

The book, in fact, is not a history of the Canadian North from a northern point of view, nor does it claim to be. It does not examine the history of the region from the perspective of its people — certainly not its Native people. Though the photographs that illustrate the book mention some Natives by name, the text hardly deals with them as individuals at all. Rather, the book fulfils the promise of its title. It is a chronicle of the northward expansion of the power and sovereignty of this country, expressing itself in economic development, in the growth of political institutions, and in the effect of these on the region. Perhaps the curious, almost surreal photograph on the dust jacket is meant to symbolize this approach: the man, identified on the cover but not mentioned in the text, stands dressed in a business suit in front of a large airplane, the *Eldorado Radium Silver Express*, which was used in the late 1930s to fly radium concentrates from Great Bear Lake to the nearest railhead. Whether the photograph was taken in the North or South is not clear, and perhaps does not matter. The plane is a powerful symbol of new forces at work in the North and of Canada's determination to develop the region's resources. Northerners are noticeably absent from the picture.

The Northward Expansion of Canada, both by what it includes and by what it omits, will, like the rest of Morris Zaslow's work, no doubt exert a strong influence over the future direction of northern scholarship. It is to be hoped that it will have a similar effect on Canadian historical scholarship generally, drawing the attention of Canada's regional and economic historians to the important issues of northern development and northern life. Zaslow has devoted his career to ensuring that the vast reaches of the Canadian North are given fair treatment by the profession. This book is a strong, convincing statement of that conviction, and a challenge to Canadian historians to give the North its due.

William R. Morrison
Brandon University
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada
R7A 2N9

ALASKA STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS. Edited by GERALD A. McBEATH and THOMAS A. MOREHOUSE. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1987. 339 p.

On 3 January 1959 Alaska became the first state outside the continental United States. Coming into statehood, Alaska brought its own distinguishing features: an extreme northern climate, an area one-fifth the size of the contiguous states (twice the size of Texas), a small population (just over 500 000 people), strong regional loyalties, an influential Native population and valuable oil reserves at Prudhoe Bay. Thus the question: did these features nurture a government and politics different from that of the other 48 states?

McBeath and Morehouse present interesting original essays addressing the problem of distinctiveness and raise other questions about a state that is relatively unknown to most North Americans. The contributors include one historian and eleven political scientists, all of whom have taught in colleges and universities in Alaska; and at the time of publication two were public administrators and one a politician. The book is essentially a text on Alaskan government and politics. It opens with an historical account of the evolution of statehood, going back from Russian interest in the 1700s to struggles with Congress in the 1950s. Chapters then cover the culture of Alaskans and political institutions, such as elections, political parties, interest groups and the press. It culminates with articles on the institutions of government — the governor, the legislature, the administration and the courts. Canadians in particular will be interested in how a federal territory is transformed into a state and how oil revenues influence politics.

Two themes emerge in the book. The first is that Alaska has indeed nurtured a certain distinctiveness with its politics. The geography and climate have engendered a frontier mentality with a strong sense

of rugged individualism. At the same time, however, as the state matures, individual attitudes and institutional procedures seem to become more like those in other states. Electoral behaviour and the role of political parties tend to follow patterns developed in states to the south. Thus, while there are Alaskan features that are distinct, nevertheless, even in the far north characteristics of the governmental process seem to have a certain universality.

A second theme, and perhaps a more interesting one, is that Alaskan society remains very fragmented and polarized on key political issues. One cause of this is linked to the fact that Alaskan culture is dichotomized between a sense of individualism and populism on the one hand and a sense of the collective on the other. For example, Alaskans developed a constitution in which the separation of powers worked: a strong governor checks the legislature and an equally strong legislature can check the executive. At the same time, the people expect powerful legislation on the environment, for instance, which calls for concerted action rather than divided powers.

The fragmentation is also manifested in the urban-rural divisions, as well as in strong ethnic differences. Naturally one would look for a significant centripetal force, a power to counter fragmentation: an individual or institutions to provide an integrative mechanism. The contrary seems to be the case. Societal divisions are reinforced by the instruments of politics. In the federal system, for example, local governments have significant powers and weak political parties enable powerful interest groups to have their way.

