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<v SPEAKER\_1>Hello and welcome to Energy Security Cubed, Canada's foremost energy geo strategy podcast, where we explore the factors shaping energy and economic security in Canada and around the world.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm Joe Calnan, Vice President, Energy and Calgary Operations at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>For today's podcast, we're featuring Rob Huebert and Ron Wallace for a discussion of the security in the Arctic amid Russian and American threats.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Before we dive into that, I'm going to cover one quick story for our listeners.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>This story, unsurprisingly, is still Venezuela.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>There have been a number of important updates on this file, which have slipped from the headlines with Trump's Greenland threats and the Davos Summit.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>One important story unpacks who's taking Venezuela's oil.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>According to the Wall Street Journal, commodity traders VTOL and Trafigura, no strangers to operating in geopolitical uncertainty, quickly got licenses from the Trump administration to handle Venezuelan crude while other companies were still barred by sanctions.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>These traders have contracted Greek tankers to ferry the crude between Venezuelan ports and Curacao's Bullen Bay Terminal.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>According to the Bullen Bay website, the port has a capacity of 17.75 million barrels.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>It is unclear which, if any, refineries have bought this oil to turn it into useful products.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Nevertheless, this diversification of crude is causing shockwaves.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>According to marinetraffic.com, the supertanker Loyalty, which is one of the last tankers to pick up some oil from Venezuela before the route was shut down, is just southeast of Madagascar as of the time of this podcast recording, and is expected to arrive in Singapore on February 10th.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>There it will join a large number of ships waiting offshore Malaysia and China, carrying the sanctioned crude, which is the last of the discounted supplies available to Chinese refiners.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>According to Bloomberg, VTOL is now offering Chinese buyers Venezuelan heavy crude at a discount of just \$5 per barrel to Brent.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So that's \$5 below the current price of Brent.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>This is compared with a \$15 per barrel discount that China had before.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>The big winners from the shift could well be the commodity traders, Greek shipping companies and US refineries.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>The losers are likely to be Venezuela, China's refineries and the dark shipping fleet.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>There is movement on natural gas as well.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>It seems that the UAE's state oil giant Adnok is considering investing in Venezuelan gas.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>This comes alongside news that Colombia's state energy company is eyeing natural gas imports from Colombia, which would allow the country to reduce its imports of costly LNG.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Now we'll switch over to our discussion with Rob and Ron

on the situation in the Arctic, including Greenland.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>For today's interview, recorded January 16th, 2026, we talk about Canada–Russia relations in the Arctic, including consideration of how security, environment and energy are intertwined in this region.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>With me to discuss this are CGAI fellows Rob Huebert and Ron Wallace.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Rob is a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary and Director of the Centre for Military Security and Strategic Studies at U of C.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Ron is a board member of the Canada West Foundation and Bow Valley College and a long–standing expert on international resource management at many prominent international and Canadian institutions.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>They are both co–authors of a chapter of the Palgrave Handbook of Arctic Energy and Politics 2025, titled Russian and Canadian Arctic Relations, Wishful Thinking and Geopolitics.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I will include a link to the book in the show notes.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Delighted to have you on the podcast, Rob and Ron.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Thank you.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Our pleasure to be here.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Fantastic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I'd like to start off with some context on kind of the genesis of this chapter and kind of what brought you to write this.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So what made the two of you come together to co–author this piece on Russia–Canada Arctic Relations?

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Well, to be honest, it was Ron's generosity.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>This is the second edition of this book, and Ron had the first, in the first edition, he was sole author on the book, and he extended a very kind invite for me to be able to add some geopolitical context of the mastery that he has of the Russian economy.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so basically, we came together because we both share very similar concerns about Russia's geopolitical role in the international system and particularly how it plays out on the Arctic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Fantastic, fantastic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And speaking of the Russian economy, something that we've been talking about on Energy Security Cubed for a long time is how well the Russian economy is doing it, how it has kept itself afloat throughout this, the full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Because it's been an enormous strain on its resources.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I think we should unpack some key aspects of how this works.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And your chapter explains how Russia has become ever more reliant on revenues from hydrocarbon exports.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I'm interested in both of your thoughts on this.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But how has Russia managed to keep its economy afloat, given the major sanctions on its oil and gas exports and the massive costs of maintaining its war in Ukraine?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So Ron, maybe you can start us off and then we'll also get Rob's view on this as well.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, thank you for that.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And thanks for the introduction, Rob.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>That was very kind.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Things in the Russian economy are, as usual, very opaque and highly controversial on many fronts.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But it is clear that the sanctions that the EU and the Ukraine that is done by interrupting pipeline flows through Ukraine for the Russians and for some of the former FSU satellite states, plus the US sanctions and UK limitations have had a tremendous negative impact on the Russian economy to the point where it is clear that they're having to reorient their entire economy eastward towards China.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And that comes with very serious penalties because Chinese from all reports are doing them no favors in terms of accessing those hydrocarbon resources, particularly through the large gas pipelines that they're putting through now.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The Chinese are driving very, very hard bargains on the Russians.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So that fact plus the fact that there's sanctions on their oil shipments, which the Americans are now increasingly interceding against with their dark fleet that they've been using to transport oil around the world is having a real effect.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The quantitative effect on the economy is very clear, it's very material, but it is not very well documented for reasons you can understand.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>This is effectively a Russian state secret.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But we do know that the economy is under tremendous pressure, that their cash flow balances, which have been made up largely by large gold reserves in the last nine months, have been under very serious pressure.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>However, it's remarkable how much the dark oil transportation fleet has contributed to the Russian economy and maintaining it.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And at the same time, it's been very little documented, but the European Union has been importing very large quantities of LNG from the UML system through the Northwest passage, using these large ice breaking tankers that have been coming out of Northern Russia.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's just only been recently reported in the press just how much of that LNG has been accepted into Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And so you've got two contradictory things going here.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>You've got major sanctions, you've got major changes in the oil and gas dynamics through all of Europe and in now including North America with American intercessions on the dark fleet.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But you've also got the European Union accepting very large volumes of LNG from Russia at the same time.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a very complex picture.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, for sure.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And yeah, I think we should stick with those LNG, the LNG consideration and that Arctic LNG supply chain too, because I think this is really important to Russia's presence in the Arctic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But Rob, do you have any additional things to say about Russia's military, the military side of Russia's economy?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We can always cut this out if you'd like to just go to stick to the Arctic.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>No, this is a critical point, because of course, we see when of course, the Russians begin to re-militarize the Arctic region, and that's roughly in the period of 2008-2009, that is completely based on Putin's ability to consolidate the control over the

