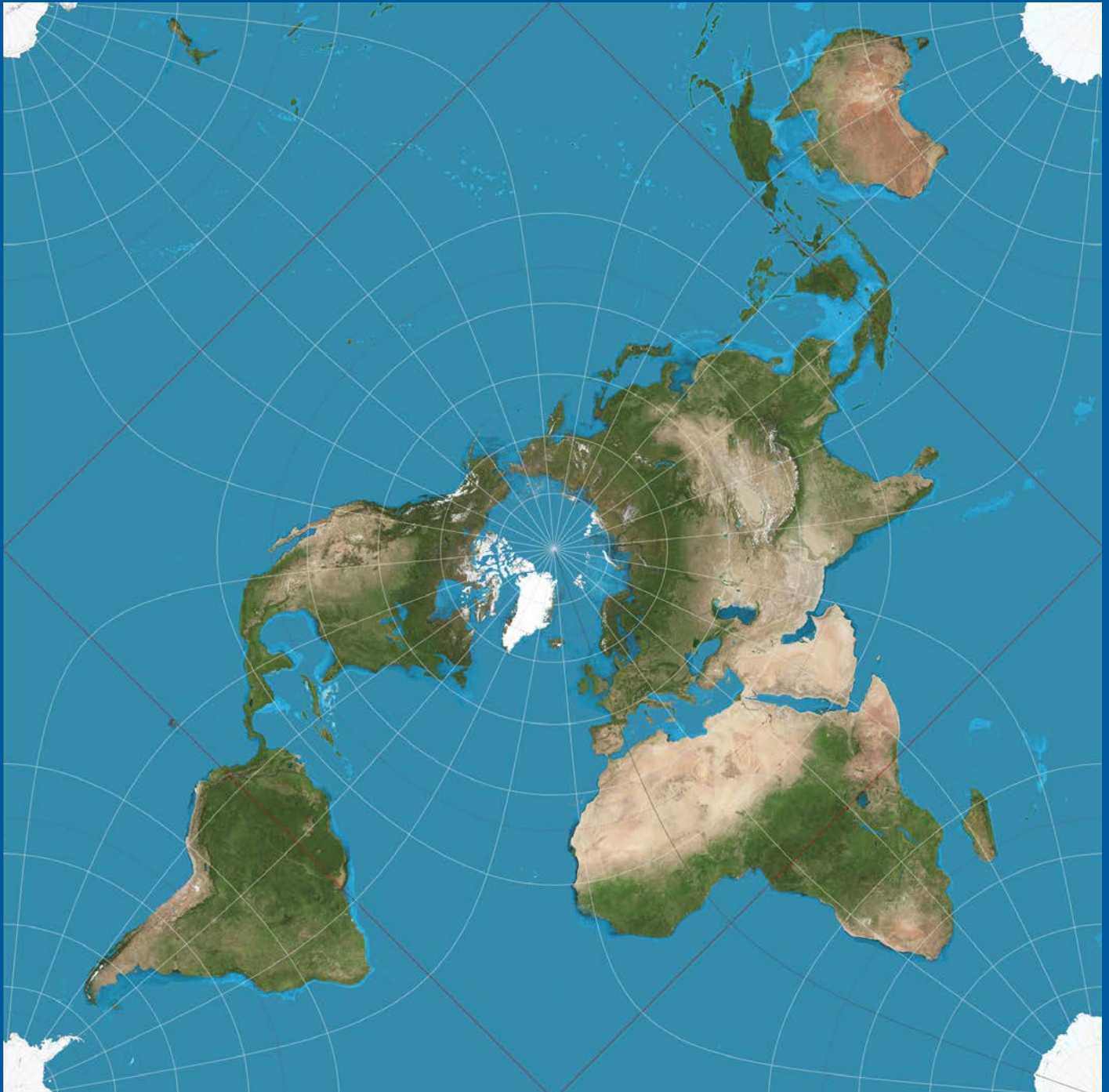


# Arctic Policies and Strategies — Analysis, Synthesis, and Trends

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Announcement: The scientific report *Arctic Policies and Strategies – Analysis, Synthesis and Trends* will be published in December 2019.

