

CRISIS IN THE ARCTIC:

THE NEW COLD WAR?

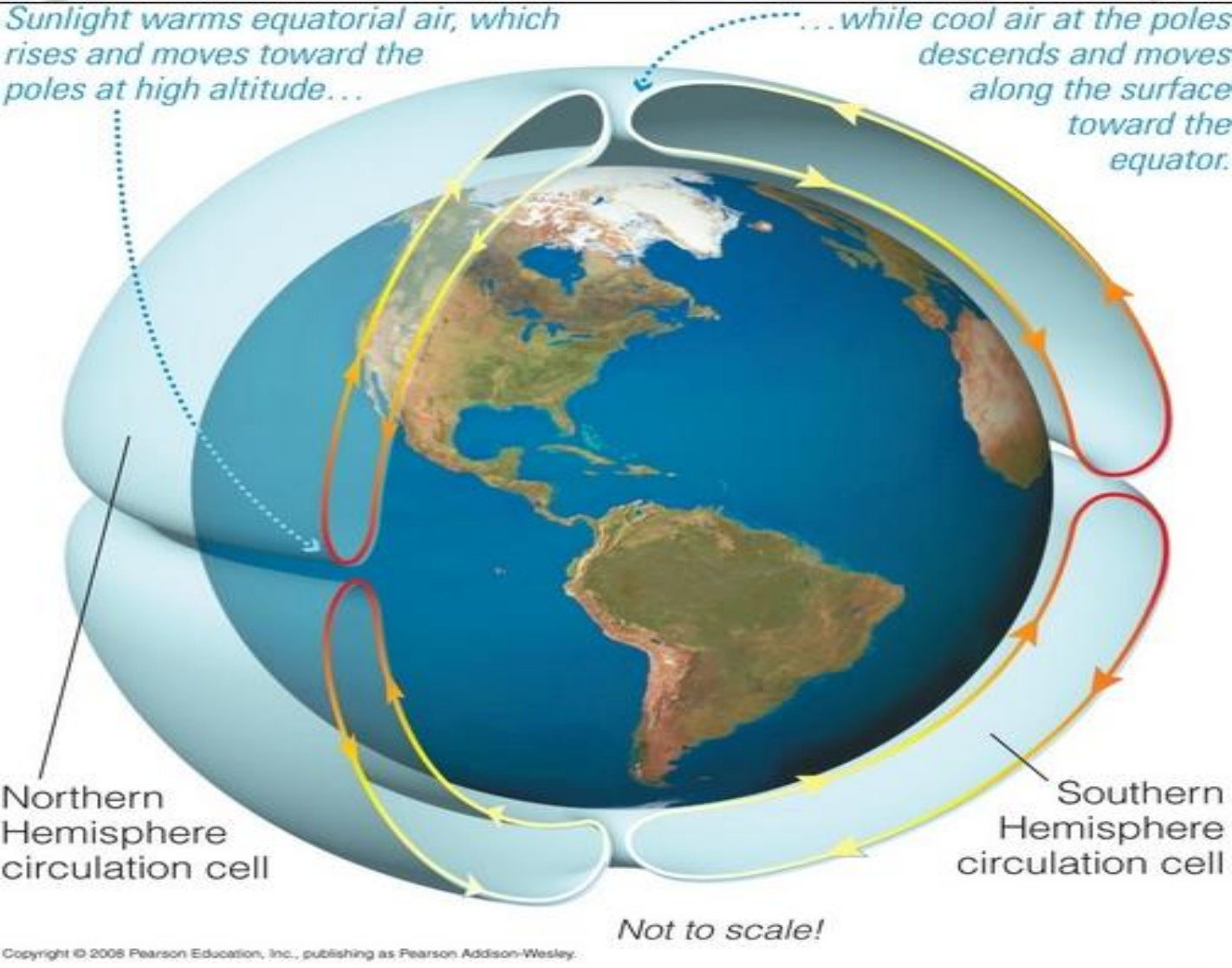


Why Should We Care What Happens in the Arctic?



