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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF
THE POLAR REGIONS

The Cambridge History of the Polar Regions is a landmark collection drawing together the history of the Arctic and Antarctica from the earliest times to the present. In this book, structured as a series of thematic chapters, an international team of scholars offer a range of perspectives from environmental history, the history of science and exploration, cultural history, and the more traditional approaches of political, social, economic, and imperial history. The volume considers the centrality of Indigenous experience and the urgent need to build action in the present on a thorough understanding of the past. Using historical research based on methods ranging from archives and print culture to archaeology and oral histories, these essays provide fresh analyses of the discovery of Antarctica, the disappearance of Sir John Franklin, the fate of the Norse colony in Greenland, the origins of the Antarctic Treaty, and much more. This is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the history of our planet.

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★

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Acknowledgements

Putting together an edited collection on the history of the polar regions has incurred far more debts of gratitude than we can acknowledge here. We owe thanks to all of the authors in the volume, especially knowing that our requests invariably came on top of already busy lives and heavy workloads, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Several of our original contributors were particularly badly impacted, and our thoughts continue to be with them.

We feel tremendously fortunate to be part of the scholarly communities that study the Arctic and Antarctica. As might be expected, these communities span a wide geographical range, and one of the great pleasures of editing this volume has been working with colleagues from many different parts of the world. A central point we hope to get across is that there is no single correct way to view the histories of the Arctic and Antarctica, and that viewpoints assumed in the past to be self-evidently privileged ought to be examined more critically. But even where there are quite significant differences among the contributors in terms of perspectives and approaches, we have been struck throughout this project by the warmth and generosity practised by the scholars working on the coldest places on Earth.

