

scholars from fourteen countries. Although small, the historical team was comprised of prominent Arctic historians. They produced several reports that aimed to make history of the Northern Sea Route “an integral chapter of world maritime history” (7). However, after 1999 the project was put on hold, two leading authors died, and it took almost twenty years before the project was revived and resulted in this volume.

The introduction to the book is enriched with the section on natural and climate conditions, with a brief discussion of the climate changes in the Arctic in the past, albeit lacking in-depth review of contemporary debates on the role of climate in the history of the Arctic. In general, climate history is not integrated into the overall historical narrative of Northern Sea Route exploration. Climate appears more profoundly in Part 7, written by a patriarch of Norwegian political science, Willy Østreng. This part is very distinct from the first six historical parts because it aims to bridge the past with the present for shaping the future. At first, the author gives voice to the visionaries from the past, but then jumps into the influence of anthropogenic global warming on shipping going into predictions of future ice reduction. In addition, three more drivers of changes are discussed: shipbuilding innovations, market demand for Russian natural resources, and the growth of piracy along the southern maritime routes. However, the whole possibility of using the North Sea Route is so intrinsically connected with global warming that the ethical question is: should we rejoice or despair in the future of this waterway? In the current political situation, when Russia cancelled most of its international cooperation in the Arctic, has brought additional fundamental unpredictability and desperation.

This book, despite certain limitations, stands as a significant contribution to the global history of the Arctic, and the history of the northern Russian / Soviet space in particular. Targeted primarily at specialists and students of Arctic and Russian studies, it also appeals to a broader audience. Readers would highly benefit from the nicely written summary for the first six parts (403–15) that not only summarizes but also provides cohesive analysis of the diverse historical materials of the chapters themselves. Especially appealing are the very rich and unique set of illustrations and maps, that were thoroughly collected in the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences and several Russian museums. Those who read Russian would benefit from reading this volume together with the collective work under the title *Severnnye morskije puti Rossii* (Northern Seaways of Russia) published in Russia in 2023 by independent publisher Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie (edited by Ksenia Gavrilova and Valeriia Vasilieva), which offers a blend of historical and contemporary perspectives, but in contrast to the volume under review, relies much more on fieldwork in the Russian Arctic.

Ed. Benjamin Beuerle, Sandra Dahlke, and Andreas Renner. *Russia's North Pacific: Centres and Peripheries.*

Russia and the Asia-Pacific, vol. 1. Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Publishing, 2023. vi, 241 pp. Photographs. Tables. Maps. €50.00, hard bound.

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The Russian Far East continues to interest researchers. Currently the region's role has acquired particular importance as a raw material appendage for its closest neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region, especially China. In the era of globalization, this problem is discussed

at various seminars and updated with new publications. The collection *Russia's North Pacific: Centers and Peripheries* was compiled by Benjamin Beuerle, former research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Moscow (DHIM), and Sandra Dahlke, the director of DHIM. Together with Andreas Renner, they initiated "Russia's North Pacific" network project at DHIM. Renner is a historian of eastern Europe and holds the Chair of Russian-Asian Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. This collection was published in the series "Russia's North Pacific Centers and Peripheries."

The initiators set a goal of promoting interdisciplinary research on the problems of Russia's unraveling relations with the Asia-Pacific region. The chapters reflect a rich variety of materials, approaches and conclusions; they confirm that Russia without the Pacific Ocean is no longer Russia, as we know it. Each article in this volume addresses an important area of research relevant to the networking project of the contributors. Particularly noteworthy is the detailed foreword by geographer Paul Richardson, Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Birmingham.

The section, "Environment and Resources," includes four articles. Robert Kindler of the East European history at the Institute for East European Studies at Free University (Berlin), discusses "Troubled Waters: Russo-Japanese Resource Conflicts as a Challenge for Imperial Rule in the Northern Pacific, 1900–1945." He argues that in the past, the Russian Far East was a kind of El Dorado, where various adventurers strove in search of wealth that became the cause of rivalry with Japan. Eisuke Kaminaga at Kokugakuin University (Tokyo) explores the history of Russo-Japanese relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Accordingly, the article "International Fisheries Conflicts in the Bering Sea in the First Half of the Twentieth Century" analyzes the problems of fisheries, which were often accompanied by conflicts.

