

ARCTIC MARINE RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE: The Far East and Evolving Arctic Council

Vincent Gallucci

Canadian (and Arctic) Studies Center
Jackson School of International Studies

School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
College of the Environment

University of Washington
Seattle Washington, USA

Two Thoughts

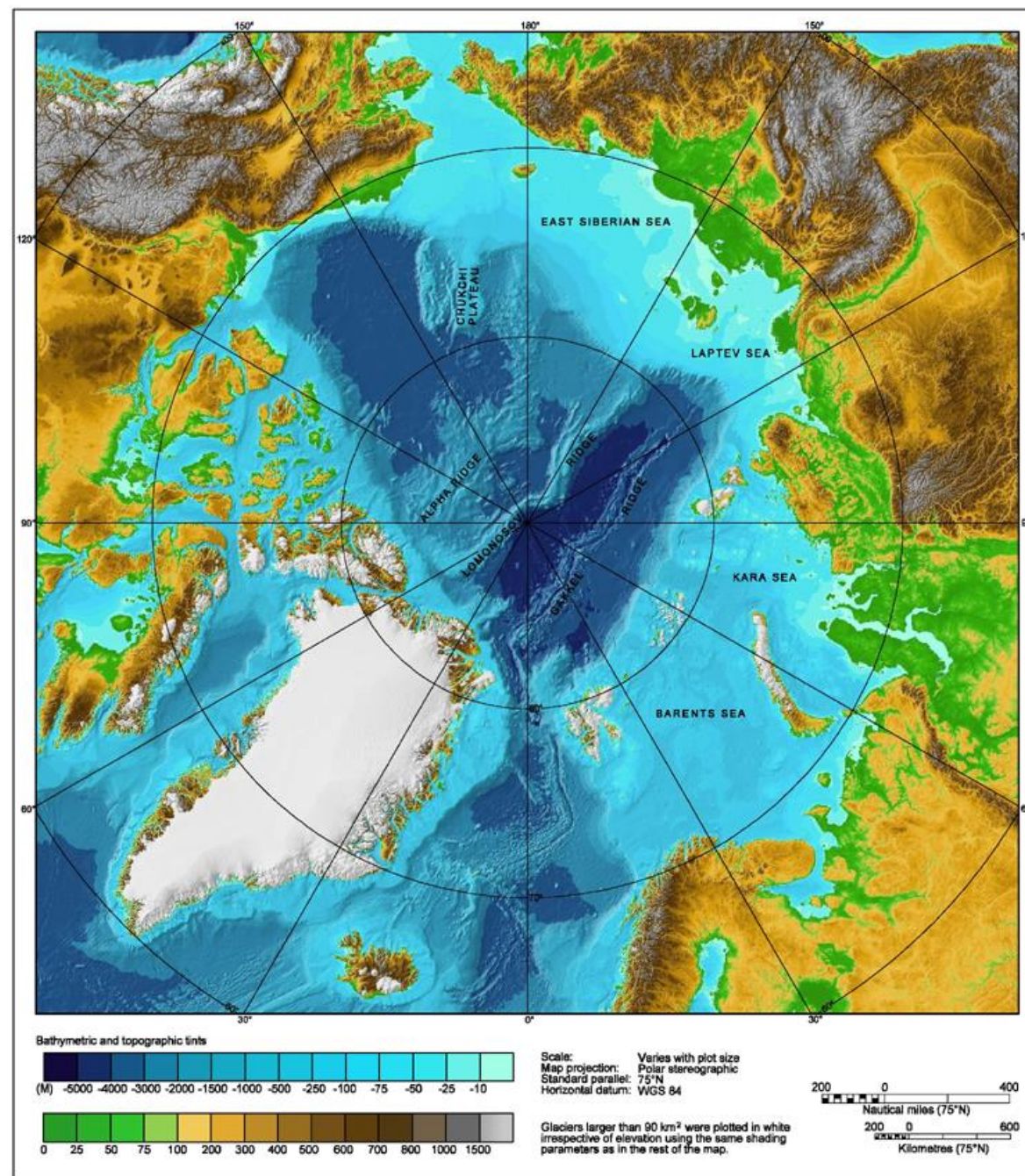
In response to the winds of change some people build walls
and others build windmills ...

a Chinese proverb

"Why China Will Reclaim Siberia"

Frank Jacobs, NYT 2014, 07/03

An example: decisions faced by the Arctic Council
Uncertainty about the future of the Arctic



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean#/media/File:IBCAO_betamap.jpg

The Path Between the Seas

David McCullough 1977

"The barrier is down. One of the most formidable enemies of mankind and civilization, which is distance, loses two thousand leagues of his empire."

