

# The Arctic of Regions vs. the Globalized Arctic

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The Arctic region is often defined as that area where the

# A state of the early-21st century

Main trends of the post-Cold War circumpolar geopolitics:

- 1) Increasing circumpolar cooperation by indigenous peoples' organizations and sub-national governments;
- 2) Region-building with states as major actors;
- 3) New kind of relationship between the circumpolar North and the outside world.

(Heininen in *AHDR* 2004)

# A state of the 2010s

- A peaceful region with high stability based on a wide international / regional cooperation.
- Legally and politically divided by national borders and internal waters (of the Arctic states).
- Major military structures (nuclear weapon systems) and capability for national defence still there.
- No conflicts, only a few disputes on maritime borders, and asymmetric environmental conflicts.
- Importance of state sovereignty and national interests.
- Major challenges e.g. climate change, and long-range air and water pollution, and globalization.



# A State of Arctic Geopolitics?



# Another significant change

- Another significant multifunctional - environmental, geoeconomic, geopolitical, cultural - change has occurred.
- Among the indicators of the change are climate change, energy security, shipping, sovereignty, self-governing, globalization.
- Globalization is supported by world-wide approach by Indigenous peoples and their knowledge(s).
- All this is taken as a reality, or a threat / a challenge.
- The post-Cold War period is over?



# History of the Arctic: geopolitical facts

Factors of 'Geopolitics':

- Space, physical space;
- Natural resources;
- Power/Force.

= Context of physical space and natural resources, and power (of the state).

...THAT'S ODD,  
STILL NO  
INVITATION  
TO DISCUSS  
WHO OWNS  
MY ARCTIC



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# Present and future history of the Arctic: ‚geopolitical imagination‘

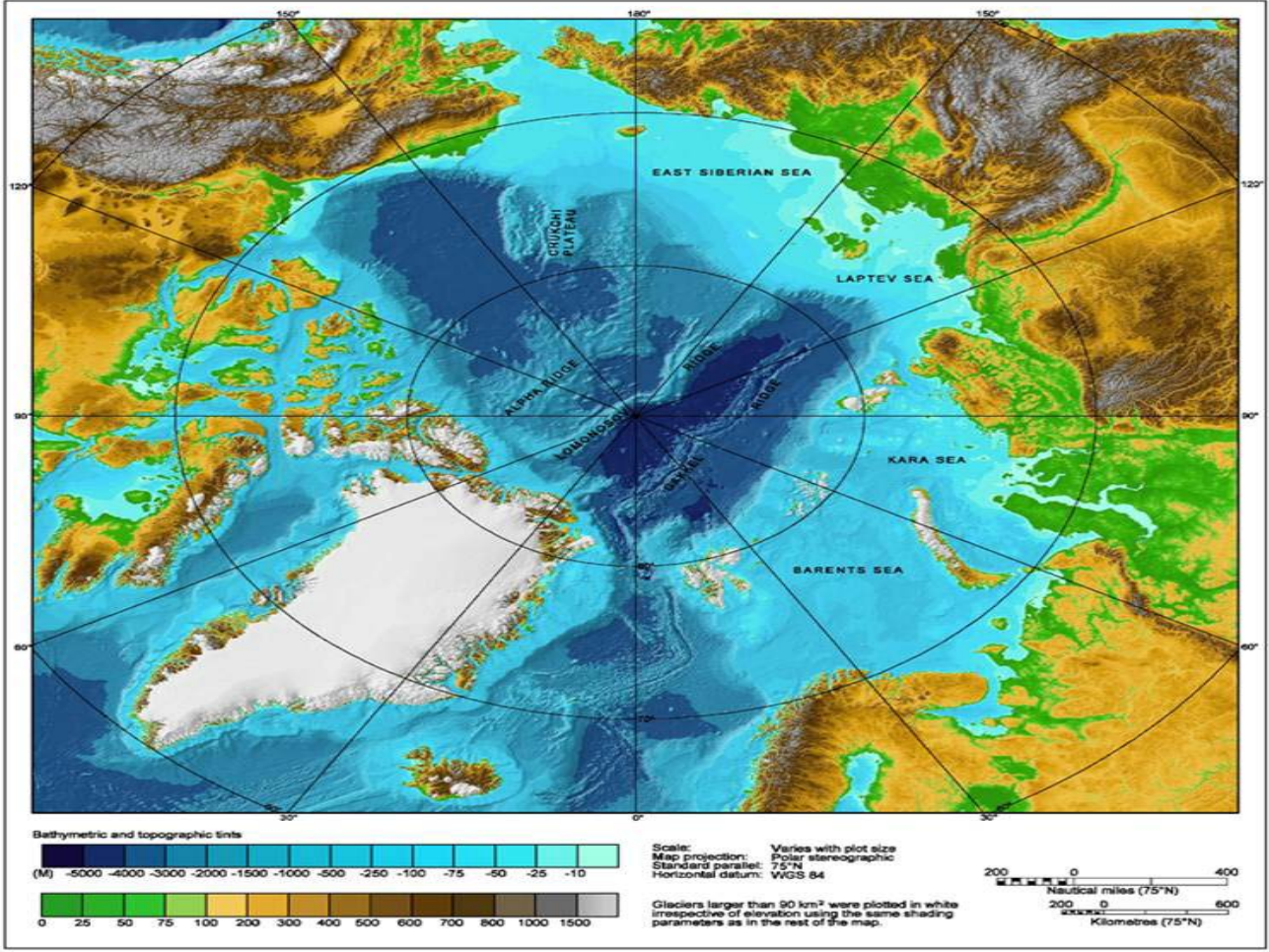
More and new factors of ‚Geopolitics‘:

