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## Icebound frontiers of exploitation

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*Statements belonging to the thesis*

**Icebound frontiers of exploitation;  
Networks for whaling in the Polar regions, 1904-1931**

Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson

1. It were not only economic factors that influenced the growth and decline of the modern whaling industry in the polar areas, but also state sovereignty ambitions and geo-politics, as well as technological inventions and the whaling companies' ability to adapt to the environment.
2. Whaling companies designed their stations to cope with the environmental and geographical conditions in the polar areas, and to handle the relative absence of state power there.
3. The combination of the study of written records and material remains in the landscape, is essential to understand why and how the modern whaling industry in the Arctic and Antarctic adapted their activities to changing global markets and political contexts, as well as to the geographical and environmental circumstances in the Polar Regions.
4. The whaling companies used the local environment in more innovative ways in the Antarctic than in the Arctic. In the Antarctic Peninsula, they included large parts of the land- and seascapes into their industrial production systems. (this thesis, chp 9)
5. Technological developments in the modern whaling industry during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was not as linear as it has been described in previous research, but a process of trial and error that involved several innovators and entrepreneurs, developing inventions in a variety of contexts. (this thesis, chp 2)
6. Access to fresh water and sea-ice was crucial for the success of the modern whaling industry in the polar areas; in other words ice is not necessarily only an obstacle to industrial activity, it can also be a resource. (this thesis, chp 9)
7. To improve our knowledge of the whaling industry and its activities in the polar areas, more research is needed on the activities and driving forces behind Soviet and Japanese whaling industry.
8. The after-life of industrial sites in the polar regions, not least whaling stations, is an under studied field of research.