development of oil and gas in the Arctic region.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>That's the period that they're moving much of their development from the Caspian Sea up north, and in fact, it is the oil and gas that allows them to have, and again, these things are hard to compare, but a GDP that's roughly equivalent to Canada's, and they're able to basically reactivate, build, expand depending on the numbers you use between 15-22 military bases in the Arctic, that are their foundation of where we are in 2025.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And I mean, to highlight the point that Ron makes is that we see that under any sort of Western expectation, the type of demands that have been placed on the Russian military to sustain a war that has been fighting since 2014, and if you want to throw in the Georgian war for good measure, which was also a very costly but shorter term conflict, obviously, we're going back to 2008, so they've been in a state of war.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Of course, the war intensifies in 2022, but they're still fighting it, and they're still being able to engage upon it.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And it illustrates the fact that within an authoritative state, when they do have access to these resources, that in a Western state, I mean, it's hard to imagine a Western state that could sustain itself that long in an ongoing war, and still be able to develop, find ways of delivering the resources in the face of such international opposition, and still do it in the way that they're doing it.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And it illustrates if an authoritative state does make up its mind to take advantage of these resources as the Putin administration has, it's a formidable force that is hard to think of an equivalence in the Western societies.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, yeah.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, that's an extremely scary thought, Rob.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So thanks for bringing that up.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But keeping with the Arctic, and we should talk about the economic sustainability, and this is really relevant for talk.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Like currently, there's a lot of conversations about dual use infrastructure in the Canadian Arctic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So there's some really big relevance here.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But we should touch on the energy infrastructure that Russia has been able to build along its Arctic coast for LNG exports.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So this includes, of course, the LNG facilities themselves, which are developed for operations in the Arctic, which makes them more costly and just more costly to operate in a region like that in general.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But then also ice breaking LNG tankers, like these incredible pieces of machinery to go through those waters, as well as designated icebreakers, like these nuclear powered icebreakers that are just unbelievable.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And then all the facilities meant to service them.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So, you know, like this is really a, you know, I'm not a fan of the Russian state at all, but this is some really incredible engineering feats of engineering involved in this, but also very, very costly.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So, Ron, could you unpack for us, are these facilities really economically sustainable, given the cost of operating in the Arctic and also right now, the low global cost of LNG and the anticipated continued kind of glut of LNG?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, Rob made a really, really good point, and that is the nations that develop those resources have tremendous power because those resources are still very valuable.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And whether it's LNG or oil or whatever, the fact that Putin has poured billions and billions of dollars into the entire Novotek-Yamal system, which they're now building railway access to, which is quite a challenge, given that Arctic permafrost and the region that they're building it through.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But when you look at the buildout that they have done there, when I worked actively there back in the late 90s, Yamal was a caribou wilderness, an Arctic wilderness.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And when you see photographs now of what they've built out there, now have the sanctions, as we point out in the book, the sanctions have hurt them in terms of accessing materials supply, technologies, all the rest of that stuff.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It has really encumbered the build out of those LNG facilities.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>However, they have this, as you point out, Joe, ice breaking LNG tanker fleet, that's doing remarkable things, which is nonetheless being hit by sanctions.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>We talk about in the book, one tanker system that went to the east, through the northeast passage, and made it all the way down into Asia.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But because of sanctions, no one would accept the gas, and it had to go back up under Russian territory and unload that gas because they had nowhere to sell it.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And that includes to the Chinese.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So they're dealing with remarkable restraints, but at the same time, it is showing the value of having those resources.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Now, can Europe successfully turn away from that cheap gas?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Because it's not only an impact on the Russians that the gas and the oil price is going down.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's an impact on the Europeans who are having to import high-priced American LNG and bringing in oil from offshore.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The Russians can undercut those markets.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The strength that they've got is that the Russians can actually absorb those reduced costs.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yes, it impacts the economy.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yes, their inflation rate is going to go up.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yes, their currency reserves are going down.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Yes, the GDP is faltering.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But as the Russians have shown all through history, starting with the Siege of Leningrad, all the way back to Napoleon, they can buckle down and their economy and their people, because they have no choice, can withstand those kinds of economic shocks.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In North America, if those kinds of shocks came through, it would lead to a change of government in a very, very quick time.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In Russia, they don't have that option.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>So Putin can effectively dictate those terms for the Russian people, and frankly, they have no choice.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>They have no choice in accepting the inflation.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>They have no choice in accepting the current draft requirements that are being put out.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a very, very difficult economy for us to try to comprehend.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I think that ties in pretty well with Ron's statement about kind of the resilience or the surprising, I guess, resilience of

an authoritarian system, which is able to control all parts of the of the economy.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But, you know, where it comes to lessons for democratic free market system like Canada, what could we learn from Russia's experience with this Arctic infrastructure, with our own ideas and I'm not going to say plans, but like concepts of trying to build our own Arctic dual use infrastructure with both commercial and military, you know, goals in mind.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Rob, do you have any thoughts on that?

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Well, one of the difficulties that we face are the amounts of monies that are actually that the government is willing to put into this.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Part of the success of the Russian dual use capability is just the magnitude of what they have there.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>I mean, as Ron points out, you look at the satellite surveillance pictures that are available of your mall and the other sections, and it's the reason why they can successfully call it dual use, is that it's just so huge.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The dual use is not so much that they're saying, okay, we'll use this infrastructure for military and we'll also use the infrastructure for the economics.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>They have basically two self-sustaining systems.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>In other words, it's not the mindset that in Canada where we think, okay, if we put in a road, we can then link that road to the new NORAD modernization basis and then the local inhabitants can also take advantage of the new hangars.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>It's not that type of thinking because of the magnitude of the resources that are being put in.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so it's difficult for Canada to draw lessons on it because, I mean, we're still going to be penny-pinching.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We keep promising to do all of this infrastructure.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And perhaps the best example is the comparison between our ability to build icebreakers and the Russian ability to build icebreakers.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And I mean, again, the numbers speak for themselves in that context.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We have seen finally some movement in terms of the icebreakers.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>But again, the problem we face in Canada is that we tend to look for the most inefficient way to do these.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The Russian attitude is we must get it done.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Because remember, as we finally start building the replacement for the Louis Saint Laurent that was built back in 1969, which is our largest icebreaker, as we actually move to do so, we're doing it in the most inefficient way possible.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We're building one in Vancouver, we're going to build one in Quebec City and Finland, and we're adding for good measures to semi-large icebreakers, the AOPs that the Coast Guard is getting, and they're being built in Halifax.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so we're building all four of these big icebreakers, all at the same time.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We are turning around and building them as new projects in four different shipyards.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So each and every one of them will have the traditional difficulties that we have when you build first of class.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>I mean, that just goes, you know, America's with all

their money had a huge first of class problem with the Ford aircraft carrier is working fine, but they couldn't get the elevators carrying the munitions to work, couldn't get the ability, the electronic system to launch aircraft, all that's been worked out.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>But you always get that and we're guaranteeing it to have it for.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The Russian approach is always just massive over-development.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Don't ask questions on the side, on the finesse and just keep it building.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And as Ron points out, despite the sanctions that are in place, their continuance building of icebreakers, both conventional power and nuclear power, basically demonstrate you get the political will, you figure out what's good enough and you keep building it.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Whereas in Canada, we're always thinking, what is the political payoff of any decision?