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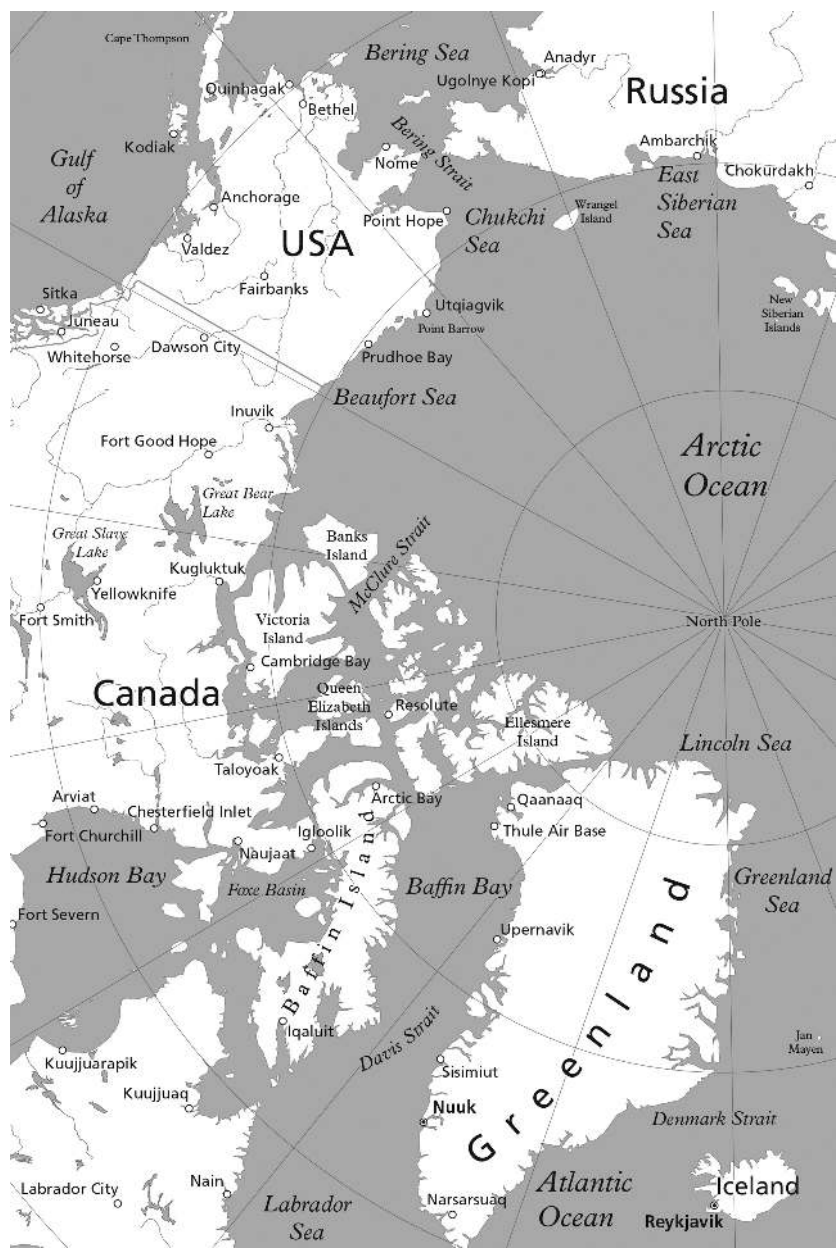
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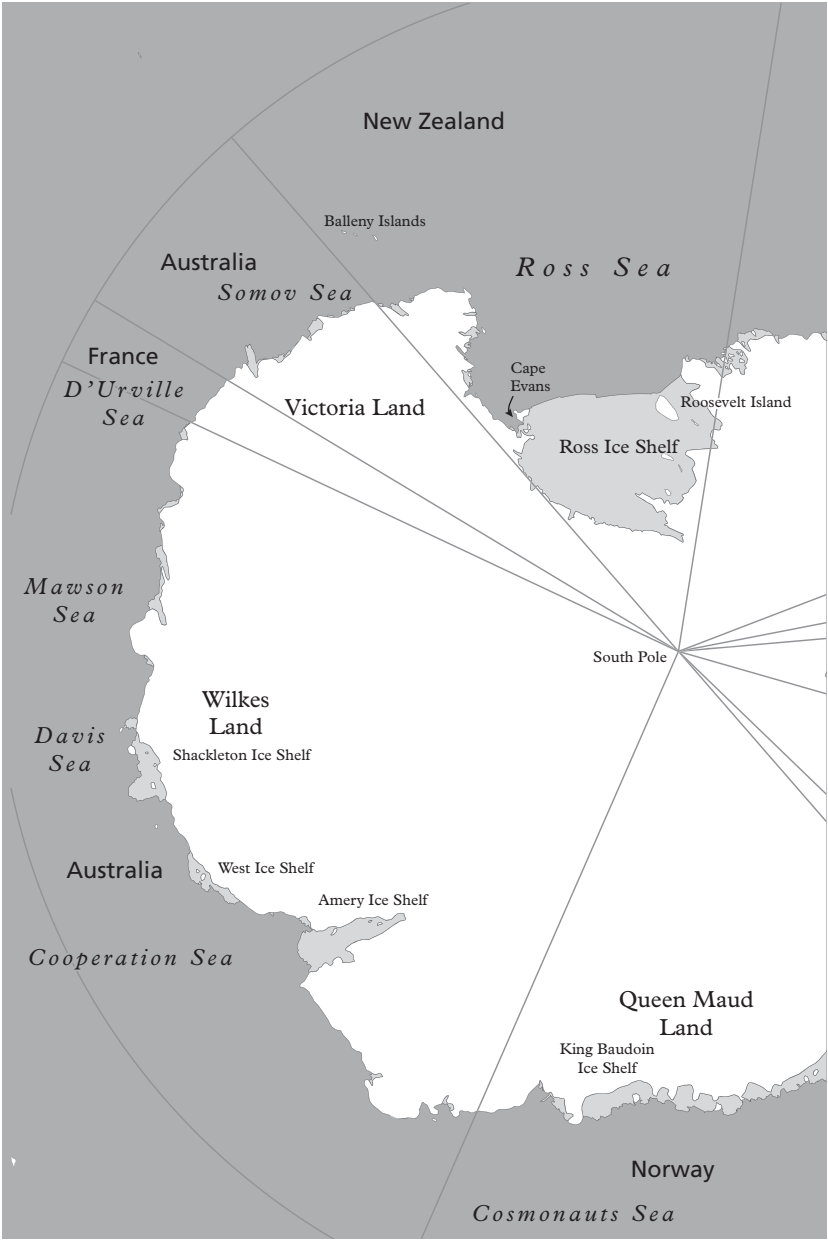
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x.1 Overview map of the Arctic (1).



x.2 Overview map of the Arctic (2).



x.3 Overview map of the Antarctic (1).

