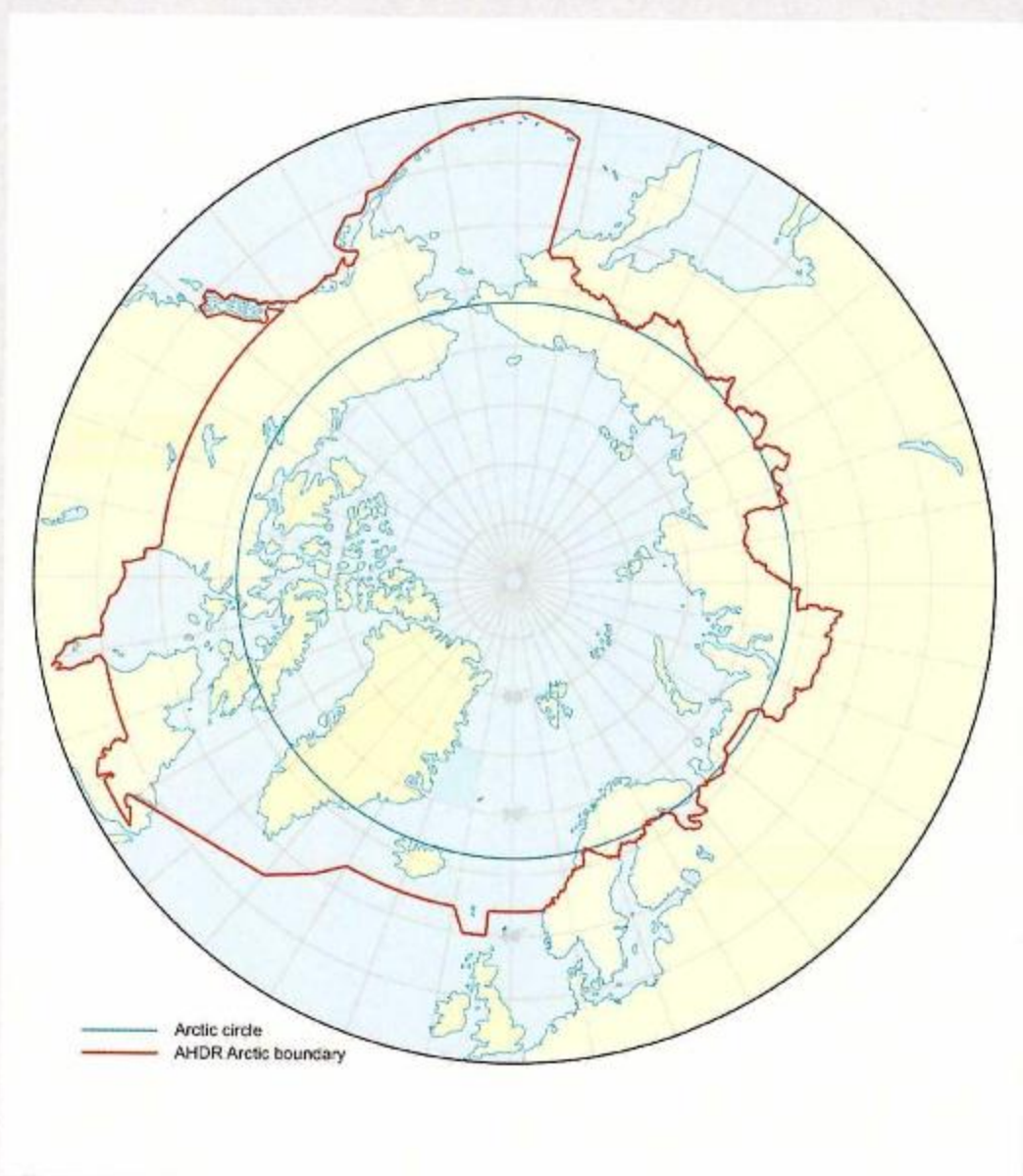


Cécile Pelaudeix,
Alain Faure & Robert Griffiths (eds)

WHAT HOLDS THE ARCTIC TOGETHER?



