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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; List of Illustrations; List of Maps; Acknowledgements; Foreword; Preface; Introduction; The Arctic Arena; Thickness matters; Coming in from the cold; An alarming opportunity; The barking dog; Tipping point; Frozen Assets; Russian company; Lamp oil and corsets; Cod wars; Striking it rich; A state within a state; Turning off the gas; A different ball game; The Law of the Sea; An altruistic tradition; Going to the ball; Within cannon shot; Rights of passage; On the shelf; Who owns the North Pole?; A Russian fist; Significant geology; Fishing for facts Ice bears that go bump in the nightRights of access; Cold Warfare; 'The most valuable piece of real estate in NATO'; A helping hand; Island of the donkey's ears; The sailor Czar; Krushchev's herrings; A hint of violence; Wakening bear; The silent service; Polar snapshots; Coming up for air; East by North; 'As plausible as the English Channel'; Gin on the rocks; Wishful thinking; Spared the gallows; Logistical nightmare;

Filling in the blanks; 'The man who ate his boots'; Dip circle; Creating a Victorian legend; Home from home; Ice trap; No English gentleman...; 'My mission on earth'

Two skeletons, some chocolate and little teaGoing native; Short Cuts; First night; Canalside view; Second time unlucky; Bolsheviks in Cold Waters; With Stalin's compliments; Wonderland; Wishful thinking; 'Strength through joy' for Stakhanovites; The Bakayev plan; Arctic gateway; Atomic relations; Czar Bomba; Half-life; 'You get used to it'; Breaking the Ice; A nuclear pioneer; Out of the ordinary; A difficult birth; Atomic takeover; A polar giant; Back to front; Nuclear tourism; 'Water where it didn't use to be'; Ottawa's bribe; Polar attitudes; North-West Passage; Inuit know-how

An icebreaking leviathanArctic surgery; Pyrrhic victory; 'Inflamed nationalists'; The 'arctic exception'; 'Use it or lose it'; A political voice; Mackenzie's oil; What the whales will hear; Arctic bridge; Not just polar bears; North-East Passage; Baffling statistics; Ice cellar; Late developer; No need to queue; Second refusal; Practical doubts; Turn of the tide; Living on borrowed time; Eco-tourism; Conquest and assimilation; Great expectations; 'A resource base for the twenty-first century'; Ice shuttle; Mother of all icebreakers; Across the Top of the World; Changing course; Reality check

Hidden beautyMeltdown; Alarm call; Abruptness; From meltdown to shutdown?; Possible Outcomes; Double negative; Dangerous waters; Shipping forecast; Northern Poll; A Chronology; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The Arctic: land of ice and the midnight sun; irresistible goal for explorers and adventurers; enduring source of romance and mystery - and now also a poignant and imperative indicator of the impact of climate change. As the ice cap shrinks, the geography of the entire arctic region changes: clear shipping channels replace immovable ice and inaccessible oil resources become available. What are the long-term consequences of these cataclysmic changes - not only environmental but also political and social? How will the lives of those who depend on the natural resources of the Arctic
