

The Falklands and the Battle for the Arctic

TUMUN VIII 2024

United Nations Security Council



Letter from the Chairs

Welcome delegates,

We are honored to welcome you to the 8th iteration of the Tufts Model United Nations Conference and TUMUN's United Nations Security Council Committee. Both of us did Model UN throughout high school, and we could not be more excited to get to know all of you in February. We hope you take TUMUN as an opportunity to practice your speaking skills, collaborate with other students, and most importantly have fun!

Before we dive into the topics, we would like to address some aspects instrumental to the success of the committee. The United Nations Security Council is typically a crisis committee, but this year the UNSC will function as a General Assembly. Each of the permanent members of the Security Council will have two vetos for the entirety of the Conference. It is up to the delegate to effectively use the vetos throughout the conference. We will discuss all of this in more detail in committee, so if this sounds a bit confusing, don't worry! It is also worth noting that we do require position papers of roughly one page per topic before the conference. Position papers are due on February 6th at 11:59pm. Please email them to us both to submit.

We love that Model UN is an opportunity to learn about important global issues, all while meeting new people who are passionate about similar issues. Model UN also gives us great opportunities to grow with public oration, cooperation, and thinking creatively. We hope to witness this growth within you all during the weekend of our conference!

Both of us are always happy to talk about our committee and your preparations - you can reach us at nitika.subramanian@tufts.edu and joshua.levy@tufts.edu. We suggest that all of you do research beyond the background guide and we strongly encourage all of you to research the relevance of the topics to your countries. If you find yourself stuck, especially with country-specific research, we suggest you look into the broader context of 1982. In committee, you get what you give- that is, we want to see all of you push yourselves outside of your comfort zones. We are both always here for encouragement and advice.

See you in February!

Best,

Nitika Subramanian and Joshua Levy

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Topic A: The Battle for the Falkland Islands

Overview and Background:

It is April 3rd, 1982. The United Nations Security Council has been called to discuss a conflict that boils down to one question: who has jurisdiction over the Falkland Islands? The question of the Falkland Islands and its previous iterations have rarely been about the island itself, but rather issues of national pride, unity, and international positioning. Because of this, global and geopolitical context is important. It is also worth noting, that given the conflict's long history, there are many different perspectives on who first discovered the islands, who first occupied the islands, and what exactly occurred during previous conflicts. In other words, no objective truth or history exists about these elusive islands. Although our background does its best to include all perspectives, the chairs urge you to examine a range of outside sources.



¹ *Map of Argentina and the Falkland Islands*

¹ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Falkland Islands." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 23, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com>.

First Claims of the Falklands

Over the past 300 years, Spain, the United States, France, Argentina, and the United Kingdom have all laid claim to the Falklands or Las Malvinas. There have never been any indigenous permanent settlements on the island which further complicates the issue. There are multiple claims about who originally sighted the islands - the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan may have seen them in 1520, the British argue that they were found by Admiral Richard Hawkins in 1590, and even the Dutch claim to have found and named them (the Seabaldines) in 1600.² The first official landing on the island was in 1690 when British Captain John Strong mapped the Islands.

None of the European powers thought that the Falkland Islands could be useful until British circumnavigator Lord Anson suggested that the islands could be fertile for agricultural use. After this realization, **both the French and the English had settled in the Falklands by 1763**. The French took the Eastern section of the Islands and the British took the Western sections of the Islands.³ Simultaneously, Spain controlled much of South America. Given the Falkland Island's proximity to

² Trevor-roper, Hugh. "It's 1770. There's a Falkland Crisis." The New York Times, May 29, 1982. <https://www.nytimes.com>.

³ "Who First Owned the Falkland Islands?" The Guardian, February 2, 2012. www.theguardian.com.

South America, the Spanish became interested in controlling them as well. At this point, Spain was allied with France so they were able to convince France to withdraw from the islands. The British were less willing to withdraw from the islands but they were not completely closed off to the idea.

