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Peter Hough (2013) *International Politics of the Arctic: Coming in from the Cold*. Abingdon: Routledge. 176pp, £75.00 (h/b), ISBN 9780415669283

While a broad and deep corpus of work exists on the nature of sovereignty at multiple levels, very little has been written which connects sovereignty and indigenous power in the Arctic. Peter Hough's *International Politics of the Arctic: Coming in from the cold* is a valuable introduction to the increasingly contested international politics of sovereignty in the polar regions (Dodds in Foster 2014), with a strong focus not only on formal relationships between states, but also the formal and informal politics of negotiating sovereignty between Arctic states and their indigenous citizens.

The book begins with an overview of the history and role of the Arctic in international relations, followed by a brief introduction to four recurring schools of IR thought through which the Arctic is imagined – Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, and Social Constructivism (14-16). Of particular note is Hough's unique connection between conceptions of state/citizen sovereignty and the *oeuvre* of Hans Morgenthau (110). But rather than portraying a struggle between indigenous peoples and states according to Realist, Liberal, or Marxist dogma, Hough emphasises local power relations and citizen-state interaction, framing the Arctic as a reflexive and 'symbiotic relationship between the region's indigenous NGOs and governments' (138). The second and third chapters investigate disputed *state* sovereignty and the economic basis of recent interest in this "international political wilderness" (1), providing a foundation for the fourth chapter on issues of *indigenous* sovereignty. Such disputes and negotiations form the basis of the fifth and sixth chapters on governmental and non-governmental co-operation respectively, with the emphasis on formal/informal inter-ethnic governance ensuring that Hough's analysis stands out from traditional state-centric investigations. A brief seventh chapter summarises the book, with a substantive bibliography rich in primary sources.

The content overall lacks the detailed Realist or Liberal analyses of earlier works on Arctic IR (Emmerson 2011; Sale and Potapov 2010; Fairhall 2010; Howard 2009), but the book's broad scope of politics, economics, ecology, and participatory interaction between indigenous citizens and states makes Hough's work an excellent introductory analysis. Hough's structure and style, and his

liberal use of information boxes and illustrations, makes this a valuable resource for those seeking an introduction to a region where energy-hungry governments are making visible inroads.

References

- Dodds, Klaus (2014) 'Consolidate! Britain, the Falkand Islands and the wider South Atlantic/Antarctic' in Russell Foster (ed.), *The Crisis of the Twenty-First Century*. London: Routledge.
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- Fairhall, David (2010) *Cold Front*. London: IB Tauris.
- Howard, Roger (2009) *The Arctic Gold Rush*. London: Continuum.