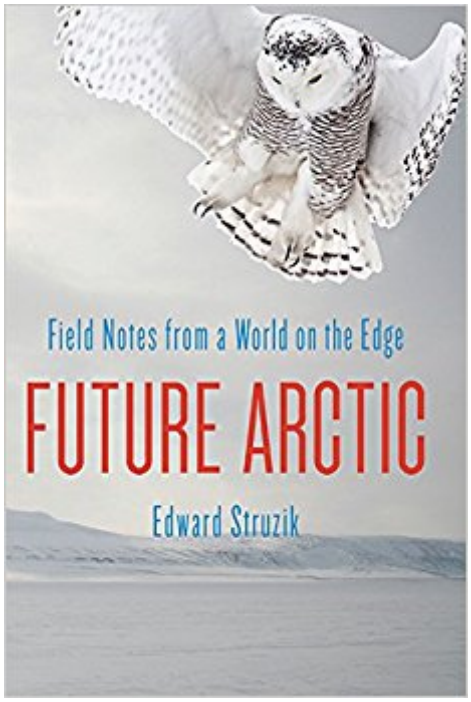
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Future Arctic: Field Notes From A World On The Edge



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Synopsis

In one hundred years, or even fifty, the Arctic will look dramatically different than it does today. As polar ice retreats and animals and plants migrate northward, the arctic landscape is morphing into something new and very different from what it once was. While these changes may seem remote, they will have a profound impact on a host of global issues, from international politics to animal migrations. In Future Arctic, journalist and explorer Edward Struzik offers a clear-eyed look at the rapidly shifting dynamics in the Arctic region, a harbinger of changes that will reverberate throughout our entire world. Ã Â Future Arctic reveals the inside story of how politics and climate change are altering the polar world in a way that will have profound effects on economics, culture, and the environment as we know it. Struzik takes readers up mountains and cliffs, and along for the ride on snowmobiles and helicopters, sailboats and icebreakers. His travel companions, from wildlife scientists to military strategists to indigenous peoples, share diverse insights into the science, culture and geopolitical tensions of this captivating place. With their help, Struzik begins piecing together an environmental puzzle: How might the landÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most iconic speciesÃ¢â ¬â •caribou, polar bears, narwhalÃ¢â ¬â •survive? Where will migrating birds flock to? How will ocean currents shift? And what fundamental changes will oil and gas exploration have on economies and ecosystems? How will vast unclaimed regions of the Arctic be divided? Ã Â A unique combination of extensive on-the-ground research, compelling storytelling, and policy analysis, Future Arctic offers a new look at the changes occurring in this remote, mysterious region and their far-reaching effects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Struzik's travel vignettes and discussion about the north are compelling." (Library Journal)"Struzik's book is a thoughtful and impassioned argument that we need to respond to a warming world by researching, adapting, and changing what we are able to." (Pacific Standard)"An urgent, passionate defense of ecological conservation and understanding." (Kirkus)"An engaging new account of a planet transformed." (Salon)"In Future Arctic, the intrepid explorer shares tales of his adventures, from surviving a terrifying peregrine falcon attack and tracking polar bears to navigating an anomalous Arctic cyclonic storm and living in native communities...The author views the Arctic through the lenses of archaeology, geology, anthropology, and ecology to draw a unique picture of where the sensitive region has been and where it might be headed." (The Scientist)"Journalist and explorer Edward Struzik cogently analyses the environmental and policy challenges, drawing on research into past extinctions and present disruptions such as tar-sand exploitation, military territorialism and tundra fires. As he ticks off the costs to indigenous peoples, ocean biodiversity, caribou habitat and more, the case for an Arctic treaty and serious conservation efforts becomes ever clearer." (Nature)"The scope and detail of his diagnosis lend weight to an alarming prognosis." (BBC Wildlife")"A broad, comprehensive, and fair-minded look at not only the upheaval in the Arctic, but what should be done about it."Ã Â (Mongabay")"From a review of the ArcticÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exploration history to an analysis of the many governmental failures there, Struzik makes the case for the ArcticÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unique place in the world and stresses that undeniable change has already occurred, and that coping with change and planning for the future are mandatory...A bracing read." (Booklist)"There is much that can be done to ameliorate each individual problem and Struzik's book demands action, not resignation or anger." (New Scientist)"ProvocativeÃ¢â ¬Â¦detailed, impeccably reported exploration of how man-made climate change is already reshaping the ArcticÃ¢â ¬Â¦The ArcticÃ¢â ¬â„¢s future isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t bright, says Struzik, but it is adaptable, if weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re smart. In any case, it is inevitable, and Future Arctic is a must-read for lovers of the far north and climate change realists." (Outside Online)"Struzik asks questions of wildlife scientists, military strategists, and indigenous peoples, and paints a complex picture with their stories." (BeautifulNow)These 'Field Notes from a World on the Edge' are just thatÃ¢â ¬â •the reader has access to a field notebook that has traveled hundreds of miles around the Arctic Circle. StruzikÃ¢â ¬â„¢s field stories help to highlight the changes that are occurring and bring to life the facts and figures he shares. Scientist and lay reader alike will find this an interesting and useful primer for understanding the contemporary physical and metaphorical Arctic landscape." (Natural Areas Journal)"This book is a

