

example, that the rise of Antarctic seal hunting was determinant for the loss of interest of Russia over its American territories in the nineteenth century, and that the development of international whaling in the second half of the twentieth century was tightly intertwined with the power play of cold war actors.

To be sure, in a condensed book like this that spans through so many different topics, one will always find omissions. Particularly noticeable to this reader were the absence of any allusions to the role played by Nazi Germany in Antarctic politics during the 1930s and 1940s; and the ways in which parties with sovereign claims over the Antarctic have sought to exercise that sovereignty in spite of the existence of the AT, not only through scientific research (the power of knowledge), but also through actual human settlements (the power of effective occupation).

In concluding, Howkins presents the polar regions as places where what he calls 'geographies of despair' co-exist with

'geographies of hope' (page 180). On the one hand, even for moderate environmentalists, the ruthless over-exploitation of resources, pollution, and climate change give reason to tell declensionist narratives of the north and south. On the other hand, some of the most stringent environmental protection measures on earth and the predominance of science give reason to think that humans might choose to do things in a more enlightened spirit in the poles. For those wishing to make up their minds in the matter, this book is a must-read. By offering a broad panorama of the many topics of environmental history to be developed around the poles and by complementing the chapters with a thorough bibliography and index, it is a welcome addition to the literature. (Alejandra Mancilla, Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN), Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo, PO Box 1020, Blindern 0315, Oslo, Norway / Chilean Antarctic Institute, Punta Arenas (alejandra.mancilla@ifikk.uio.no)).

Hakapik. Yoanis Menge. 2016. L'Étang-du-nord: Les éditions la Morue verte. 168 p, illustrated, hardcover. ISBN 978-2-924564-02-8. CA\$ 59.95.

doi:[10.1017/S0032247416000450](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247416000450)

This book review starts with a question: what do readers associate with the terms 'Canada' and 'seal hunt'? I would assume that two different sets of images now appear before the inner eye: the blood-lusty commercial seal hunt on the one hand, and the solemn Inuit seal hunt on the other. If this is the case, it would not be surprising as indeed the seal hunt has been subject to successful and highly effective image campaigns that have shaped the public's view on the matter.

It does equally not come as a surprise that life is slightly more complex than simple imagery and narratives and also the seal hunt cannot be depicted in a black and white manner. Which, of course, in the context of this book is a slightly ironic statement since this collection of images from different locations of the Canadian seal hunt by Québécois photographer Yoanis Menge is held completely in black and white, from Nunavut, Newfoundland, Nunavik and the Magdalen Islands.

And the images Menge has created and eternalised in this book do not correspond to the seal hunt as depicted in the global discourse. Instead, Menge focuses on the people conducting it, on the circumstances under which the hunt takes place and the socio-environmental conditions that, at least so it seems, necessitate the hunt for seals. The outcome is a book which does not need any explanatory texts for the pictures – they speak for themselves. Merely the very last pages of the book briefly in French present some basic facts of the seal hunt as well as Menge's approach towards photography, his home in the Magdalen Islands and, naturally, the seal hunt.

It is almost impossible to single out a particular picture and since I have been having this book in my possession, I have been looking in it almost every day, just to find new details which had been gone unnoticed before. This may also stem from the fact that during my own fieldwork in the Canadian seal hunt I had the pleasure to spend some time with Menge and to see him conduct his work. His approach is respectful towards the people and the customs of the locality which he captures in his photographs. His friendly personality make his subjects gladly be taken pictures of and appear, although some photographs are 'arranged', to be fully in their natural elements.

And this is probably the greatest strength of this impressive work: Menge has not only documented the different facets of all aspects of Canadian seal hunting, but he has created a powerful insight into the realities of these hunts. None of the photographs appears to be staged and no agenda – be it positive or negative towards seal hunting – is conveyed. Instead, Menge shows the harsh realities of seal hunting in all their varieties, making this book an extremely important contribution to the hunt's better understanding beyond the narratives of cruelty or lack of necessity.

I can therefore highly recommend this work! Not only in order to better understand the seal hunt, but simply because Menge's talent as a photographer of vivid, moving, and somewhat emotional images rises to the surface in *Hakapik*. To gain insight into this young man's work, which also contains contributions to *Hakapik*, a visit to Menge's website is recommendable: <http://yoanis.squarespace.com>.

With this I leave the reader of this short review and indulge once again in Menge's captivating photographs. (Nikolas Sellheim, Faculty of Law, University of Lapland, PO Box 101, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland. (nikolas.sellheim@ulapland.fi)).

Handbook of the politics of the Arctic. Leif Christian Jensen and Geir Hønneland (editors). 2015. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. xiii + 617 p, illustrated, hardcover. ISBN 978-0-85793-473-4. £189.00

doi:[10.1017/S0032247416000498](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247416000498)

The present volume is the first compilation of articles dealing with the Arctic which this reviewer has seen under the banner of a 'handbook'. The title, which frames the book's content as dealing with the 'politics' of the Arctic, opens up an impressive, and somewhat daunting, work which contains contributions of

the 'who-is-who' of political, legal and IR Arctic research: Klaus Dodds, E. Carina H. Keskitalo, Timo Koivurova, P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Mark Nuttall, Donald R. Rothwell or David L. VanderZwaag – just to name a few. All in all, 42 authors have in 29 chapters contributed to this volume, making it, just by its sheer size, a unique and important collection of Arctic research. And moreover, it constitutes an updated and timely version of Geir Hønneland's endeavour to capture *The politics of the Arctic* between 1985 and 2012 with already published international articles in the book with the same title (Hønneland 2013).