"Sufficient is it to add that as advantageous as an interoceanic canal to the commercial welfare of the whole world, it is doubly so for the necessities of American interests. The Pacific is naturally our domain."

THE UNCERTAINTIES

WAS IT POSSIBLE TO BUILD A CANAL?
AND, IF SO,

WOULD IT BE IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE?

SPECULATION - ECONOMIC (as of Jan 2015)

- Shanghai to Rotterdam ..
 - Cuts transit time from Russia's north coast in summer by two months.
 - Better than Suez Canal to go from east Asia to Europe.
- Arctic - model of international cooperation based UNCLOS?
 - Tropical Asian countries wanted to join
 - China - China, India, Singapore became observer status in 2013.

SPECULATION - ECONOMIC

- 2014 falling oil prices and Russia-NATO conflict lessened profit
 - Even at \$100 per barrel was not profitable
- Gazprom & Statoil (Norway) developing Shtokman field - Barents
 - Stopped in 2012.
- Greenland iron sales stopped due to dropping ore prices
- Northern Sea Route
 - 2010 = 4 ships
 - 2013 = 71 ships
 - 2014 = hundreds used NSR.
 - Container ships too bulky

"Selfridge issued strict orders concerning the Indians. Their property was to be perfectly respected, no villages were to be entered without their consent. Any outrage of their women would be answered with the most severe punishment."

"The gain in time and distance was phenomenal. From New York to San Francisco was a month's long journey voyage of 13,000 miles. The same journey via the Canal was 8,000 miles."



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barents_Sea#/media/File:Barents_Sea_map.png

SPECULATION - ECONOMIC

- New economic body - Arctic Economic Council
 - Boost Arctic business
- RF opening an old army base near Finland
 - New class of submarines
- In 2013 the Xue Long transited
 - Outside Russian 200nm with immunity
- Climate change is at the bottom an indirect cause
- But more direct impacts are also occurring
 - Failure of permafrost foundations multiply

SPECULATION - Geopolitical

- Western economic sanctions on Russia having the opposite impact
 - China and Russia grow closer as
- Trading, and more, partners - Oil and Gas.
 - Also extends to Singapore, Korea, Japan but sold by China.
- Far Eastern cities on the Amur River - the Sino Russian border
 - Blogvestchensk - Siberia
 - Heihe -China
 - Boom town, high rises, population, productivity
- Russian claim goes to Czarist times - only 150 years ago
- Chinese Boxer Revolution.
- At same time, Europeans were taking southern parts of China
 - Hong Kong

SPECULATION - Geopolitical

- Relative population sizes
 - Chinese = 1.3 billion vs
 - 144 million in Russia and in Siberia,
 - 6 million vs 90 million Chinese in border area
- Agriculture production ...direction of trade
- Conflicts over food and manufacturing trade.
- Chinese owned factories in Siberia - local products
- Raw materials, oil, gas, timber
- Demography on both sides shows migrations, intermarriages, population growth rates - **shifted toward China**
- Academic institutes in Russia focus on demographic studies

SPECULATION - Other possibilities

- Under Putin - Russia looks east and north
 - And by implication, away from Europe
- To a Eurasian entity further minimizing Russian role
 - Making it a source of raw material for China.
- Consider consequences for cities of Vladivostok, Magadan
- Consider consequences for European ARCTIC - Russian - Chinese trade?

SPECULATION - Geopolitical

- Potential Asian port facilities are many
 - From Shanghai to Vladivostok
 - More Chinese than Russian ports currently.
- Consider railroads to north and south to transport goods.

GEO without the POLITICS

- Russian NE or Northern Sea Route (NSR), the Bering Sea & Chukotka: The Facts
- Traveling across the Arctic Ocean from entails many obstacles
 - Infrastructure along NSR in case of emergency
 - Issue of construction of port facilities, demography, natural harbors. Permafrost.
- **Choke Points:** several exist in the Aleutian Islands & Bering Sea
- But primary is **Bering Strait**
 - low salinity & high nutrient
 - deep basins - 3,500 meters
 - on the west the peninsula of Kamchatka and on the east - Dutch Harbor



