



Sverker Sörlin, editor

Science, Geopolitics and Culture in the Polar Regions: Norden Beyond Borders

London: Ashgate

2013

The Nordic countries have a strong presence and geopolitical significance in the Arctic. Their roles go far beyond their weight in terms of population, geographical size or even economic activity, claims Sverker Sörlin. He has edited a book that addresses critical issues related to both polar regions, but especially those pertaining to the Arctic.

The book is a result of a multi-year research project which studied the formation of 'Arctic Norden' as a composite of science, diplomacy and policy. The empirical focus is on Danish, Norwegian and Swedish influence in the polar regions during the twentieth century, in particular during the Cold War. The book is a first attempt to provide a comprehensive Nordic perspective on the Arctic. "There both is and is not an Arctic Nordic region; this book is about that reality and the history of the common existence of binaries", writes Sverker Sörlin in the introduction.

"The value of this contribution [book] lies elsewhere than stated in the title: the detailed descriptions of the diverse case studies highlight the close and changing interplay of science and politics and the ways in which research agendas and priorities reflect political situations and concerns, and vice versa."

Hanna Lempinen, Researcher

Vladimir V. Didyk and Larissa A. Riabova

Trends of economic and social development of the Murmansk region: Results of the monitoring during the two decades of the market reforms

Apatity: Kola Science Centre

2012

"Didyk and Riabova have presented an interesting period of Russian history, an era of chaos and restructuring. The detailed analysis of the transformational socio-economic processes and trends in the Murmansk region is impressive. Even though the book's text has previously been published in the form of separate articles and reports, the monograph gives readers an overall picture of the development and thus holds a well-deserved place among Russian-language publications."

Kari Synberg, Ph.D. in Geography

Monica Tennberg, editor

Politics of Development in the Barents Region

Rovaniemi: Lapland University Press 2012

To stimulate and support further debate on sustainable development in the Barents Region – this is the ambitious goal of the book according to its editorial team. The book is based on a multidisciplinary research network between Nordic and Russian researchers.

The authors analyse various regional rationalities, governance practices and their multiple effects on local and regional subjectivities. They are specialised in regional studies but represent international law, political science and sociology. The aim is to offer “diverse viewpoints on decision making to resolve the social, economic, political and cultural challenges salient in the process of creating a region based on political will”.

“On the whole, the book is an important and topical contribution to the issues of governance and sustainable development in the far north. It successfully highlights both the structures of governance in various contexts and the challenges of finding a balance between economic growth, human development and environmental considerations. [...] Although the multidisciplinary approach is to be praised, it entails some thematic vagueness.”

Kaj Zimmerbauer, Postdoctoral researcher

Satu Himanen, Jouko Inkeröinen, Kirsi Latola, Tero Väisänen and Erkki Alasaarela

Analysis of Regional Climate Strategies in the Barents Region

Helsinki: Ministry of the Environment 2012

“The report serves well to open up discussion and provides a convincing reference for policy-makers on the importance of climate change work at the sub-national level. [...] Above all, the recommended practices can further promote and facilitate regional climate strategy work in the Barents region.”

Ilona Mettiäinen, Researcher

The quotes from critiques are from book reviews that were originally published in Barents Studies issues 1/2014 and 2/2014.

