

sprang from and reinforced traditional notions of what the indigenes were supposed to be good at. The same applied to women, who were generally confined to standard clerical and domestic roles. United States–Canadian tensions feature as and when they arose, although they are treated without a trace of Yankee-bashing.

All history may well be local history, but good local history is that which connects with other places. This study's northern context is located within the broader and highly topical contexts provided by government, capital, and labour in the early twentieth century; Afro-Americans in the US military; women; war and work; and native peoples and the modern wage economy. As historians of conventionally defined peripheral regions, the authors are entitled to indulge in a little missionary work. Their critique is double-edged: of northern history for being slow to take on board the concerns of the 'new' social history, and of mainstream labour and social historians for being 'south-centered' and preoccupied with the milieu of cities and factories. They aim 'to bring the role of *northern* workers to the attention of labor historians, and to bring the role of northern *workers* to the attention of northern historians' (page 8). An endnote to chapter two (page 65) that explains what muskeg is provides clinching evidence that this book is intended to be read beyond the northwest! *Working the north* is a laudable attempt to de-localize northern history without diluting local colour.

The bibliography is extensive, stretching to the treatment of black American soldiers in Britain and Australia. Archival materials were consulted from Ottawa to Washington, DC. But the sources that stand out — aside from wartime newspapers — are the interviews with and questionnaires completed by those participants (many far into their eighties) who were tracked down — not least through the mailing lists of organizations that hold veterans' reunions. These survivors, for whom their northern wartime exploits were patently 'more than just another job' (page 28), generated a welcome additional flow of photographs, letters, and tape recordings. The authors are alert to the strengths and weaknesses of oral history, recognizing that their respondents are a self-selected group, and alerting the reader to discrepancies between oral and documentary sources.

Many of the most dramatic and profound changes to affect the northwest were triggered by World War II. Among these changes, one that caught this reviewer's eye is the role of the northwest defence projects in the transformation of the typical frontier construction worker from abject and exploited canal digger and railroad builder to the unionized 'fat cat' of labour. This book leaves the reader with a sense of the potential of the recent history of northwestern North America. Yet opportunities to conduct comprehensive research are dwindling in one vital respect: the protagonists are dying off. From the standpoint of oral testimony, the 1940s are arguably the least recent decade for which it is still possible for significant numbers of adult participants to speak for themselves.

Morrison and Coates have captured their quarry just in time. (Peter Coates, Department of Historical Studies, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TB.)

Reference

Coates, K.A. 1992. *North to Alaska! Fifty years on the world's most remarkable highway*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.

ASIA IN ANTARCTICA. R.A. Herr and B.W. Davis (Editors). 1994. Canberra: Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Australian National University. xvii + 232 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86740-426-4.

There will be many views of a place depending on from where it is viewed. Apparently, every place is at once many places: there is no one objective description, just alternative geographies. The major contribution of *Asia in Antarctica* lies precisely in making this point clearly and forcefully in regard to Antarctica, and thereby bringing to the forefront the diverse perspectives of Asian states on matters Antarctic. Now that the Antarctic Treaty System is no longer as exclusive a 'club' as it was a couple of decades ago, given its diverse membership and enhanced global eco-political profile, it is both timely and illuminating to approach Antarctica from viewpoints other than the erstwhile predominantly Anglo-American one. This may also allow the observer and the analyst to discern and dissect the regional characteristics, if there are any, of the ways in which the Asian states — both within and outside the Antarctic Treaty System — perceive the scientific, economic, ecological, and geopolitical significance of Antarctica.

Based on the proceedings of a conference held on the subject towards the end of 1991 in Hobart, *Asia in Antarctica* is divided into four major sections: (i) Asia in Antarctica — the background; (ii) national perspectives on Antarctica; (iii) science, environment, and development; and (iv) towards a common approach and future. Introducing the volume and providing an overview of its contents is a brief but perceptive contribution by R.A. Herr, one of the book's editors. He begins by posing the key, overarching questions addressed in the volume from different standpoints. Is there anything distinctively Asian about the involvement of individual Asian states in Antarctica? While Europe and South America do seem to have had some common regional characteristics in their approaches to Antarctica, could a similar regional influence be discerned, even if in embryonic form, with regard to the more recent Asian involvement in Antarctica? Are there common, or at least shared, threads of interest that motivated so many Asian states to articulate a position on Antarctica during the 1980s? Herr notes the decisive influence of the changes in the Law of the Sea during the 1970s, the environmental movement, and the ending of the cold war on South Polar developments; underlines resource motivations behind the entry of many Asian states into Antarctic politics; and points out the split in the Third World on the question of Antarctica, with India and China

having opted for joining the ATS, and Malaysia having chosen to challenge the Treaty System on the floor of the UN. The contribution by Sir Ninian Stephen then emphasises the environmental and scientific value of Antarctica.

