

However, to conduct his argument vis-à-vis LI, Rebhan devices an analytical strategy which is not totally convincing in its own terms. Formally, the seven debate rounds are approached; first, with a view to determining the aggregate economic versus political interests of the elite; and second, by ‘process-tracing’ in order to ‘assess whether economic interests were *causally* linked’ to policy choices (page 47). Nevertheless, the core of the empirical material engaged in both readings remains the same: public statements accessed via parliamentary records and newspapers – neither interviews nor closed archives are employed to document underlying interests or trace hidden processes. Fortunately, the author is generally so apt when it comes to ‘show, don’t tell’-style textual analysis, that the reader tolerates the formalities made necessary by arguing on the epistemological home turf of LI.

On the one hand, specific formulations twist the message of the book in a way which seem to open up towards a revised version of LI. The book concludes that ‘as long as fisheries remain the economic backbone of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, it will remain essential for the ... Home Rule governments to remain in control of their fisheries resources.’ (page 211; cf. page 196). In Rebhan’s rendition, the prevalent version of LI claims that *short term* economic interests will be decisive; his conclusion could be read to suggest that *long term* economic interests are decisive – and sovereignty, then, is merely a means to secure that aim rather than an inalienable value according to national identity discourse (as in Bergmann’s analysis of the Icelandic case which Rebhan cites as inspiration).

On the other hand, the overall thrust of the argument contributes to an alternative tradition in the International Relations discipline explaining integration decisions with identity concerns rather than economic rationality (Hansen and Wæver 2002, Rumelili 2007, Gad and Adler-Nissen 2014). Particularly, Rebhan is explicitly inspired by Bergmann’s work on Iceland in this tradition (2009 and in Gad & Adler-Nissen 2014) when he singles out the current version of EU’s *Common Fisheries Policies* (CFP) as prohibitive for integration of the North Atlantic fisheries nations. Moreover, the book convincingly identifies sovereignty as doubly problematic for the home ruled territories (page 159–62, 190, 197): EU-accession would under the current constitutional arrangement happen via Danish membership. This would involve not only passing sovereignty taken home from Copenhagen on to Brussels, but also *not* having

a separate seat at the table when negotiating the vital issues surrendered.

The book closes by considering a few ‘factors for change’ – re-nationalisation or regionalisation of the CFP; diversification of the Faroe and Greenlandic economies; possible independence – none of which appear immediate. The reader is left with an image of the future consisting primarily of an erosion of the home rule arrangements by EU integration eating up competences kept in Copenhagen – primarily EU coordination of foreign policy aspects of issues substantially devolved like hunting, whaling, and fishing (page 201ff). Here, the book comes across as a bit conservative when it comes to the willingness of Denmark to play games with its formal sovereignty. Rebhan seems to accept the official 2005 interpretation of Danish constitutional law, that Danish sovereignty cannot be divided (page 153, 203ff). However, as Rebhan handed in his book as a PhD thesis, the Danish government actually *did* agree to launch a case at the WTO against the EU on behalf of the Faroes – literally placing Denmark on both sides of the table (pp. 205f; cf. Gad 2016).

The strength of the volume lies not in creative policy advice but in solid academic craftsmanship: Rebhan has made a lasting contribution in providing both a historical overview and forthcoming introductions to key debates and documents; domestic position papers and reports as well as shifting bilateral agreements with the EU. (Ulrik Pram Gad, Department of Culture and Global Studies, Aalborg University, Kroghstræde 3, DK-9200 Aalborg, Denmark (gad@cgs.aau.dk)).