Because the Arctic is Earth's Air Conditioner

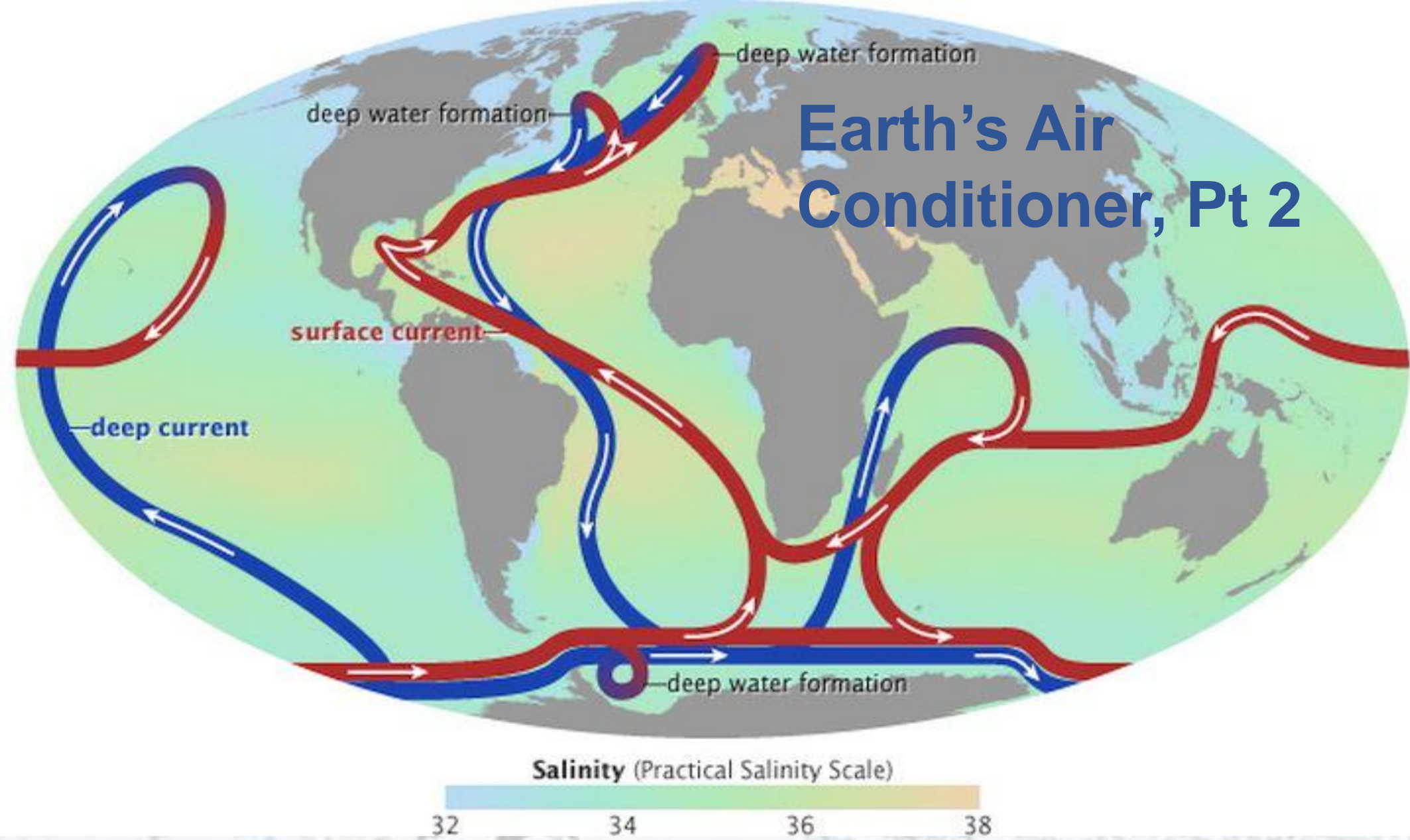
Albedo...



Heat sink...

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Earth's Air Conditioner, Pt 2



However...

Economic Impetus to Mess With Planet Earth & Mother Nature

(Technology is not always our friend!)

Transportation: Finally, a Shorter Route from Europe to the
“Orient” / “Indies”

Resources: Metals and Strategic Metals Mining, Oil, Gas,
Wind, Tidal, Geothermal. Etc.

Agriculture: More land opened to Farming... and ??

Now add a Political & Military Impetus

There are Political & Military Benefits To Exploiting / Controlling The Arctic

The Arctic is the ultimate High Ground

What happens there could change the Balance of Power worldwide

Why Should We Care What Happens in the Arctic?



What Do We Mean When We Say “The Arctic”?