In section one, it is left to Peter J. Beck and Christopher Joyner, well-known authorities on the subject, to take a closer and critical look at the concept and reality of Asia in Antarctica. Beck locates Antarctica's move to the centre stage of international politics in the broader perspective of the new states and novel international political and legal principles, like decolonisation, democratisation, non-alignment, common heritage, and the new international economic order. After an in-depth examination of the nature, course, and implications of the ongoing UN debate on the question of Antarctica, he concludes: 'the complex nature of the international community renders it difficult for there to emerge a clear and coherent view towards Antarctica and particularly the UN's role therein, on the part of say European, Latin American or Asian nations' (page 27). Is there an Asian perspective on Antarctica? Joyner's answer is: yes, but that perspective is 'fractured along fault lines of national political and economic state interests' (page 66). According to him, Asian motives in Antarctica remain rooted in national self-interest, and a lack of consensus in Asian attitude about Antarctica is largely due to enormous centrifugal forces of political nationalism and socio-economic separatism that characterise countries on that continent. Search for unity in such a marked diversity is therefore too idealistic.

Section two examines the commonality among Asian national perspectives on Antarctica. India's objectives in Antarctica and motivations behind joining the ATS are discussed by T.P. Sreenivasan, a senior Indian diplomat. According to him, India's considerations at the time included making the ATS broader, universal, and open to the viewpoints and interests of all states; ensuring that the discussions in the UN are directed towards enforcing and not dismantling the ATS; and preventing the establishment of a regime for the exploitation of resources of Antarctica that is incompatible with the preservation and protection of the environment. On whether there can be an Asian perspective on Antarctica, Sreenivasan comments that the Asian Treaty Parties have varying perspectives because their developmental levels and scientific knowledge are not of the same level. Moreover, serious differences persist between claimant Asian states and others. However, the conclusion of the Environmental Protocol may help in removing some of the differences and eventually lead to the emergence of an Asian consensus on Antarctica. R.H. Wyndham, an Australian diplomat, comes out strongly in support of the ATS, describing the 1980s as a decade of enormous creativity, consolidating and strengthening the Treaty System. According to Wyndham, it would not have been possible for Australia to 'protect its interests in the Antarctic in the United Nations as it is able to do within the Treaty System' (page 83). Any attack on the ATS (the reference here is to the Malaysian-led cam-

paign in the UN) is therefore perceived as an attack on Australia's interests. Japanese policy attitudes towards Antarctica are analysed by Yutaka Osada, who focuses on the country's policies on sovereignty and minerals. The contribution by Zou Keyuan is an extremely well-researched account of the origins and evolution of China's interests in, and policies for, Antarctica. Maintaining that scientific research is a currency of politics in Antarctic affairs, he makes an interesting point that the purpose behind the first Chinese Antarctic expedition and the establishment of the Great Wall Station in Antarctica was, as for most other countries, simply political: to obtain consultative status in the ATS. He also observes that since no official Chinese view has been made available on territorial claims, it is difficult to make out China's real intentions. He wonders whether by being deliberately vague on this issue China wants to leave sufficient room to manoeuvre, especially in case the ATS collapses. A contribution by A. Savari from Iran marks a radical departure from the preceding contributions in that it calls for a common heritage of mankind status for Antarctica and desires an 'international watchbody' composed of elected members of all continents for the protection and preservation of Antarctica.

The contribution by M.M. Rabbani, a distinguished scientist from Pakistan, is notable because whereas Pakistan has shown its scientific interest in Antarctica by setting up a scientific base on the continent and by joining SCAR, it has so far not acceded to the Antarctic Treaty. There are currently no indications that it will. Could it be that it wants to demonstrate its political opposition to the ATS by not acceding to the Antarctic Treaty? Pakistan, one may note in passing, in recent years has been among the most vocal critics of the ATS, demanding common heritage of mankind status for Antarctica in the United Nations. Be that as it may, according to Rabbani, Pakistan's interest in Antarctica has been 'totally scientific in nature' (page 119). He goes on to highlight the scientific aspects of Pakistan's Antarctic research. However, while discussing 'some political considerations,' he observes that the ATS is evolving rapidly (the system now represents nearly three billion of the world's four billion people), and he applauds the achievements of the Antarctic Treaty in having reserved Antarctica permanently for peaceful purposes. According to Rabbani, Pakistan should move towards becoming a member of the Treaty.

Most conspicuous by its absence, however, is the contribution by the Malaysian participant in the Hobart conference. The reader is told that for some odd reason the account of the Malaysian position could not be made available for inclusion in this volume. This indeed is most regrettable, since the critique of the ATS by Malaysia would have made the volume more balanced in terms of viewpoints expressed. However, for those interested in the arguments of the 'critical lobby' in the UN, contributions by Beck and Marie Jacobsson are good sources of information.

