

in the area, namely Norway and Russia, and concerns the location of the maritime boundary in the Barents Sea. The second, on the other hand, involves considerably more parties, as it relates to the application of the 1920 treaty concerning Spitsbergen and the archipelago of Svalbard. The fundamental question here is whether the special regime provided by that treaty, which grants all contracting parties equal rights to exploit the resources in the area defined by it, also applies to the maritime zones that only emerged in international law at a later stage (continental shelf, fishery, or exclusive economic zone). The importance of this latter question will be easily understood. Either the treaty does apply to these newly created zones, which means that the contracting parties to the 1920 treaty have equal rights to exploit the resources present far beyond the limits of the territorial sea, or it is not applicable, in which case the absolute and full sovereignty that Norway possesses over the archipelago also entails its sovereign rights with respect to the resources of these novel maritime zones. Besides these legal questions, the book also addresses two management issues before reaching conclusions. As the authors state, the Barents Sea has one major actual and one potential natural resource of significance, namely fish on the one hand and oil and gas deposits on the other. Two separate chapters are devoted to the ways in which these resources have so far been managed by Norway and Russia.

The authors, both lawyers, are renowned experts not only on general law-of-the-sea matters, but especially on the specific topics of interest for this study (fisheries, Svalbard, etc.), as evidenced by their previous publications. The book aims at a wide public, to be found in the academic world as well as among practitioners. An introductory chapter provides the reader with a concise physical description of the area (oceanography, geography, natural resources, military and strategic significance). General remarks on the law of the sea are made in order for non-lawyers to be able to follow the discussion (such as discussions of the different maritime zones, of the law relating to maritime boundary delimitation, and other important topics). The book is well illustrated with maps and figures.

As far as the two basic legal topics — which, it should be remembered, are issues that have been on the international agenda for quite some time now — the authors justify their present analysis because previous studies have been mostly undertaken by non-lawyers, have been written in other languages, or have been highly partisan in nature. The authors intend to add a ‘thorough, sustained and reasonably detached analysis’ to the existing knowledge. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this objective has been met in full. After an extended and rigorous analysis, the authors provide the reader with some suggestions as to how to answer these intricate judicial questions.

If this is a most useful exercise with respect to the application of the Svalbard treaty, the elaborated section on the delimitation principle to be applied in theory to the

maritime boundary in the area (pages 69–80) appears to be of scant practical interest. As the authors remark more than once, the ultimate rule of thumb in delimitation matters, unless the parties agree to settle their dispute by means of third-party settlement (international arbitration or court), is that parties may agree on any boundary they wish (pages 60, 83, 89). It is very doubtful that Russia would today, or in the near future, be willing to submit a boundary dispute to a third-party settlement procedure. The two chapters on the management of the fisheries and oil potential in the area are most informative and provide the reader with an in-depth and updated state of affairs. Moreover, the necessary links are laid between the different chapters allowing the authors to draw sound conclusions and make useful suggestions in their concluding chapter.

Thus, this book certainly stands out as a major contribution to the present-day knowledge and understanding of the conflicting interests reigning in the Baltic Sea. It is a useful source of information for all those interested in this geographical area of the globe as well as for specialists in the different fields touched upon by the authors. At the same time it provides useful comments for reflection by decision-makers, be it in Norway or Russia. If some criticism has to be voiced, it would relate to the reference and use made of former Soviet legislation. Sometimes the enactments referred to and qualified as ‘current Soviet legislation’ have been superseded by later enactments (for example, chapter 1, note 25, about which a later law on the state boundary was enacted in 1982), and sometimes relevant later enactments appear not to have been included in the analysis (for example, in chapter 5, the June 1990 Decree on Intensifying Nature Protection in Areas of the Extreme North and Marine Areas Adjacent to the Northern Coasts of the USSR was not included in the section on the Soviet legal regime). (Erik Franckx, *Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel, Belgium.*)

BROTHERS: THE POLITICS OF VIOLENCE AMONG THE SEKANI OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA. Guy Lanoue. 1992. Oxford: Berg Publishers. 235 p, maps, hard cover. ISBN 0-85496-746-X.

This ambitious ethnography is the first substantial work to address the history, social organisation, and contemporary living conditions of the Sekani Indians since Diamond Jenness visited their homeland at the headwaters of the Peace River in 1924. Lanoue’s account, based on 19 months of fieldwork in two settlements, is supported by extensive archival research and enlivened by occasional reflections on classical sociological theory (especially Marx, Durkheim, and Parsons).