Conflicting Definitions



- The area north of Latitude 66° 34' N, where the sun does not set on the summer solstice & does not rise on the winter solstice.
- Average daily summer temperature does not rise above 50 F.
- Where trees can grow

Using 66° 34' N...

- ...There are 6 nations whose 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone gives them a right to negotiate what happens in “the Arctic” – and 2 more nations without littoral access but which are considered “Arctic region nations.”



Russia is Hastening Ice-Free Territorial Waters

- The shortest route
- The planet “may” be harmed but that’s tomorrow. Today Russia gains ascendancy.
- Their business. Until it isn’t...
- All nations – led by Arctic Council / US



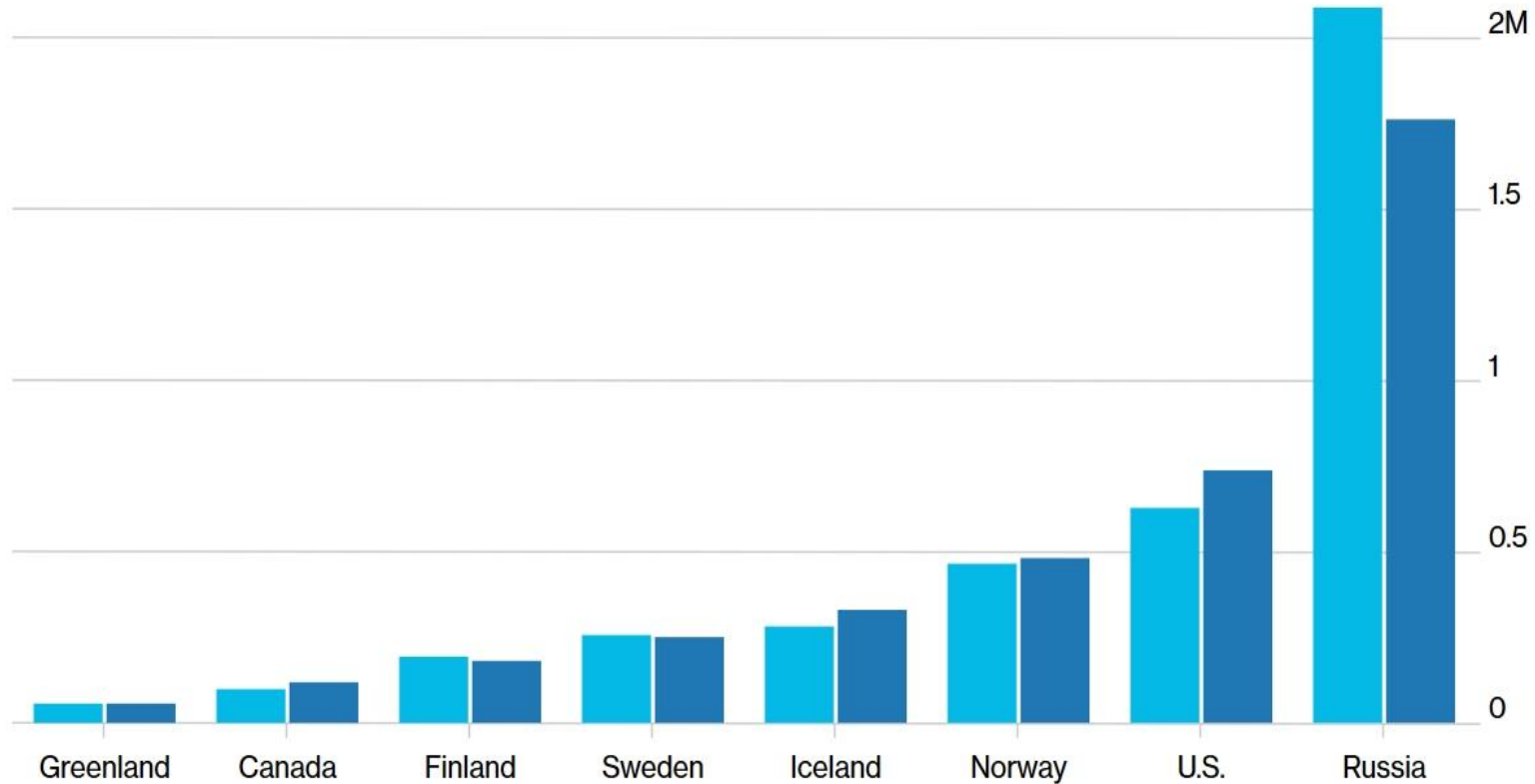
Russia Stakes its Claim to the Arctic

- Russia believes it should have the most important voice at the table since it has the most miles of Arctic coastline and the most “residents” within the Arctic Circle.
- Russia’s 9-dash line re foreign warships?