Section three contains a remarkably concise and cogently argued contribution by Bruce Davis, the second editor of the book. Raising the complex issue of the nexus between science, environment, and development in the Antarctic, he rightly points out the paucity of sufficiently detailed research about the quality or contribution of Asian science in Antarctica. Some of his conclusions are extremely significant and bode well for the future of Antarctic science and politics. Davis points out the predominance of the English-language text and Eurocentric orientation of most Antarctic literature and rightly emphasises the need within the ATS to ensure that Asian viewpoints and achievements are more fully documented and understood. No less interesting is his conclusion that even though the Asian countries have received the Madrid Protocol enthusiastically, they do not wish to forego forever the option of resource exploitation if a 'genuine' need arises in the future; this is where lies a nexus between conservation and longer-term global and regional economic development prospects. In the context of science, politics, and conservation, we have an interesting contribution by Peter Gill, a campaigner with Greenpeace, on the issue of whaling. Examining Japanese Antarctic whaling, he concludes by saying that 'there is a failure with Japan to see whaling as an environmental issue' (page 137) and that on this issue a gulf of perception exists between western environmentalists and whalers, who perceive whales as virtually no different from fish, to be exploited in the same way.

In the fourth and concluding section, there are two excellent contributions from Marie Jacobsson, a legal advisor on international law for the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Keith Suter, a well-known peace activist from Australia. According to Jacobsson, since an area having the status of 'common heritage of mankind' is neither appropriable nor subject to territorial sovereignty or to the exercise of sovereign rights, application of this principle to Antarctica is problematic for the claimant states in particular. But the rest of the basic, compulsory (*sine qua non*) elements in the common heritage, such as non-exclusive use, mankind as a beneficiary, international regulation, and peaceful use, are of such a nature that they could co-exist with the way Antarctica is administered under the ATS, at least as long as the prohibition on mining is maintained. Most interesting is her question whether a state that considers Antarctica the common heritage of mankind can accede to the Treaty without violating it. In answer she states that, from the point of view of the acceding state, an accession would not prejudice a position that Antarctica is or should be declared a common heritage. If the Antarctic Treaty were to be terminated, the acceding state could well maintain that Antarctica is the common heritage of mankind. She argues, however, that if a state that considers Antarctica to be the common heritage of mankind accedes to the Treaty with the intention of undermining it, such behaviour would run counter to the bona fide principle of international law and would therefore not be legally acceptable. The contribution by

Suter comes out strongly in favour of greater co-operation between scientists and non-governmental organisations in Antarctic affairs and concludes that Antarctica's legal and political future will be different from that of the past.

To sum up, the volume offers the reader access to a wide-ranging and critical assessment of Asian interests in Antarctica by a formidable group of experts, both academics and practitioners, at a time when both Antarctica and the wider global system are experiencing profound change. Yet another reason why *Asia in Antarctica* is a must on the shelves of students of Antarctic law and politics is that by celebrating diversity and dissent among Antarctic-related perspectives, it sets the stage for further trans-national and cross-cultural dialogue. One wishes, however, that there were a concluding chapter by its editors. The reader will certainly appreciate that texts of the Antarctic Treaty as well as the Madrid Protocol are provided in the appendices for ready reference, but he is likely to miss the critical assessment, by the editors themselves, of this highly commendable effort. (Sanjay Chaturvedi, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS. Michael J. Hambrey. 1994. London: University of London Press. viii + 296 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-85728-004-0. £14.95.

Before the publication of this book, those wishing to study the sedimentary processes of glacier action and the associated geological environments would have been prescribed texts detailing semi-quantitative aspects of glacial geology, such as *Glacial geologic processes* (Drewry 1986). Although it is important that students should appreciate the physical basis of glacial sedimentary processes, many undergraduates initially have little mathematical knowledge, and may not, therefore, be in an ideal position to deal with a quantitative approach. Hambrey, in attempting to provide a more qualitative view of glacial sedimentation, has produced a well-written and informed introduction to glacial sedimentary geology that will appeal to students of Earth sciences who have knowledge of the general concepts of geology.

The content structure of *Glacial environments* is similar to *Glacial geologic processes* and, because of this, may be considered a compatible supplement to Drewry's book. However, one should not underestimate the value of this new text. The book begins with two background chapters on the recognition, analysis, and interpretation of glacial sediments and the glacial-geological record (chapter 1) and glacier dynamics (chapter 2). Chapter 1 is of particular interest because it also deals with terminology and the description of glacial sediments, a topic that remains largely unresolved within the geological community. Each subsequent chapter is carefully arranged so as to deal with sedimentation within an explicit glaciological environment. Once the information provided in the first two chapters has been digested, each following chapter can be read and understood as a discrete account.