

of the sledge, only to realise that a sundial cannot work on a revolving piece of ice. He treats the ice floe as territory, pacing the perimeter and patrolling the boundaries against the seals, but as Sedna's emissary the walrus informs him, "ice is a gray zone" (p. 282), neither Sedna's dominion nor that of the humans. His hallucinatory conversations with the sea creatures signal his increasing insanity, but also a growing realisation that the floe is a shared habitat where the rights and needs of seals count as much as the survival chances of the human.

*Compass* is an impressive debut by a writer who knows his material well. The novel is an extraordinary combination of farce, dark comedy, tragedy, and character study, informed by the geography and culture of the traditional Inuit community in Naujaat, Nunavut, where Murray Lee has served as a fly-in doctor for fifteen years. It is exceptionally well-edited, the only flaw a confusion of "lying" with "laying" (p. 207), and attractively typeset and bound. *Compass* wears its philosophical messages lightly and uses humour and absurdity to convey lessons about Arctic history, exploitation, tourism, bumbling overconfidence, and human defeat.

#### REFERENCES

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THE SECURITY OF ICELAND AND THE ARCTIC 2030: A RECOMMENDATION FOR INCREASED GEOPOLITICAL STABILITY. By ROBERT P. WHEELERSBURG. New York: Springer, 2022. ISBN 978-3-030-89948-6. xx + 149 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., bib. Hardbound. US\$119.99. Also available in pdf and e-book format.

Iceland holds a unique place in the Arctic and in NATO. A small country of less than 400,000 people smack in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean, it has no military. Instead, it has used its strategic location to entice the United States and the NATO alliance to act as its security guarantors. It has a small coast guard and police force, but otherwise has limited ability to defend itself. For the author Robert Wheelersburg, a retired US Army Captain, this is unacceptable; indeed, it feels personal.

Wheelersburg was a member of the Icelandic Defense Force in the 1990s, serving at the Keflavik base before it was mothballed in 2006. He wrote this book following a Fulbright Arctic Scholar residency at the Centre for Arctic Policy Studies at the University of Iceland, and in the midst of the pandemic. You can sense how invested he is in Iceland's security, and how troubling its vulnerabilities are to him.

Wheelersburg weaves through personal anecdotes, Arctic state security policies, movie quotes, and saga history in building his case. This is not a typical academic book. It is a proposition. He is recommending Iceland develop its own sub-strategic security force.

What is a sub-strategic security force? The term does a lot of work in this book. Wheelersburg describes Arctic sub-strategic security as "the capability of a country in the region to counter threats to maintain its sovereignty to and protect its citizens, whether alone or as part of an alliance" (p. 3). The sub-strategic part entails organized crime, terrorism, smuggling, and human trafficking: things well short of where NATO would have to intervene under Article 5, but of a nature that could overwhelm front line, civilian police agencies. At a practical level, Wheelersburg advocates for the Icelandic Parliament to create a national security force using the country's existing resources: "the security force recommended here consists of its world class search-and-rescue teams, supplemented by trained reserve personnel" (p. 10).

And this is where it gets detailed. The author is an academic but not a typical one; much of his Army career was spent writing exercises that anticipate a worst-case scenario. This positionality becomes apparent. For the average Icelander, life is safe, and the threat of invasion by Russia or China, let alone terrorism and organized crime, is not top of mind. For Wheelersburg, it was literally his job to think about these things and ensure someone was ready to respond to them. In the event of an emergency, he assesses Iceland will be woefully unprepared. And that emergency will occur at some point, as they always do. An entire chapter is dedicated to such scenarios: a cruise ship hijacking; an invasion following a volcano eruption; an occupation of the northernmost Grimsey Island; a human trafficking operation. While not out of the realm of possibility, these scenarios probably don't worry many Icelanders. But as far as Arctic security studies is concerned, they are interesting to contemplate.

Wheelersburg thoroughly outlines the structure of his proposed force: a battalion with two companies, each of which includes a Headquarters Recon Patrol, a Heavy Recon Patrol, a Weapons Recon Patrol, and a Light Recon Patrol (p. 63). If all this is a bit remote for the average reader, I expect it will be appreciated by military, former military, and security studies experts.

There is also the requisite analysis of the Arctic states' security policies, focused on the sub-strategic level, and a chapter on globalism as it relates to the Iceland security environment. But while those are the more traditional

(even perfunctory) arenas of Arctic security studies, they are not the focus, nor the highlight, of this book.

