

list at the end. One cannot understand the editorial policy here. A series of footnoted references in small type would cover, perhaps, 20 pages. As it is, anyone who wishes to follow up one of the author's points will have to do a considerable amount of work to get to it.

The author's prose style is light and pleasant, and it is enlivened by some colourful phraseology. Thus there is 'eldritch screaming' (page 149), 'booming south' (page 267), 'crump through the ice' (page 250), 'pawky Scottish surgeon' (page 220), 'a woolding of canvas and pitch' (page 144), 'peacocking around London' (page 76), and 'ploutering through the atlantic swells' (page 136). This makes for entertaining reading, and, in truth, the book is very difficult to put down.

Moreover, there seem to be remarkably few slips considering the enormous breadth of the material covered by the author. It is, of course, the Treaty of Waitangi (page 201), Deception Island is surely to the west not east of the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula (page 142), Flinders surveyed northwards along the east coast of Australia not the west (page 79), and if Bellingshausen is to be called Thaddeus then Krusenstern should be called Ivan not Adam (page 36).

In summary, this is a very good book that will well repay the reading. Professor Baughman, in his review of Gurney's earlier work commented that he 'was not well served by those that read the manuscript before publication' and indicated that the book was of such worth that the author deserved better. The present reviewer can only concur with that judgement in the present context. This book is a very fine effort on which the author is to be congratulated. One hopes that, if he continues his work in Antarctic history, he will seek more efficient editorial assistance. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

References

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NUNAVUT: INUIT REGAIN CONTROL OF THEIR LANDS AND THEIR LIVES. Jens Dahl, Jack Hicks, and Peter Jull (Editors). 2000. Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. 223 p, soft cover. ISBN 87-90730-34-8.

The colorful and elaborately choreographed ceremonies that inaugurated the creation of the Nunavut Territory of Canada in 1999 attracted an enormous amount of international media attention. As the editors of this volume claim in the introduction, this historic event also generated much confusion and even scorn about Nunavut, which means 'our land' in Inuktitut, one of the Territory's three

official languages. This volume aims to identify the defining features of Nunavut, treating it both as an innovative governmental structure and as a homeland for some 21,000 Inuit. The editors' main objectives are to present an accurate portrait of how Nunavut was created and to identify the challenges that lie ahead of it. As the book's title asserts, Nunavut represents more than a partitioning of Canada's geopolitical boundaries. It represents a dramatic reversal of Canada's official stance towards Inuit, which until the late 1970s was dominated by policies of assimilation and western-style modernization. In short, Nunavut symbolizes a major political transformation.

The introduction, which summarizes the book's major themes, is followed by an essay by one of Nunavut's political elite, Josie Kusugak. Kusugak recalls the highlights of the negotiations that led to the signing of the Nunavut Act and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) in 1993. From the moment they began to press for a settlement of land claims, Inuit leaders stressed that a new territory had to be created as well. The Nunavut Act established the legal and political framework for dividing the Northwest Territories into two territories and for creating a non-ethnic based parliamentary government. The Agreement provided Inuit with a lump sum of \$1.148 billion, 350,000 square kilometres of land (about 20% of the total lands within Nunavut), and 38,000 square kilometres of subsurface mineral rights 'over large areas of the most promising geological formations as indicated through mineral research' (page 21). In exchange, Inuit agreed to extinguish their claim to the remaining 80% of the lands within the Nunavut Territory.

Was this a good deal for the Inuit? Kusugak certainly thinks so. But it was a good deal for Canada as well, as Kusugak asserts. Kusugak believes that the negotiation process moved more quickly than expected because Canada 'was anxious to demonstrate a breakthrough on aboriginal issues in one major region of the country' (page 25). Inuit always made it clear that they were working to create a stronger Canada and not a separate Inuit state.

The third essay, which chronicles the evolution of the Nunavut government, brings to light some of its more innovative features, including a series of co-management boards (or 'institutions of public government') that make regular recommendations to federal and territorial ministers. These ministers, in return, are obliged to take these recommendations into consideration in their decision-making processes. The co-management boards are composed of both government-appointed and Inuit-appointed members. The next essay provides a more critical perspective on the Nunavut government. Nunavut's politicians have a tough set of issues to tackle, including high levels of unemployment, poor healthcare availability, and a high high-school drop-out rate. Peter Jull wonders whether the sharp divisions that exist in Nunavut society threaten the overall effectiveness of the politicians to deal with these problems equitably and efficiently: 'Today there are already reports of unseemly squabbles between communities and among

Nunavut's regions for material advantages' (page 128). Although these squabbles may be a healthy part of the political process, the alarming disparities in wealth and opportunities within Nunavut society are a warning that emerging social divisions may threaten the government's appeal to and legitimacy with the majority Inuit population.