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so therefore, we were left.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>I mean, Coast Guard is going to be faced with a situation again, of massive replacement when all four of the large icebreakers have to be replaced, which means that decision will be delayed.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So again, we're sitting getting a case study in Canada, say similar resource base on terms of how we could approach similar technological basis.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And the lesson from Canada is we will do it the most inefficient way possible because there's a political payoff on it.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The Russian is that we are going to do this because we need this in terms of its dual purpose, the economics to pay for the military and the military then to sustain us as a growing great power.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And that's just such a different set of mindsets.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, yeah, no, very, very alarming.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Ron, do you have any additional perspectives considering your previous role, like as a regulator in regulation of Arctic resources?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, yeah, I'll talk to the regulatory aspect because regulatory aspects in Russia are very different than they are in North America, as you fully appreciate.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>As a matter of fact, I think it was about 10 years ago with CGAI, we issued a publication on Raypom where we talked about the Aboriginal people associated with the Amal development, which is where I worked and why I wrote that paper.

00:23:00.975 --> 00:23:17.335

<v SPEAKER\_2>And there were very serious concerns by the Aboriginal people in that area, the Caribou herders, who I actually spent time with and had tea with in their yurts in Northern Yamal at one point about what effect that development would have.

00:23:17.655 --> 00:23:38.815

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, you've seen how Canada has gone through this process, starting with the Berger Inquiry, which ironically I also worked on, and going through indigenous concerns in North America right now, particularly in Canada, have a, well, it's a primary driver of economic capability.

00:23:38.855 --> 00:23:44.715

<v SPEAKER\_2>Look at the controversy about the Northwest Pipeline, potentially to BC's coast.

00:23:45.155 --> 00:23:48.095

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, that didn't happen in Russia at all.

00:23:49.535 --> 00:23:57.535

<v SPEAKER\_2>There was no question about UNDRIP or any aboriginal considerations being brought in.

00:23:57.535 --> 00:24:02.115

<v SPEAKER\_2>The national interest in Russia, as Rob points out, comes first.

00:24:02.115 --> 00:24:07.195

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's the state first, and if they decide that it's a priority, that's it.

00:24:07.195 --> 00:24:08.335

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's going to be done.

00:24:08.335 --> 00:24:14.155

<v SPEAKER\_2>The cost of that is that people in Russia have a much lower standard of living than we do in the West.

00:24:15.055 --> 00:24:24.275

<v SPEAKER\_2>Canadians would never accept, in my view, that level of standard of living in order to build Arctic infrastructure.

00:24:24.275 --> 00:24:25.955

<v SPEAKER\_2>They want to have both.

00:24:25.955 --> 00:24:31.455

<v SPEAKER\_2>They want to have the Arctic infrastructure and the capability and a high living standard.

00:24:33.135 --> 00:24:57.255

<v SPEAKER\_2>So when you come back to the regulatory authority, again, you have no capability in Russia to have institutions like the National Energy Board in Canada, you have no established responsibilities of the individual provinces in Russia that are called oblasts.

00:24:57.255 --> 00:25:08.935

<v SPEAKER\_2>They come all secondary to the dynamics and the will of the state, whether it's being drafted to go to Ukraine or whether it's being drafted to go to Amal.

00:25:08.935 --> 00:25:10.755

<v SPEAKER\_2>You're drafted and that's the story.

00:25:13.455 --> 00:25:14.355

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, that's interesting.

00:25:14.355 --> 00:25:25.055

<v SPEAKER\_1>You know, it's interesting to frame kind of the trade-off between standard of living and international influence with two countries that are about the same level of GDP, Canada and Russia.

00:25:25.055 --> 00:25:28.115

<v SPEAKER\_1>So that's an important thing to consider.

00:25:28.115 --> 00:25:34.635

<v SPEAKER\_1>And of course, there's other trade-offs here, and these are kind of political trade-offs where it comes to diplomacy.

00:25:35.255 --> 00:25:45.015

<v SPEAKER\_1>And your chapter does note that Russia was condemned by other Arctic Council members in 2022, but Russia has not been expelled from the body.

00:25:45.015 --> 00:25:53.715

<v SPEAKER\_1>So unlike Russia in the previous G8, now the G7, Russia was expelled back in 2014, I believe, or maybe that was 2015.

00:25:53.715 --> 00:25:56.155

<v SPEAKER\_1>I forget which year exactly that was.

00:25:56.155 --> 00:25:59.975

<v SPEAKER\_1>So Russia has been excluded from some diplomatic forums.

00:26:00.035 --> 00:26:06.715

<v SPEAKER\_1>Now with under the Trump administration, it's being kind of brought back in to various, various considerations.

00:26:06.715 --> 00:26:11.195

<v SPEAKER\_1>But I'd like to get your thoughts as an Arctic nation.

00:26:11.195 --> 00:26:15.075

<v SPEAKER\_1>Canada, of course, is on the Arctic Council, was one of the founding members.

00:26:15.075 --> 00:26:18.115

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think the first summit was actually in Ottawa.

00:26:18.115 --> 00:26:28.675

<v SPEAKER\_1>But what are the trade-offs from continued Russian participation in key institutions including the Arctic Council?

00:26:29.455 --> 00:26:33.215

<v SPEAKER\_1>And, Rob, I'll leave that for you first.

00:26:33.215 --> 00:26:50.775

<v SPEAKER\_3>Well, there's tremendous pressure to try to keep the Russians in the Arctic Council, particularly on the scientific side, because it's recognized by all scientists that there is such a critical landmass and part of Russia that needs to be understood in any sort of monitoring, examining issue.

00:26:50.775 --> 00:26:58.075

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, there's tremendous pressure within the Western states to ensure that Russia is being included.

00:26:58.075 --> 00:26:59.935

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, that comes in.

00:26:59.935 --> 00:27:19.855

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the problem is the Canadian conceptualization, this goes back to the works of Mary Simon and Franklin Griffiths, was of course to make the Arctic Council, because it's the follow up from the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy that was created by the Finns mainly, but also by Canada.

00:27:19.855 --> 00:27:23.235

<v SPEAKER\_3>And it focused almost exclusively on the environmental side.

