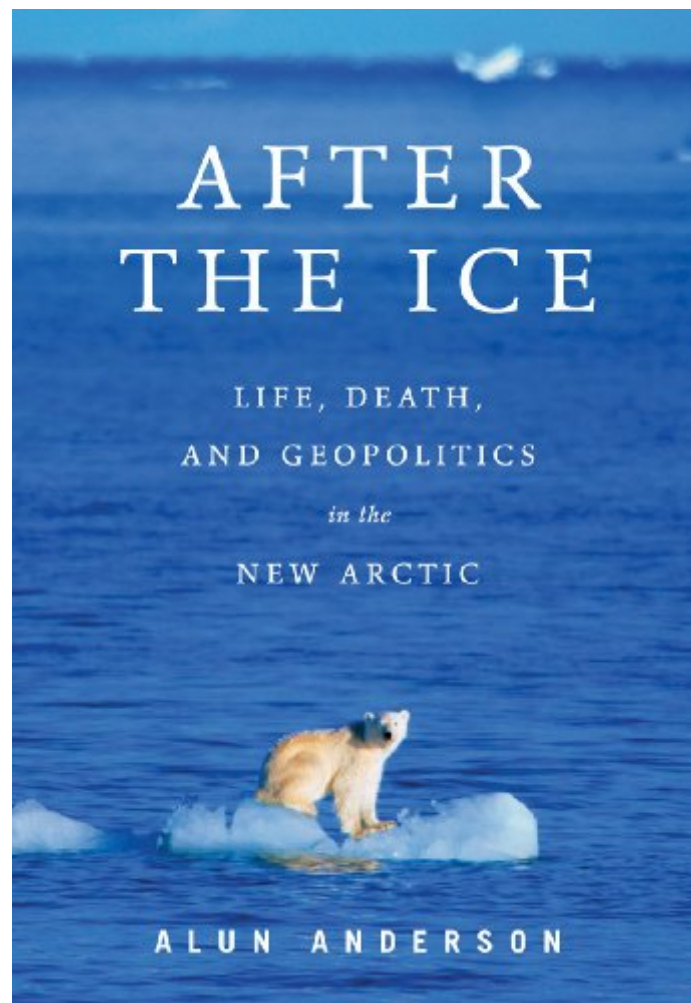




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After The Ice: Life, Death, And Geopolitics In The New Arctic



Synopsis

New from Smithsonian Books, *After the Ice* is an eye-opening look at the winners and losers in the high-stakes story of Arctic transformation, from nations to native peoples to animals and the very landscape itself. Author Alun Anderson explores the effects of global warming amid new geopolitical rivalries, combining science, business, politics, and adventure to provide a fascinating narrative portrait of this rapidly changing land of unparalleled global significance.

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Customer Reviews

This very well-written book is a calm, factual and compelling account of the realities of climate change. Deniers may make fun of scientists' differences about the likely extent of the speed and extent of the ways in which our world will be affected, and use these as excuses for inaction, but, by focusing just on the incontrovertible changes in the Arctic, Alun Anderson reminds us sharply that non-productive partisan debate is a luxury we can no longer afford. Not only is the entire ecosystem in turmoil, but the existence of open water where there used to be impenetrable ice has profound geopolitical effects that we ignore at our peril. I bought a second copy of the book immediately after I

finished reading it. This one will be on loan to my friends, and I doubt I will get it back for a long time!

Alun Anderson's book *After the Ice* gives many different perspectives on climate change that are often overlooked. Throughout the book, Anderson's main goal is to educate the reader, in a succinct and simple manner, about why the Arctic is vital to the world and how much of an impact the loss of ice will have. This book gives a new and private view on the effects of global warming and climate change. Anderson delves deep into the personal experiences of the native people of the Arctic. In doing so, he replaces the distant picture of a melting expanse of ice with one of human suffering and loss. Anderson also refutes the common notion that global warming is not affecting us by showing that the ice is vanishing as we speak. And although it is too late to stop the process completely, he says we can still slow the process down enough to possibly allow the people and animal species time to adapt. In short, Anderson simplifies complex and misunderstood problems into something that is easy to grasp. Anderson boldly attempts to balance the sad realities of the present Arctic with the hopeful possibilities of the future Arctic. He condenses all of the uses and effects of ice into one concise book - and all of the information is effectively supported with facts and statistics from knowledgeable experts in the field. Although Anderson's writing is filled with detailed evidence, it is not dense. His writing style is relatively easy to read and friendly to average readers - a great asset to his cause. This book is a must read for all levels of environmental knowledge. The topics in Anderson's book often caused me to ponder about feedback processes, weather cycles, and if countries had the right to "own" the Arctic - all issues I never would have thought about before reading about it. And if reading Anderson's book caused all readers to think twice about these important issues, Anderson will have achieved his goal. A captivating read, *After the Ice* informs readers about the Arctic and the hopeful future it holds and should be high on your list of books to read.

After the Ice is a wake-up call. The prediction that the summer ice in the Arctic will be gone by 2100 is wrong. New convincing evidence rolls the prediction backward. It will come much earlier - with dates ranging from 2016 to 2045. The summer ice is melting from beneath, by warm temperate ocean waters being transported to the Arctic and by air pollution, not global warming, from above. It answered my questions as to why the entire Arctic and Greenland is melting fast while only the west side of the Antarctic ice is disappearing. What's scary is what will happen when the summer ice is gone and the Arctic starts absorbing heat instead of reflecting it? Will the planet thermometer make a sudden jump? Nearly all the documented information is in stark contrast to what certain politicians

and certain news agencies would have us believe. Alun Anderson did a marvelous job in his two years of traveling throughout the Arctic talking to scientists, nuclear submarine captains, and the inhabitants. His sources are many, from the 1800's to the present, all listed, a real eye opening peek into a rapidly changing Arctic with effects that will be felt worldwide.

This amazing book gives the most comprehensive picture of the Arctic I've ever seen. You'll learn all about ice, types, age, thickness and vulnerability. Aronson describes the models, their strengths and weaknesses, the technical difficulties of improving them. There is a section on border disputes and the major treaties affecting them. A possible resource boom is impending. Aronson discusses the riches available and the technical problems involved in developing them without risking an ecological disaster. Unlike most books, this one looks at all of Arctic, Norway, Greenland and Svalbard as well as the more familiar Alaska, Russia and Canada. Last but not least, the book is well written. For anyone interested in this wild and beautiful region of the world, Aronson's book is a must read.

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