienced the challenges presented to Alf Erling Porsild (Erling) and his old brother Robert Thorbjørn (Bob) in their endeavours to transport and establish a herd of reindeer from Alaska to the Mackenzie Delta, Northwest Territories.

Erling Porsild was an eminent Arctic botanist who shaped our understanding of the flora of the Northwest Territories, Alaska, and Yukon, but who also had a keen interest in geological processes and the natural history that shaped and shared the land with the plants and the animals that shared the country. It was Porsild who brought the Greenland Inuit term “pingo” into the common English usage (at least, common for northerners). *The Reindeer Botanist's* 726 pages chronicle his career from a young student through his term as the chief botanist with the National Museum of Canada from 1936–1967. It is a detailed, intimate look into the life, adventures, and motivations of his complex personality, explored using the meticulous notes and letters kept by him and others.

The Reindeer Botanist follows Erling Porsild from his early beginnings learning botany from his father, Morton Porsild, Director of the Danish Arctic Biological Station at Godhavn on the island of Disko, Greenland. Early in his life he honed his skills at observation encouraged by his dad through a competition with Robert to collect and compete for the best collections. They received the equivalent of 5¢ Canadian for each flowering plant they discovered, with a bonus of 50¢ for rare specimens, and \$1.50 for species new