00:27:23.235 --> 00:27:39.055

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, that the desire in 96, as you rightly pointed out, when Canada is able to say, okay, we need a further organization, it wasn't supposed to be that all the Arctic Council was doing was picking up the work of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.

00:27:39.055 --> 00:27:41.375

<v SPEAKER\_3>It was supposed to be a political forum.

00:27:41.375 --> 00:27:46.295

<v SPEAKER\_3>The Americans, of course, just as a bit of history, insisted that it could not look at security issues.

00:27:46.295 --> 00:27:50.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, that's in the terms of reference when it's being created.

00:27:50.695 --> 00:27:55.395

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now, the problem comes in when the Russians invade Ukraine in 2014.

00:27:55.395 --> 00:28:01.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>Canada was the chair and Canada wanted to take a very hard position against Russia.

00:28:01.335 --> 00:28:04.095

<v SPEAKER\_3>That was under the Harper government.

00:28:04.095 --> 00:28:10.395

<v SPEAKER\_3>But remember that the Trudeau government replaces Harper in 2015.

00:28:10.395 --> 00:28:11.315

<v SPEAKER\_3>And they reversed that.

00:28:11.415 --> 00:28:20.255

<v SPEAKER\_3>They go along with all of the other European countries and the Americans, I might add, for saying, okay, we're going to draw

an exception.

00:28:20.255 --> 00:28:23.255

<v SPEAKER\_3>This is what becomes known as Arctic exceptionalism.

00:28:23.255 --> 00:28:26.515

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, Russia is doing terrible things in Eastern Ukraine.

00:28:26.515 --> 00:28:29.735

<v SPEAKER\_3>And yes, they seized Crimea, invaded Crimea.

00:28:29.735 --> 00:28:31.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>We'll call it an illegal occupation.

00:28:31.915 --> 00:28:33.975

<v SPEAKER\_3>I've never quite figured out what that means.

00:28:33.975 --> 00:28:43.415

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the overall perspective of the Western nations, once Harper is defeated, is that we've still got to do business with Russia in this region.

00:28:43.415 --> 00:28:50.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>And it takes to 2022 before we see the world saying, I guess we couldn't draw a distinction.

00:28:50.695 --> 00:28:55.755

<v SPEAKER\_3>Russia as an aggressor isn't suddenly going to make itself a non-aggressor in the Arctic region.

00:28:55.755 --> 00:28:58.155

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so that's the issue.

00:28:58.155 --> 00:29:03.435

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the problem is if you kick Russia out, you lose that access to science.

00:29:03.435 --> 00:29:12.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>The other problem comes in, of course, is the Arctic Council was the leader on being able to incorporate Indigenous peoples into an international forum.

00:29:12.595 --> 00:29:26.315

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now, to go back to Ron's point about the role of Rappion, which is the Russian Indigenous organization that is represented at the Arctic Council, pretty convincing evidence that they've been completely co-opted by the Russian state.

00:29:26.315 --> 00:29:31.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>The founders of Rappion have been kicked out of the board

members, they're in fact being prosecuted.

00:29:31.875 --> 00:29:37.355

<v SPEAKER\_3>Rappion at one point was put on the list of the foreign entities to be prosecuted.

00:29:37.775 --> 00:29:57.575

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, in other words, there's a mythology that we have to try to do whatever we can to help Rappion, but the Rappion that truly was represented by the Indigenous people no longer exists because they do have Indigenous representation, but it's not their state agents and much of that.

00:29:57.575 --> 00:30:01.935

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so there's been this this field that we still have to keep the Russians on.

00:30:01.935 --> 00:30:12.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>The problem in my view, though, is I think the Arctic Council has just seen the other pressure that has been brought on, which is basically going to eliminate any possibility of it functioning.

00:30:12.695 --> 00:30:18.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>And that is the bizarre threats of the Americans to invade Greenland.

00:30:19.435 --> 00:30:27.515

<v SPEAKER\_3>How do you, regardless of what happens, how do you get Greenland and the United States to sit in the same room when the Russians, of course, are doing everything that they ask?

00:30:27.515 --> 00:30:36.575

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I think that unfortunately, it's going to be a mute point whether or not Russia is kicked out or remains in the Arctic Council.

00:30:36.575 --> 00:30:40.995

<v SPEAKER\_3>I think that the Trump policies towards Greenland have demonstrated.

00:30:40.995 --> 00:30:42.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now that goes beyond the chapter of the book.

00:30:42.595 --> 00:30:45.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>And of course, we weren't writing about that aspect of it.

00:30:45.915 --> 00:30:53.435

<v SPEAKER\_3>But nevertheless, I think that that has shaped everything

that we're talking about going forward from an international governance perspective.

00:30:53.435 --> 00:30:53.795  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah.

00:30:53.795 --> 00:30:54.035  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah.

00:30:54.035 --> 00:30:54.695  
<v SPEAKER\_1>And that's a...

00:30:54.695 --> 00:30:55.115  
<v SPEAKER\_1>Oh, sorry.

00:30:55.115 --> 00:30:56.275  
<v SPEAKER\_1>Go ahead, Ron.

00:30:56.275 --> 00:31:01.755  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, I just want to add, Rob has brought up a phenomenally important point.

00:31:02.775 --> 00:31:13.915  
<v SPEAKER\_2>And that is, when we wrote that book, we were having to run to keep up with the announcements and developments that were happening.

00:31:13.915 --> 00:31:15.555  
<v SPEAKER\_2>We were right in...

00:31:17.075 --> 00:31:23.855  
<v SPEAKER\_2>The rapidity of developments that are going on in the Arctic is quite remarkable.

00:31:23.855 --> 00:31:45.095  
<v SPEAKER\_2>But if you draw a line of where we were running to keep up with, from the 60s to the 70s, the 80s, the 90s, to the 2000s, and during the 6 to 8 months that we were writing that book, things were evolving so that Rob and I were having to go back and add stuff and change it as it was going, even then.

00:31:45.095 --> 00:31:46.575  
<v SPEAKER\_2>That's frozen in time.

00:31:46.575 --> 00:31:57.995  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Now look how far we have come in terms of what I call the circumpolar consciousness that's happened since the Trump administration.

00:31:58.395 --> 00:32:01.115

<v SPEAKER\_2>And the time that that chapter was written.

00:32:01.115 --> 00:32:04.295

<v SPEAKER\_2>The changes are absolutely remarkable.

00:32:04.295 --> 00:32:09.675

<v SPEAKER\_2>Now, the Russian development in the Arctic, the same the militarization is the same.

00:32:09.675 --> 00:32:26.695

<v SPEAKER\_2>The fact that the Europeans are talking out of both sides of their mouth, importing Russian LNG and not telling anybody about it, while effectively changing their dynamic of the importation of LNG into Europe from the US.

