



In Search for Peace in the Arctic

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INTRODUCTION

The nature of present-day Arctic politics is a rather controversial issue, which polarizes the policymaking and expert communities as well as the mass media. One school of thought—realism/geopolitics—believes that the Arctic is a region pregnant with numerous potential conflicts because of its abundant natural resources that are subjects for the rivalry between the Arctic and non-Arctic powers. The existing disputes between the coastal states on the delimitation of maritime zones and extension of the continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean are the manifestations of the growing conflictual potential in the region (Dugin 2002; Huebert et al. 2012; Lukin 2010; Macalister 2010). For these scholars, military modernization programs implemented by the littoral states is a “solid evidence” of a nascent “resource war” in the High North.¹

On the other hand, there are liberal and globalist schools which believe that the Arctic can be a unique platform for peace and cooperation rather than for competition and confrontation. According to these schools, the Arctic is a “humankind’s heritage” or “common treasury,” which should be preserved not only by the coastal states, but also by the world community at large

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