

discusses problems that defy immediate or obvious solutions, and it makes important contributions by sharing wisdom from Holthaus's long and intimate connection with the people of Alaska and elsewhere. It deserves a thoughtful read by us all.

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***Health Transitions in Arctic Populations*. Edited by T. Kue Young and Peter Bjerregaard. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008. 496 pp. Tables, graphs, maps, bibliographical references.**

Health Transitions in Arctic Populations is a comprehensive compilation of data about Arctic regions, peoples, environmental features, and living conditions. It describes health patterns, the lifestyles of resident populations, and environmental and economic factors affecting communities in the Arctic. The volume was supported in part with funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the University of Toronto Press, the Directorate of Health in Greenland, and the Karen Elise Jensen Foundation. The dedication of editors Peter Bjerregaard and Kue Young to the dissemination of knowledge about circumpolar health issues is evident throughout the publication and its accomplished contributors provide an impressive breadth of information and expertise.

The book is divided into the following five sections: Regions, Peoples, Health Determinants, Consequences, and Strategies: Improving the Health of Arctic People. Each section contains information on a range of subjects and includes tables, graphs, and maps. The Regions section, for example, describes the health status of resident peoples; health services; socio-economic indicators; population characteristics; historical developments; linguistics; traditional lifestyles; and geographic features in Greenland, northern Canada, Alaska, Arctic Russia, and northern Fennoscandia. The Peoples section describes several aspects of population health, including migration patterns; genetic relations among ethnic groups; historical population distribution; and political influences on Inuit, Dene, and Sami peoples, as well as the cultures, languages, socio-economic conditions, and health patterns of these groups. The Health Determinants section focuses primarily on environmental factors, including work conditions, contaminants, water quality, and climate change. Finally, the section on Consequences includes sub-sections that discuss issues related to a range of infectious, cardiovascular, and other diseases,

such as risk and protective factors, population demographics, gender, and age perspectives.

The editors of this book did an excellent job in providing a cross-section of information on the historical, political, economic, environmental, cultural, and climatic factors affecting the health of Arctic peoples. In particular, the book offers a wealth of information about the hardships of living in the Arctic. It addresses issues such as physical activity levels, diet, nutrition, environmental toxins, housing, living conditions, economics, and education in several of its sections. It considers the complex influences on health in Arctic populations and paints a picture of particular social and environmental difficulties confronting northern communities. The historical material in the book provides the reader with a sound basis for understanding the social, cultural, and health changes facing Arctic populations. Indeed, the publication offers so much data it is difficult to take it all in. For this reason, the reader will probably benefit most by focusing first on each of the book's individual sections in order to gain a firm understanding of their contents before attempting to piece them together into an overarching view of the complex issues shaping the health of Arctic populations.

The section of the book that proposes strategies for improving the health of Arctic populations is unfortunately light. It provides the reader with a single short chapter. The strategies listed include eight recommendations previously outlined in the authors' 1998 book, *The Circumpolar Inuit*. Several negative references are made regarding northern peoples' ability to cope with and manage alcohol, drugs, tobacco, nutritional choices, poverty, and lower educational levels. The authors suggest programs for preventive health and programs that target alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and suicide. The chapter would have been greatly improved if it had included contributions from northern Indigenous leaders.

Health Transitions in Arctic Populations discusses Arctic peoples and regions, but does not include a section authored by an Indigenous person. Including Indigenous voices would have strengthened the publication by highlighting important perspectives on the difficulties experienced in northern climates and by providing access to culturally-based insights on proposed health initiatives. The book draws heavily from Western knowledge and belief systems. However, it does not discuss Indigenous peoples' perceptions of their health history or their health strategies. This leaves the impression that Arctic populations have few positive contributions to make to northern health issues. In fact, these populations have demonstrated remarkable resiliency in the face of significant obstacles, including colonization, the introduction of diseases, cultural stress, military dump sites, and severe

climates. Their voices must be incorporated into planning and publications such as this before health work in the North can be successful. Indigenous peoples across the Arctic have begun in recent years to take control of their health, wellness, and illness prevention, particularly at the community level. Contributions from some of these local leaders would strengthen the next edition of this volume.

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Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada's North. Edited by Frances Abele, Thomas J. Courchene, F. Leslie Seidle, and France St-Hilaire. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy and McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009. xii + 605pp. Colour maps and illustrations.

Northern Exposure highlights the political ambiguities that often complicate discussions about history, the environment, and development. Global warming causes violent environmental disturbance but promotes the possibility of profitable shipping activity in the Northwest Passage. Discussions of Arctic sovereignty galvanize national interest in military and diplomatic affairs but raise the potential for intergovernmental conflict over the ownership of and access to natural resources. The exploration and development of these resources brings capital and infrastructure to the North but destabilizes northern communities. These debates connect the North to the rest of Canada, both materially and discursively, and the authors in this volume contribute to them in significant ways. No single perspective is offered in the book, but *Northern Exposure* presents compelling research and advocacy on vital social, economic, and environmental issues ranging from education to northern science to the management of a burgeoning petroleum industry.

The fourth volume in *The Art of the State Series* published by the Montreal-based Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), *Northern Exposure* is the culmination of a two-year multidisciplinary research project that originated at a conference in Montebello, Quebec. Participants at the conference made presentations on themes of governance, economic enterprise, social sustainability, future policy directions, and Canada's relations with the Circumpolar North. The editors had a difficult task in choosing the brightest and most incisive contributions from among sixty conference presentations. They were up to the challenge; the collection flows as a coherent narrative of overlapping policy discussions and social/environmental critique. A