Earth’s rapidly changing climate is causing Arctic ice to melt at an increasingly faster rate, creating a collision of interests that are vulnerable to geopolitical tensions as states rush to claim new trading networks and natural resources. The two biggest Arctic states, Canada and Russia, have the most at stake in the Arctic, an area that has been critical to their respective security and economy. The 2014 Crimean Crisis caused severe damage to Canada and Russia’s relationship as the Canadian government condemned Russia’s actions and imposed heavy economic sanctions. Existing research on Arctic geopolitics has focused on Russia’s relations with the West, but not specifically on how the 2014 Crisis affected Canada and Russia’s relationship. Since 2014, Canada has taken a hard-line stance, ceasing nearly all cooperation with Russia, except in the Arctic. This study explores why the Arctic has remained an area of cooperation during an era defined by the freezing of all other bilateral relations, applying international relations theories of complex interdependence, liberal intergovernmentalism and realism. Russia’s relationship with Norway in the Barents Sea, a body of water adjacent to the Arctic Ocean, is used as a case study that is applied to Russia and Canada’s relationship. This project analyzes bilateral agreements, speeches and official policies before and after 2014, and consults Ambassadors that were stationed in Russia. The research findings aim to address whether cooperation in the Arctic can open up a larger dialogue to ease the tensions that currently define Canadian - Russian relations.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | xCulture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

Interesting case study! It would be good to share your research methods – did you conduct interviews with Ambassadors? Did you complete a discourse analysis of policy documents?

Nice work!