

than one occasion. Perhaps the most dramatic example of Leden's perilous tenacity involved his insistence upon reaching the winter hunting grounds of the Chesterfield Inlet region before the freeze-up in the autumn of 1913. Against advice from his Inuit companions, a number of local trappers, and the Royal North-West Mounted Police in Churchill, he set out in an open boat 'when the season was far advanced' (page xv). Less than a fortnight later, the boat and most of its cargo of winter provisions was lost 100 miles north of Churchill, imperilling the lives of Leden and the almost 20 Inuit passengers aboard. Such foolhardiness and arrogance is often fatal in the Arctic, and one is left to marvel at Leden's resolve and good fortune.

Leden also endured a stormy association with the officials of the white regime in the Keewatin. Twice refused accommodation on Hudson's Bay Company vessels travelling from Montreal to Churchill, he was successful in securing passage on SS *Nascopie* only after continued and steadfast insistence. An account of his relationship with members of the Royal North-West Mounted Police in the Keewatin (who admonished him in March 1915 for his quick-tempered treatment of the local Inuit at Chesterfield Inlet) is conspicuously absent and 'Leden is unusually reticent in documenting the work of the Police. He does not mention their station in Fullerton, nor the fact that while travelling he encountered their patrols' (page xvi), despite the fact that he was granted board at the barracks for five months in 1914.

Such an attitude towards the white establishment is not unexpected from a man who clearly held the Keewatin Inuit in a most high regard, whose culture he rightly judged to be in grave peril, and whose lifestyle he desperately desired to preserve. His prose is as filled with contempt for those non-Inuit who would modify or destroy the traditional lives of his native companions as it is laden with praise for their lifestyle, which was so carefully and closely tied to nature. His accounts are often equally mournful at the loss of Inuit independence: 'One of the most distressing consequences of the contact of a primitive people, especially a hunting people, with Europeans is that their traditional way of food gathering, adapted to the environment, is lost. The people are thus reduced to a sort of helpless proletarian condition, belonging to neither the one culture nor the other' (page 9).

Although admirable, Leden's work often lacks cohesion. Unfortunately, his chronicles do not end as they begin; in the second section of the book, the accounts deteriorate into a series of isolated journal entries. Vast periods (in excess of one year) are left unmentioned, his travels illuminated only through his maps, and when Leden does record his circumstances, he often focuses upon himself and his adventures rather than the lives and conditions of those around him. Leden leaves the reader still curious and yearning to know more about the region and people he describes. Ultimately, the only distinct glimpse to be gleaned from Leden's account is the one of the explorer himself.

The book benefits significantly from a penetrating

introduction by Shirlee Anne Smith, who capably sets the stage for Leden's chronicles. Sources drawn upon during the process of translation and editing included Leden's daughter, a number of Inuit informants from the Keewatin region, academics, and the archival collections of, among others, the Hudson's Bay Company, the Anglican Church of Canada, the National Archives of Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (M.J. Whittles, Inualthuyak, Sachs Harbour, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0Z0.)

MARITIME CLAIMS IN THE ARCTIC: CANADIAN AND RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVES. Erik Franckx. 1993. Dordrecht, Boston, and London: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. xviii + 330 p, maps, hard cover. ISBN 0-7923-2215-5. £95.00; US\$140.00; 235.00 Dfl.

Determining the status of the legal regime in the Arctic has always been a difficult task. Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic has not been the subject of a comprehensive regional legal regime. A number of commentators have, however, speculated over the ability of the law of the sea to form the basis for such a regime. With the Arctic dominated by maritime areas, many Arctic international law questions revolve around the law of the sea. Whether the law of the sea will provide the basis for a comprehensive Arctic legal regime remains to be seen. If such a development is to occur, however, it will be important that many lingering jurisdictional disputes be resolved. Two of the most important of these disputes have been the status of the Northwest and Northeast passages and the ability of Canada and the former USSR, respectively, to control the waters of these maritime areas. Despite some important initiatives by both states during the 1980s, the status of either passage has yet to be conclusively determined. Until there has been a complete resolution of these legal issues to the satisfaction of the major Arctic maritime power, the United States, these two jurisdictional problems may prove to be a major barrier to more enhanced Arctic cooperation.

Erik Franckx attempts to deal with these issues and others in a work that is the first major study to compare and contrast Canadian and Soviet maritime claims in the Arctic. While the individual Canadian and Soviet perspectives on these issues have been exhaustively covered in the literature for the past 25 years by Professors Pharand and Butler, respectively, Franckx seeks to go a step further. In chapters 2 and 3 he carefully details the major events and policy responses by Canada and the USSR as they individually responded to US efforts to pave navigation routes through both Arctic passages. A comprehensive review is undertaken of relevant state practice plus the views of Canadian and Soviet commentators. In chapter 4 these approaches are compared and recent initiatives towards Arctic cooperation are assessed. While there is a natural emphasis upon maritime cooperation, other fields, such as science and the environment, are also considered. A short conclusion follows in chapter 5, where Franckx assesses future prospects for Arctic cooperation, the need for resolving the jurisdictional problems raised in the study, the policy options available, and the usefulness of Antarctic

experience.