Before any diplomatic resolution was reached, in June of 1770, Madrid instructed the Governor of Buenos Aires, Francisco Bucarelli to send a force to overpower the British and claim sovereignty for Spain. Spain did not think that the British would care about the Falklands. With North America near revolt and the French threatening British holdings in other parts of the world, the British were not at full strength and saw this move by the Spanish as provocative. Tensions began to rise between the Spanish, British, and French but then were quickly diffused in January 1771 when the King of Spain denounced the Governor of Buenos Aires, Bucarelli, for his provocation. By denouncing Bucarelli, the Spanish King **restored the Falklands to the British with the very important caveat that the Spanish did not lose its claim of sovereignty over the islands.** This claim has **never** been renounced.⁴

Argentine Independence and Claim of the Falklands

In 1806, the Argentinian independence movement began, influenced by two British attacks on Argentina, known

⁴ "Who First Owned the Falkland Islands?" The Guardian, February 2, 2012.

as the Reconquista and the Defensa.⁵ The British attacked as Spain was significantly weakened by civil war and external pressures. The British saw this as the perfect time to seize parts of Argentina as Spain had limited resources to dedicate to Argentina. That said, Argentina, essentially without the support of Spain, was able to fight off the British forces and prevail. This victory was empowering and partially prompted the independence movement within Argentina.

Because of the political instability in Spain, there was an ongoing debate within Argentina about the colony's governance. So, on May 25th, 1810, an open town meeting, known as a *cabildo*, was held in Buenos Aires. 183 years later, May 25th is known as the day of revolution in Argentina. The autonomous government established on May 25th was in the name of the Spanish King Ferdinand, even though at this point he was out of power. Even when King Ferdinand was reinstated in 1814, he was powerless, and, by 1816, Argentina declared independence as the United Provinces of the Rio Plata. After Argentina declared independence, **Argentina laid claim to the Falklands** under the claim that they had inherited the islands from the Spanish Crown who had never renounced their claim over the islands.⁶

In 1833, the British seized the Falkland Islands. They were backed by the United States who had previously clashed

⁵ "Argentina," Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed November 18, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com>.

⁶ Warnick, Shannon, "The reluctant colonization of the Falkland Islands, 1833-1851 : a study of British Imperialism in the Southwest Atlantic" (2008). Master's Theses. Paper 702.

with Argentina over whaling disputes.⁷ After seizing the islands, the British expelled Argentinian officials and faced pushback from indigenous South Americans who were employed on the islands when Argentina controlled them. Because of this pushback, the British navy was installed on the islands in 1834 and from this point on the Falklands have never been left without some form of a military presence.

Having control over the islands, the British had the dilemma of figuring out how to use and populate the islands. Slavery had been outlawed so they could not exactly force people to live on the islands. Using the islands as a penal colony like Australia didn't work out either. Somehow, the British had to convince people to emigrate by free will. The British decided that the Scottish and Welsh would be the ideal residents of the Falklands given similarities in climate. They marketed the island in a number of ways - as a naval base, merchant recharging point, agriculture hotspot, and then as a location for sheep farming. Eventually in the 1860s, the Falklands found their niche in maritime industry, but the population of the Falklands remained small.⁸ Through the years, the British Navy has maintained a consistent presence on the islands and has even fought naval battles off the coast of the islands. In 1914, Britain sustained a loss to Germany off the coast of Chile. The defeat put British trade in South America at risk and was incredibly demoralizing to the

British military. When Germany moved on to the Falklands, the British successfully wardoned them off, redeeming themselves.⁹

Recent Negotiations

From 1833, when Britain first laid claim on the islands, to today, April 3rd, 1982, Argentina has refused to give up its claim to sovereignty over the Falklands. During the 1930s, both nationalist groups and public institutions began to push the issue of the Falklands into the forefront of the Argentine public consciousness by financing research trips, writing books, and incorporating the islands into education. In the 1940s, with the rise of populist Argentinian leader Juan Peron, books about the Argentine perspective on the Falklands became mandatory in schooling, and the government began to advocate at an international level for the repatriation of the Falklands.¹⁰ Even when Peron fell from power, the issue of the Falklands remained important to both the Argentinian government and the Argentinian public. In 1965, Argentina formally brought the issue of the Falklands to the United Nations from the perspective of decolonization. That same year, on the recommendation of the Special Committee on Decolonisation, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that acknowledged the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom and urged the two nations to negotiate

⁷ Solly, Meilan. "A Brief History of the Falklands War." Smithsonian.com, November 23, 2020. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>.