<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/beringcc.htm>

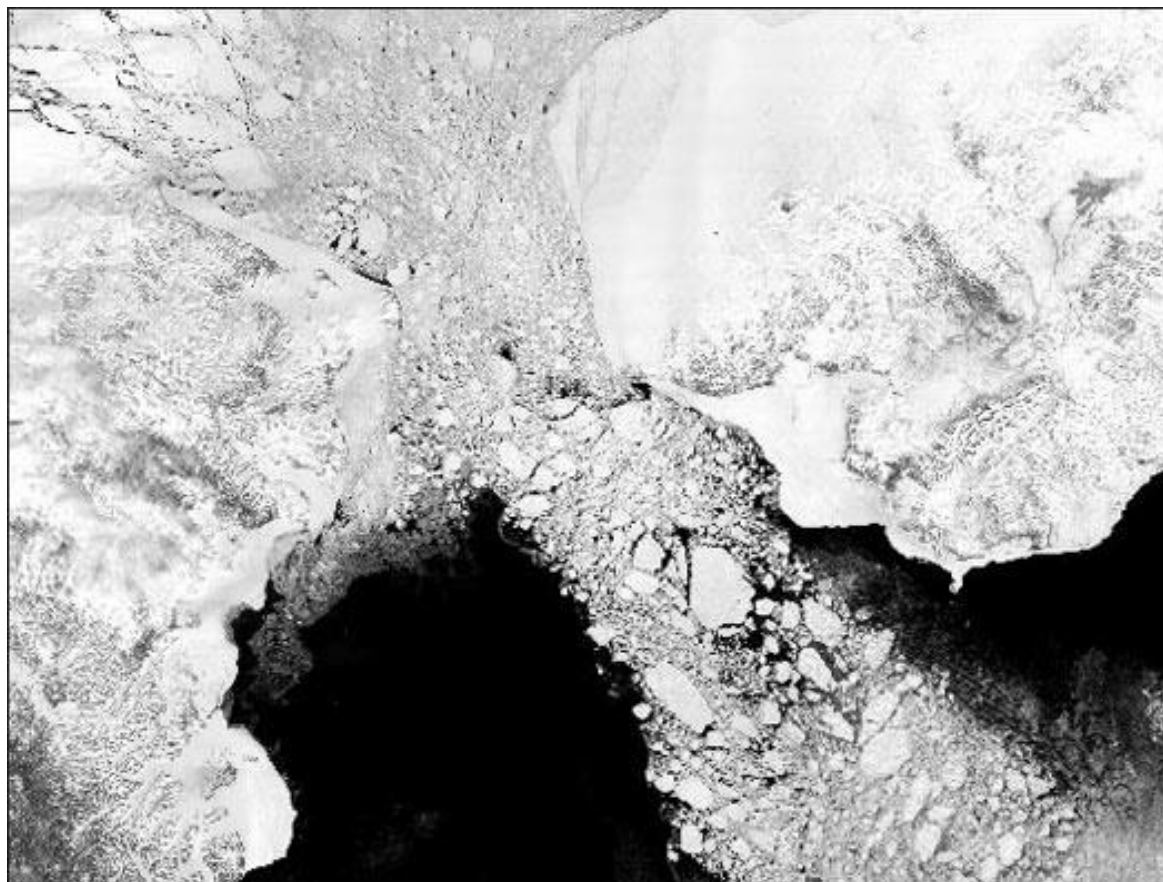
Bering Strait

8.5 km wide & ONLY about 50m deep in parts

- Contains many natural obstacles
 - including little rocks &
- Little Diomedede (U.S.) and big Diomedede (Russian) Islands
- These days is has heavy ice over for over 6 months / year
- A bigger obstacle than ice over the NSR



<http://ultima0thule.blogspot.com/2010/03/uelen-russian-eskimo-settlement-start.html>



http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/education-and-outreach/additional/science-focus/ocean-color/bering_sea.shtml

Speculation

- Optimal
 - A port facility outside the Arctic Sea & in the Chukchi Sea
 - Avoids choke points
- Railroad southward providing links to
 - RFE and China especially Vladivostok &
 - Other RFE cities' rail links including Lake Baikal & Amur River links
- Again, permafrost is an issue

BOTTOM LINE

- Uncertainty about the politics of the RFE and China need to be considered in long term
- Although Arctic Ocean transit is problem, even greater problems exist afterwards.
- Published transit times do not include even short term obstacles

Adaptions of the Arctic Council

- Currently Arctic Council members includes China only as a Permanent observer.
- Observation of the Chinese approach suggests that this is not a steady state.
- Also suggests that Russia's obligations to China may lead to advocacy of a greater role.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barents_Sea#/media/File:Walvisvangst_bij_de_kust_van_Spitsbergen_-_Dutch_whalers_near_Spitsbergen_\(Abraham_Storck,_1690\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barents_Sea#/media/File:Walvisvangst_bij_de_kust_van_Spitsbergen_-_Dutch_whalers_near_Spitsbergen_(Abraham_Storck,_1690).jpg)

Questions?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chukchi_Peninsula#/media/File:Berengia_-_present_day.png