This work has a number of distinctive features. It is meticulously researched with extensive references to relevant government documents and legal literature. Much effort was expended in providing a comprehensive review of relevant Soviet law of the sea commentaries — which is most useful for interpreting Soviet state practice. A number of relevant maps and figures are also included to guide the reader. The introductory chapter provides a helpful description of the physical characteristics of the area under consideration. The author also devotes some effort in justifying his choice of topic. However, given the emerging importance of the Arctic in international affairs and the increased interest shown in the region by social scientists the need to justify this study hardly seemed necessary.

The major aim of this book is to compare the Arctic maritime claims and policies of Canada and the USSR (page 3), and this is achieved without much difficulty. However, the legal review of the Canadian and Soviet legal positions is at times so dominated by the views of other commentators that it is difficult to determine what the author's own views are. A more balanced analysis may have been achieved if less weight had been given to the views of parochial Canadian and Soviet scholars. In concluding this comparative analysis, it is suggested that Canadian and Soviet policy-makers may have maintained contact during pivotal periods in their Arctic maritime policy development process (pages 236–237), although no evidence is presented that a joint approach was taken to these issues.

While the major purpose of this study is admirably achieved, much effort is also spent in discussing future prospects for Arctic cooperation. This represents a major extension of the work, which is unfortunate, because it is here that the author begins to encounter difficulties. While there can be no denying that international cooperation in the Arctic will very much revolve around the resolution of law of the sea issues, there are also a great many other issues that will be relevant, especially those dealing with environmental protection and national security. This topic is worthy of a separate study, and Franckx's review of these issues in chapter 4 is not as comprehensive as it could be. Initiatives such as the 1991 Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy are glossed over. Despite this criticism, some well-considered conclusions are made concerning the potential relationship between increased Arctic cooperation and the resolution of the Northwest and Northeast passage jurisdictional disputes.

This work represents an important study of the two major jurisdictional issues that have confronted the Arctic in recent times. It demonstrates how both Canada and the former USSR, and now potentially Russia, have a substantial Arctic outlook in their national policy. If there is the prospect of greater cooperation amongst Arctic states, similar to what has taken place in Antarctica, there shall need to be some resolution of long-standing jurisdictional disputes and potentially the loss of some sovereign rights.

Franckx provides important insights into how two of the major players in the Arctic have dealt with these problems in the past and how they may react in the future if jurisdiction over their maritime areas is questioned. In doing so he allows for a greater understanding of two of the issues that will need to be confronted if Arctic cooperation is to prosper. (Donald R. Rothwell, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, 173–175 Phillip Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia.)

CANADA'S COLD ENVIRONMENTS. Hugh M. French and Olav Slaymaker (Editors). 1993. Montreal, Kingston, and London: McGill–Queen's University Press. xxii + 346 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0925-9. £42.75.

Students of Arctic and alpine environments will know that *Canada's cold environments* is a book they should read, and they will be rewarded when they do so. So will many others beyond the community of polar physical scientists, as this book is also intended for their use. It is a concise statement of the state of the art of current understanding about cold environments, emphasizing their physical characteristics, with illustrations from Canada. The editors assume that the user of the book has a modicum of background in physical geography. The editors did not intend it to be comprehensive; literature is selectively reviewed by citing only the best, most innovative, most surprising, and most forward-looking research. This approach brings life to its topics much more effectively than the encyclopedic approach. Many other books are available that provide comprehensive reviews of the various aspects of the cold environment.

Canada's cold environments is, in many ways, an update and regionalization of *Arctic and alpine environments* (1974), edited by J.D. Ives and R.G. Barry. The latter book, however, was not an update of something published earlier, and, therefore, it was a much bigger book with a global perspective and many more literature references. Most chapter topics — such as climate, vegetation, hydrology, and permafrost — are common to both books, but most chapter authors are different, reflecting the Canadian focus of the present book. An important addition is a chapter on high-latitude oceans, which are so important in shaping the cold Canadian environment and in global climatology. *Canada's cold environments* lacks a chapter on glaciers and glaciation of northern lands, but coverage of glacial hydrology and ice-core stratigraphy in other chapters partly fills this gap. Surprisingly, there is no map of surficial materials or soils, and the geologic history that produced the land of northern Canada is given little attention. The section on mountains is better in that it provides thorough historical treatment, especially in the very interesting chapter on karst.

The overall messages are that people are learning rapidly about cold environments, that the attendant explosion of information is overwhelming to specialists, much less non-specialists, and, finally, that specialists recognize the need to communicate the state and vitality of the art to