

THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO: AMERICAN MILITARY AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHIES OF SPITSBERGEN AND OTHER NORWEGIAN POLAR TERRITORIES, 1941–1950. P.J. Capelotti (Editor). 2000. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company. xii + 180 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-7864-0759-X. US\$45.00.

In the Treaty of Paris, 1920, it was agreed by the major powers attending the Conference of Versailles that the archipelago, hitherto known as Spitsbergen, should become part of the Kingdom of Norway and should be renamed Svalbard. Before this agreement, the island group had been considered *terra nullius*, and therefore without sovereignty. The Treaty came into effect in 1925 after ratification by most of the signatories.

Located in the Arctic Ocean between North Cape and the North Pole, Svalbard was seen, at the start of World War II, to have considerable strategic significance for weather stations and for monitoring the movements of enemy shipping. In 1987 P.J. Capelotti discovered, amongst military archives, a classified Special Study of Svalbard compiled in 1942 by American intelligence, and he has now published it together with some of the original maps and 50 photographs. The report also includes very brief accounts of Jan Mayen (which became Norwegian only in 1929) and, somewhat misplaced, of Norway's Antarctic possessions claimed in 1929 and 1939.

The report is basically a geographical gazetteer with brief notes on the topography of the coastal fjords, inland ice cover and seasonal sea-ice variations, tides, weather, and demographic and economic matters. The information attempts to be comprehensive, but is necessarily abbreviated and sketchy. The work invites comparison with the more detailed British *Naval military handbooks* prepared by senior geographers throughout the war at the Scott Polar Research Institute. The Spitsbergen handbook was prepared by Professor Robert Neal Rudmose Brown, but was one of the few not published and made generally available after the war. The author's claim of the uniqueness of the American report is not supported by literature available even in 1942, and his bibliography of recent literature omits many of the major authorities on Svalbard writing in both Norwegian and English. Rudmose Brown had, in fact, published a substantial book on Spitsbergen in 1920, and since the war important works include *Svalbard Treaty* by Geir Ulfstein (Oslo, 1995) and *Svalbard's historie 1596–1996*, by Thor Arlov (Oslo, 1996).

The brief American original report (74 pages plus illustrations) is supplemented by several useful appendices on 'Conditions of the islands,' 'Ports and harbors,' the 'Military operations of 1941 and 1942,' and 'Radiostations.' The publication of this report from US military archives is welcomed as it provides another wartime document about Svalbard, but there is no new material for the historical geographer. The black-and-white photographs are commended. (Peter Speak, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ENDANGERED PEOPLES OF THE ARCTIC: STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE. Milton M.R. Freeman (Editor). 2000. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood Press. xx + 278 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-313-30649-4. £33.50.

Introductory texts for use in university courses on the circumpolar north are difficult to find, both for the human and physical geography of the region. Minority Rights Group's *Polar peoples* has provided such a text for the 'human' side of the north, but is now more than half a decade old. Thus, Milton Freeman's newly edited book, part of a series of 'Endangered peoples of the world,' is a welcome arrival. Alarmist title aside, the book offers a cross-section of studies of 14 northern peoples from around the north. It focuses on their evolving adaptations to Arctic life, in the face of the Arctic's ever-changing position in a 'globalizing' world. Written mainly by anthropologists, the book will nevertheless prove useful as a text for geographers, political scientists, and others as well. Its level is introductory, so that an interested layperson would also find this a good introduction to human aspects of the north. Its choice of focusing for the most part on specific sub-national groups (for example, Pribilof Aleuts, Isertormeeq of East Greenland) — rather than peoples (for example, Aleuts, Inuit) or states (native peoples of Alaska, Greenland) — allows a level of detail I find attractive in encouraging students to consider the wide range of available options to northerners in their adaptations, and the nuances of the choices made by different groups.

The layout is formulaic; each chapter involves the same headings: 'Cultural overview'; 'Threats to survival'; 'Response: struggles to survive culturally'; and 'Food for thought.' While such a structure ensures that material presented in each chapter offers opportunities for students to compare and contrast the situations of different peoples living in the north, authors have used a variety of secondary sub-headings to organize information of specific relevance to the people about whom they write, and/or of specific interest to them. For instance, the chapter on Sami focuses especially on legal issues, while the chapter on Evenki allocates more time to a discussion of ecological challenges. In this way, the book avoids a repetitive character. The required headings, being broad, allow for a wide range of topics, from language retention issues to environmental threats to subsistence strategies.

Chapters are arranged alphabetically by people, rather than geographically. This was initially disconcerting, and compromised the ability of one chapter to help set the stage for others on people in the same state who had experienced similar governmental policies (for example, Innu and Cree, Evenki and Chukchi). But in the end, I found I agreed with this layout, as the geographic hopping back-and-forth encourages persistent comparison/contrast among situations experienced by northerners around the globe. As apparent from the above headings, the book's and series' editors have put special emphasis on having authors address not only the challenges confronting aboriginal