⁸ Royle, Stephen A. "The Falkland Islands, 1833-1876: The Establishment of a Colony." *The Geographical Journal* 151, no. 2 (1985): 204-14. <https://doi.org/10.2307/633534>.

⁹ "Argentina," Encyclopædia Britannica.

¹⁰ Carassai, Sebastián. "'The Dagger of Dispossession Will Be Ripped Out': The Malvinas/Falkland Islands in Argentine Song (1941-82)." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 53, no. 4 (2021): 717-40. [doi:10.1017/S0022216X21000766](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022216X21000766).

peacefully.¹¹ From 1966 to 1968, Argentine and British diplomats attempted to negotiate. The two governments jointly drafted a memorandum of understanding which would have granted Argentina sovereignty over the islands officially. Unfortunately, their efforts were unsuccessful. The islander's lobby in London pushed aggressively for British sovereignty over the islands in the press. Simultaneously, a group of Argentine Peronists hijacked a plane and landed it on the islands. Both occurrences worsened relations.

In 1971, the Argentines and the British established a communication agreement in which the Argentine government could communicate with those living on the Falkland Islands. Because of this agreement, a temporary airstrip was built on the islands for planes to fly from Argentina to the Falklands and back. Argentinian teachers began to teach Spanish in the Falklands and islanders went to Argentina to study. Recently, the British government was in favor of a leaseback system in which the British government would cede sovereignty to Argentina and Argentina would slowly gain control over the island. In 1980, a foreign minister was sent to present the proposal which was rejected by the islanders.¹²

From the signing of the Communications agreement in 1971 to the start of the committee on April 3rd, 1982,

¹¹ "Sovereignty since the Ceasefire: The Falklands 40 Years On." House of Lords Library, August 2, 2022. <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk>.

¹² Laucirica, Jorge. "Lessons from Failure: The Falklands/Malvinas Conflict - Columbia University." Columbia. Accessed November 19, 2023. <https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu>.

Argentina has continued to be in a state of relative instability. In 1976, a military junta forcefully overthrew the government of Isabel Peron. Since then the Argentinian government has been engaged in a Guerra Sucia or a Dirty War against political dissidents, resulting in groups such as the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, made up of family members of citizens who have disappeared, garnering international media attention.¹³

In December of 1981, General Leopoldo Galteri became the leader of the military junta. He inherited a slumping economy and a deeply unsatisfied populace. Despite the political instability in Argentina, Galteri was warmly welcomed by the Reagan administration during his visit with accompanying support from the United States.¹⁴

Current Situation:

While there have always been tensions over the Falkland Islands, over the past month, they have escalated to an unusual degree. On March 19th, Argentinian scrap metal workers contracted to work at Leith Harbor on the Falklands raised an Argentine flag. On the 22nd, their ship, Bahia Buen Suceso left Leith Harbor, and 48 scrap metal workers remained. Two days later on the 24th, Royal Marines detached to monitor Argentine activity at Leith. The next day, Argentine marines arrived at Leith. By April 1st, the Royal Navy took up defensive

¹³ Kazemi, Arya Bardo, "Political violence in Argentina during the 1970s" (1997). UNLV Retrospective Theses & Dissertations. 3330. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25669/9vjm-01gt>.

¹⁴ "Argentina," Encyclopædia Britannica.

positions around Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, and a submarine left for the Falklands from the UK.

The situation finally exploded yesterday when Argentinian troops invaded the Falklands overcoming a small group of British Marines at Port Stanley. Notably, the Argentine troops followed orders not to harm the British marines, although it is unclear how the situation will escalate.¹⁵ For the Argentinian public, the consensus seems to be that the people support these actions by its government – the issue of the Falklands is a unifying issue.

It is up to you to ensure that peace is brought to the island with minimal conflict. While neither side may agree on what the correct outcome should be, both sides are willing to come to the table to come to a peaceful solution.

¹⁵ “The Falklands War: A Chronology of Events.” The History Press. Accessed November 18, 2023. <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk>.

Question Consider:

What do the people of the Falkland Islands want? What does each country want? Is there a way to grant all sides what they need?

What role should the UNSC play as a moderator through this conflict? What role has the UNSC played in other battles of sovereignty?