The book is attractive because it is well-rounded. At the outset, a chapter entitled ‘A day at McLeod Lake’ gives a literary but sober account of the ambivalent manner in which Sekani men and women seek each other’s company or cautiously avoid each other. This is framed on the one hand by descriptions of the severe dislocating effects

brought on by the flooding of the Sekani traditional lands in 1968, and on the other by a detailed historical account of Sekani social groupings, ranging from local hunting bands in the nineteenth century to regional and 'Pan-Indian' forms of organisation in the twentieth century. Lanoue unites these disparate levels of organisation through the concept of 'brotherhood' — a category that contemporary Sekani use to indicate their shared solidarity with their hunting partners, domestic partners, or Indian neighbours, depending on the social context. Lanoue convincingly demonstrates how this middle-range concept has been developed and refined in reaction to both early fur-traders and modern forestry workers to produce a uniquely Sekani approach to their own identity. This allows Lanoue to present and then transcend standard approaches that analyze a group's demography, level of technology, participation in the cash economy, and intensity of land use, in order to assess social cohesiveness.

The main argument about brotherhood as a distinctive notion of social organisation would be sufficient to create a solid ethnography of the Sekani. Lanoue adds to this an intriguing hypothesis about the origins and meaning of high rates of violence among the Sekani. Far from seeing violence as being a sign of the disintegration of Sekani society, Lanoue argues that it is a marker of the creative process by which new social boundaries are being formed. Unfortunately, this insight is only loosely connected to the historical discussion and the fieldwork account, remaining a little vague in the mind of the reader.

This is an excellent source book on the people and history of northern British Columbia and is a welcome addition to a growing literature on the ethnography of the sub-Arctic regions of western Canada. For the upper-level undergraduate and graduate student it will clarify debates on Athapaskan bands, continuity and change within kinship systems, the origins of ethnicity and nationalism, and the dynamics of Canadian Indian politics; it will also be a case study of the problems of northern economic development. (David G. Anderson, Department of Social Anthropology, New Museums Site, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ.)

SEA MAMMALS AND OIL: CONFRONTING THE RISKS. Joseph R. Geraci and David J. St Aubin (editors). 1990. San Diego: Academic Press. xvi + 282 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-12-280600-X. \$65.00 (US).

This book is a compilation of essays by different authors on specific groups of marine mammals, but is organised so that the whole forms a cohesive unit. The main body of the book is arranged in pairs of chapters. The first of each set provides behavioural, ecological, and dietary information on (in order) pinnipeds (seals, fur seals, sealions, and walrus), cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), sea otters, polar bears (which are included because it is argued that they are sea mammals in terms of their ecology), and manatees; the second deals with the physiological and toxic effects of oil. In this respect, the scope of the book

is far greater than its title suggests, and it serves as a good general introduction to sea mammal range and distribution, habitats, feeding patterns, and thermoregulatory mechanisms, which may be of a value that is quite independent of their relevance to oil spillage. A drawback to this approach, however, is that a good part of the book does not deal directly with the effects of oil on sea mammals, although it does provide the means by which those effects may be understood.

In addition to the complimentary pairs of chapters are introductory essays on the biochemistry of hydrocarbons and spill-treating agents, and on an analysis of computer modelling to predict the effects of oil spillage on specific sea mammal populations. I found both chapters helpful as introductions, but I would have liked a little more depth, particularly in the chapter on the composition and effects of petroleum. For example, there is only one paragraph on the effects of oil dispersants on marine mammals, although it is often suggested that dispersants may have more deleterious effects than spilled oil. To be fair, the writer makes points that are stressed throughout the book: that research is still at an early stage, and that there remains much that is not yet understood or that has not yet been assessed.

Chapters 3 and 4 deal with pinnipeds, although only North American pinnipeds are considered in chapter 3. Chapter 4, by David J. St Aubin, catalogues 29 incidents of oil spills or discharges from the late 1940s to the *Exxon Valdez* disaster in March 1989, giving for each the species of pinnipeds involved and how they were affected. Some of the more serious incidents are then considered in more detail. St Aubin concludes that there has never been a large-scale mortality of pinnipeds that can be attributed directly to oil fouling, and that those animals that have been observed in direct contact with oil appear to have suffered little or no serious effects. However, St Aubin notes that oil spillage may present an increased risk to animals with pre-existing diseases, in unfavourable habitats, competing with other species for resources, or exposed to unusual environmental conditions. Because of the difficulty in long-term studies of affected animals, there is no data on bioaccumulation of heavy metals associated with hydrocarbon ingestion.

St Aubin raises the question as to whether pinnipeds avoid or detect contaminated areas, quotes data from studies analysing their sense of smell and sight, and presents evidence from eyewitness accounts that show that some animals actively avoided contaminated areas, while others did not. This issue is taken up in chapter 6 by Joseph R. Geraci, who quotes his own research into oil detection and avoidance with bottlenose dolphins that were able to see oil slicks in laboratory conditions. When oil was placed on the surface of one of the dolphins' holding tanks, results indicated that they preferred to avoid it by surfacing in adjacent tanks with clean water. Contrary to this are eyewitness accounts of whales and dolphins swimming and feeding in contaminated areas. This contradiction is