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# Arctic Policies and Strategies – Analysis, Synthesis, and Trends

## Abstract

The scientific report *Arctic Policies and Strategies – Analysis, Synthesis and Trends* delivers a holistic analysis of the policies, strategies, and declarations of the relevant Arctic stakeholders. It also includes new and/or emerging trends of Arctic governance and geopolitics in the early 21st century. The analysis, using quantitative and qualitative methods, is based on a coding of the text of 56 policy documents (in 1996-2019), namely: i) the strategies and policies of the Arctic States and the Arctic Council Observer States; ii) the policies and declarations of the Arctic Indigenous peoples' organizations (Permanent Participants); and iii) the main Arctic Council chairmanship programs and ministerial declarations. It considers how different Arctic actors define and address issues around the following: the human dimension, governance, international cooperation, environmental protection, pollution, climate change, security, safety, economy, tourism, infrastructure, and science & education. Each document was read and analyzed thoroughly; quotes were selected and coded and then used to compare and contrast (percentage-wise) how the different documents address the above issues. For each category of stakeholder, the findings are compared within the category and then discussed with each other category-wise. Our study shows that the most-cited quotes of the Arctic States' policy documents relate to the Governance, Economy, International Cooperation, and Human Dimension indicators, as well as to a new Environmental Protection indicator (composed of Environmental Protection coupled with Pollution and Climate Change). The policy documents of the four Indigenous peoples' organizations explicitly address issues surrounding Indigenous rights, although in different contexts, and also those related to the Governance indicator,

both broadly and in detail. Unsurprisingly, all these documents emphasize the importance of 'Traditional knowledge.' The most-quoted indicator in the Arctic policies/strategies of the nine Arctic Council Observer states is the Science and Education indicator, followed by the International Cooperation and Economy indicators. The fourth most-quoted is the new Environmental Protection indicator (composed of Environmental Protection coupled with Pollution and Climate Change).

The analyses generated a separate list of new/emerging trends for each stakeholder, summarizing the current main themes and concluding trends. Based on these, there here follows a short list of the overall new and/or emerging trends of the future of Arctic governance and geopolitics: i) Ambivalence of Arctic development, including 'political inability,' whenever a balance is sought between environmental protection and economic activities; ii) The domination of States within the Arctic territory due to geopolitical stability and sovereignty vis-à-vis internationalization/globalization, and due to international treaties and self-determination; iii) Focus on science, with all Arctic stakeholders being dependent on scientific research and international cooperation in science for problem-solving due to climate change; and iv) Close interrelationship between the Arctic and Space (e.g., digital security, satellites, meteorology) due to globalization and rapidly advancing climate change in the Arctic.



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The following are among the new and/or emerging trends of Arctic governance and geopolitics in the early 21st century, as identified in this scientific report.

- *Ambivalence of Arctic development, including 'political inability,' when a balance is being sought between environmental protection and (new) economic activities*
- *Focus on science, with all Arctic stakeholders being dependent on scientific research and international cooperation in science for problem-solving because of climate change;*
- *Close interrelationship between the Arctic and Space (e.g., digital security, satellites, and meteorology as a new priority area) due to globalization and rapidly advancing climate change in the Arctic.*

Using quantitative and qualitative methods, the study delivers a systematic and holistic analysis and synthesis of the existing policies and strategies of the Arctic states (Member States), Arctic Indigenous peoples organizations (Permanent Participants), and non-Arctic countries (Observer States), as well as pertinent Arctic Council chairmanship programs and declarations.

The analysis is based on coding the text of 56 policy documents. It includes a description and understanding of how perceptions of the Arctic and its mapping have changed over time. It also considers how different states and Indigenous peoples organizations define and address issues around the following: the human dimension, governance, international cooperation, environmental protection, pollution, climate change, security, safety, economy, tourism, infrastructure, and science & education. For each category of the above-mentioned stakeholders, the findings are: i) compared within the category; and ii) discussed with each other category-wise. Based on these analyses, new and emerging trends are recognized and formulated, as a final synthesis, to describe and define the state of the Arctic in the 2020s.

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