- Actors;
- Identity, and identity politics;
- Knowledge/Power-Knowledge;
- ‚Politicization‘ of (physical) space.

= Context of ‚politicized‘ space, sophisticated power, knowledge (on climate), actors with identities (states - non-states) in ‚globalization‘.

# Applications to the post-Cold War Arctic

- Physical space: *The Arctic Ocean and its shelf.*
- Natural resources: *Hydrocarbons, Water.*
- Power/Force: *State sovereignty and power.*
- Actors: *Arctic states, Ind. Peoples, non-Arctic.*
- Identity: *Internal/external images, Diversity of life.*
- Power/Knowledge: *Knowledge on climate change, Interplay between science and politics.*
- ‘Politicization’ of physical space: *Governance, Connectivity, Arctic in world politics.*





# Globalization in the Arctic

- Nothing new in the Arctic e.g. whaling, sealing, fur trade, colonialism, militarization, long-range pollution, etc ..
- Climate change as another global environmental problems.
- Also environmental 'awakening', growing consciousness of own identity, world-wide approach by indigenous peoples, democratization, self-government and regionalization.
- Growing global interest toward the region and its resources by Asian and European powers from outside the region...
- .. and the Arctic in world politics.

*(Globalization and the Circumpolar North, 2010)*



# Globalization in the Arctic continues..

- Globalization bringing problems to the North!?
- Negative: impacts of climate change, privatization, modernity ('Cola-Colanization'), new isms, weakening of nation-states' ability to protect its northern communities (sovereignty) from new threat
- Positive: decolonization and growth of regional autonomy, recognition of indigenous peoples' rights, emphasis on the rule of law and multilateral environ initiatives, new ICT, 'diversity' as a global value

*(Globalization and the Circumpolar North, 2010)*



# The Arctic in world politics

Region's position greatly strengthened in the last 20 years:

- Geopolitical point of view: *as a highly strategic area;*
- Economical point of view: *as highly strategic due to energy;*
- Diversity of life: *as a distinct component of a nature, and that of cultures, languages, knowledge;*
- Scientific point of view: *as a 'laboratory'/'workshop' for research on the environ and climate change;*
- Viewpoint of human capital: *innovations in governance, and political/legal arrangements (e.g. joint efforts of societies and states to end the financial, moral and political crisis);*
- Stability and peace: *as not overtly plagued by anyone big regional/global problem, or war.*



# Arctic Yearbook 2013: Call for Abstracts – deadline 28/02/2013

- The theme: **“The Arctic of Regions vs. the Globalized Arctic”**.
- The theme is meant to evaluate the Arctic from the point of view of regionalism / regionalization, and from that of globalization / a globalized world view.
- Articles might assess the Arctic from the point of view of sub-regional forums and associations (e.g. the NF, the BEAR, and the ICC), and how they affect larger processes of regionalization and Arctic politics.
- Or, the Arctic as an increasingly attractive region and / or distinct actor in a globalizing world with a growing strategic importance in world politics.