00:32:27.275 --> 00:32:34.935

<v SPEAKER\_2>By the way, at a significant price increase over the Russian LNG.

00:32:34.935 --> 00:32:44.535

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, the way I would step back from this and say, the rapidity of the graph is accelerating upwards.

00:32:44.535 --> 00:32:47.795

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's not a linear acceleration anymore.

00:32:47.795 --> 00:33:04.055

<v SPEAKER\_2>And the guy who started, and I want to give credit to where credit is due here, the guy who started bringing the attention of the Canadian military and the academic community to this process 10, 15 years ago was Dr.

00:33:04.055 --> 00:33:05.395

<v SPEAKER\_2>Huebert.

00:33:05.395 --> 00:33:10.835

<v SPEAKER\_2>And I remember being at a conference where people were saying, oh, well, you know, he's being too much of a hawk.

00:33:10.835 --> 00:33:13.495

<v SPEAKER\_2>He's way out of line with what's happening.

00:33:13.495 --> 00:33:15.355

<v SPEAKER\_2>We've got Gorbachev.

00:33:15.355 --> 00:33:18.215

<v SPEAKER\_2>We've reopened the dialogue on the Arctic.

00:33:18.215 --> 00:33:19.075

<v SPEAKER\_2>Putin came in.

00:33:19.075 --> 00:33:21.315

<v SPEAKER\_2>He's negotiable in the first stages.

00:33:21.975 --> 00:33:25.995

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, where are we now?

00:33:25.995 --> 00:33:29.235

<v SPEAKER\_2>I don't see a lot of doves flying around in the Arctic right now.

00:33:29.235 --> 00:33:30.395

<v SPEAKER\_2>I see a lot of hawks.

00:33:30.395 --> 00:33:40.255

<v SPEAKER\_2>And then when you look at the basic premise that Trump is using for Greenland, it's an Arctic security premise.

00:33:40.255 --> 00:33:42.375

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's not economic.

00:33:43.255 --> 00:33:47.815

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's geographic militarization of the circumpolar Arctic.

00:33:48.395 --> 00:33:59.095

<v SPEAKER\_2>And if you look at this trend, the way it's going, if you look at Alaska and Greenland, and then the Russian coast, who's in the middle?

00:34:00.195 --> 00:34:01.675

<v SPEAKER\_2>That would be us.

00:34:01.675 --> 00:34:08.435

<v SPEAKER\_2>Who is the least prepared and least capable of engaging in that discussion?

00:34:08.435 --> 00:34:12.055

<v SPEAKER\_2>Gee, I guess that would be us.

00:34:12.395 --> 00:34:31.975

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, so I guess just to stick with this Greenland thing, and I know that this is really a developing situation, but I suppose, you know, the first question is like, what is the United States, what is the justification for the United States securitizing Greenland and the Arctic?

00:34:31.975 --> 00:34:41.635

<v SPEAKER\_1>And also, I guess, following up on that, what would you both recommend to Canadian policymakers with how to deal with Canada-U.S.

00:34:41.635 --> 00:34:47.535

<v SPEAKER\_1>relations in relation to US deterioration of relations with Europe?

00:34:47.535 --> 00:34:55.135

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, if I can just add to my point, I'll step back and that's really a question for Rob more than me.

00:34:55.135 --> 00:35:05.915

<v SPEAKER\_2>But there was a recent article by Gowling in the Financial Post that said, Trump's Greenland threats hurt Canada's Arctic sovereignty claim.

00:35:05.915 --> 00:35:28.475

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, that's the next shoe to drop in my humble opinion, is that if you have an Earth-West passage that the US has never agreed to and you now have Arctic security claims between Greenland, however Greenland turns out one way or the other.

00:35:28.475 --> 00:35:36.495

<v SPEAKER\_2>I mean, the Americans, Rob can speak to this, have had Arctic military capacity in Greenland for decades.

00:35:36.495 --> 00:35:38.735

<v SPEAKER\_2>So, I mean, I can't answer your question.

00:35:39.035 --> 00:35:54.155

<v SPEAKER\_2>But the point is is that suddenly the Circumpolar Arctic over the last five years looks completely different politically, geopolitically, environmentally and economically than what it looked like ten years ago.

00:35:54.155 --> 00:36:06.995

<v SPEAKER\_2>Now you've got a highly developed, highly militarized, remember two-thirds of the Circumpolar region is Russian and the rest of it is American, Canadian and Danish.

00:36:08.115 --> 00:36:12.515

<v SPEAKER\_2>And it's a smaller portion of that Circumpolar area.

00:36:14.395 --> 00:36:21.595

<v SPEAKER\_2>That whole economic military zone has changed completely in the last five years.

00:36:21.595 --> 00:36:28.515

<v SPEAKER\_2>And yes, Canadians are slowly trying to fill that gap.

00:36:28.515 --> 00:36:52.435

<v SPEAKER\_2>But I think that there are very, very material

sovereignty concerns going to emerge in the next five years, where the Americans, the Chinese, and the Russians all come to the Arctic to say who's controlling that portion of the Canadian section and what capability do they have to enforce anything.

00:36:52.435 --> 00:36:56.815

<v SPEAKER\_2>Quick answer is very little and very late.

00:36:56.815 --> 00:36:57.095

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah.

00:36:57.095 --> 00:37:00.175

<v SPEAKER\_1>Rob, do you have any additional thoughts along these lines?

00:37:00.775 --> 00:37:01.415

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yeah.

00:37:02.095 --> 00:37:19.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>The part that really concerns me is that what we're seeing play out in Greenland and also in terms of evidence in terms of Venezuela is that the Trump administration has issued a policy document.

00:37:19.395 --> 00:37:28.655

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's their new strategic security policy in which they say they're reverting to the Monroe Doctrine of the 1800s.

00:37:28.655 --> 00:37:31.415

<v SPEAKER\_3>But what that really means is spheres of influence.

00:37:31.415 --> 00:37:45.415

<v SPEAKER\_3>And what Trump seems to be dedicated to is actually having spheres of influence replace the collective security that has been the hallmark of American security since the end of the Second World War.

00:37:45.415 --> 00:37:57.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>When both Republicans and Democrats said, if we want security, we have to have a series of alliance with like-minded states to basically be able to react and deter from the foreign enemies.

00:37:57.595 --> 00:38:05.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>And in that case, it was the Communist rule focused on the Soviet Union, but also on Communist China at the time.

00:38:05.335 --> 00:38:08.895

<v SPEAKER\_3>And that rule of law was in our best interest.

00:38:08.895 --> 00:38:10.555

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we'll go with that.