Arctic Population

Country's Population Within Arctic Areas

■ 2000 ■ 2015



Source: Timothy Heleniak, "Arctic Populations and Migration," [Arctic Human Development Report](#)

Winners of Russia's "Northern Sea Route"

- Current distance between East Asia and Western Europe using the Suez Canal: 13,125 miles.
- Distance across a de-iced Arctic: 8,000 miles.
- Time saved: 10-15 days at sea per vessel. Plus fuel savings, less frequent dry dock time, etc.
- Russia will be the toll-taker and sell more of its own Arctic gas, oil, metals, timber, etc.
- China deploys profits from US & other consumers into financing Russian infrastructure
- Shipping firms and manufacturers / exporters

If All Goes Smoothly for Russia...

- Russia sells more oil, gas, timber, metals, etc.
 - 30% of Russia's GDP comes from the Arctic region
- Russian icebreakers must be hired as pilot vessels
- Only Russian ships may carry fuels in or from the Route.
- For now, the only ice-free route is through Russian territorial waters.



You Need All-Weather Infrastructure and Human Habitation to Make it Work

All Arctic nations get this.

Russia is rapidly expanding its massive infrastructure projects.



Murmansk



Losers of Russia's Arctic Gamble

- Panama – no change
- Egypt – Biggest change
- Singapore, Malaysia, Southeast Asian economies
- Mediterranean and Mideast ports & repair facilities
- Azores, Canary Islands, other trans-shipment points
- Canada may well feel the pressure to ice-break the Northwest Passage Route
- Likely damage to Arctic ecosystem & wildlife
 - Bigger than economics or politics!