Benjamin Beuerle in his work "Urban Air Pollution and Environmental Engagement in the Russian Far East: Developments from Late Soviet to Post-Soviet Times (1970s–2010s)" analyzes climate and health care during the Soviet period and the participation of local environmental activists, who played in the 1990s a major role in abandoning the construction of a nuclear power plant in Primorye. At the same time, geographic features that played a big role in the closure of tramlines in Vladivostok are also noted. Additionally, I would add that this was also due to economic reasons—a surge in imports of used cars from Japan. Joonseo Song at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul (South Korea) writes about "Post-Soviet Memory Politics of the Forgotten Victory over Japan in 1945." Song explores the interesting topic of Sakhalin identity that was based on the victory over Japan in 1945, which the authorities use for patriotic purposes.

The second section, "Migration and Transfer," contains two articles. David Wolff, Professor of History at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, describes "Vladivostok and Intourist: Refugee Flows to the North Pacific, 1940–1941," when refugees reached Japan through Vladivostok. Wolff highlights the role of Yukiko Sugihara. He also cites materials in Russian archives. The contribution by Tobias Holzlehner, researcher and lecturer at the Department of Anthropology at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) describes "Life in Ruins: Forced Migration and Littoral Persistence in Chukotka," offering a look at the disasters inflicted on the local population by Moscow.

In the "Representations and Norms" section, there are two articles. Yuexin Rachel Lin, a lecturer in international history at the University of Leeds writes about "Poison Money: The Chinese Ruble Zone in War and Revolution." Natalia Ryzhova, Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at Palacky University, Olomouc (the Czech Republic) is one of the few authors in this collection who lived in the Russian Far East for a long time. She analyzes recent experiments in "The Advanced Special Economic Zones: Over-Politicized Anti-Politics Machine."

The last section, "Tensions and Conflicts," has one article. "The Blagoveshchensk Massacre and Beyond: The Landscape of Violence in the Amur Province in the Spring and Summer of 1900" by Sergey Glebov, Professor of history at Smith College and Amherst College, writes

about the events associated with the Boxer Rebellion and the attack on Blagoveshchensk (1900). This topic is interesting, but it would have helped to trace the general history of the Chinese diaspora in the region. The Afterword: “Of Squids, Truffle-Hunting, and Complicated Relationships” by Willard Sunderland, Henry R. Winkler Professor of Modern History at the University of Cincinnati, reviews “the complexity of the region . . . the distinctive qualities that eventually coalesce to make it into a region, accrue over time through the layering and re-layering of relationships between outsiders and native peoples, first migrants and later ones, Russians and foreigners, old states and new political forms, and between human societies and their physical environments . . .” (236).

This collection contains a lot of theoretical generalizations and the overwhelming majority of materials reflect connections with political science. The authors rightly note that the geographical potential of the Russian Far East is far from being realized. At one time, Siberian regionalists, who were inspired by the creation of the Far Eastern Republic (1920–22), spoke a lot about this. These Siberian regionalists also participated in the last White government in Vladivostok. It is hardly worth talking about the policy of the federal center towards this vast periphery as a space of experimentation and entrepreneurship, except for the annual economic forums held in Vladivostok. Russia’s interaction with its neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region can also be characterized by cyclical events. One can agree with the authors that the region is still limited by the tendency of the center to ignore local characteristics, needs, and knowledge. At the same time, the more the center seeks to establish and strengthen its control, the more its ambitions for the region become increasingly unattainable. This is clearly visible in the economic trends of the region, which often conflict with the needs of the center. The colonial principle of governance completely violates the idea of federalism. At the same time, the Far Eastern territories are slowly dying demographically.

This book would be most useful graduate students and researchers.

Ed. Valerie Hébert. *Framing the Holocaust: Photographs of a Mass Shooting in Latvia, 1941.*

Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2023. xix, 275 pp. Notes. Index. Photographs. \$59.95, hard bound.

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Valerie Hébert has edited a masterful collection that dissects twelve photographs that document a moment in terror and horror from December 15, 1941 in occupied Liepāja. Holocaust studies, from museums to monographs to webpages, often use these photographs to depict the stages of a “killing action” in the “Holocaust of Bullets” that killed around one and a half million Jews before the Nazi regime built the concentration/death camp system. Almost everything about the photographs, however, is challenging. Who took the photographs, why did they take them, who are the perpetrators and victims in the photographs, what do the photographs tell us about the Holocaust, and on a deeper level, should we look at them? Hébert and eight other scholars, a multi-disciplinary cross-section of experts on history, the Holocaust, and photography, weigh in on these debates and provide context to the photographs, to the history of the Holocaust, specifically in Latvia, to a sophisticated analysis of