00:38:10.555 --> 00:38:14.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>The spheres of influence now seems to be the driving feature.

00:38:14.035 --> 00:38:18.675

<v SPEAKER\_3>It's not isolationism, it's not the US just saying we're going to retreat onto ourselves.

00:38:19.055 --> 00:38:21.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>We're taking control of the Western Hemisphere.

00:38:21.335 --> 00:38:28.575

<v SPEAKER\_3>That includes the oil resources of Venezuela and of course the geographic location of Greenland.

00:38:28.575 --> 00:38:41.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now there are two major ramifications, of course, that we weren't able to deal with in the book because all of this happens after the book, key to Ron's point in terms of the rapidity of change.

00:38:41.035 --> 00:38:46.315

<v SPEAKER\_3>Now a sphere of influence rule means two things as far as our book is concerned.

00:38:46.315 --> 00:38:47.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>First of all, it means to Russia.

00:38:48.175 --> 00:38:50.755

<v SPEAKER\_3>You do what you want on your spheres of influence.

00:38:50.755 --> 00:38:57.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>So in other words, does this mean that the Americans then withdraw their sanction regime against the oil and gas?

00:38:57.695 --> 00:39:13.755

<v SPEAKER\_3>To say, Russia, go do what you want on that regard, which means they get that economic boost and they get the markets from the Europeans who continue to buy because the Europeans are saying, okay, so we've just lost any reasonable expectation of the United States coming to our assistance.

00:39:13.755 --> 00:39:19.535

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so what it means is that you've just created an environment where Russia gets its second breath.

00:39:19.535 --> 00:39:33.995

<v SPEAKER\_3>It can further develop that oil and gas, sell it to the Europeans, and use those resources to build up, further build up its

military, which means that the Ukrainians are not going to be able to sustain their effort that they've had since 2014.

00:39:33.995 --> 00:39:56.275

<v SPEAKER\_3>It also means that Poland and the Baltic States now have to get very concerned that if they're not reintroduced to the concept of Finlandization, the idea that maybe the Russians won't invade, but you better align your policies as closely as possible with what Putin wants, not with what you want, and we can see that happening.

00:39:56.275 --> 00:40:01.375

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the spheres of influence also eliminates rationality from American policy.

00:40:01.375 --> 00:40:12.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>To go back to Ron's point, the Americans have had the ability to do anything that they've wanted from a military perspective in Greenland since the beginning of the Second World War.

00:40:12.335 --> 00:40:18.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>It was the Americans who moved into Occupy Greenland following the Danish defeat at the Hanover.

00:40:18.915 --> 00:40:22.115

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, US was the occupying state.

00:40:22.115 --> 00:40:25.435

<v SPEAKER\_3>Do whatever you want to make sure that you win World War II.

00:40:25.435 --> 00:40:36.215

<v SPEAKER\_3>That then gets consolidated in a treaty in 1951 that basically says, US., do what you need to do to assure Western security.

00:40:36.215 --> 00:40:48.795

<v SPEAKER\_3>And there is no real record of the Danes and the Greenlandic home rule ever saying to the Americans, no, you can't do what you want, right up to keeping nuclear weapons based up in that area.

00:40:48.795 --> 00:40:50.435

<v SPEAKER\_3>How do we know that for sure?

00:40:50.435 --> 00:40:56.255

<v SPEAKER\_3>In 1968, there was a crash of a B-52 that was carrying four nuclear weapons.

00:40:56.635 --> 00:40:57.715

<v SPEAKER\_3>They recovered three.

00:40:57.715 --> 00:40:59.615

<v SPEAKER\_3>They never recovered the fourth one.

00:40:59.615 --> 00:41:02.535

<v SPEAKER\_3>And that was over Greenlandic territory.

00:41:02.535 --> 00:41:07.355

<v SPEAKER\_3>So, this idea that Trump is saying, well, we need it for our security.

00:41:07.355 --> 00:41:10.315

<v SPEAKER\_3>No, no, that is totally wrong.

00:41:10.615 --> 00:41:12.855

<v SPEAKER\_3>I just want to be as explicit as possible.

00:41:12.855 --> 00:41:15.195

<v SPEAKER\_3>The Americans could do whatever they wanted anyway.

00:41:15.195 --> 00:41:22.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>This is about spheres of influence of an individual who is just thinking in the context of two possibilities.

00:41:22.335 --> 00:41:34.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>The Guardian broke a story that Trump's, you know, focus on Greenland is because he met with one of his billionaire friends that wanted to have economic engagements in Greenland.

00:41:34.335 --> 00:41:39.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>And, you know, once again, we have to wait to see whether or not the Guardian is correct on that story or not.

00:41:39.855 --> 00:41:44.355

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the second story is that Trump gets the idea of spheres of influence.

00:41:44.355 --> 00:41:46.855

<v SPEAKER\_3>He is the authoritative leader of the United States.

00:41:46.855 --> 00:41:49.275

<v SPEAKER\_3>Therefore, he gets to control that.

00:41:49.275 --> 00:41:53.195

<v SPEAKER\_3>And that's a really scary thought if that is in fact the case.

00:41:53.195 --> 00:42:03.675

<v SPEAKER\_3>What it means for the Arctic, and this is critical, is that the Americans, the Russians now will be able to regain their

dominance of the utilization of oil and gas in the region.

00:42:03.675 --> 00:42:06.935

<v SPEAKER\_3>It means forget about any effort to deal with climate change.

00:42:07.055 --> 00:42:13.375

<v SPEAKER\_3>That's going to go out the window, because the Russians are going to expand it to the greatest capability as possible.

00:42:13.375 --> 00:42:21.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>They're then basically going to say to the Americans, okay, do what you want within Venezuela, even though we had strong relations in that.

00:42:22.275 --> 00:42:25.475

<v SPEAKER\_3>And of course, it leads to what do the Chinese do.

00:42:25.475 --> 00:42:29.395

<v SPEAKER\_3>I suspect the Chinese, and once again, there's no evidence yet to point to it.

00:42:29.395 --> 00:42:51.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>But if a sphere of influence exists for the Americans, and if a sphere of influence exists for the Russians, then it's logical to assume the sphere of influence exists for the Chinese, and expect to see the Chinese probably make the move on to Taiwan, which then means that they have to have more access to oil and gas to sustain their military actions, because Taiwan will not be easy.

00:42:51.875 --> 00:43:03.555

<v SPEAKER\_3>So you see the way that everything here is very interconnected with what's happening within the Arctic, as Trump moves to invoke his sphere of influence, the Monroe Doctrine.

00:43:08.735 --> 00:43:23.195

<v SPEAKER\_2>If I could just add to Rob's point, it's so important that Rob brought back the connection of occupying dead mark in the Second World War and the ramifications that started from that.