What are the repercussions of either country gaining full sovereignty over the island?

Topic B: The Battle for the Arctic

Overview:

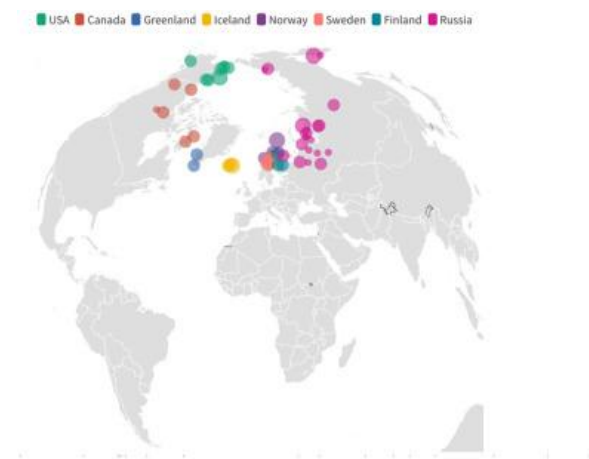
The Arctic has indubitably had a long and rich history, but unfortunately much of the indigenous history has been lost—much of the history that has been reflected is from the perspective of the Europeans and overshadows indigenous history that has occurred. The information provided in this background is by no means the entire story of the Arctic and the charts encourage future research into the many indigenous groups and rich history in the Arctic. Currently, North Indigenous peoples include the Chukchi, Evenks, Inupiat, Khanty, Koryaks, Nenets, Sami, Yukaghir, and Yupik.

Background:

The Arctic spans about 30 million square kilometers spanning three continents.¹⁶ As the fears over global warming have increased over the previous years, confrontations in the Arctic are at an all-time high. With an increase in militarization tied to the increase in accessibility for natural resource extraction, the Arctic has become an important asset to all countries that are bordering the region. At this point in the Cold War, countries are stockpiling weapons and creating military outposts while sucking natural resources to feed their countries' rapidly growing markets

¹⁶ Hoffecker, J. F. (2005). *A prehistory of the north*. Google Books. <https://books.google.com>.

and economies.¹⁷ Recently, missiles have been documented to be fired however it is unknown which country fired them and where the missiles were aimed at. At the ever-growing risk of military conflict with unchecked resource management, the Security Council has decided that they must step in and take action to de-escalate the situation and preserve the Arctic.



Historical Background:

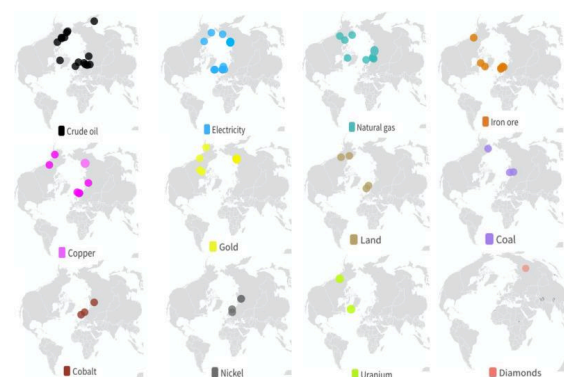
The earliest evidence of human presence in the Arctic are blades, stone bowls, and oil lamps found in the Pacific Alaska region from approximately 9,000 years ago. Later during the Ocean Bay tradition, which lasted from about 7,500 to 3,500 years ago, harpoon-like weapons like fish hooks were used. The largest evidence of humans in the Arctic occurred in about

¹⁷ Hanaček, K., Kröger, M., Scheidel, A., Rojas, F., & Martinez-Alier, J. (2021, October 13). *On thin ice – the Arctic Commodity Extraction Frontier and environmental conflicts*. Science Direct. <https://www.sciencedirect.com>.

2,500 BCE with the Arctic Small Tool Tradition. The group was defined by the usage of small blades and other stone tools used for hunting. Their largest contribution to future civilization was the increased usage of the bow and arrow which was later brought to North America and influenced much of North American history post-1500 BCE.¹⁸ The Arctic Small Tool Tradition remained until 800 BCE when the Dorset tradition became the primary tradition. The Dorset tradition was defined by their usage of sleds and forms of art in addition to building upon the groups that came before them. Much of the indigenous history has been lost in favor of the European perspective. Shamanism became an important part of the traditions of the indigenous people as it ties to the people and their connections to the land.

