The Geopolitics of the Arctic: Competing Models of Governance

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What is the Arctic?
Borders in the North
Current/Immediate Issues

• Global warming
• Social and Economical Development
• Increasing demand for governmental services
• Science/exploration (mapping)
• Sovereignty and conflicts (borders and seabed)
Mid/Long Term Concerns: Increasing Human Activities (potential)

- Shipping
- Tourism and extreme sports
- Fishing
- Resources (oil, gas, diamond, strategic minerals)
Territorial Conflicts in the Canadian North
Potential conflicts with Russia
The Lomonosov (and the Mendeleev) ridge
Mid/long-terms security concerns (potential)

- Traffic monitoring
- Pollution control
- Search and Rescue
- “Human” (societal) security
- Terrorism
- Organized crime (incl. illegal immigration !)
- Low military threat
Fault Lines in the Arctic

- Ongoing conflicts: US-Russia, Canada-US, Canada-Danemark, Seabeds;
- NATO Arctic vs Russia;
- Regions, First nations, States
- Arctic states vs non-Arctic States
- Existing institutions or a new one?
- New players: China, Korea.
Governance

• Conflict resolution
• Facing social, security and environmental common challenges
• Enhancing cooperation (science,
• Regulating human activities (shipping, fisheries, etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>UNCLOS</th>
<th>Arctic Council (A8+)</th>
<th>Inuit Circumpolar Council</th>
<th>Ilulissat/Chelsea ad hoc group (A5.)</th>
<th>Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)</th>
<th>European Union?</th>
<th>NATO?</th>
<th>NORAD</th>
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A8+ or A5? 

A8+ The Arctic Council

- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russia
- Sweden
- United States
- Inuit (ICC), Saami, Gwich’in, RAIPON, Athabaskan
- Observers (Non Arctic: UK, Fr., Ger., Neht., Pol., Sp.)

A5. The Illulissat/Chelsea group

- Canada
- Denmark
- Norway
- Russia
- United States

[Heart with a cross]
AC: Multilateral approach

- The Arctic Ocean as a large, closed sea
- Existing institutions and networks
- Common problems
- The Arctic is indivisible
- Recent progress in the Arctic Council (S&R)
Canada and the AC

• Founding member
• Chairing the Council 2013

But:
• Blocked the EC application;
• Vetoed NATO involvement in the region.
• AC is not dealing with security/defence issues
The North American
Arctic
A Bilateral Institution?

Three basic models:

1. Military Command
2. Civilian (public or private) authority
3. Joint Commission
Military Command

- NORAD (1957)
- Binational Command
- Operational responsibilities
- Air/aerospace surveillance (monitoring, tracking, intercepting)
- Maritime NORAD?
- Limited functions
Civilian authority

- St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation
- Binational Corporation (crown owned)
- Seaway maintenance, traffic management
- Limited functions on Security
Joint Commission

• Permanent Joint Board on Defence (1940) International Joint Commission (1909)
• Officials (civ/mil) but non political
• Producing recommendations
• Large spectrum of issues covered
Questions and comments

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www.arctique.uqam.ca