According to the authors, governing institutions also offer little to counter the centrifugal forces of faction. With weak political parties the legislature lacks coherence and direction (p. 259). A "sunshine" movement was developed as one way of overcoming the influence of factions in an attempt to open the legislative process. While political campaign funding must now be revealed, little else has happened to make the legislative process more effective.

An especially interesting chapter covers the Alaska courts. The judicial process emerged in the 1950s when two important reforms were being called for: a unified court system and a merit system for selecting judges. Both ideas were incorporated into the Alaska constitution.

Another interesting feature of the court system has been the adoption of the Missouri plan, whereby voters decide on the retention of a judge in office. The process is not an election and does not involve partisan activity on the part of competing judges. But voters do decide if in fact a judge should be retained for an additional term of office.

One criticism of the book may be suggested. As there are distinctive features to the system in Alaska, features such as resource politics or Native politics, why not depart from a textbook approach and include chapters on these topics? In fairness, it should be noted that in chapter 3, on federalism, a great deal of the content is on Native governing powers, and resource politics are touched upon in a number of places. But these issues are not found in the politics of most states and would appear to warrant special coverage.

The book is an excellent work on the Alaskan political process. It is informative, comparative and the right place to start for anyone interested in investigating government and politics in the 49th state.

Mark O. Dickerson
Department of Political Science
The University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2N 1N4

ARCTIC AIR POLLUTION. Edited by B. STONEHOUSE. London: Cambridge University Press, 1987. 328 p. Hardbound. £30.00; US\$49.50.

The Arctic has been both romanticized and feared in poems and storybooks. It stirs both strong empathy and negative feelings in

those who experience it, as well as in those who read about it. Such adjectives as hostile, frigid, barren, pure, beautiful, forbidden, cruel and isolated have been used to describe arctic environments. However, in recent years, the word "polluted" has joined the list of adjectives. Now, one thing the Arctic does not do is generate apathy. If apathy about the arctic pollution exists in the reader, it is probably due to the reader's unawareness of the extent of the industrial pollution that drifts "in patchily with air masses from lower latitudes." One of the first things that this book does is to wake the reader (if unawaken) to the high degree of air pollution that exists in the Arctic and create a real sense of urgency and seriousness. As Len Barrie, of the Atmospheric Environment Service (Canada), states in his paper "Arctic Air Chemistry: An Overview" (the first paper in the book):

The first documented report of Arctic air pollution (coining the term "Arctic haze") was published nearly 30 years ago by Michell (1956).
... The Arctic atmosphere is no longer a pristine environment untouched by man.

Arctic haze has become almost synonymous with arctic air pollution. This is what the book is all about.

This book brings together a series of "edited versions" of the papers presented at the International Symposium on Arctic Air Pollution held at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England, 2-5 September 1985. The conference was attended by scientists from "arctic nations" with deep and vested concern about the pollution of the arctic environment. Lack of Russian participation was very unfortunate in this regard. The papers in this volume focus, as Glenn E. Shaw from the University of Alaska points out in the introduction, on "discussions about the location of pollution sources and transport pathways, climatic influences of Arctic air pollution, and possible effects on human health." It is along these divisions that the book is structured.

The book is divided into four basic parts, each beginning with a short introduction summarizing some of the main points of the papers in that part: Part I — composition, source areas and transport pathways, comprising 6 papers; Part II — local, regional, global, ecological and climatic implications, comprising 8 papers; Part III — health and ecological issues, with 7 papers; and Part IV — international cooperation and state responsibility, making up 6 papers. The book ends with a section on conclusions and recommendations adopted by the participants of the conference.

Part I successfully characterizes the main features of arctic air pollution in terms of meteorological and chemical processes and attempts to establish the reality and seriousness of the pollution. Results of research in Canada, the United States, Sweden and Denmark are summarized, with measurements identifying the composition of the pollution as particulate matter (such as carbon soot and sulphate aerosols) and gases (including sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen). Air pollution becomes particularly acute in the Arctic during the winter season due to strong surface temperature inversions, which effectively prevent vertical dispersion of pollutants originating mainly in industrial areas in lower latitudes, including northern Europe and Russia.