In 982 CE, Eric the Red, a Norse explorer, was the first European to land and create a settlement in what is now known as Greenland. The settlements soon became a post for the Nordic people as they moved about the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. The Nordic people remained the only European group in the Arctic until hostile relationships with the natives forced them to flee.¹⁹ In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian navigator and explorer, used Nordic writings to find a rich fishing ground off of Newfoundland. This sparked a discussion in Europe over the resources that the Arctic had to offer. Between 1590 and 1620, more than twenty

different expeditions were carried out to explore the Arctic to gain more land for the European countries. Some of the most prominent were William Barents's (Dutch) and William Baffin's (British) explorations of Spitsbergen. By the mid-sixteenth century, European colonization of the Arctic islands was in full effect and was seen by the many funded expeditions from all over the continent, furthered with the founding of the Hudson Bay Company in 1670.²⁰ In addition, between the late sixteenth century and the early seventeenth century, the goods extracted from the Arctic became a significant import to the European market which included Gold which had a high resale value on top of being a sign of wealth. Royalty would fund expeditions to acquire more gold and valuable metals to rise in status. By the end of the Seventeenth century, the Dutch and British had already created whaling outposts that served as bases for militaries and ports for ships.²¹ Whaling became a large part of the economy as many different parts of the whale were able to be used for oil and meat.



¹⁸ Oxford Reference. (n.d.). *Arctic Small Tool Tradition*. Oxford Reference.

<https://www.oxfordreference.com>.

¹⁹ Government of Canada. (n.d.). *Biography – EIRIKR Thorvaldsson – Volume I (1000-1700) – dictionary of Canadian biography*. Dictionary of Canadian Biography. <http://www.biographi.ca>.

²⁰ *Arctic exploration timeline*. American Polar Society. (2022, August 12). <https://americanpolar.org>.

²¹ Sato, J. (n.d.). *Did we save the whales?* The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com>.

Modern-Day History

With the shift in globalization from politics to exploration, in 1829, Captain John Ross became one of the first captains whose purpose in exploring the Arctic was to learn about the area as opposed to potential profit. With this, the so-called race for the Arctic began. In 1892, the *Fram* sailed into the Arctic in an attempt to reach the North Pole, which ended in the ship drifting at sea for 35 months while achieving a record latitude of 85 degrees 57 minutes North. The next record was achieved by the *Roosevelt* with help from the native Unuit people and sled dogs. Due to bad weather and extreme ice, the evidence ended early after achieving the record of 87 degrees 6 minutes North. The conversation on the first to reach the Arctic is not as straightforward as some may think: some sources recognize Robert Peary for reaching the North Pole in April 1909. Others claim Frederick Cook was the first a few years prior. Finally, Roald Amundsen is also credited with making the first stake at the North Pole in May 1926. 1926 also saw the first airplane to fly over and land on the North Pole.²²

In terms of land ownership, in 1814, the country of Norway was founded.²³ In addition, in 1867, the United States bought Alaska marking their territorial claims to the Arctic. After this, there was not much exchange of land. Going into the great depression and World War II, there was little Arctic development. However, coming out of the war, due to new treaties and expanded

²² *Arctic exploration timeline*. American Polar Society. (2022, August 12). <https://americanpolar.org>.

²³ *Government of Norway*. Regjeringen.no. Government.no. <https://www.regjeringen.no/>.

land, the USSR gained more territories that border the Arctic. In 1958, the nuclear-powered American submarine *USS Nautilus* crossed from the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans submerged under the Arctic ice. It passed over the North Pole on August 3. Next, 1959 - The American nuclear submarine, the *USS Skate*, was the first submarine to surface at the North Pole on March 17 by breaking through the ice.²⁴

In 1962, the USSR became the first to make a large discovery of oil in the Arctic which prompted other countries that contain regions in the Arctic to hire geologists to find oil. In addition to geologists being hired, expedition teams such as the British Trans-Arctic Expedition of 1968 with Wally Herbert were the first to traverse the polar ice cap with sled dogs. They covered 3,720 miles in 476 days. They arrived at the North Pole on the 60th anniversary of Peary's arrival in 1909. Off-the-record interviews indicate similar programs by the USSR, however, many are still classified or lost in the later fall of the USSR. Finally, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his Trans Global Expedition team started their journey to the North Pole which ended on Easter Day. His expedition was the first to accomplish a circumnavigation of Earth from Pole to Pole.²⁵

Militarization

Militaristic bases in the Arctic offer many benefits besides having a physical location for storage of weapons and

²⁴ *Arctic exploration timeline*. American Polar Society. (2022, August 12).