fascinating collection of firsthand obervations and insights gleaned from decades of travels with scientists across the Arctic....Though many scientific assessments of Arctic change have been produced, none are as readable or engaging as Future Arctic, and that is what makes this book so important." (Conservation Biology)"...a timely contribution to the global discussion of the ArcticÃ¢â ¬â„¢s value to economics, culture, and the environment." (CHOICE)"Struzik succinctly and vigorously covers almost the full scope of Arctic change....Struzik conveys some sharp observations to which scientists and policymakers ought to pay sincere attention." (BioScience)"Future Arctic is marvelousÃ¢â ¬â •as a long-time arctic reseracher, I can honestly say it is the best book that I have seen dealing with the challenges facing the region. A masterful examination of the past, present, and future status of the Arctic, it is also very enjoyable reading, storytelling at its best." (Vera Alexander, Professor and Dean Emerita, University of Alaska Fairbanks)"No journalist has traveled more widely in the North American Arctic or understands the region better than Ed Struzik. In Future Arctic he has written a fascinating and vitally important book about the swift changes sweeping across the Far North. If you want to see where the world is headed in an era of rapid warming, this is the book to read." (Fen Montaigne, author of "Fraser's Penguins")"Few places on earth are changing as fast as the high Arctic, and few have told the story as compellingly as Ed Struzik." (Bill McKibben, author of "Eaarth")"Future Arctic is a powerful, provocative, personal look at the Arctic in all its wonder and uncertainty. Ed Struzik has the experience to connect stories that are too often told separately, with vigorous writing and first-hand insight. Be ready to think carefully about what Arctic change means for all of us." (Henry P. Huntington, Arctic scientist and co-chair of the USNAS report "The Arctic in the Anthropocene")"In this engaging and powerful book, Ed Struzik draws on firsthand experience and analysis of policy decisions to provide a detailed account of Arctic ecosystems stressed by shifting weather patterns, pollutants and disease. Through StruzikÃ¢â ¬â„¢s compelling insights the reader can begin to draw connections between Arctic environmental change and events occurring elsewhere much further south." (Erica Dingman, Director, Arctic in Context, World Policy Institute)"Struzik blends biology and politics with firsthand experience to present a comprehensive...portrait of the future." (Publishers Weekly)

A veteran journalist explores the changing Arctic and why it should matter to the rest of the world.

There are many factors that are contributing to the changing of the Arctic and what the future holds for this region. Even just ten years ago, no one predicted that sea ice in the Arctic would retreat as

rapidly as it has and some models show that the Arctic could be seasonally ice-free as soon as 2030. With these climate changes there come many unanticipated events. The surprises include an Arctic cyclone in 2012, storm surges that swept into the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta, and an ice shelf measuring 100 square miles breaking off of the Petermann Glacier. All of these surprises are having an even larger effect on the changes of the Arctic; which is making finding ways of adapting to changes even more of a priority for this region. Oran Young, a renowned Arctic expert believes that the best way to move forward is to invest in small-scale initiatives that will bring people from many different backgrounds together. These initiatives will address immediate threats to the Arctic and propose answers to these problems. In addition to these small-scale initiatives, the Arctic needs more international cooperation and the role of the Arctic Council needs to be strengthened. The fastest way of getting where the Arctic needs to go lies in the ability of scientists to make the connection of meteorological events to the changes that are occurring in the Arctic.Figuring out what the future Arctic will look like might seem like a lost cause with so many variables, but failing to do so could have many major unforeseen consequences. Unless action is taken soon, there will continue to be surprises in the Arctic that no one is prepared for; which will ultimately lead to the destruction of the Arctic as we know it. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the changes that are happening in the Arctic and how these changes are affecting more than just the climate. If you are especially interested in the comparison of the Arctic in the past to how the Arctic is now and will be in the future; then this book is ideal.

This was an excellent read on the most current issues and environmental concerns pertaining to the Arctic; it’s political capital, wildlife, potential oil and gas exploration in the region, increasingly warmer temperatures, melting of sea ice, more extreme weather patterns and rising waters, risks to migrating shorebirds, polar bears, narwhales, seals, and indigenous peoples, and what a "future arctic" may indeed look like. Each chapter takes a topic, such as bird life, drilling in the region, polar bears, weather patterns, extreme weather, and begins with a fascinating personal anecdote from the author (he is very well traveled in the region and is eminently qualified to write on these subjects) and then proceeds to explain the concerns and problems associated with each subject of the chapter in a scientific but not overly technical manner, something as a layman reading this book I greatly appreciated. The book is extremely well written and keeps the readers interest and concern with each chapter subject with ease. Another aspect of the book I appreciated was that is was not all "gloom and doom" in saying that the Arctic is lost, polar bears will go extinct, a major oil spill will ruin the arctic ecosystem for 100 years, etc. On the contrary, the author is quite optimistic at times

and offers very sound solutions and ideas for the problems he discusses in each chapter. The Arctic will definitely be an altered ecosystem in the future, but it is not lost all together and we can still save what beauty remains there. A very satisfying, enlightening, and educational read.

I read this book while on a ship cruise to northern Greenland: I had previously visited Nunavut and the eastern Canada arctic. This book was an eye opener about the polar regions and what may be expected. Many of the changes discussed can be observed today. The book is also nice and lite to carry as a back pack companion!

As a member of several environmental groups, I was somewhat aware of most of the issues covered in this book. But I learned so much more! Struzik ties it all together in a readable way. It is certainly timely, given recent announcement that Obama has approved oil drilling in the Arctic in the past few days.

A well researched and written assessment of current environmental issues affecting the Arctic and associated regions. At times terrifying and ultimately hopeful, this is the future we are all facing. Set aside the newspaper, turn of the cell phone, take a break from emails...and read this.

A well-documented, professional, presentation of the serious issues facing the Arctic, the Inuit, the Premiers and all echelons of the Canadian Government. A deep respect and knowledge of the NORTH and of its peoples and of the readers. A brilliant writing.Camille Piche

Very interesting reading

This was hard hitting and very informative. I enjoyed it a lot and recommend it.

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