00:43:23.195 --> 00:43:41.635

<v SPEAKER\_2>But the question that I see developing because of this rapid increase in the attention of the circumpolar region is, can Canada wake up and catch up fast enough to meet these challenges that Rob has just listed off?

00:43:41.635 --> 00:43:48.435

<v SPEAKER\_2>Rob 20 years ago was talking about this in ways that Ottawa didn't listen to.

00:43:48.435 --> 00:43:52.355

<v SPEAKER\_2>We let our icebreaker fleet fall into disrepair.

00:43:52.355 --> 00:43:58.015

<v SPEAKER\_2>Our military capacity, yeah, we've got some more military capacity coming into the north.

00:43:58.535 --> 00:44:01.635

<v SPEAKER\_2>We have no air defence capacity.

00:44:01.635 --> 00:44:05.395

<v SPEAKER\_2>We're looking at new air warning systems in the Arctic.

00:44:05.395 --> 00:44:26.715

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm involved in a couple of boards up there are suddenly having to deal with the environmental aspects of a build out of these new military facilities, including F-35s in Inuvik, where, by the way, they can't land because the strip isn't long enough.

00:44:27.815 --> 00:44:31.115

<v SPEAKER\_2>They're increasing that strip as we speak.

00:44:31.115 --> 00:44:55.075

<v SPEAKER\_2>But my point is that given the history and the dynamics that Rob has so eloquently elucidated for us here, given that, can Canada move fast enough and move completely enough to maintain that sovereignty argument and to maintain some kind of credibility with these partners?

00:44:55.395 --> 00:44:57.255

<v SPEAKER\_2>China, Russia, the US.

00:44:57.255 --> 00:45:01.515

<v SPEAKER\_2>We know that Trump doesn't take Canada seriously at all.

00:45:01.515 --> 00:45:08.315

<v SPEAKER\_2>Carney may have changed that dynamic a little bit in Beijing in the last couple of days, we don't know.

00:45:08.315 --> 00:45:16.975

<v SPEAKER\_2>But when push comes to shove in the Arctic, can Canada keep up and meet the challenges in order to maintain that sovereignty?

00:45:16.975 --> 00:45:29.915

<v SPEAKER\_2>And so my prediction is that's gonna be a very difficult thing to do with 10 to 15 year timelines and the rate of change that's happening here, for Canada to be able to catch up is highly problematic.

00:45:29.915 --> 00:45:37.915

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think that in the next five year, the big issue for Canada is going to be sovereign control of that portion of the Arctic.

00:45:38.955 --> 00:46:00.575

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yeah, and the other part just, you know, building on that is, of course, we've always relied on the fact that the Americans understood ultimately if they pushed for a resolution of the sovereignty issue over the Northwest Passage in their favor, that ultimately that then opens transit rights for the navies of Russia and China.

00:46:00.575 --> 00:46:15.095

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so the 1988 agreement was more or less predicated on a realization Americans could never surrender the, you know, the concept of the precedent of freedom of navigation because it fits everywhere else for their worldwide interests.

00:46:15.095 --> 00:46:25.195

<v SPEAKER\_3>But they realized that if they push it in the Northwest Passage, per se, then of course, then the Russians and Chinese have easier act, have legal access.

00:46:25.195 --> 00:46:26.375

<v SPEAKER\_3>And they've understood that.

00:46:26.375 --> 00:46:32.335

<v SPEAKER\_3>But we've seen that that type of realistic argumentation simply doesn't matter to Trump.

00:46:32.335 --> 00:46:42.475

<v SPEAKER\_3>I mean, we see that with Greenland because we go back to Greenland and, and he's saying, I need to have Greenland to protect US from the missiles of Russia.

00:46:42.475 --> 00:46:45.095

<v SPEAKER\_3>Well, you need NATO to stop that.

00:46:45.515 --> 00:46:52.935

<v SPEAKER\_3>And you're basically, you already have your PIFTAC space station up in the best position.

00:46:52.935 --> 00:47:01.215

<v SPEAKER\_3>But now you're going to take out the Danish and NATO component that you also need to be able to detect and respond to it.

00:47:01.215 --> 00:47:02.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>So no rationality.

00:47:02.695 --> 00:47:04.095

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I agree with Ron.

00:47:04.095 --> 00:47:11.275

<v SPEAKER\_3>I do see the Americans moving and just saying, well, you know, in fact, I see the Americans not saying that it's an international strait.

00:47:11.915 --> 00:47:15.275

<v SPEAKER\_3>I see the Americans making a move and saying, it's an American strait.

00:47:15.275 --> 00:47:17.935

<v SPEAKER\_3>We have control over it in that context.

00:47:17.935 --> 00:47:19.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we'll say, that makes no sense.

00:47:19.915 --> 00:47:21.995

<v SPEAKER\_3>It doesn't even follow international arguments.

00:47:21.995 --> 00:47:25.775

<v SPEAKER\_3>But then the Trump administration has demonstrated with Greenland.

00:47:25.775 --> 00:47:26.955

<v SPEAKER\_3>That doesn't matter.

00:47:26.955 --> 00:47:43.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>Just like it's demonstrated with Venezuela, where they're not even recognizing the major opposition, even though she gave Trump her Nobel Prize, you know, we're reduced to that type of element of rationality within the policy.

00:47:43.875 --> 00:47:51.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>And the real big fear for me is that it moves beyond being an issue of sovereignty that we lose, but we lose security.

00:47:51.875 --> 00:47:58.235

<v SPEAKER\_3>That the Americans say, the Canadians have never been able to show us that they can actually do this.

00:47:58.235 --> 00:48:01.235

<v SPEAKER\_3>And unfortunately, there'd be a certain validity to that.

00:48:01.235 --> 00:48:06.515

<v SPEAKER\_3>And say, we need to seize that territory in order to put up our North Warning systems.

00:48:06.675 --> 00:48:08.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>We need to parade our sights up.

00:48:08.695 --> 00:48:15.295

<v SPEAKER\_3>And oh, by the way, we're cutting the Canadians completely out of NORAD because they're not a dependable ally.

00:48:15.295 --> 00:48:20.055

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so we all of a sudden lose the ability to know what's happening up there.

00:48:20.055 --> 00:48:26.295

<v SPEAKER\_3>And the Americans then, they're not going to, in my view, if, I mean, they may move to seize all of Canada.

00:48:26.295 --> 00:48:27.455

<v SPEAKER\_3>That remains a threat.

00:48:27.455 --> 00:48:28.895

<v SPEAKER\_3>You know, Trump keeps talking about it.

00:48:28.895 --> 00:48:31.395

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I think that's a legit, you know, a real threat.