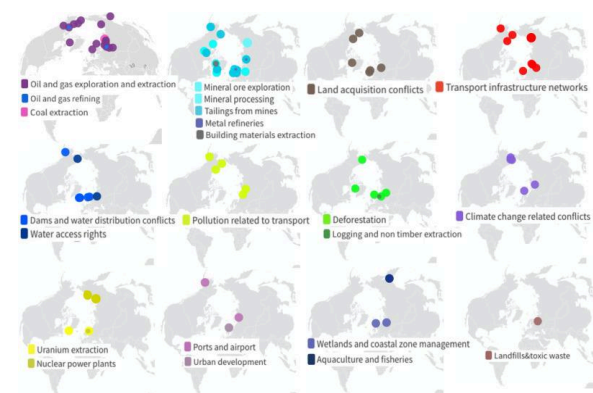
²⁵ *Arctic exploration timeline*. American Polar Society. (2022, August 12).

missiles, the Arctic allows for countries to be well-positioned to attack other countries. For example, long-range missiles would ordinarily not allow the United States and the USSR to fire at each other; however, the usage of the Arctic only brings countries' military forces closer together. During the Cold War, the Arctic remained a pivotal military center.²⁶ In the past years, a number of intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers, nuclear weapons, and a host of additional military resources were brought to the area.²⁷ The militarization also brings into question the usage of these weapons and how they affect the land around it. When launching a missile or any object, large amounts of heat are released as part of the booster. This can have damaging effects on the surrounding area, especially in the Arctic as melting and global warming are a deep concern. The increase in militarization is the next step in the escalation of the Cold War. While the United States and the USSR are on better terms at the moment, there is a lot to be said that no peace resolution has been signed and both countries actively fund proxy war to promote their agenda. The committee when deciding what their next steps should be should take into account the current world standings when making decisions. The increased militarization also hurt indigenous communities in the area.

Natural Resources and Indigenous Land

The importance of natural resources, while relatively new on the global stage at this point, should be at the forefront of any discussion. The earliest conflicts in the Arctic were between countries vying for resources such as seals and fish stocks. Some of the natural resources that are the most common are Gold, Oil, and Natural gasses.²⁸ During the 1970s over 39,000 Whales were killed every year which caused irreparable damage to the ecosystem and the population of whales in the Arctic.²⁹

Finally, climate change and economic interests in the Arctic cannot be separated from local struggles against historically unjust and disproportionate socio-environmental impacts in areas predominantly inhabited by Indigenous groups. Many of the indigenous groups are forced off of their land for countries to prosper economically. While not a focus of this UNC, delegates should be mindful of the indigenous people.



²⁶ Evans, J. (2021, May 25). *The history and future of Arctic State Conflict: The Arctic Institute Conflict Series*. The Arctic Institute - Center for Circumpolar Security Studies. <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org>.

²⁷ Evans, J. *The history and future of Arctic State Conflict: The Arctic Institute Conflict Series*.

²⁸ Hanaček, K., Kröger, M., Scheidel, A., Rojas, F., & Martinez-Alier, J. *On thin ice – the Arctic Commodity Extraction Frontier and environmental conflicts*.

²⁹ Sato, J. (n.d.). *Did we save the whales?*

Question to Consider:

What are the rights of Indigenous people and their claims to the land on which they are living?

What is the best way of preserving the Arctic? Regulations? Full demilitarization? How does this affect the Cold War and proxy wars that are currently being fought and funded?

Who should have the rights to the Arctic? Does a country bordering the Arctic give said country the right to control said region of the Arctic, and how far should they be allowed to control into the Arctic if so?

Should weapons of mass destruction be allowed in the Arctic?

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