

International Competition in the High North: 2022 Kingston Conference on International Security

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Editors

The 16th annual Kingston Consortium on International Security conference, “International Competition in the High North,” took place on October 11–13, 2022, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The conference examined the Arctic region in the context of ongoing climate change and against the backdrop of war in Ukraine. Over the past several years, the United States has acknowledged the growing importance of the Arctic as a strategic region, and the Department of Defense and each of the US military services have published Arctic policies or strategies. In addition, the Department of Defense has created the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, a new regional studies center in Alaska. Canada and the other Arctic Council nations have also acknowledged the growing importance of the Arctic region and revised strategic frameworks and changed institutional approaches to ensure Arctic security challenges arising from great-power competition and other threats, like those to the environment, are addressed. This volume captures these ideas for the United States and its allies so all can benefit from this experience.

The Kingston Consortium on International Security is a partnership among the Centre for International and Defence Policy at Queen’s University at Kingston, the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre, the Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College, and the NATO Defense College. The annual conference offers insights from academics, practitioners, and national security policymakers on topics related to national security. The conference brought together academics, practitioners, and military officers from the United States, Canada, Finland, and Norway and featured the following six panels.

- 1. International Security Challenges in the North:** A broad, scene-setting survey of the security environment of the contemporary circumpolar north, with a focus on the security threats recent shifts in great-power politics pose, the changes climate change is wreaking, the challenges indigenous communities face, and the opportunities for economic development in the Arctic.
- 2. The Great Powers in the High North:** Examined how the reemergence of great-power competition affects regional politics in all areas of the globe and highlights great-power interests in the North. This panel further examined the evolution of the circumpolar security policies of the United States, the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and European powers.
- 3. Defense Capabilities in North America and the Arctic:** Explored the modernization and evolution of North American Aerospace Defense Command and other North American defense capabilities in the circumpolar north.
- 4. Diplomacy and International Cooperation:** Focused on the potential for international cooperation in the High North, offered regional and global perspectives, and featured examples of multinational cooperation in the Arctic.
- 5. Joint Security Cooperation:** Focused on civil-military cooperation and Joint Force involvement, offering a comprehensive view of interagency contributions to Arctic security.
- 6. Strategies for the Future:** Discussed strategies and policy recommendations for Western allies in the circumpolar north in the years ahead.

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