*Logiques
politiques*

L'Harmattan



The Arctic region is undergoing dramatic transformation. Rapid change due to climate warming is currently affecting the Arctic more than any other region in the world: the permafrost is melting, glaciers are receding, the sea ice is shrinking. With the melting of ice, the circumpolar region is subject to increasing forces of globalization, and navigation through the Northwest and the Northeast passages is rapidly emerging as a practical and commercial proposition. Moreover, the Arctic may be home to 30 per cent of the planet's undiscovered natural gas reserves and 13 per cent of its undiscovered oil.

“What Holds the Arctic Together?” The emphasis here is on convergence, rather than divergence, the Arctic's centrality not its eccentricity. The contributions gathered together in this book all address essential questions posed by geophysicists, political scientists, jurists, geographers and historians. How can science calculate and assess the scale of change in this geographic space, in particular concerning the melting of ice? To what extent are the Native populations listened to and act as active participants in decision-making concerning the Arctic? In the context of post-Cold War international and regional cooperation, what is the present state of Arctic governance? How are the Arctic States themselves cooperating in facing the challenges that lie ahead? Are existing juridical arrangements adequate? What role in the Arctic can be played by actors such as the European Union? To what extent are other powerful countries, such as the Asian giants, taking a direct interest in the development of the Arctic?

Contributing to this volume: Clive Archer, Anne Choquet, Alain Faure, Robert Griffiths, Paule Halley, LassiHeininen, William Iggiagruk Hensley, FrédéricLasserre, Marie-Eve Mercier, Heather Nicol, Natalie Novik, Cécile Pelaudeix, Alexander Vylegzhanin, Jérôme Weiss.

The Editors, Cécile Pelaudeix, Alain Faure, Robert Griffiths, are all members of the Grenoble Centre for Canadian Studies.

Map on the front page: Delimitation of the Arctic region according to the astronomic criteria and according to the Arctic Human Development Report.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE GREENING OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

Paule Halley & Marie-Eve Mercier

An environmental problem of world-wide proportions, climatic change nonetheless affects different regions of the world in different ways. The Arctic, as an ocean which is still in a frozen and relatively unexploited state, is one of the first victims of the effects of climatic change. The survival of rare and fascinating wild species, as also the traditions and subsistence activities of the circumpolar peoples, are rendered fragile and more vulnerable by this phenomenon. By warming up more rapidly than elsewhere, the climate is modifying the very nature of the 'territory' of the Arctic itself, which is losing its solid state as the multi-year-old ice melts and recedes. This situation is reviving economic interest in the region and its navigation routes, including the North-West Passage, as also in its natural resources. For jurists, climatic change has an effect on the rules of law which are applicable to this region and fuels the debate on the sovereignty of circumpolar states, including Canada. On the whole, the situation highlights the economic interests at stake and the difficulties of reconciling sustainable development with certain rules of international law applicable to the Arctic.

Faced with the warming up of the Arctic, the study of the tensions between the exercise of sovereignty and the environmental and social issues which are reflected through the different dimensions of sustainable development, throws light on the challenges which are posed by the development of the whole region. It is possible to see how an integrated approach to sustainable development⁷ can play a role in the development of the Arctic by considering the exercise of sovereignty over this undeveloped

⁷ *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the environment and development*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 14 June 1992. United Nations Doc. A/CONF.151/26/Rev 1, Principle 4: "To achieve sustainable development, the protection of the environment must form an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation". The link is more and more evident between culture and the concept of sustainable development: see article 13 of the *Convention on the protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expression*, Paris, 20 October 2005, UNESCO, CLT-2005/DIVERSITY-CULT.REV CONVENTION; UNESCO, *Final Report of the intergovernmental Conference on cultural policies for development*, Stockholm, 30 March-2 April 1998, Paris, UNESCO.