

sharp focus on the main issues that must be tackled and provides a useful conceptual frame within which to move research forward. It will be of immense value to those planning future work, especially deep ice-core drilling programmes that will need to be complemented by appropriate studies of the atmosphere–snow transfer functions, to ensure that the maximum returns are achieved from these large investments. All scientists concerned with the reconstruction of the atmospheric environment in the past will find much of value and interest in the book, which hopefully may provoke parallel critical reviews of the fundamentals of other proxy environmental indicators. (David Peel, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET.)

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC SPACE OF THE SMALL NORDIC JURISDICTIONS. Lise Lyck (Editor). 1997. Stockholm: Nordiska Institutet för Regionalpolitisk Forskning. 215 p, soft cover. ISBN 91-88808-18-1. SEK350.

This book is the latest in a series of volumes edited by Lise Lyck of Copenhagen Business School. Her attention focuses this time not on the thorny issue of political integration in Europe or management and human resources policy in the Arctic, but instead on the political and economic development of small island jurisdictions in the northern hemisphere, notably the Faeroes, Greenland, Iceland, and Aaland. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are also considered, albeit in less detail. The book presents the findings of the first of three phases of research aimed at providing answers to two main questions — what does autonomy mean and how have the constitutional arrangements pertaining to each island affected its political and economic development? As the editor rightly notes, such questions have assumed greater significance as campaigns for autonomy proliferate.

After the usual introductions (and a curious chapter presenting basic statistical information that would, perhaps, have been better placed in a well-presented and referenced appendix), a series of chapters takes a different perspective on the main issues being raised. Some are better than others. Adolphsen's philosophical discourse, for instance, is excellent and reminds the reader that instead of focusing on the formal separation of the legislative, executive, and judiciary, one must look at the interplay between competing economic interests if a correct understanding of history and current affairs is to be formed. Mørkøre's chapter is similarly well written and provides valuable insights into the economic and political crisis that has engulfed the Faeroes, together with timely warnings about the dire consequences it may have for the unity of the Danish realm. Fagerlund, in contrast, performs an enjoyable and intricate dance around the subject of relations between the island jurisdictions and the European Union. It is a joy to see that someone has finally grasped what is meant by a 'special' relationship. The final two chapters are fascinating. Two politicians previously at the heart of different campaigns for autonomy — the colourful Jonathan

Motzfeld from Greenland and the doyen of Faeroese politics, Atle Dam — provide intriguing commentaries. It is interesting to see that old habits die hard. Even politicians who have passed their former glories could not resist the temptation to evade the questions posed by Lise Lyck. She deserves congratulating for at least trying.

Disappointingly, however, not all authors could compete. Too often, key issues are considered only superficially, with description taking the place of analysis. Indeed, the reader could sometimes be forgiven for asking whether the authors had not forgotten the aim of the book. Could not more have been written about the shortcomings of the Icelandic constitution (page 63), the economic significance of the ferry industry to Aaland (page 84), or the crash in Greenland in the 1950s of a US plane carrying nuclear weapons (page 155)? Without such detail, the price seems a little high, not least when the formatting and grammar sometimes become too messy for easy reading. Winston Churchill might also have had a choice comment or two to make about what are described on pages 130–131 as the British invasions of the Faeroes and Iceland during World War II. Such faults are, of course, minor. Coupled with too many instances where references are lacking and claims not fully substantiated, however, the reader is left wondering about attention to detail. For example, has being outside the EU really allowed the authorities of the Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey to create flexible and responsive regulatory regimes in finance and banking (page 104)? Is it not too simplistic to refer to the 'Inuit' population of Greenland when as far back as 1901, the last year when a census was carried out on the basis of race, almost 50% of the population was already of mixed descent? Is 'Inuit' not already plural (page 126)?

Faults notwithstanding, the book has much to recommend it. It provides valuable information for interested readers and scholars alike. It is also one of the few books published in the area in English. Like Oliver, however, one hopes for more — more analysis, more rigour, and more detail. It is hoped phases two and three of the project satisfy. (Graham Poole, Micronomics, 400 South Hope Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, CA 90071, USA.)

THE CHARTING OF THE OCEANS: TEN CENTURIES OF MARITIME MAPS. Peter Whitfield. 1996. London: British Library. 144 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7123-0493-2. £20.00.

Historical maps of the world, particularly those relating to voyages, have long attracted readers and collectors, and for this reason this beautiful book will appeal to many. Peter Whitfield, former director of Stanford's International Map Centre in London, now runs his own company publishing facsimiles of historical maps. The author of two other books on maps of the world and of the heavens, he brings to his task a great understanding of how to perceive maps as changing fragments of knowledge — over five centuries and more.

Happily unwilling to overload the reader with information, and scupulous in his choice of maps (and other