

SHIBATA, A. ZOU, L., SELLHEIM, N. and SCOPELLITI, M. (eds.) *Emerging Legal Orders in the Arctic. The Role of Non-Arctic Actors*, Routledge (Taylor & Francis), London and New York, 2019, 302 pp.

The important changes experienced by polar regions, determined by the impact of a global phenomenon, which is climate change, have determined that these areas have become central point of interest of scientific studies. This historical change has determined a growing interest in the Arctic region and the challenges and opportunities it faces. From this perspective, the development of legal-political studies on Polar issues has resulted in the emergence of an incipient but already prolific new branch of knowledge, which is Polar Law. Responding to these social interests in a timely manner, Taylor and Francis publishing group has dedicated part of its legal collection to research in Polar Law, which integrates the work under review, presented in a careful and good edition.

As announced from its title and, above all, from its subtitle, *Emerging Legal Orders in the Arctic. The Role of Non-Arctic Actors*, is a collection of necessary and timely essays in the abundant literature on the "Arctic issue", as it is infrequent to find works dedicated exclusively to the role that non-Arctic actors have in the design of politics of the region and its relevance and impact on the configuration of its legal regime.

With this main objective in mind, the work begins with a suggestive introductory note, an authentic chapter, written by its editors, which explains the origins, contents and objectives of the book. This first chapter, fleeing from the simple title of "introduction", chooses the much more suggestive of "An ocean in the making: non-Arctic actors and emerging legal orders". From here, the book is divided into four parts dedicated, respectively, to the context (Part I); the peoples of the Arctic (Part II); the creation of Arctic marine law (Part III) and, finally, the importance of science and the role of the Arctic Council (Part IV).

The important role that Asian actors are currently playing in the design of an Arctic legal-policy and the challenges and concerns that they generate in the Arctic actors, is a stellar element throughout the work. In this sense, Part I is especially monographic at this respect - Chapter 3 by A. Tonami, on "The rise of Asia and Arctic legal order-making: political-economic settings"; Chapter 4 "Japan's role in formation and strengthening of Arctic legal orders" by K. Ide; 5, "China's Arctic policy white paper and its influence on the future of Arctic legal developments", by E.T. Nielsson and B.M. Magnússon- although Part I also contains the remarkable Chapter 2 "The current and future role of non-Arctic states in Arctic governance", where T. Koivurova exposes with his usual didactic clarity the general panorama of the question under study, with special attention to the developments that occur in various fora, with particular emphasis in the Arctic Council.

But despite the fact that there is a majority presence of Asian authors or based in Asian countries, the focus of interest of the work greatly overflows the issue of the relationship between Asia and the Arctic. Thus, Part II contains the direct vision of the Arctic peoples with the study of the Inuit leader D.S. Dorough "Our homeland: Arctic Indigenous

peoples' perspectives on non-Arctic States” (Chapter 6) complemented by the relevant and very interesting analysis, conducted by M. Scopelliti and N. Sellheim “Sustaining a Conservationist Agenda ? : NGO influence on Arctic sealing, whaling and hydrocarbon regimes ”(Chapter 7) that deals with activities which are in the focus of Arctic indigenous communities.

The balance of the contents of Part III - “Arctic marine legal order-making” - between chapters 8 and 9 dedicated to fisheries –J. Morishita “The Arctic Five-plus-Five process on central Arctic Ocean fisheries negotiations: reflecting the interests of Arctic and non-Arctic actors” and E. Molenaar “Participation in the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement” - and the other two dedicated to navigation –R.G. Bertelsen “The role of transnational knowledge networks and epistemic communities in Arctic shipping governance” (10) and L. Zou “Russia's legislative development pertaining to Northern Sea Route and its interactions with Sino-Russian Arctic cooperation” - is particularly noteworthy, focusing on activities that are central for the economic interest of non-Arctic actors in the region.

Finally, Part IV on “The universality of science and the Arctic Council”, with the chapters of A. Shibata “The Arctic Science Cooperation Agreement: a perspective from non-Arctic Actors” (12); S. Knecht and J. Spence, “State Observers and science cooperation in the Arctic: same same but different? (13) and 14 and final, on “China in the Arctic Council: existing problems and prospective solutions”, by Y. Ren, is particularly novel in terms of the role developed by scientific cooperation in the development of legal regimes in the Arctic and the critical study of both the recent Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation (2017) and the relevance of scientific cooperation to achieve the role of observer in the Arctic Council and even the scientific diplomacy developed by China in the region.

The work under review is the final and successful outcome of the international symposium “The Role of Non-Arctic States / Actors in the Arctic legal Order Making” which was convened at the Polar Cooperation Research Center (PCRC), Kobe University, Japan. The symposium and this book were partially supported by JSPS KAK-ENHI Grant number 16H03551 entitled “Emerging Legal Orders in the Arctic” (PI: A. Shibata) and grant number 15K12970 entitled “International Polar Law in the Making” (PI: A. Shibata) but, despite being a collection of papers product of such an event, it is particularly remarkable the general coherence of the work and the balance of its contents, which is undoubtedly the result of the good editing work done by its four editors and, particularly, by Professor A. Shibata, lead editor and principal investigator of the Arctic research Project: ArCS (Arctic Challenge for Sustainability, 2015-2020), which in turn funds Kobe PCRC. In this same vein, the choice of well known authors' contributions, together with those of early career scholars, whose considerations open the door to new challenges and disturbing dilemmas, is clearly a good idea by the editor team.

Therefore, this work is a must for any student of Polar Law, halfway between Law and International Relations. But beyond its academic and research use, the topics addressed by this work, very timely and with an undoubted future perspective, make the commented book an essential resource for institutions, fora –such as Arctic Council-, organizations – such as EU- and State's Foreign Departments.

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