One of the major concerns resulting from air pollution in the Arctic is its impact on regional and global climate. This concern is brought out and discussed in Part II. Significant perturbation of the solar radiation budget due to changes in albedo caused by graphite carbon particles, changes in vertical distribution of atmospheric heating rates caused by presence of arctic haze and upsetting of energy budget in the Arctic due to the increased amount of low clouds induced by haze particles acting as cloud condensation nuclei are presented and assessed.

A unique feature of the Cambridge conference, and therefore of this volume, compared to previous conferences and meetings on arctic air pollution, is the inclusion in Parts III and IV of issues related to impacts of air pollution on human health, ecological systems and processes, as well as political, legal and policy questions and strategies. Part III manages to bring out quite clearly the sus-

ceptibility of human health and the vulnerability of arctic natural ecosystems. The conclusion of Part III seems to be, however, that present observational data indicate very minimal impact on human health and ecological systems. But more data are required to determine the trend in arctic air pollution to assess potential danger.

One of the more interesting aspects of the volume is a discussion on the presence of several radionuclides (including strontium-90 and cesium-137) that could accumulate to potentially dangerous levels, causing health hazards such as cancer. For example, a paper by W.C. Hanson, of Hanson Environmental Research Services, gives a startling (at least to this reviewer) indication of radioactive body burdens in Inuit populations up to "200 times greater than those in human populations of temperate latitudes." Another paper by C.D. Stutzman and D.M. Nelson also addresses the human issues related to radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s and '60s.

Political, legal and policy implications of arctic air pollution are presented in Part IV. Many ideas and opinions are raised in regard to controlling air pollution in the Arctic. For example, Louis Rey, from Comité Arctique Internationale, suggests the possibility of some kind of an international law in a "joint development" with "analytical chemistry [and] dynamic meteorology" to "fingerprint" polluted airmasses and to identify their sources accurately. There is also a call for more international cooperation in scientific research and monitoring of arctic air pollution. Part IV concludes with a short paper by Matthew Bean, of the Association of Village Council Presidents in Alaska, pleading that "something must be done about air pollution" in the Arctic. He ends his presentation by calling on the "Arctic nations, and those other industrial nations whose air pollution is settling in the Arctic, to join with [them] in seeking solutions to this problem of Arctic Haze."

A good summary of the findings from the Cambridge conference is provided by C.C. Wallén (World Meteorological Organization) in Part V. Recommendations and proposals for further research to increase our understanding of arctic air pollution are also presented.

The book, to some extent, achieves its objectives of examining "the problem of Arctic air pollution in an integral, comprehensive and multidisciplinary fashion." However, there are always some difficulties and problems associated with a book composed of a collection of papers written by different authors because of uneven approach, different levels of technical expertise and repetitive (and sometimes conflicting) presentations of observations and definitions. The present volume suffers somewhat from this, mainly because of its multidisciplinary approach. The book is not designed as a textbook, since it lacks synthesis to tie observations and interpretations into a coherent scientific story. It is, however, a very good and informative reference book for those already acquainted with arctic air pollution.

K. Higuchi
Global Biogeochemical Cycles and Climate Research
RAGS Research Section
Air Quality Measurement and Analysis Division
Atmospheric Environment Service
4905 Dufferin Street
Downsview, Ontario, Canada
M3H 5T4

ALASKA'S WILDERNESS MEDICINES: HEALTHFUL PLANTS OF THE FAR NORTH. By ELEANOR G. VIREECK. Illustrations by DOMINIQUE COLLET. Edmonds, Washington: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1987. 107 p., 45 illus., glossary, index, bib. Softbound. Cdn\$12.65; US\$9.95.

This small, attractively presented book, designed for the general public, features 38 types of Alaskan wild plants that are alphabetically ordered by common name and illustrated by black-and-white drawings of each. The author briefly discusses healthful uses of