00:48:31.395 --> 00:48:39.875

<v SPEAKER\_3>They won't go to just take bits and pieces of the Arctic, except for the islands where they need the north warning, where they need the forward operating radars.

00:48:39.875 --> 00:48:42.575

<v SPEAKER\_3>But they will cut us out of all the other systems.

00:48:42.575 --> 00:48:44.435

<v SPEAKER\_3>And this all just ties.

00:48:44.435 --> 00:48:48.695

<v SPEAKER\_3>And the last point, of course, is Canada did have the right at one point.

00:48:48.695 --> 00:49:00.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>Remember, both the Japanese and the Germans came to us and said, we want to try to diversify from the Russian and Chinese control of our oil and gas supplies.

00:49:00.595 --> 00:49:01.675

<v SPEAKER\_3>Could you please do it?

00:49:01.675 --> 00:49:03.795

<v SPEAKER\_3>And remember Canada's famous response.

00:49:04.795 --> 00:49:14.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>We're not going to give you our L&G, but just wait a while and we'll figure out how to get you all the hydrogen you could

possibly need.

00:49:15.015 --> 00:49:18.275

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I mean, we didn't take it serious there.

00:49:18.275 --> 00:49:21.035

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I mean, of course, look at where we are now.

00:49:21.475 --> 00:49:22.615

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, absolutely.

00:49:22.615 --> 00:49:25.335

<v SPEAKER\_1>So yeah, these are all very sobering thoughts.

00:49:25.335 --> 00:49:32.155

<v SPEAKER\_1>And I know we could talk about this for hours, but there's only a limited time that people have to spend listening to podcasts.

00:49:32.235 --> 00:49:35.395

<v SPEAKER\_1>So we will finish things off here.

00:49:35.395 --> 00:49:38.215

<v SPEAKER\_1>But one last question before we wrap things up.

00:49:38.215 --> 00:49:43.155

<v SPEAKER\_1>And this may be an opportunity to lighten the mood a little bit, but maybe not.

00:49:43.435 --> 00:49:46.975

<v SPEAKER\_1>You folks might be reading some grim books as well.

00:49:46.975 --> 00:49:50.315

<v SPEAKER\_1>What is a book you would like to recommend to our audience?

00:49:51.915 --> 00:49:53.075

<v SPEAKER\_2>Go ahead, Rob.

00:49:53.075 --> 00:49:55.095

<v SPEAKER\_3>Well, I have three that I'm reading right now.

00:49:55.095 --> 00:49:57.495

<v SPEAKER\_3>I mean, it's hard to say which one to recommend.

00:49:57.495 --> 00:50:01.155

<v SPEAKER\_3>I'm reading the Barry Gough's book on Churchill and Fisher.

00:50:01.875 --> 00:50:09.535

<v SPEAKER\_3>You know, sort of a study of how Churchill and Fisher redesigned the British Navy right at the time when technology knew threats.

00:50:09.535 --> 00:50:11.755

<v SPEAKER\_3>All this issue that we're facing right now.

00:50:11.755 --> 00:50:38.295

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I'm reading the book because Barry does such an excellent job of being able to get into the gritty details of how the British, you know, are wrestling with how do you move from a pre-dreadnought to a battleship, battle cruiser, but more importantly, how do you respond to an enemy that is just literally materializing before your very eyes as they move from focusing on a possible action against the French and they focus on German.

00:50:38.295 --> 00:50:42.755

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I find that fascinating because it gets down to the individual.

00:50:42.755 --> 00:50:48.235

<v SPEAKER\_3>I also recommend, I'm reading Elizabeth Buchanan, So You Want to Own Greenland.

00:50:48.235 --> 00:50:54.415

<v SPEAKER\_3>She wrote it sort of, I mean, she was smart enough to anticipate that Trump was going to be serious when he said first term, second term.

00:50:54.415 --> 00:50:55.595

<v SPEAKER\_3>So it's good.

00:50:55.595 --> 00:50:57.915

<v SPEAKER\_3>And in an effort to try and stay on top of everything.

00:50:57.995 --> 00:51:07.195

<v SPEAKER\_3>I'm also, I just finished reading James Clear, Atomic Habits, that basically try to teach you how you can cram more stuff into the day.

00:51:07.195 --> 00:51:11.775

<v SPEAKER\_3>And so those are sort of the three that I'm reading and that I'm finding quite useful.

00:51:13.415 --> 00:51:25.415

<v SPEAKER\_2>Well, I'm not as capable as Rob in that, but because I'm off a Saskatchewan farm originally, I've been reading the book about John Diefenbaker entitled Freedom Fighter.

00:51:26.835 --> 00:51:54.035

<v SPEAKER\_2>And given the Federal Court of Appeals decision today that ruled the trucker convoy response by the federal government to bring in the Measures Act that brought that down, ruling that being excessive, I thought that was a very timely ruling to be reading a book about John Diefenbaker and how he respected Canadian freedoms.

00:51:54.115 --> 00:51:54.715

<v SPEAKER\_1>Interesting.

00:51:54.715 --> 00:51:59.475

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yeah, no, I've been reading, reading through or trying to read through because there's so many things I need to read.

00:51:59.475 --> 00:52:01.755

<v SPEAKER\_1>The the duel by John Ibbotson.

00:52:01.755 --> 00:52:08.635

<v SPEAKER\_1>So another another work that included lots of lots of the Diefenbaker phenomenon.

00:52:08.635 --> 00:52:10.835

<v SPEAKER\_1>But OK, this is fantastic.

00:52:10.835 --> 00:52:14.455

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thank you both for taking the time out of your day to speak with me on this.

00:52:14.455 --> 00:52:20.255

<v SPEAKER\_1>Again, the book, the larger book, which this is a chapter of, is linked in the show notes here.

00:52:20.375 --> 00:52:24.055

<v SPEAKER\_1>So please do check that out in the show notes.

00:52:24.055 --> 00:52:26.015

<v SPEAKER\_1>But we'll leave it off there.

00:52:26.015 --> 00:52:29.455

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thank you so much, Rob and Ron, for joining me.

00:52:29.455 --> 00:52:30.655

<v SPEAKER\_3>Thank you.

00:52:32.755 --> 00:52:40.315

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for listening to this episode of Energy Security Cubed on the CGAI Podcast Network.

00:52:40.315 --> 00:52:43.395

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00:53:05.675 --> 00:53:09.935

<v SPEAKER\_1>Energy Security Cubed is brought to you by our team at CGAI.

00:53:09.935 --> 00:53:12.935

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks go out to Drew Phillips for our music.

00:53:12.935 --> 00:53:14.255

<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm Joe Calnan.

00:53:14.255 --> 00:53:16.475

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for listening to Energy Security Cubed.