

had access to good reference texts on whales and whaling, and then awarding them marks for every mistake they found. At the outset, Stoett aimed to provide the reader with 'an entertaining and informative journey through the intertwined processes that resulted in the present condition of whales and whaling.' He has surely succeeded in this, but the entertainment is not entirely derived in the way that he may have anticipated. (A.R. Martin, NERC Sea Mammal Research Unit, Gatty Marine Laboratory, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8LB.)

CREATING REGIMES: ARCTIC ACCORDS AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE. Oran Young. 1998. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. xii + 230 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-8014-3437-8. £27.50.

Oran Young has a distinguished record in the field of international relations and polar research. His research within regime analysis is rightly praised for its theoretical rigour and conceptual thoroughness. His latest contribution continues this fine tradition and is explicitly concerned with the creation and coordination of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the Barents Euro-Arctic region (BEAR). Both these proposals were intended to improve ecological, political, and cultural relations in the Arctic. Using these as case studies, Young suggests that regime formation can be analysed via three distinct phases: agenda formation, negotiation, and, finally, operationalisation.

Young's explicit theoretical concern is with 'regime stories,' and this account suggests that the creation and operationalisation of particular regimes such as BEAR need to be considered carefully by scholars of international relations. In particular, he suggests that regimes should be analysed in careful stages so that the various negotiating and operational contexts are identified for careful scrutiny. In his study of BEAR, for example, Young provides a careful and considered account of how a personal proposal by the former Norwegian foreign minister (and later an EU Bosnian negotiator with Lord Owen) Thorvald Stoltenburg became transformed into a substantial exercise in multi-national diplomacy. Moreover, Young is careful in this contribution to locate these stories about regimes at a variety of political and geographical scales ranging from the global significance of the Arctic to the complex interplay of states, indigenous peoples' movements, and NGOs.

This is undoubtedly a very interesting account of Arctic accords and international regime formation. It is also extremely timely given the ending of the Cold War and the numerous attempts to improve relations over disputed regions such as the Barents Sea and the Northwest Passage. However, there are a number of points that this reviewer would have liked to have seen developed a little further. The first, and perhaps unsurprisingly for a geographical reviewer, is the delimitation of an Arctic region. The construction of a particular geographical region is not a natural process, but rather is shaped by particular social and political criteria. Whilst it has been common to note

that the ending of the Cold War has meant that new issues such as cultural survival and environmental protection have enjoyed a higher political profile, there has been comparatively little reflection on the political and geographical consequences of defining the Arctic either by physical boundaries such as oceans and seas or by sectorial boundaries. The map of the Arctic region provided at the beginning of the book is interesting precisely because there are various boundaries displayed on the illustration, including climatological, glacial, political, and biogeographical. Both these initiatives (AEPS and BEAR) apply to different geographical areas, and it would have been interesting to have read a little more about the geographical processes of region formation in this part of the world, that is, what areas are included and excluded and why?

The second major area of concern was with Young's interest in regime stories. A concern for the practices of narration and story-telling are mentioned in passing, but could have been developed further. Scholars such as Hayden White have developed the notion that narrative is an important part in the history of philosophy. Narratives are considered performative in the sense that they help to create a particular emplotment of events in a structured, often sequential, fashion. This then, in turn, can help bring issues such as representation and interpretation to the fore. One of the striking features of Young's account is that it reads like a good story in the sense that it is carefully structured and well organised. One interesting feature of this analysis could have been to think about who is constructing and narrating these particular regime stories. At first glance, it would appear to be Young, who has collected an impressive number of oral and written sources. However, what is interesting is whether there were other stories about these initiatives (AEPS and BEAR) that were marginalised, neglected, or simply forgotten. As a reviewer, I may well be over-stating the significance of story-telling with regards to regime formation, but it does seem pertinent given the tenor of the analysis. Regime analysis is ultimately a very powerful ordering strategy, and in this context the production of particular (even hegemonic) understandings is worthy of further investigation.

The final area of further investigation concerns these two Arctic initiatives as examples of 'soft law,' that is, non-legally binding. As a non-legal specialist, this raised in my mind the implicit importance of trust within these two enterprises. Nicholas Renegger has recently argued that trust is one of the key issues in contemporary world politics, especially with reference to not only treaty compliance but also with a range of more formal and informal arrangements, such as financial regulation (Renegger 1997). One of the striking aspects of these Arctic initiatives is that they have emerged at a time when negotiators and interested parties have had to collaborate in a very different context to the immediate post-war period. With the legacy of the Cold War, the issue of building relations based on trust in Arctic affairs in the early 1990s must have been an

interesting and problematic venture. One question that comes to mind is how significant in regime formation is personal contact and exchange in the construction of trust, which is vital to the operationalisation of particular regimes. Finally, what role do Young and other interested scholars think that NGOs and other non-state organisations can play in potentially 'shaming' governments if they fail to live up to their commitments to environmental protection or cultural pluralism. This process of shaming becomes all the more important in the case of soft-law arrangements.

Arctic regimes is, therefore, a thought-provoking book and should be welcomed by scholars. Moreover, it also stimulated in this reviewer further questions about not only the contemporary condition of polar and world politics but also the strategies that are adopted to represent these complexities. (Klaus Dodds, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.)

Reference

Renegger, N. 1997. The ethics of trust in world politics. *International Affairs* 73: 469–487.

FROM MIDDLE AGES TO COLONIAL TIMES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOHISTORICAL STUDIES OF THE THULE CULTURE OF SOUTH WEST GREENLAND 1300–1800 AD. Hans Christian Gulløv. 1997. Copenhagen: Dansk Polar Center. 501 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 87-90369-21-1. DKK 475.

This is a splendid book with a rather strange title, which appears to lodge Inuit cultural history within a wholly European temporal perspective. However, it is also one of the most important books to be produced on Greenlandic archaeology in many years, and Arctic specialists around the circumpolar rim will find it of immense and lasting utility. This may be the longest and heaviest edition ever of the distinguished *Meddelelser om Grønland* series, and in some important ways it harks back to the key publications of the 1920s and 1930s on Greenlandic archaeology, which have long since been recognized as classics. Like these classic publications, this monograph presents both an impressive amount of highly detailed data and wider generalizations on Inuit culture and history. This volume reports a vast amount of research carried out in the capital district of modern Greenland, fully publishing both completely new material and some material earlier presented only in Danish or Kalallit, and contains a very helpful capsule summary of research on Inuit culture carried out in the district since 1945. With the publication of this volume, Danish Arctic archaeology brings to international notice a large body of excellent, but often under-reported, sustained work of basic science.

Presentation of the basic archaeological data for southwest Greenland (and the Nuuk district in particular) is one of the clear strong points of the work, with detailed site plans, house excavations with piece plotted finds and full profiles, and updated site distribution maps. Particularly

valuable and impressive are the many high-quality illustrations of finds by the author, done to a standard not seen recently in most archaeological publications. This combination of clear and systematic presentation of house forms and excellent and comprehensive artifact illustrations will certainly someday make this volume a well-thumbed (and probably rare) standard in the professional libraries of northern archaeologists still unborn, and already make it a critical purchase for any current Arctic specialist.

However, this book is far from a simple illustrated catalogue of southwest Greenlandic archaeology (however comprehensive and well-organized), but a thoughtful and mature discussion of settlement and subsistence in a key region through a usefully long period of time. Its depth of presentation rests upon the results of more than 25 years of research by the author and his colleagues in Denmark and Greenland. The depth of detail and local expertise contained in the book is impossible to convey in a short review, but the example of a combined set of a locational map of sources of economically useful stone (Fig. 68) and a temporal diagram of changing stone material use based on excavated artifacts (Fig. 69) may illustrate the book's combination of local knowledge and long-term analysis of artifacts and geological source material in the laboratory. Again and again, the reader will benefit from this sort of combination, and great amounts of information will be found tucked away in the well-drawn maps and graphs.

In its generalized chapters, the volume explores the interface between archaeology and history/ethnohistory, following widespread trends in other parts of the circumpolar north. In Nuuk district, as in Labrador and the central Arctic, the former research emphasis on paleo-eskimo research and deep history appears to be fading in the face of a resurgence of research in the Thule–historic periods. As in Canada and the broad North Atlantic, this reorientation is in part driven by scholarly interest in a new 'historical ecology' at the productive interface between increasingly well-documented climate change, sequence and consequence of human adaptive decisions, and world-system penetrations (all of which require the denser data sets of the more recent past). As in Canada, the reorientation in Greenland is in part driven by popular local interest in Thule ancestors and the lives and land use of eighteenth to early twentieth-century people whose names and genealogy are known and valued by modern communities. The challenge of doing both good scholarship and effective fulfillment of community expectations concerns many in the north, and this book makes a significant contribution in this area.

An extremely useful appendix by Jeppe Møhl on the faunal remains from Illorpaat in the outermost portion of Godthaabfjord excavated 1972–1975 provides an excellent overview of a very important stratified midden deposit. As Møhl describes, unlike most Inuit archaeofauna in Greenland, these deposits are dominated by harp seal and bird (mainly murre) rather than ringed seal. The midden deposits produced a large identified collection, of