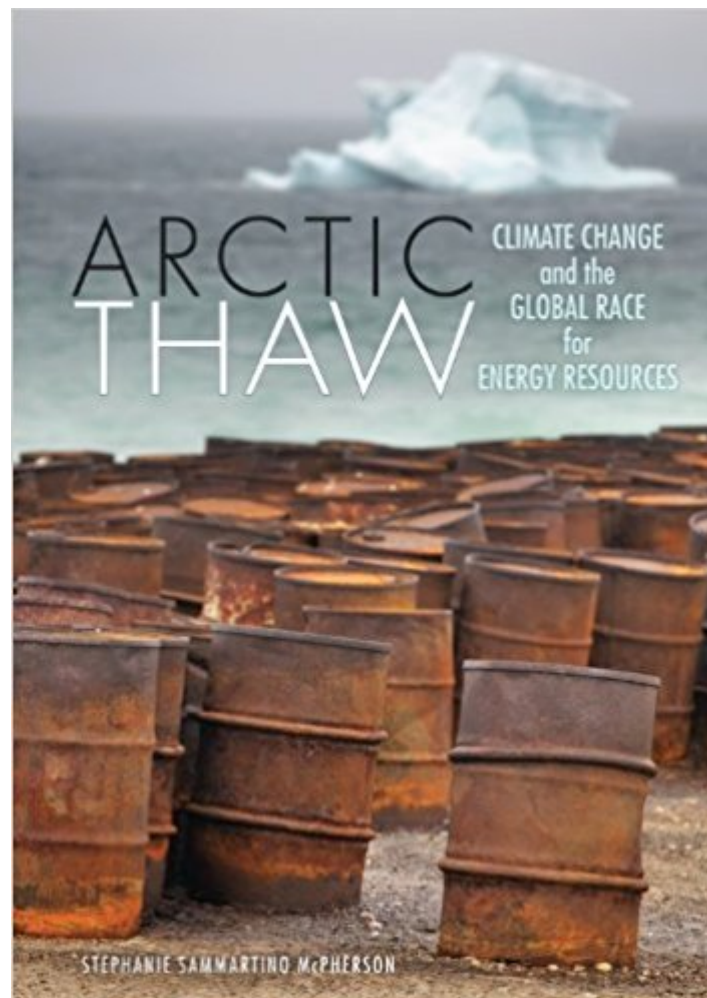




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Arctic Thaw: Climate Change And The Global Race For Energy Resources



Synopsis

Ice in the Arctic is disappearing and opportunity is calling. As climate change transforms the top of the world, warmer conditions are exposing a treasure trove of energy resources previously trapped in ice. The Arctic's oil, natural gas, minerals, and even wind and hydroelectric power are becoming more accessible than ever before. With untold riches hanging in the balance, the race is on to control the Arctic and its energy potential. Oil companies vie for drilling rights that go to the highest bidder. Nations around the globe whether they're on the Arctic's doorstep or half a world away hope to claim territory for themselves. And the indigenous peoples who have called this region home for thousands of years are determined to be on the ground floor of its development. But the Arctic's new possibilities come with grave risks. The pursuit of oil and natural gas threatens to further damage the Arctic's fragile ecosystems and accelerate global warming worldwide. International disputes over who owns which pieces of the Arctic could bring countries to the brink of war. The fate of the entire planet may hinge on how far people are willing to go to tap and control the Far North's energy resources. From oil rigs to military bases, the Arctic has never before hosted so many warring interests, and the stakes have never been so high. Join Stephanie Sammartino McPherson on a journey to the Far North to explore the energy controversies that will decide the future of the Arctic and of the earth.