References

- Bergman, E. 2009. Sense of sovereignty: how national sentiments have influenced Iceland’s European policy, *Stjórnmal og stjórnsýsla* 5(2):203–223.
- Gad, U.P. and R. Adler-Nissen (editors). 2014. Special issue on ‘Post-Imperial Sovereignty Games in Norden’ *Cooperation and Conflict* 49(1).
- Gad, U. P. 2016 *National identity politics and postcolonial sovereignty games: Greenland, Denmark and the EU*. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Publishers.
- Hansen, L. and O Wæver (editors). 2002. *European Integration and national identity: The Challenge of the Nordic states*. London: Routledge.
- Rumelili, B. 2007: *Construction of regional community and order in Europe and Southeast Asia*, Houndsmill: Palgrave Macmillan.

South Pole. Nature and culture. Elizabeth Leane. 2016. London: Reaktion Books. 232 p, illustrated, softcover. ISBN 9781780235967. £14.95.
[doi:10.1017/S003224741600070X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S003224741600070X)

Richard Byrd wrote ‘The Pole lay in the center of a limitless plain. [...] And that, in brief, is all there is to tell about the South Pole’. Elizabeth Leane, Associate Professor of English at the University of Tasmania, thinks differently. And she is right because there is plenty of interest. It is a strange place because, with the North Pole, it is the only place on Earth that did not have to be ‘discovered’: it is where the lines of longitude meet at 90° latitude, so it could be pinpointed on the globe without anyone going near it.

Leane sets the scene with detailed retelling of the stories of Amundsen and Scott. Shackleton gets short shrift because he does not reach the Pole although arguably his was the most important journey because he demonstrated the nature of the south polar region. Travelling the last 100 miles did not advance human knowledge significantly. There is also the problem of where exactly is the South Pole; Amundsen went to great lengths to ensure that his party did reach the Pole. The Ceremonial Pole with its familiar ring of flags is a few hundred metres from the real Pole whose marker is shifted every year in a New Year’s Day ceremony to correct for the movement of the ice. There is also a correction needed for changes in the Earth’s axis of rotation. Then we should not forget that there are Geographic, Magnetic, Geomagnetic and Celestial South Poles, and the South Pole of Inaccessibility. It is all rather complicated.

Leane now moves to myths of the South Pole. The blank space on the map allowed the imaginations of story-tellers to run riot. Aliens, natives and 'lost races' abound and gold was often found in impressive quantities. Tarzan, Doctor Who and Biggles had Antarctic adventures. Then a chapter on 'Pole-hunting' brings the reader back to reality with the real-life explorers of the Heroic Age.

The South Pole has often been a synonym for Antarctica in popular imagination and Leane uses it as a symbol for the continent. She explores our relationship with the Pole but relates it to Antarctica in a wider context. Following the brief visits by Amundsen and Scott the story expands in the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) when the Americans established a permanent presence at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. The lives of 'Polies' are described in detail. They are less cut-off than many of the stations on the fringe of Antarctica and one wonders whether life there is much different from that at any other station where the hostile conditions make it impossible even to go out for a walk.

I was particularly interested in the discussion of science which, although a very brief summary, is presented in easy, non-technological language. Leane makes the point that the South

Pole is an excellent place to look *from*: up into space and down into the ice. The last chapter describes the burgeoning industry of adventurers and extreme tourists. The former travel in Antarctica or head for the Pole in ever more difficult and bizarre ways to achieve exclusivity and the tourists (an appellation they shun) reach the Pole where 'they get a free cup of coffee, a hero shot at the Pole, and a boot in the ass to get out'.

I found this book a very informative and surprisingly entertaining read that covers a wide variety of Antarctic topics. Elizabeth Leane does not appear ever to have visited Antarctica, let alone the South Pole. Otherwise there would be the mandatory photo of a muffled figure standing alongside a penguin or the candy-striped Ceremonial Pole. Yet she has made a very good job of relating and collating the experiences and impressions of the many and varied visitors to this 'symbolic heart of Antarctica' and its place in our quest to understand our planet. (Robert Burton, 63 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Huntingdon, PE28 9AW, UK (rwburton@ntlworld.com)).

Reference

Byrd, R. E. Jr. 1937. *Exploring with Byrd. Episodes of an adventurous life*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.