# *Arctic Geopolitics*

Is the Arctic destined for conflict, or can cooperation prevail? This timely book explores the complex interplay of security, geography, and regions in the Arctic. Moving beyond simplistic narratives of geopolitical rivalry, it offers a nuanced, multilevel analysis of state security practices, foreign policies, and regional cooperation across distinct subregions. Challenging conventional notions of 'regions' and re-evaluating the role of geographic proximity, it provides fresh insights into how states engage with their neighbours. It also explores the enduring relevance of geography in international relations, demonstrating how the concept of an 'Arctic region' can be a powerful framework but also rests on some false assumptions. Essential for scholars, students, and policymakers, *Arctic Geopolitics* reshapes our understanding of security dynamics in the Arctic and beyond. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

ANDREAS ØSTHAGEN is the Research Director for Arctic and Ocean Politics at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway's leading foreign affairs institute concerned with Arctic issues. He comes from the Norwegian Arctic and has worked on explaining the complexities of Arctic geopolitics for more than a decade, across different continents. He is frequently used as a commentator on Arctic issues by the BBC, CNN, and the *Economist*. He holds a PhD from the University of British Columbia in Canada and a MSc from the London School of Economics in the UK, is also a Fellow at Harvard University, a Senior Advisor at the High North Center in Bodø, and teaches at Oslo New University.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:59:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009743358

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:59:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009743358

# Arctic Geopolitics

## A Subregional Approach to Security and Geography

ANDREAS ØSTHAGEN
*Fridtjof Nansen Institute*

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:59:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009743358

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009743341
DOI: 10.1017/9781009743358

© Andreas Østhagen 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009743358 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009743358

First published 2026

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*
Names: Østhagen, Andreas author
Title: Arctic geopolitics : a subregional approach to security and geography / Andreas Østhagen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway.
Other titles: Subregional approach to security & geography
Description: First edition. | New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2026. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2026016748 (print) | LCCN 2026016749 (ebook) |
ISBN 9781009743341 Hardback | ISBN 9781009743310 Paperback |
ISBN 9781009743358 eBook
Subjects: LCSH: Geopolitics – Arctic regions | Security, International – Arctic regions | Arctic regions – Strategic aspects | Arctic regions – Government policy – United States | Arctic regions – Government policy – Norway | Arctic regions – Government policy – Russia (Federation) | Arctic regions – Government policy – China
Classification: LCC G615 .S74 2026 (print) | LCC G615 (ebook) |
DDC 320.1/209113–dc23/eng/20260608
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026016748
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026016749

ISBN 978-1-009-74334-1 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-74331-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:59:41, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009743358