The next two essays, written by John Amagoalik and Zeebedee Nungak, Inuit who have been involved in politics since the 1970s, are proud of Nunavut's creation and optimistic about its future. For Amagoalik, one of the principal architects of the Nunavut government, the creation of Nunavut symbolizes that Inuit have a new sense of visibility and power in contemporary Canadian society.

The next five essays shift the focus of the volume away from politics. Muller-Wille discusses the importance of toponymy in making Inuit sovereignty and land ownership more legitimate and tangible. Kenn Harper concludes his essay with a list of recommendations that he hopes will revitalize the tradition of creative fiction and non-fiction writing in Inuktitut. This tradition is necessary because, aside from pamphlets and government documents, there is no literature available in Inuktitut. Harper recommends that the Nunavut government publish a periodical that concentrates on culture, language, history, and poetry and that avoids political themes altogether.

Laila Sorensen's article on the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) highlights another irony associated with the creation of Nunavut. The IBC, which provides an 'audio-visual bridge' between Nunavut's regional centers and its remote settlements, provides an important forum for Inuit of all backgrounds to share their ideas about Nunavut. This is why IBC's producers claim 'that Nunavut would not have become a reality had IBC not existed' (page 176). Faced by government cutbacks and other programming challenges, it is doubtful IBC will be able to continue to produce a wide range of Inuktitut-language programs for Inuit of all ages.

Chapters 9 and 10 deal with Nunavut's role in supporting hunters. While George Wenzel details Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's harvesting support program, Helle Høgh provides an insightful analysis of the cultural politics of Nunavut's three most recent bowhead whale hunts. Ironically, many Inuit felt that the illegal bowhead whale hunt of 1994 was actually the one that most accurately represented Inuit values and tradition. By contrast, the government-funded and organized hunt of 1996 actually violated Inuit ideals of hunting and cooperation.

In short, this volume covers a broad range of topics in a small space. Despite its diversity, however, I was disappointed with its redundancy and its lack of editorial rigor. The first two chapters each present a rather cursory summary of the results of the Agreement, while chapters 1 and 3 present similar portraits of Nunavut's social and political history. The overlapping sequences should have been either combined into one or edited out. Also, I was struck by the uneven quality of the contributions. Whereas a few articles successfully analyze a particular theme,

others lack a clear focus and a cohesive argument. Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of this volume is how little one learns about Inuit reactions and responses to Nunavut. Except for a few well-polished essays from several Inuit leaders (whose comments are printed regularly in newspapers), the opinions and perspectives of Inuit, young and old, male and female, 'modernist' and 'traditionalist,' are curiously absent. And except for a few statistics and charts revealing per capita rates of federal transfers to the territory (which are the highest in Canada by far), it is unclear how Inuit are actually benefiting from the creation of Nunavut. In fact, I was surprised that the editors chose not to address one of the Nunavut government's most controversial distinctions (from the perspective of indigenous leaders in Canada) — the fact that it is a non-ethnic-based government. Is this structure capable of dismantling the caste-like divisions that continue to divide Inuit and non-Inuit (and now wealthy Inuit and non-wealthy Inuit) into separate social groups? Other important questions that could reveal how Inuit are participating in the Nunavut government as well as how important it is to them are overlooked. The reader should know, for example, the percentage of middle- or senior-level management positions held by Inuit and how many non-Inuit employees can do their jobs in Inuktitut. These are the types of questions that need to be asked in order to assess if Inuit have truly regained control of their lands and their lives. (Edmund Searles, Inuit and Circumpolar Study Group, Université Laval, Québec G1K 7P4, Canada.)

THE WEST ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET: BEHAVIOR AND ENVIRONMENT. Richard B. Alley and Robert A. Bindshadler (Editors). 2000. Washington, DC: American Geophysical Union (Antarctic Research Series 77). xii + 296 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-87590-957-4. US\$65.00.

The stability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) should be of concern to everyone. There is enough ice stored within the WAIS to raise global sea levels six metres. Large parts of the ice sheet rest on a bed below the sea level, and ice flows from these regions via floating ice shelves to the open ocean. Many have speculated that if the ice shelves were removed, the WAIS configuration would change as a consequence. In order to assess the likelihood of this happening, an understanding of the WAIS 'system' is required. That is to say, the processes affecting the WAIS at present, and in the past, need to be identified, measured, and modelled. In the last few years there has been a great effort to determine the form and flow of the WAIS, and the external controls that affect this behaviour. This excellent volume provides a summary of recent findings concerning the understanding of the WAIS in terms of its present-day set-up, and its behaviour in the geologically recent past. It is through comparing the current situation with situations in the past that caused changes in the ice sheet that the likelihood of future changes can be predicted.

This book represents a collection of review articles.