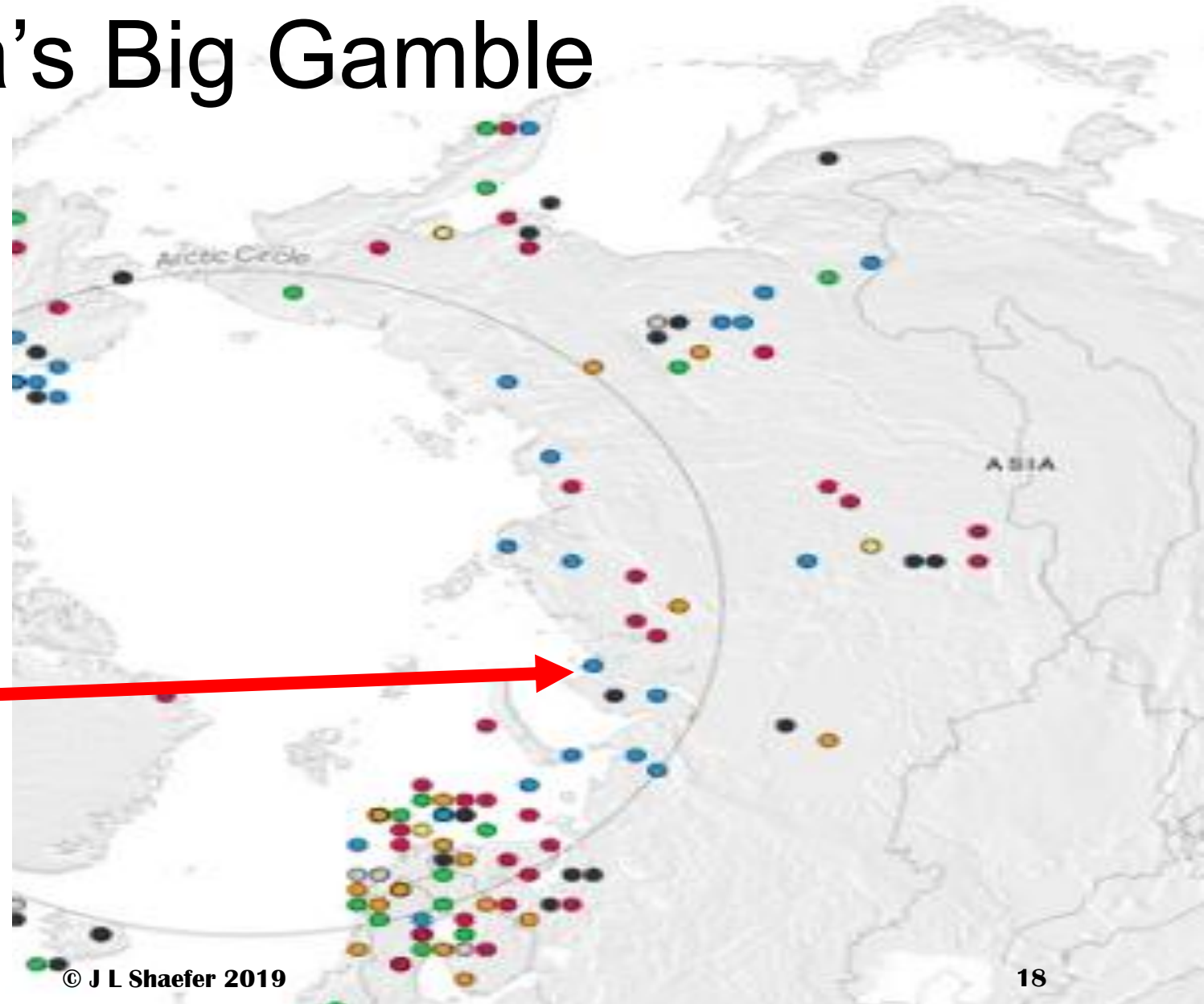
Development in the Arctic

From roads to new mines, these are some of the largest projects on each country's wish list, according to Guggenheim Partners:

■ Transportation ■ Fossil Fuel Energy ■ Renewable/Nuclear Energy ■ Mining ■ Power ■ Economic ■ Civic

Russia's Big Gamble

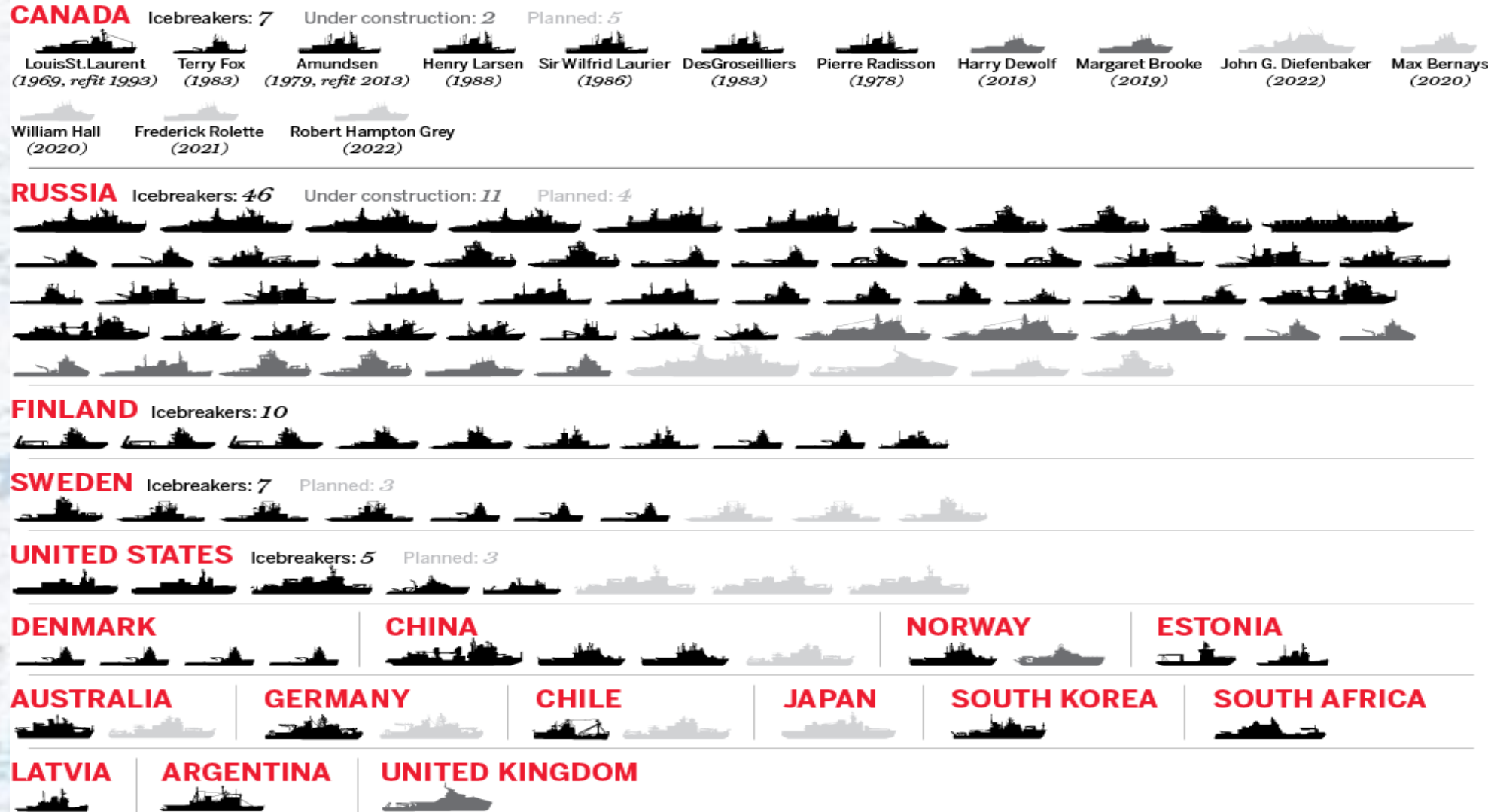
- Russia's resources are disproportionately in The Arctic (30% of Russian GDP)
- Planning MORE dependence upon extractive industries.
- Example -- \$27 billion liquefied natural gas plant (Yamal LNG) built with a \$13 B loan from China – for a 30% stake.
- Russian icebreakers must constantly break the ice. The sea is dark. So is sludge.



