

a long historical process of contact, one that intensified with the exploitation of oil. Despite social stratification, the importance of a wage economy, threats to kin-based ties, and the decline of the Inupiat language, there is a growing emphasis on Inupiat cultural distinctiveness. This finds an expression through whaling and sharing. It has the effect of acting as a symbolic boundary between the Inupiat and the outside world, signalling cultural identity at a time when such identity needs to be strong enough to counter internal tensions. The author considers cultural identity and the persistence of kin-based networks as necessary for articulating the relationship between Inupiat and their ancestral lands. This has a particularly strong significance in the light of recent environmental disasters, such as *Exxon Valdez*, and atmospheric pollution.

Chance succeeds in his aim of demonstrating the need to re-evaluate where human societies stand in relation to their utilization of nature. By so doing he gives his book a wider application beyond Alaska and the Arctic. We can understand development and culture change in relation to historical connections only in a wider world system. The Inupiat, while unique in their own right, share compelling similarities and problems with other aboriginal peoples. Development means social and psychological dislocation in many parts of the world. This book should be read as an example of what one group of people have undergone, where they now stand, and the prospects they face for the future. (Mark Nuttall, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER UK.)

HOT CONFLICTS, COLD REALITIES

THE AGE OF THE ARCTIC. Osherenko, G. and Young, O. R. 1989. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press (Studies in Polar Research). 316 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-52136451-5. £37.50, US\$59.50.

Scientists who expect from this title a geological or palaeo-glaciological treatise will be disappointed, for this is a book on Arctic politics. No-one else need be disappointed, for it is a good book, and anyone who works in or thinks about the Arctic would benefit from reading it. The subject matter, more accurately expressed in the subtitle 'Hot conflicts and cold realities', concerns scientists as much as anyone else. The book is about conflict in the Arctic — conflict of all kinds from parish-pump to regional, from national to international — which in one way or another characterizes Arctic affairs. Military and civil powers, scientists, politicians, doctors, lawyers, and certainly Indian chiefs: all are involved as protagonists. The authors, a political scientist and a lawyer, write of conflicts between states over national security, conflicts in Arctic economics and industrial developments, conflicts involving native interests, and conflicts over ecological matters, all issues on which ding-dongs of varying intensity are currently raging.

Accounts of these problems occupy the first half of the book: the second half, under the section title 'Handling Arctic conflicts' applies conflict theory to the issues and

deals where possible with remedies and solutions. The writers draw heavily on North American examples and data, but are sufficiently pan-Arctic to make the book of universal interest. This is a solid, well-considered work, one to be recommended strongly to anyone concerned with courses in polar studies, and to postgraduate students in any field of Arctic enquiry. The writing is sometimes heavy-going, with an old-fashioned textbook *gravitas*, but thorough and worth the effort of reading. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

SOUTH PACIFIC SECTOR

ANTARCTIC SECTOR OF THE PACIFIC. Glasby, G. P. (editor). 1990. Amsterdam, Elsevier. (Elsevier Oceanography Series 51). 396 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-444-88510-2. US\$97.50, Dfl 190.00.

The Southern Ocean is usually treated oceanographically as a circumpolar entity. This book reminds us that it can instead be regarded as a series of adjoining sectors, and sets out to summarize what is known of the sector immediately south of the Pacific Ocean. Containing some of the world's roughest seas, and bounded in the south by some of the most ice-bound stretches of Antarctic coasts, much of this sector has understandably been neglected. The exception is the Ross Sea region, immediately south of New Zealand, which in contrast is among the most hospitable of all polar oceanic regions in summer, usually allowing safe access by ship to 78°S.

This book covers the region from New Zealand east to South America and Antarctic Peninsula, to an indefinite northern boundary in about 45°S. It comprises 11 papers, mainly by New Zealand and US authors. An historical overview by the editor is followed by papers on Meteorology (Mullan and Hickman), Physical oceanography (Patterson and Whitworth), Ice (Keys), Structure and tectonics (Davey), Hydrocarbon exploration and potential (Cook and Davey), Sediments (Anderson), Plankton (El-Sayed), Marine mammals (Baker), Seabirds (Harper, Spurr and Taylor), and Environmental and pollution aspects (Gregory).

This is not an original formula for an Antarctic book, and there is an air of inevitability over a few of the chapter titles and names — haven't we seen just such a paper by that author before? However, everyone manages some degree of originality, and the overall impression is refreshing: these workers find interest and uniqueness in their sector and are generally up-to-date in telling us about it. The final chapter on pollution is a welcome innovation: I should have welcomed also a chapter on fish, including industrial fishing, which may be becoming more prominent in the area, and is clearly responsible for a deal of harmful debris in the ocean. Editing is to a high standard, all references are together in a single listing at the end, and there is an adequate index.

Should this book pay its way, I wonder if the publishers would consider similar regional accounts of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean sectors? *Antarctic sector of the Pacific* is available in Europe from Box 211, 1000 AE