The author is well aware of Icelandic perspectives on use of force and historical resistance to militarization. The last chapter is dedicated to understanding a millennium's worth of history of conflict and violence in Iceland, and contemporary Icelandic attitudes to security.

This was my favourite chapter, and where Wheelersburg's detailed, somewhat eccentric, writing style shines. I wanted to know all about the Vikings and witch hunts and pirates and communists, and it's delivered in a very accessible way (though Icelandic historians would probably have some quibbles). Most of all, Wheelersburg shows he is aware of the cultural resistance faced in Iceland to recommendations for things like sub-strategic security forces. But he's still going to try.

This is an unusual Arctic security book. It is not pure academic analysis, and that's not a bad thing. The field can surely benefit from contributors with greater awareness of, and practical experience in, militaries and NATO. Wheelersburg provides that perspective. And although written before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it complements the current evolution of thinking in Arctic studies away from exceptionalism and towards preparedness.

But its audience is small. For reasons Wheelersburg himself points out in the book, there is not a large appetite in Icelandic society for debate or action on securitization. The fact the recommendations are coming from a retired army captain is likely to raise skepticism amongst potential readers in that nation, whom I suspect are his target audience.

His writing style is more informal and personal than most books by Springer. It is explicitly advancing a policy recommendation, rather than analyzing the context. As he acknowledges, it is a departure from most contributions to the field. For some, that may be off-putting. But I suspect many others will appreciate it. It has elements of a memoir to it, and in many ways, that makes it more engaging to read. There are tidbits, like life in Keflavik from an American serviceman's perspective, that are fascinating and deeply underrepresented in scholarly works.

Wheelersburg knows his subject, cares deeply about Icelandic security, and is passionate about it. If you are passionate about Icelandic security or Arctic military studies, you will want to read the book too, even if you come to different policy recommendations than he does. Because if you disagree, it will still lead you to think concretely about what your own recommendation for Icelandic security would be.

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ANTARCTIC PIONEER: THE TRAILBLAZING LIFE OF JACKIE RONNE. By JOANNA KAFAROWSKI. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2022. ISBN 9781459749535. 304 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., notes, index, appendices. Softbound. Cdn\$25.99. Also available in pdf and e-book format.

Antarctic exploration in the first half of the twentieth century was invariably done by men. Indeed even today, most human activity in Antarctica remains heavily male-dominated. Joanna Kafarowski's *Antarctic Pioneer* seeks to highlight the contribution that one woman made to Antarctic science and exploration. The first book-length biography of Edith "Jackie" Ronne, one of the two women members of the 1947–48 Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition (RARE) to Stonington Island, illuminates the life of an extraordinary and understudied figure in polar history.

RARE has itself received scant attention from scholars. While the expedition commander, Finn Ronne, as well as both women who accompanied their respective husbands to the ice, published accounts of their time in Antarctica, if historians write on American Antarctic history at all, more attention is paid to Finn Ronne's rival, Richard E. Byrd. Kafarowski's book draws on extensive research into Jackie Ronne's life, most notably using papers and interviews drawn directly from Karen Ronne Tupek, the couple's daughter. While the bulk of the text is on Jackie Ronne's experiences with the RARE, the book also discusses her early life and some of the Antarctica-related work she undertook after returning home. Most interesting here was her involvement with the early days of Antarctic cruise ship tourism. Additionally, the author convincingly argues that Jackie Ronne played a major role in the RARE's organization and actively contributed to the scientific and geographical program of the expedition.

Kafarowski's writing is engaging and indeed, it is somewhat shocking that a biography of Jackie Ronne, as one of the two first women to be members of an Antarctic expedition, had not been written before. As a biography aimed at a general audience, it does sometimes veer into hagiography. For instance, as the author acknowledges, Finn Ronne is widely seen as a controversial, indeed polarizing figure, in Antarctic history. Yet there is no serious attempt to engage with this controversy. The Ronne couple are our protagonists and as such, their major critics are silenced or even lightly villainized. Kafarowski includes an extensive bibliography of academic work on the history of women in Antarctica, but perhaps due to her intended audience, does little to actively engage with this scholarship.

Through the book Kafarowski often describes Jackie Ronne as a remarkable or unusual or extraordinary woman. That very well may be—she certainly had an extraordinary life—yet her trip to Antarctica was not the result of her remarkableness; Kafarowski even acknowledges that she only went because her husband organized the expedition and wanted her to go. Women in science were not terribly unusual in this period, and of course Jackie Ronne was not