Who is Most Serious About Controlling the Arctic?

THE WORLD'S ARCTIC ICEBREAKERS*

The Canadian Coast Guard's aging icebreaker fleet, with an average age of over three decades, is in need of replacement. Here is how Canada's icebreaker fleet compares to the rest of the world.



*Vessels not considered capable of independent arctic operation were omitted. Vessel outlines reflect relative sizes.
 www.dco.uscg.mil © J L Shafer 2019

- Number of icebreakers by nation...

Who is Most Serious About Owning it All?

- Countries with deep pockets & big ambitions ...
- 2017 Chinese Arctic white paper: “China is a near-Arctic State.” The Polar Silk Road is now part of OBOR.
- With a Straight Face: All nations should have complete access to these international waters.



The Dragons are Circling

- Xinhua: “The Yamal LNG project, jointly developed by China and Russia, is expected to...open up the Arctic waterway for China.”
- Xinhua: “This passage through the Arctic Circle is called the “Silk Road on Ice.””



“The Arctic belongs to all the people around the world, as no nation has sovereignty over it. . . . China must play an indispensable role in Arctic exploration as we have one-fifth of the world’s population.” -- Admiral Zhou

Charm initiative: loans, joint infrastructure development, investments and increased trade promises for Arctic states.

What is the United States' Arctic Policy ?

Until recently...

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The Russian Military Buildup

- Dmitry Rogozin, deputy prime minister of Russia & director of Putin's Government Commission for Arctic Development, has called the 1867 sale of Alaska a “betrayal of Russian power status” and has said that the Kremlin has “a right to reclaim our lost colonies.”



Nature Abhors a Vacuum

- In order to secure this economic bonanza, Putin has overseen a massive Russian military buildup in the Arctic
- Fortunately, every nation ex Russia that has EEZs in the Arctic is a NATO member. Norway, in particular, is keen to blunt any Russian military blackmail or overt threat.
- The US is behind the curve. More training, a few more AF fighters in AK, a “planned” USCG upgrade. Not enough.
 - Less about the military than it is about resolve.



Norway's response to Russian Saber-Rattling

- Invited more US troops than ever for joint winter field exercises,
- invited USAF fighters, bombers and tankers for joint air battle training,
- is adding ships to its Coast Guard fleet.
- To all this the Russian Embassy wrote “We view it as unfriendly and it will not remain without consequences.”
- The Norwegian response: Invited 700 U S Marines for training.



On So Many Fronts, This is a Cold War



- Environmental – Russia “can” legally destroy much of the sea ice within its territorial waters, but the world must act beyond that.
- Economic – will the world sell China the rope?
- Political / Military – The Free World won the last Cold War, not with bullets but with strong leadership and united resolve. This one can be won the same way.
- **It isn't only about us...**



THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS?