



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT FORWARD

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This Fletcher Security Review online edition features a spotlight on the Arctic, including articles related to the Arctic's military build-up and the possibility for cooperation, potential economic advances within the region, and a way to monitor and manage the threat of conflict.

The Arctic is a region that has not received sufficient international attention previously, primarily due to its harsh environmental conditions and the largely peaceful cooperation amongst the region's nations. Additionally, the Arctic is far-removed from other conflict-ridden regions. While conflicts continue to expand in various areas throughout the world with world powers increasingly intervening, the Arctic has remained relatively neutral as states manage to have an attitude of cooperation that is unique to the region. However, as the ice melts and military and trade routes become more accessible, the possibility of more international competition in the region increases.

The authors in this edition highlight these points. They dive into issues pertaining to the Northern Sea Route and how Russia is strategically dominating this trek, not only in advanced military terms vis-à-vis other nations, as they possess Arctic military bases, more icebreakers, and more capable military machinery to battle the trying conditions but also in economic terms with Russia extracting natural resources with minimal international competition. In addition, Russia's military dominance in the region leaves one to question if conflict will stem from the Arctic. Yet, Russia's willingness for cooperation within the region suggests otherwise, and the United States is encouraged to build upon this collaboration. Finally, the idea of creating an entity tasked specifically with monitoring and managing conflicts related to the economic, military, environmental, and political issues in the Arctic is raised by one of our authors.

The goal of the Fletcher Security Review is to build on The Fletcher School's strong tradition of marrying theory with practice and fostering close interdisciplinary collaboration in order to act as an incubator for unique ideas in international security. We believe that this semester's publication accomplishes this goal. This spotlight feature seeks to capitalize on the strength of various scholars, while also ensuring a unique lens through which to view the issues currently being faced in the Arctic.

This feature is a testament to the hard work, dedication to scholarly achievement, and security-related research of our FSR contributing authors and staff. This was a collective, concerted effort at all levels, as the writers and editors were faithful and zealous in their commitment to the content that was produced. It is my most sincere hope that the readers of this spotlight find these articles to be enlightening and relevant as the eyes of the world turn north with renewed interest in the Arctic.

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