It appears to this author that, on a very general level, a handbook provides a guide of some kind to a topic, a machine or any other context. In this sense it is surprising that the book does not contain an introduction. The editors merely open up the concentrated expertise with a 1 ½ page *Preface* in which they explain the book's scope as tracing 'the changes from 'the age of the Arctic' to 'the scramble for the Arctic', and beyond' (page xiii). Any other explanation that make this handbook more of a practical guide to Arctic politics is, unfortunately, absent. Be this as it may, this editorial shortcoming is quickly made up for by the thought-provoking, short and yet poignant articles that follow. Four major parts thus constitute the sub-headings under which the articles are arranged: geopolitics and strategic resources; law of the sea; Arctic institutions and specific fields of cooperation; and national approaches to the Arctic.

And to this reviewer it seems as if the multifaceted character of this volume rises particularly to the surface when leaving aside the 'political' aspects of the chapters' contents. Of course, given the title of this book, this would seem as a *non sequitur*, but while of course the political (as well as legal and IR) dimensions of the book constitute the core foundation, it is the variety of discourses on, about and with the Arctic which play a significant role here. Best exemplified is this in Bankes' and Withsitt's chapter on *Arctic marine mammals in international environmental law and trade law* which approaches the marine mammal hunt through a legal lens by analysing multilateral environmental instruments (MEIs) affecting the hunt in the north. While admitting that their analysis would have to include more than the five MEIs presented, this chapter shows the discursive as well as normative differences in dealing with human-marine mammal interaction in the Arctic. Indeed, politics are reflected in the dealings with the issue. But it is the political decisions which, in turn, are shaped by conservationist or preservationist value systems that impact the way and the degree to which Arctic populations are able to, and do, hunt marine mammals.

Similarly, Lee-Ann Broadhead addresses *Canadian sovereignty versus northern security: the case for updating our mental map of the Arctic*. In other words, Broadhead challenges the snug discourse on state sovereignty in Canada and proposes a new paradigm with the discursive approach towards Arctic sovereignty, along historical Inuit and thus transboundary

settlement of the north, as a tool to mitigate the challenges posed by anthropogenic climate change. In times of increasing nationalism and ever more rising idea(s) of one nation and one culture, Broadhead's counter-discursive chapter appears refreshing, especially when taking into account the medial discourse on the Arctic and natural resources. Of course, one might argue that within scientific circles her approach is neither necessarily new nor overly progressive, once more underlining the need for a broader distribution of the contents of a book like the present. However, with a price of almost 190£, which amounts to almost 270€ or 290 US\$, this appears very doubtful.

Be that as it may, this is, of course, a general problem of scientific volumes such as the present and will not be further discussed at this point. For the critical Arctic scholar the *Handbook of the politics of the Arctic* is indeed almost a goldmine as he or she will find new approaches to topics that have been part of the overall discourses on the Arctic for a long time. This time, they are revisited, reframed and put in a new light. Although the book does not contain *only* new information and even some very basic information on Arctic governance in general, which the trained Arctic scholar might easily skip, the broad variety of the themes that are covered, the challenging topics and somewhat provocative chapters – *How we learned to stop worrying about China's Arctic ambitions: understanding China's admission to the Arctic Council, 2004–2013* by Matthew Willis and Duncan Depledge for instance – make this book truly enjoyable in an academic, intellectual as well as discursive way.

Of course, with 29 chapters on more than 600 pages this book is exceptionally long and does not serve as evening literature nor is it suitable to be read through in one piece. Instead, the 'goldmine'-metaphor can be applied again: from now on, this book will serve as a valuable point of reference whenever this reviewer needs a new and rare perspective on a particular Arctic issue. In this sense, the absence of an introduction and a conclusion appear reasonable. With this in mind, however, the title could be considered slightly misleading and it would have appeared more justifiable to entitle the book *The politics of the Arctic, Volume 2* or something similar. But these are semantics. In terms of content, the wide variety of topics and angles covered make the *Handbook* a necessary and valuable contribution to any well-arranged Arctic library. (Nikolas Sellheim, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK (nps31@cam.ac.uk)).

Reference

Hønneland, G (editor). 2013. *The politics of the Arctic*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

The greatest show in the Arctic. The American exploration of Franz Josef Land, 1898–1905. P.J. Capelotti, 2016. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 634 p, illustrated, hardcover. ISBN 978-0-8661-5222-6. \$35.00. doi: [10.1017/S003224741600053X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S003224741600053X)

P.J. Capelotti's latest book seems a natural outgrowth and culmination of interests that have occupied him for a number of

years, as reflected in his previous books and papers on related subjects listed in the 'works cited' section. Therefore, Capelotti (Professor of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University, Abington campus) is eminently qualified to write this thorough study of the three American expeditions that attempted to reach the North Pole from the remote islands above Arctic Russia. He does not disappoint.

Although its promotional material makes a tenuous analogy between the events of these three expeditions and a three-ring