Book Information

Library Binding: 64 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (August 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467720437

ISBN-13: 978-1467720434

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.5 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,168,867 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up - An important case study and source of current information for serious students of

climate change. Drawing almost exclusively from recent documents and news reports, McPherson surveys the ambitious, conflicting, and increasingly hostile claims that the major countries circling the Arctic have made on the polar region's major oil and gas resources. Along with showing how melting ice has already opened both the Northwest (over Canada) and the Northeast (over Russia) Passages to shipping, she frankly explores the ecological and economic challenges faced by indigenous peoples and by Greenland, which is inching its way toward independence over vast and increasingly accessible reserves of oil, rare earths, and other potentially lucrative natural resources. The author closes with a consideration of sources of renewable energy, including Russia's potentially alarming plan to build multiple floating nuclear reactors in Arctic waters, and generous lists of relevant print and web documents. Revealing maps and small but often telling color photos underscore the idea that serious climate change isn't just coming to this region; it has already arrived.

—John Peters, Children's Literature Consultant, New York City

Stephanie Sammartino McPherson wrote her first children's story in college. She enjoyed the process so much that she's never stopped writing. A former teacher and freelance newspaper writer, she has written twenty-eight books and numerous magazine stories. She especially enjoys writing about science and the human interest stories behind major discoveries. Her most recent book is a biography of Tim Berners-Lee, who invented the World Wide Web. Stephanie and her husband Richard live in Virginia but also call California home. They are the parents of two grown children.

Didn't have as much interesting information as expected and too short.

It was a struggle beneath the frigid waters of the North Pole as the crew of the Russian Sub, the Mir II, was sure to perish if they couldn't find a little patch of open water. The mission was a success, but was planting a flag on that seabed worth dying for? Perhaps. After a harrowing search, they found that open patch and emerged victorious. Their little flag sparked a huge controversy because simply planting a flag certainly didn't mean the Russians could claim the North Pole as their own. No one would want that patch of ice, but on the other hand, there were untold riches that could be had if they were able to say "it's mine!" Just why was everyone anxious to add to their coffers beneath the ice? The controversy was actually quite simple. No one nation was considered to be the sole owner of the North Pole. Rather, it was a

territory that belonged to all nations. Yes, there were untold riches beneath the ice, but they certainly didn't belong to the first nation planting their flag on a seabed. Every nation was determined to gain access to valuable metals, minerals, gems and, above all, the vast deposits of oil and natural gas beneath the Arctic Ocean. Due to global warming, the ice cap around the North Pole has been melting, opening up trade routes and ways to access those much wanted resources. The cost of easy accessibility to fossil fuels could have dangerous consequences. The burning of these fuels will cause even more greenhouse gases to be released, hastening climate change. The Arctic Sea was changing as a result of climate change and ships began to traverse the once treacherously Northwest passage, yet some have concerns. The inherent dangers are obvious, but some feel "unwanted invaders" organisms from elsewhere in the world will disrupt the existing ecosystems. The fight was on and Canada entered the ring, laying claim to the pole. Just how far will nations go to stake their claims? Which nations have a right to stake them or does any of them? This is a fascinating overview of the quest for riches in the North Pole and its potential consequences. Of course many believe that the North Pole belongs to no one person or nation. The benefits of ownership tend to trump that idealistic thought and have sparked tremendous controversy around the globe. Young people will not only be fascinated by the brouhaha, but also the science relative to global warming, fossil fuels, and alternative energy sources, all discussed in this book. The book is very well-written and the discussion of topics is well-structured. We also learn about such things as the possible fate of indigenous peoples, Greenland's problems, the Law of the Sea Treaty, Alaska's untapped resources, and more. In the back of the book is an index, a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, and additional recommended book and website resources to explore. This book courtesy of the publisher.

A mixture of attention-grabbing narratives and journalist-like headlines. Pro-environment slant. Arctic Thaw reads like a book-length National Geographic article (a very short book). Good graphics such as maps of the arctic region. A good introduction to environmental issues in the arctic and climate change, but lacks depth and relies on news articles and web sites for its sources.

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The Anthropology of Climate Change: An Integrated Critical Perspective (Routledge

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